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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 27, 2025
Volume 34, No. 43

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

All Saints' Sunday



On November 2nd we will affectionately remember these members and give thanks for all the contributions they made to our lives, to the church and to the world.

There will be an arrangement of
white roses representing each one of our deceased members.
We invite you to join the families of Central's 10 deceased members for our worship service on Sunday, November 2nd. If you cannot join us in person, it will be available for viewing on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cumcshelby/), website (<https://cumcshelby.org/live-recordings>) or our app (Central UMC- Shelby)

Pat Faggart
David Rose
Martha Johnson
David Parker
Jim Lutz
Frankie C. Hicks
Claudia Lutz
Eula Crews
Terry Brown
Eleanor Cloyd

The Sanctuary Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mae M. Blair by her daughter, Marilyn Jack, and in memory of all the other loved ones who have joined the Church Triumphant since last All Saints' Day.



A Note From Stewardship



As of October 26, 47 pledge cards were submitted from the 200 letters that were mailed. If you have made your giving estimate for 2026, **thank you**. If you have not, the Finance and Stewardship Committees encourage you to make your giving estimate by turning in your estimate card in the next few Sundays, mail it to the Church office, or bring it to the office between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm Monday-Friday. You can set up a recurring gift online at any time. Please be in prayer for our church as we work toward funding our mission and programs for 2026.



Hallway Reflections

"Thoughts from the Hallway Class"



The Road to Jericho

In his inaugural address, President George W. Bush referred to our nation being on the road to Jericho and that we must not pass on by the wounded traveler. Many who heard this speech did not recognize the reference to the parable of the Good Samaritan from the book of Luke.

In these times we as a nation are on the road to Jericho. We are bombarded by news that saddens us so we become insular and try to forget the outside world. We pull in on ourselves and try not to think or worry about the rest of the world. In our efforts to take care of those closest to us, we become hardened to the plight of others. Our problems seem to overwhelm us and we become spiritually isolated.

As Christians we must resist this isolation. We need to continue Christ's mission to feed his sheep. While we will continue to seek out those in our congregation who need our care, we also need to minister to those outside our church. We need to reach out to make connections with those who are in need. The gift of our presence can show that we care.

When Jesus asked the lawyer which of the three men in his parable had shown to be a good neighbor to the man who had been robbed, the lawyer said it was the one who showed mercy. Jesus then said, "Go and do likewise." We need to go and do likewise and show compassion to others, especially in the uncertain world we live in. We are on the road to Jericho and we must not pass on by.

John Greene

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!

CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS Weekly Update

Youth Sunday School
Youth Commons Room at 9am
With Katie Bowers

Sunday Evening
5pm in the
Fellowship Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **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



Meal Train

FOR THE LEE FAMILY

Central Family! There is a meal train sign up for the Lee family as David is traveling back to Korea for a family situation. Please be in prayer for his family during this time. Meal train details and sign up times are in the link below.

<https://mealtrain.com/14e4e6>



At 4:10pm on October 24, 2025 Chris and Lacy Carter welcomed baby James Christopher Carter (7lbs 11oz and 20 inches long). We celebrate with the Carter family including proud grandparents Mark and Lynn Carter, Charlotte and the late Travis Truelove.

Community Snapshot

Moments that Shine Beyond Our Walls

Sunday evening's Trunk or Treat became a beautiful opportunity to live out our mission of welcome and hospitality. It was a night filled with laughter and light, reflecting our calling—to welcome with joy, love our neighbor, and build community wherever God gathers us.

Around 60 children, most from our surrounding community, made their way through a pathway of 14 creatively decorated trunks while our youth served nearly 100 cups of hot chocolate. Among the many displays, one carried a full Cook Out theme, with participants dressed as fries, a hot dog, a hamburger, ketchup, and a cook who brought the fast-food fun to life.

A cardboard Frankenstein drew smiles as children were invited to reach into his “nose” for candy. One little girl stood before him, torn between caution and curiosity, until courage quietly rose within her and she reached in to claim her prize. Courage won the moment as she pulled out the candy, studied it with wide-eyed wonder, and—after a moment of reflection—placed it in her brother's bucket.

As if the night needed more surprises, we witnessed a man riding on the back of a T-Rex. The children were fascinated. Their curiosity grew as they tried to figure out how the costume worked. For a moment, it looked like Jurassic Park had come to the church parking lot—only this time with candy instead of chaos: the Treat-osaurus Rex.

As families headed home, the night's joy went with them. Trunk or Treat became a memory children will replay as they sort their candy and share stories of favorite games and costumes. Moments like these stir gratitude for a church willing to be visible beyond its walls to embrace others.

Along the way, we shared information about upcoming opportunities for families to stay connected with our church community, including our Christmas sermon series beginning after Thanksgiving and our children's Christmas event. The evening was made possible by many hands and generous hearts—a reminder that ministry happens best when we serve together in joy. Beyond candy and costumes, the event reflected our call to share God's love with those around us.

Todd Bolin



Operating: Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of Eleanor Cloyd

Rebecca and Gene Cook

2025 Stewardship

2025 Operating Budget Amount.....\$801,004.00
2025 Weekly Budget Needs.....\$15,404.00
Total Receipts in September.....\$49,666.14
September Expenses.....\$68,500.42
Over/-- Under for the month.....**-\$18,834.28**
Weekly Offering Collection.....\$8,051.00
Budget amount needed to date.....\$662,373.00
Budget amount received to date (This number includes pre-paid pledges for 2025).....\$647,067.00

REMEMBERING THAT IT HAPPENED ONCE

**A Community
Christmas Concert**



FEATURING CHOIRS FROM
ALDERSGATE 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

October / November

BIRTHDAYS

October 30 Alison Rupprecht
October 30 Grace Ribadeneyra
October 31 Jo Marsh
October 31 Ed Winder
October 31 Loretta Harris
October 31 Ray Maxwell
November 1 Dan Treharne
November 2 Julie Wright
November 2 Jessie Rucker
November 3 Carol Maxwell
November 3 Betty Reeves
November 3 Caleb Goss
November 4 Mary Dilling
November 4 Brandon Swenson

November 2 - November 8, 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)

Serving Sunday, November 2, 2025

Nursery Volunteer:
Dorothy Hernandez

Elementary Sunday School Teachers:
Rocky Lutz

Middle School Teachers:
Carrie Richardson and Monica Noble

Greeters
Mike and Rhonda Keeley

Coffee Time Helpers:
Monica and Sergio Noble

Coffee Maker:
Mike Schenck

Welcome Table:
Ginny and Alan Hughes

Children's Sermon:
Lynn Carter

Offering Counters
Evelyn Ribadeneyra and Will Rucker

Trustees Lock Up:
Jim Wilson

Church-Wide Retreat Information



**CENTRAL
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

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."

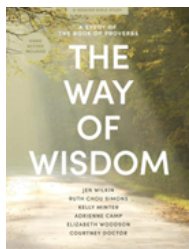
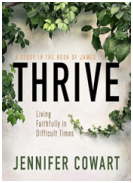
Taught by Tim Sieges, retired Director of Wycliffe Counseling Ministries

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.

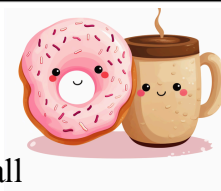
This isn't a top-down teaching series. It's not a lecture, but a lab for listening, learning, and leading together. We'll ask hard questions, share personal stories, and begin shaping practical responses to food insecurity right here in Shelby. If you're looking to connect your faith with real-life community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



200 East Marion St.
Shelby , NC 28150

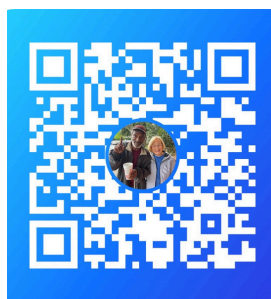
Coffee and Donuts

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 November we are requesting **Individual packets of Grits/Oatmeal**. 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

