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THE CENTRAL ISSUE

CENTRAL UMC SHELBY IS A SAFE SANCTUARIES CHURCH.

Our MISSION: To make disciples of Christ who WORSHIP God,
GROW in their faith, and SERVE in the church and world.

October 22, 2025
Volume 34, No. 42

David Lee, Senior Pastor
Tammy Bass, Director of Discipleship
Danny Buckner, Director of Music Ministries
Caroline Scism, Director of Children's Ministries
Katie Bowers, Director of Youth Ministries
Libby Alexander, Organist
Hannah Walker, Administrative Communications
Doug Smith, Facilities Manager
Shelley Rempson, Kid's Place Preschool Director
Doug Lowery, Media Coordinator
Stacey Watkins Griffith, Pastoral Counselor



Livermush Festival

Around 580 pumpkins were painted at the Livermush Festival in Uptown Shelby on Saturday. We heard from local and out-of-town families that this is their favorite thing to do at the festival. Huge thanks to Leigh Mabry for coordinating the painting and thanks to our many volunteers for helping with our largest community outreach event.



SAVE THE DATE



Feeding Kids Cleveland County is having their annual Thanksgiving meal at the Bobby Bell pavilion on **Saturday, November 22nd at 4:00 p.m.** CUMC is invited to participate by volunteering to help with the event (table decorations, serving food, or making a dessert) or by eating the meal with our neighbors. Sign ups will begin November 1. If you are interested please contact Denise Sieges at (704)609-6184 or denisesieges@gmail.com



Operation Christmas Child

November 9, 2025

Kids and Adults please help us in packing 100 shoeboxes for children who are in need of hearing the gospel! All the gifts will be supplied we just need you. It is a great introduction to missionary work. It will take place in the **Fellowship Hall** after the service.

Hope to see you there!



CUMC is hosting a diapers and wipes shower for Casey and Rebekah Young on Sunday, **October 26th** right after the service in the fellowship hall.



Hallway Reflections

“Thoughts from the Hallway Class



Grace That Holds Us Together

I’ve been thinking lately about what it means for me to have a faith of authenticity.

What does a faith of authenticity even mean? Well, I’m sure there are many ways to define it. For me, it is living from the quiet center of our being — the truest part of ourselves, the place where Christ’s love has already taken root.

A faith spacious enough to hold many voices, believing that God often speaks in more ways than we expect.

We live in a time when division runs deep — in faith, in politics, and in social, economic, and cultural issues. The lines drawn between us have a way of reaching into our hearts.

Growing up, I can remember adults passionately disagreeing on those same topics, yet it didn’t seem to break relationships the way it does now. They would share a meal afterward, laugh together, and still show up for one another. Somehow they embraced a grace that held disagreement without breaking connection.

But somewhere along the way, that changed. And when those lines begin to shape how we speak or what we hide, something inside our faith begins to shrink. When we’re unable to express what we truly believe, we can start to feel cut off. It is as if our roots no longer reach the water that once nourished them. Over time, the absence of open conversation can leave us spiritually weary, longing for a place where faith can breathe again and where we can be known and still belong.

I’ve realized that faith like this needs more than good intentions; it needs a nurturing environment. A space that invites sharing true beliefs, deep listening, and the reminder that grace is stronger than judgment.

A space where tolerance, humility, and open-mindedness abound and where faith can deepen and be transformative — a sacred space.

Is it possible that what the world most longs for are spaces — sacred spaces in homes, friendships, and communities? Places where grace is practiced, where listening runs deep, and where love is stronger than labels.

- Where in my life do I feel free to express what I truly believe — and where do I feel I need to hide it?
- How might I practice tolerance, humility, and open-mindedness in my daily conversations?
- Where do I sense God inviting me to deepen, rather than defend, my faith?

Todd Bolin

CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS Weekly Update

Youth Sunday School

Youth Commons Room at 9am

With Katie Bowers

Sunday Evening

Youth will meet with Caroline Scism

at 5pm to help with Trunk or Treat

UPCOMING

EVENTS

- **Sunday, 10/26-** Youth will gather at 5pm at the church parking lot with Caroline Scism. They will be helping pass out hot chocolate at the Trunk-or-Treat. Youth are also encouraged to come dressed up or decorate a trunk as a family. Please reach out to Caroline Scism for more info.
- **Sunday, 11/9-** Youth will grab lunch after church and then help Boy Scout Troup 104 at 12pm by passing out fliers for their "Scouting for Food" Project. We should be done around 2:30pm. **NO YOUTH THIS EVENING.**
- **Saturday, 11/14-** Youth meet at the fellowship hall at 6pm and plan to spend the night. We are having our "Skip a Meal, Donate a Meal" fundraiser and lock in at the church. We will learn more about food insecurity in our community and are raising money for the "Everyone Eats Emergency Food Fund Drive" the HealthCare Foundation of Cleveland County organized. They are asking for donations to offset major budget cuts impacting 17 local food banks supplying food to over 15,000 people each month. Our youth heard about this need and wanted to step up to help. We would like to ask everyone to please skip going out to eat one night and instead consider donating that money to this cause instead. 1 in 6 people are faced with food insecurity right here in our own county. More information on how you can help this cause will come in the next couple weeks.



Nursery is open to all **Babies-PreK** kids. Nursery is offered **Sundays, 9-11 AM** in **Room E105 (pre-school age)** and **Room E104 (infants)**.

Elementary Sunday School

Sundays 9-9:45am

Infants- Nursery Room E104

Preschool age- Nursery Room E105

K-5th Grade- Godly Play Room E309



**Wednesday,
October 22**

Children's choir is going to
Navion to sing! Don't miss out!

Giving to the Lord and His work: A Testimonial

I grew up in a rural community. My Daddy worked as a fixer for the Buffalo Dover Mills near Buffalo Creek. We farmed to subsidize our income. My Mama was a homemaker who cleaned, washed clothes, sewed, cooked, gardened and canned our food.

Daddy was paid on Thursdays and since we lived in the country, banking was not an option. We had a cabinet in the kitchen where he kept white envelopes to pay bills. The #1 envelope was marked “Church” and 10% of his salary went in that envelope and was in the offering plate every Sunday. That was the #1 priority in our house.

Daddy and Mama knew our needs would be met. We grew our food and animals and always had food for folks who did not have a garden. We never suffered and my sister, brother, and myself were able to attend college.

Before we were married in 1979, David and I made the commitment to tithe. In 2008 the stock market crashed somewhat. We were working together in Dilling Heating and Cooling. We continued to operate our business. We paid our employees as usual but did not pay ourselves. We continued to tithe knowing we would survive. God provided for us during that time. He always does!
Thanks be to God!

Mary Dilling



REMEMBERING THAT IT HAPPENED ONCE

A Community Christmas Concert



FEATURING CHOIRS FROM
ALDRSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH,
CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, AND
SHELBY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 | 3PM
CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
200 EAST MARION ST., SHELBY, NC 28150



"Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other."
— 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 (NIV)

"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching."
— 1 Timothy 5:17 (NIV)

Serving Sunday, October 26, 2025

Nursery Volunteer:

Dorothy Hernandez

Elementary Sunday School Teachers:

Caroline Scism and Rocky Lutz

Middle School Teachers:

Jessica Talbert and Rita Sprinkle

Greeters

Julianne and Dave McDowell

Coffee Time Helpers:

Evelyn and Mike Ribadeneyra

Coffee Maker:

Rita Chen Sprinkle

Welcome Table:

Ginny and Alan Hughes

Children's Sermon:

Ann Anthony

Offering Counters

Jim Pressley and Evelyn Ribadeneyra

Trustees Lock Up:

Patrick Budzinski

October 26 - November 1, 2025

Calendar of Events

Sunday

9:00am Sunday School

10:00am Worship Service

5:00pm Youth Group

Monday

Church Office open 9-2

Tuesday

Church Office open 9-2

5:30pm Church Council

Wednesday

Church Office open 9-2

5:15pm Butterfly and Sonshine Choirs

6:15pm Chancel Choir

7:30pm Praise Ensemble

Thursday

Church Office open 9-2

Friday

Church Office open 9-2

Saturday

10:30am Open Table Hot Lunch (PAC)



BIRTHDAYS

October 22	Hanson Mabry
October 22	Ron Moyer
October 22	McCall Cox
October 22	Emma Richardson
October 23	John Lattimore
October 24	Jackson Swenson
October 24	Rocky Lutz
October 26	Chuck Hamilton
October 27	Rayney Maxwell
October 27	Annie Shirk
October 29	Lindsay Green
October 29	Mary Whisnant

2025 Stewardship

2025 Operating Budget Amount.....	\$801,004.00
2025 Weekly Budget Needs.....	\$15,403.92
Total Receipts in September.....	\$49,666.14
September Expenses.....	\$68,500.42
Over/-- Under for the month.....	-\$18,834.28
Weekly Offering Collection.....	\$6,486.20
Budget amount needed to date.....	\$667,503.40
Budget amount received to date (This number includes pre-paid pledges for 2025).....	\$646,165.27

Operating: Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of Jim and Claudia Lutz
Adelyn Lutz Parker

Church-Wide Retreat Information



Church-Wide Retreat Registration

Please list names and T-shirt size of those attending. For children and youth, please include their ages as of January 30, 2026.

Adult Name(s) _____ T-shirt size(s) _____
 Adult Name(s) _____ T-shirt size(s) _____

Children/Youth:

Name _____ Age _____ T-shirt size _____
 Name _____ Age _____ T-shirt size _____
 Name _____ Age _____ T-shirt size _____

Please list any food allergies or special needs: _____

ROOM NEEDS

Room needed: _____ x2 nights = \$ _____
 (Single/double, triple, or quad)

MEAL PACKAGES

Friday dinner thru Sunday breakfast.
 Meals are part of the required package

Number of meal packages needed: _____

Adults _____ Youth _____ Children _____

*Children and Youth meals are covered by special funds and a private donation to help families be able to attend.

Total for meals = \$ _____

Total owed: \$ _____

Contact Information

Phone _____
 E-mail _____

This is the room rate per night.

Rooms	Early Bird	Regular Pricing
Single/Double	\$120	\$135
Triple	\$140	\$155
Quad	\$160	\$175

Meals	Early Bird	Regular Pricing
Adult	\$100	\$120

For Office Use
 Date paid: _____

How to Register:

1. Fill out the registration card according to your family's needs.
 - We have cards in the sanctuary, as well as in the office, and are happy to help make sure all the information is on there or if you have questions on any part of the card.
 - You are able to register ONLINE at cumcshelby.org/church-wide-retreat
2. Pay for your trip.
 - We accept cash or check in the office or you can use the QR code here to pay online.
 - Please note the deadlines for the payments below.



REMINDERS

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Early Bird Pricing/full payment due -

October 31, 2025

Regular Registration/full payment due -

December 1, 2025

Scholarship Applications due -

October 17, 2025

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

Lake Junaluska Conference Center

DATES

January 30 - February 1, 2026



Fall Discipleship Opportunities

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study

8 am, Saturday mornings before Open Table
CUMC, Room E210

Start Sept. 20th and meets the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month!

The Book of Matthew

Have you wondered about the nature of the Kingdom of Heaven? Good thing to wonder! Matthew's gospel pulls back the curtain and says, "Thanks for asking, here it is."

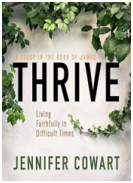
Taught by Tim Sieges, retired Director of Wycliffe Counseling Ministries

Daytime Ladies' Bible Study

Thursdays starting Sept. 18th at 9:30

Conference room

Thrive by Jen Cowart is a 6 week study of the Book of James, a letter written about enduring hardships, lifting up six characteristics of mature Christians. From endurance and humility to controlling our words, Jen helps participants find the divine and the practical in living faithfully.

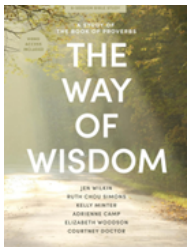


Evening Ladies Bible Study

Mondays at 6:30 pm, rotates locations.

Way of Wisdom

This is an 8 week study through Proverbs, written by 6 amazing authors. The study covers themes like our words, relationships, family, work and living with a wise heart. For more information and the meeting location, text Jillian at 870-688-9692.



DISCIPLE

Disciple Class

The Disciple class will be starting back with the study of Colossians on Tuesdays from 3-5:30pm in the conference room. If you are interested, please contact Rob Laney.

"Everyone Must Eat" — A New Adult Study on Food, Faith, and Community Action

We invite you to a new four-week class called "Everyone Must Eat", a spiritually grounded and justice-minded conversation about food insecurity in Cleveland County **beginning 10/29 in the conference room.**

Every Saturday, our Open Table Ministry feeds over 200 people with a hot meal and groceries—offering connection, care, and dignity. And yet, 1 in 6 of our neighbors in Cleveland County still struggle to access enough food. What more can we do—not just to feed people, but to build a more just and sustainable food system for all?

This class, co-led by Pastor David and Laura Lombardi, invites us to reflect deeply and act boldly over four sessions.

This isn't a top-down teaching series. It's not a lecture, but a lab for listening, learning, and leading together. We'll ask hard questions, share personal stories, and begin shaping practical responses to food insecurity right here in Shelby. If you're looking to connect your faith with real-life community impact, this class is for you.





200 East Marion St.
Shelby , NC 28150

Coffee and Donuts

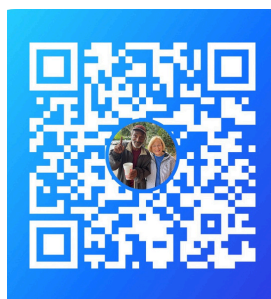


Join us every Sunday OUTSIDE on Washington Street (or in the Fellowship Hall depending on weather) from 9:30-9:55am each Sunday. We hope you'll make plans to join us for food and fellowship.



Open Table

We are asking for donations of **Bottled Water (any size)**. We'll always take donations of grocery bags. We invite you every Saturday from 8 am to noon to help us provide a free hot meal to our community. Join our Open Table volunteer communication by using the QR code here.



We are a **Safe Sanctuary** and a **Tobacco-Free Campus**. Please be sure that your children are accompanied at all times by a parent or responsible adult caregiver. We appreciate your assistance as we strive to ensure the safety of all. *Church policy prohibits the use of tobacco products on our church grounds.*
Thank you for your cooperation!!!

Backpack Ministry

We need your help in filling our closet with food for the backpacks we deliver to North Shelby and Shelby Middle each week during the school year. For October we are requesting Canned Ravioli Pasta. You may drop them off at the office Monday-Friday. 9AM-2 PM. For more info about how to serve, contact Ellen Benfield at benfield@med.unc.edu.



Be sure to check out our website: www.cumcshelby.org
Our Facebook page www.facebook.com/cumcshelby/
Our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@centralunitedmethodistchur6507>
And our App: Central UMC-Shelby on all app stores

