



**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

Website: 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 17, 2025

Volume 34, No. 50

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 18th 11am- Kid's Place Christmas Program

December 21st 10am- Handbells Perform in service

6pm- Light Ball Dash Begins

December 24th 5pm- Christmas Eve Family Service

11pm- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Holiday Office Hours

Monday, December 22: Open 9-2

Tuesday, December 23: Open 9-2

Wednesday, December 24: Open 9-12

Thursday, December 25: CLOSED

Friday, December 26: CLOSED

The office will reopen for
normal hours on
Monday, December 29.



Blessing Bags

Thursday, December 11, Judy Marsh led the charge on her legacy grant to supply and pack Blessing Bags for the community. CUMC is appreciative to be able to provide further necessities for our community that has been formed through our Open Table ministry.



Hallway Reflections

“Thoughts from the Hallway Class”



The Gift of Perspective

Paul speaks of a “thorn in the flesh,” a phrase that remains vague and unexplained. The vagueness draws us in. Whatever the thorn is, whether it is physical, emotional, relational, or vocational, it is persistent enough to cause real distress. Paul brings this struggle to God in prayer and continues to return to it. The text makes clear that the answer Paul receives is not the one he hopes for, and the struggle remains. Paul is earnest, persistent, and deeply committed, and yet disappointment remains part of his story. Paul’s story opens space for us to consider how disappointment shapes our own perspective.

Disappointment has a way of narrowing our vision. In the moment, all we can see is what did not happen, what fell apart, or what failed to meet our expectations. Our focus tightens around the loss itself. With time and space, however, disappointment can become an unexpected gift, the gift of perspective. It slows us down long enough to notice what we may have missed when everything was moving according to plan.

When disappointment disrupts our plans, it often invites reflection rather than immediate answers. What might disappointment be asking me to see differently? How has this experience widened or narrowed my perspective? These questions do not push us toward quick explanations. They invite us to sit more honestly with the moment we are in.

Perspective rarely arrives immediately. It forms gradually, often while we are still sitting in the discomfort of unmet expectations. Over time, disappointment can widen our view, helping us recognize that the path we were so determined to follow was not the only one available. Sometimes it was not even the healthiest one. The detour we resisted may hold growth, humility, or compassion that the original route never could.

Disappointment does not erase meaning; it reshapes it. When we allow ourselves to look beyond what went wrong, understanding can deepen and assumptions can soften. What kind of growth might be forming here, even if it is not yet visible? What once felt like a setback may later reveal itself as a necessary pause, a redirection, or even a quiet widening of the heart.

Todd Bolin

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 12/21-** Confirmation Orientation after the service!
- **Sunday 12/21-** Light Ball Dash- Meet at Marion Elementary School at 5:30pm for registration. The walk/run starts at 6pm and raises money for Feeding Kids Cleveland County. Youth are encouraged to dress festive and bring the family to enjoy the lights!
- **Sunday 12/28-** NO YOUTH- Christmas/NYE

Be On The Lookout!

Interested in feeding our youth in 2026? Be on the lookout for how you can sign up for a meal, 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-5th 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.



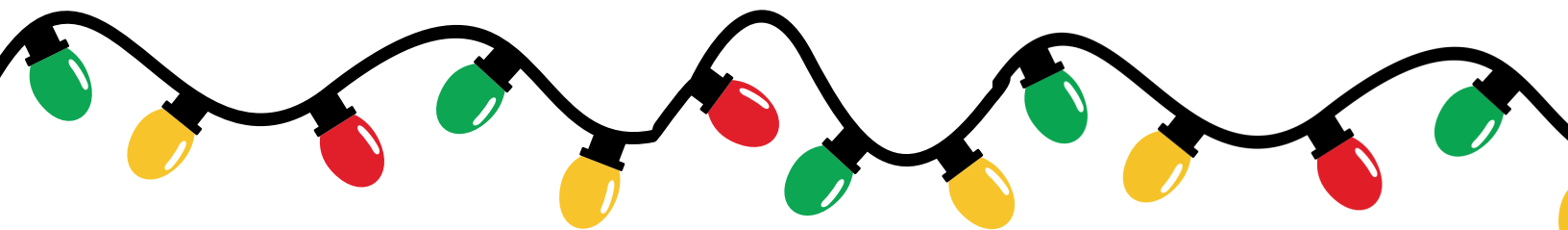
Confirmation Orientation will be held **Sunday, December 21** directly after the service with Pastor David.



Children's Christmas Dance Party



The Children's Christmas Dance Party on Friday was a blast!
Merry Christmas and have a great winter break! Wednesday
night activities will resume January 7.



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

2025



The CUMC youth got together
Sunday night for their Christmas
party and had a great time
fellowshipping and turning Jessica
Talbert and Daniel Sprinkle into
human Christmas trees! Thank you
to the Maxwell's for hosting!

December BIRTHDAYS

December 19 Carol McPhail
December 19 Holli Clark
December 19 Jackson Lundquist
December 19 Samuel Sprinkle
December 20 Jill Mabry
December 21 Mary Beth Hunter
December 24 Charles Peeler

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 Friday, December 19th. Help us show our love to our wonderful Staff!



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



Prayer Requests



The prayer list has been cleared! 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.

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.

O God, we have dared to express our hope, to name our desire for peace, to sing carols that witness to joy. In moments of darkness and light, loneliness and embrace, doubt, and assurance, we lay our words and our silence before you.

You are the One who is with and for us in Emmanuel, our Savior. You stoop to our weakness, you fulfil our longings, you forgive our failures. As Advent turns to Christmas, our stories become a part of a much larger story.

Where we have centered our own possibilities apart from you, forgive us. Where we have not heard the cries of all who know fear, hunger, and oppression, have mercy on us. And where we have forgotten the truth at the heart of it all, remind us that you love us in our imperfections, that you love all people, and that you continue to be with us and for us.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Discipleship Opportunities

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study

The Book of Matthew

8 am, Saturday mornings before

Open Table CUMC, Room E210

meets the **1st and 3rd 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

Disciple is an in-depth four-year Bible Study that meets every Tuesday afternoon in the conference room from 3-5PM. We will be completing I and II Timothy, as well as Titus, after the Christmas holidays and will then be starting Disciple IV sometime in February. Everyone is welcome! Please contact Rob Laney (704-472-5042) if you are interested in joining!

Serving Sunday, December 21, 2025

Nursery Volunteer:

Dorothy Hernandez

Elementary Sunday School Teachers:

Rocky Lutz

Middle School Teachers:

Katie Bowers

Greeters

Carol and Ray Maxwell

Coffee Time Helpers:

Kelly and Wes Dellinger

Coffee Maker:

Leigh Mabry

Welcome Table:

Ginny and Alan Hughes

Children's Sermon:

Tammy Bass

Offering Counters

Will Rucker and Jim Morgan

Trustees Lock Up:

Lelia Lattimore

December 21 - December 27, 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 9-12

Thursday

Church Office CLOSED

Friday

Church Office CLOSED

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 Honor of all widows at CUMC

June Miller

In Honor of Marilyn Jack

Mike and Evelyn Ribadeneyra



200 East Marion St.
Shelby , NC 28150

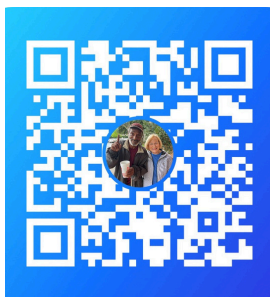
Coffee and Donuts

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.



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

