



**CENTRAL  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

200 East Marion Street, Shelby, NC 28150-4610

Phone: (704) 487-6336;

Kid's Place Preschool: (704) 487-6357

Counseling Services: (704) 810-4344

Email: [central@cumcshelby.org](mailto:central@cumcshelby.org)

Website: [www.cumcshelby.org](http://www.cumcshelby.org)

# 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.

December 10, 2025

Volume 34, No. 49

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



## CHRISTMAS AT CENTRAL

December 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8pm- Christmas Dance Party

December 14<sup>th</sup> 3pm- Community Christmas Concert

5-7pm- Youth Christmas Party at the Maxwell's

December 17<sup>th</sup> 10am- WinGS

December 21<sup>st</sup> 10am- Handbells Perform in service

6pm- Light Ball Dash Begins

December 24<sup>th</sup> 5pm- Christmas Eve Family Service

11pm- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

## *Community Christmas Concert*

Featuring choirs from:

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Ascension Lutheran Church

Central United Methodist Church

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

Shelby Presbyterian Church

Sunday December 14, 2025

3:00PM

Central United Methodist Church

200 E. Marion Street

Shelby, NC, 28150

*Wings: Women In  
God's Service*



Treat yourself to a little break from all the holiday hustle and bustle. YES! You DO have time! You will be refreshed and inspired after sharing some Christmas Spirit with the wonderful women of WinGs!

Bring a friend. Bring your offering.

Jingle your bells down to the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday December 17th 10am

See you there!



## Hallway Reflections

“Thoughts from the Hallway Class



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### Waiting on God

We are not very good at waiting. If the line at the grocery checkout is a little long, we glance either way hoping to see if there's one a little shorter. If we misjudge the traffic light and we end up waiting for the red light to change, we mumble to ourselves about wasted time. If we're asked to wait at a restaurant we feel impatient instead of being grateful for the pleasure of eating out.

We spend our time waiting, but what we do with our time is important to our well being. Long shopping lines could give us time to marvel at the seemingly unlimited choices we have to choose from. The minutes at the light can free you to sing aloud and waiting at the restaurant gives us a few minutes to enjoy the company of who you came with.

We struggle waiting on God. We sometimes ask for relief and comfort and are impatient if it doesn't come quickly. We want an immediate God; one who is available and is ready to help us.

While we spend time waiting on God, imagine how he has been waiting on us; waiting for us to hear the small quiet voice calling to us; waiting for us to see the need of others not just our needs; waiting for us to marvel at the gift of life. He is a patient God; we just have to learn to wait.

Isaiah 30:18

“Therefore, the Lord waits to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are those who wait for him.”

John Greene

# CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS Weekly Update

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

**Sunday Evening**  
5-7pm Christmas Party at the  
Maxwell's

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Sunday 12/14-** 5-7PM Christmas Party at the Maxwells. Please bring a small gift for the gift exchange. \*\*There is a \$10 limit\*\*
- **Sunday 12/21-** Light Ball Dash at 5:30- Bring the family and join in on the fun! One-mile walk/run to enjoy the lights and benefit Feeding Kids Cleveland County. Registration is at 5:30 and the race begins at 6pm. Bring the entire family out and dress festive. 🎄 It's a lot of fun if you've never done it before.
- **Sunday 12/28-** NO YOUTH- Christmas/NYE

## YOUTH MISSION TRIP

If you haven't paid your deposit for the Youth Mission Trip to Kansas City, please do so this week or reach out to Katie.



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-5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Godly Play Room E309



## Scout Recruitment

Troop 104 is always looking for new members! If you or anyone you know has a child in their life 11 years old or up that would be interested in participating, please contact Randy Tuttle at [rtuttle@bellsouth.net](mailto:rtuttle@bellsouth.net).



# Church-Wide Retreat

1/30 - 2/1/26

Lake Junaluska  
Conference Center

**REGISTER**

**NOW**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

**December 15, 2025**

**REGISTER**

**NOW**

## 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](http://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 deadline is December 15!



### Prayer Requests

The prayer list will be cleared and refreshed December 15! If you have a need or praise that you would like included on our church prayer list, please call or email the church office at [central@cumcshelby.org](mailto:central@cumcshelby.org).

## New Sermon Series: Christmas At The Movies

Join us this Advent season on Sundays as Pastor David guides us through a beloved holiday film during each service, drawing insightful connections between the movies and the themes of Advent.





Bell Ringers needed for  
Saturday, December 20th 10am-5pm-  
location to be determined. You'll only  
need to do 1 hour shifts. If you'd like to  
sign up contact Chris Mabry at  
chrismabry23@gmail.com

## Staff Love Offering

Christmas is fast approaching!  
Each year, to show our appreciation  
to our staff, we collect a Love Offering for  
our staff to show our appreciation of all their hard  
work. If you would like to contribute, please drop it  
into the offering plate marked as "Staff Love  
Offering," or you may bring it by the Church office.  
If you can contribute, please do so by Wednesday,  
December 19th. Help us show our love to our  
wonderful Staff!



Two thank you notes have been received in the  
church office from Healthy Together Cleveland  
and the Healthcare Foundation of Cleveland  
County for Central's \$967 donation to the  
Emergency Food Fund Drive: Everyone Eats.

"Your contribution is more than a donation: it's a  
statement that everyone deserves a seat at the  
table." This statement quoted from the thank you  
note reflects our values here at Central! Thank You  
to our wonderful youth group for collecting these  
funds and making the donation on our behalf.

## December BIRTHDAYS

December 13	Sheila Gammons
December 13	Dana Lundquist
December 17	Al Rogers
December 17	Emily Morgan

## Community Update

"Lighting The Way," Hospice luminaries will be  
lit Friday night, December 12th, from 6-9pm on  
the Court Square in Uptown Shelby. Come  
enjoy the beauty of Uptown and support VIA  
Health Partners. Although the deadline for  
luminary pre-orders has passed, VIA offers a  
Christmas Card Fundraiser and a Holiday  
Meal Donation Program. For more information  
call 980-408-2338.

## Weekly Advent Prayer from Bishop Carter

O God,

In the empty spaces, in the barren desert  
You give us a vision, if we have eyes to see:  
Flowers bloom with abundant beauty,  
Strength is given to the weak,  
Songs of rejoicing pierce the silence.

In our everyday lives, open our eyes  
To compassion and transformation in this world.  
In our weariness remind us that this is your work, your gift.

Lift up our hearts, Gracious Redeemer.  
Help us to name the signs of life-  
healing, forgiveness, insight, new birth.  
Let joy and gladness enter the places  
Where sorrow and mourning have prevailed.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

## Discipleship Opportunities

### Daytime Ladies' Bible Study

Thursdays at 9:30

Conference room

This is a 4 week advent study titled "A child is born" and written Amy-Jill Levine. If interested, contact Jessica Talbert.



### Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study

#### The Book of Matthew

8 am, Saturday mornings before

Open Table CUMC, Room E210

meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month

Have you wondered about the nature of  
the Kingdom of Heaven?

Taught by Tim Sieges, retired Director of  
Wycliffe Counseling Ministries

### 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, contact Rob Laney.

**Serving Sunday, December 14, 2025**

**Nursery Volunteer:**

Diana Snyder

**Elementary Sunday School Teachers:**

Evelyn Ribadenerya and Ginny Hughes

**Middle School Teachers:**

Katie Bowers

**Greeters**

Elizabeth and Rocky Lutz

**Coffee Time Helpers:**

Ellen and Brian Benfield

**Coffee Maker:**

Leigh Mabry

**Welcome Table:**

Ginny and Alan Hughes

**Children's Sermon:**

Rod Mauney

**Offering Counters**

John Lattimore and Rocky Lutz

**Trustees Lock Up:**

Lelia Lattimore

**December 14 - December 20, 2025**

**Calendar of Events**

**Sunday**

9:00am

Sunday School

10:00am

Worship Service

**Monday**

Church Office open 9-2

**Tuesday**

Church Office open 9-2

**Wednesday**

Church Office open 9-2

6:15-7:15pm Chancel Choir

7:30-8:45pm Praise Ensemble

**Thursday**

Church Office open 9-2

**Friday**

Church Office open 9-2

**Saturday**

10:30am Open Table Hot Lunch (PAC)

**2025 Stewardship**

2025 Operating Budget Amount.....\$801,004.00

2025 Weekly Budget Needs.....\$15,404.00

Budget amount received to date (This number includes pre-paid pledges for 2025).....\$755,524.00

**Memorials and Honorariums**

**Operating:**

In Memory of Becky Smith

Sandy Allen

Becky, Gene and Warren Cook

In Memory of Eleanor Cloyd

Sandy Allen

In Memory of Ron Clendening

Sandy Allen

In Memory of Rev. Dr. Jung Kee Lee

Sandy Allen

John and Lelia Lattimore

In Memory of Shields Fletcher

Sandy Allen





200 East Marion St.  
Shelby , NC 28150

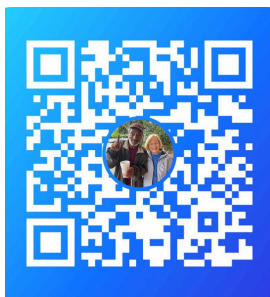
## Coffee and Donuts

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 December we are requesting **Individual packets Mac and Cheese**. 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](mailto:benfield@med.unc.edu).



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

