



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 3, 2025
Volume 34, No. 48

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

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

Community Christmas Concert: Remembering That It Happened Once

Central United Methodist Church
December 14 - 3PM

Featuring choirs from
Aldersgate United Methodist Church,
Ascension Lutheran Church,
Central United Methodist Church,
Episcopal Church of the Redeemer,
and Shelby Presbyterian Church



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

Stewardship Update

Thank you to the 59 families
that have turned in Estimates
of Giving cards so far.
We continue to request

Estimates of Giving to include in the 2026 Budget. If
you have not turned in your card, please mail it or
bring it to the Church Office.

If you plan to give online or through a bank draft,
please notify us by phone or email so we can plan
our budget with your gifts included in our expected
contributions.

Feel free to contact the Office (704-487-6336) or me if
you have any questions.

John Lattimore
Stewardship Chair
704-472-4568
jblattimore@hotmail.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!



Hallway Reflections “Thoughts from the Hallway Class



No Room in the Inn

We often picture the innkeeper as indifferent, but Scripture never says that. Maybe he was not unkind. Maybe he was standing in the doorway of a house already full. Just as Mary and Joseph once stood at a door that could not take them in, many today face similar circumstances. Shelters encounter that same unavoidable situation. Sometimes no room is not a rejection. It is simply an honest limitation.

That reality feels especially close to home in Shelby this winter. Last year our community had two emergency shelters: the Men’s Emergency Shelter through the Cleveland County Rescue Mission (CCRM) and the Chosen Generation House of Hope Outreach (CGHHO), which is led by The Royal Priesthood Biker Church. Together they shared the weight of cold nights and warm meals. They offered a place of safety for people with nowhere else to go. However, this year the Men’s Emergency Shelter closed due to a lack of funding.

CGHHO will still open its doors each night and offer dinner, breakfast, and the dignity of a shower. Yet with only twenty beds, its capacity can stretch only so far. With no second shelter providing meals and additional space, the challenges intensify. More people need warmth. More people need food. More people simply need a place to be.

If compassion begins with noticing, then perhaps we should begin by asking: What would it look like for us to slow down enough to notice who is standing at our door?

The needs this winter can be more than any single team of helpers can manage alone. When one door closes, a community can become a collection of open doors. In the same way Mary and Joseph found shelter through someone who offered what they could, our neighbors today find hope through shared acts of care. It could be a blanket from one person, a meal from another, or a donation from someone who prays for people they may never meet, each becoming part of a larger network of compassion. When one space cannot hold the need, the community can still provide grace through compassion, generosity, and shared love.

As we think about how God might use us in simple ways, a second question comes to mind: What small act of kindness could we offer this week that might carry more weight than we realize?

Jesus reminds us in Matthew that whatever we do for the least of these, we do for Him. When we offer warmth, food, kindness, or even a moment of dignity, we are not only serving our neighbors. We are honoring Christ Himself. In a season when needs intensify, perhaps the invitation is to remember that every act of compassion is a sacred act offered directly to Him.

Todd Bolin

CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS
Weekly Update

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

Sunday Evening
NO YOUTH

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

- **Sunday 12/7** - Youth at Navion for Christmas Caroling @ 3PM.
- **Sunday 12/14**- Christmas Party TBA
- **Sunday 12/21**- Light Ball Dash at 5:30- Bring the family and join in on the fun!
- **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-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.



Thank you Libby!

Dear Central Family,

The surprise party to honor my 25 years as your organist was truly a treasure to remember. Mike and I were overwhelmed by all the smiling faces we saw as we arrived. With the addition of the love offering and the performance of “My Favorite Things,” you certainly outdid yourselves.

The past years have flown by and we are grateful for the special friendships and love given to us here. We hold each of you on our hearts and in our prayers.

Blessings and love,
Libby



Thank You to Caroline Laney and all who contributed the fabulous desserts for our Holiday Open House this past Sunday. What a celebration as a CUMC church family to begin the Advent season by celebrating 25 years of wonderful music provided by Libby Alexander at the organ and piano. Also, thanks to Shannon King for providing the stunning venue, Le Chateau Du Coeur.

Yes, it's true. This past Sunday, we celebrated Libby's 25 years of wonderful piano and organ music during worship. But, her contributions to our ministry go far deeper than that. We have a worn, old, collapsible piano bench that we call our "travel bench". It is there, in the torn and tattered edges of that bench, that the true depth of Libby's work is found. You see, that bench has supported her as she supported us with her music when our children's choirs or bell choirs sang and played music for the residents at Navion, or in the drafty lodge at Camp Loy White for multiple hours at a time during our Crossfire (youth choir) retreats, in front or back yards or carports during Covid when our Chancel Choir went "Covid Caroling" to our homebound members. Though the congregation during those experiences was small, the impact for every participant was definitely not. Thank you, Libby, for the impacts, both great and small, that you have made on our lives. As the lyrics of the song we sang to you this past Sunday proclaimed, we are "25 years blessed", indeed!

Church-Wide Retreat

1/30 - 2/1/26

Lake Junaluska
Conference Center



REGISTRATION DEADLINE
December 15, 2025



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 deadline is December 15!



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.

Weekly Advent Prayer from Bishop Carter

O God, you have given us a great tradition of law, prophets and, in the fullness of time, the birth of our Messiah. And yet we also live in this historical moment of injustice and fear, chaos and despair. We pray for leadership in our world, in our nation, in our communities, in our churches. Let your spirit rest upon those called to lead and govern in this season. May those who lead us be willing to be led by you.

We are bold to pray for an alignment of our lives, our communities, our world with your vision.

Where there is a gap between the kingdoms of this world and your peaceable kingdom, we confess our complicity. Where we are overwhelmed by wilderness and cannot see the promised land, we acknowledge our need for you and each other.

We ask for a renewal of our faith, hope and love. May we settle for nothing less than the vision of the prophet, the world of which you dream. May enemies and adversaries become wolves and lambs who no longer destroy one another.

Let there be peace on each, and let it begin, in this moment, with us.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

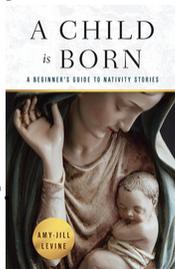
Discipleship Opportunities

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 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

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 7, 2025

**Nursery Volunteer:
TBD**

**Elementary Sunday School Teachers:
Caroline Scism**

**Middle School Teachers:
Katie Bowers**

**Greeters
Reid and Jillian Hunter**

**Coffee Time Helpers:
Rod and Allison Mauney**

**Coffee Maker:
Leigh Mabry**

**Welcome Table:
Ginny and Alan Hughes**

**Children's Sermon:
Julianne MacDowell**

**Offering Counters
Stan Anthony and Lynn Carter**

**Trustees Lock Up:
Lelia Lattimore**

November 30 - December 6, 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).....\$734,700.00



BIRTHDAYS

December 5 Linda McGrath
December 6 Mike Epley
December 6 Emily Parker
December 7 Jackson Beam
December 9 Blake Bolin
December 9 Reid Hunter



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.



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.



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!!!

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

