



**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 31, 2025

Volume 34, No. 53

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



Stewardship Update

To date we have received 68 estimates of giving for a total of \$574,012. This is very helpful as we plan our budget for the upcoming year.

If you have not sent in your 2026 estimate of giving, please either mail it or bring it to the church office.

Together we can carry out the mission the Lord has given us.



We are excited to announce that as of 1/1/26, Hallway Reflections will move to be it's own e-mail each week!



**Interested in Feeding
Our Youth in 2026?**

Sign up to provide a meal Sunday evening at 5pm in the fellowship hall.

Please reach out to Katie with questions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B49A4AB23A1FFC70-61391068-meal#/>



Hallway Reflections

“Thoughts from the Hallway Class



Making Way for Grace

Judgment rarely announces itself. It slips in quietly, wearing the disguise of clarity. We think we are just being observant, realistic, maybe even discerning. Someone speaks the wrong way. Someone reacts too strongly. Someone makes a choice we would not make. A snapshot forms, and suddenly we feel like we know the whole story.

The trouble is how little space judgment leaves for curiosity. Once the verdict is reached, listening stops. Imagination shuts down. Compassion gets crowded out by certainty. We begin responding to our conclusions instead of the person standing in front of us.

Most of us do not mean to be harsh. We are tired. We are rushed. We are piecing together meaning with incomplete information. Our own stress and disappointment quietly shape the way we see others. A single moment becomes a definition. A bad day becomes a character flaw. One sentence outweighs years of faithfulness.

Grace works in the opposite direction. Grace slows us down and refuses to hurry to conclusions. Grace makes room for complexity and contradiction. It allows people to be unfinished and still worthy of care. Grace reminds us that every person we encounter is more than the moment we are seeing. A person is more than their tone in a difficult conversation. A person is more than a single mistake or failure.

Choosing grace does not mean ignoring harm or pretending everything is fine. It means resisting the urge to reduce someone to their worst moment. It means trusting that God is still at work in stories we do not fully understand.

Reflection

1. When have I mistaken a single moment for someone’s whole story?
2. What do my quick judgments reveal about my own fears, fatigue, or expectations?
3. Where might grace be inviting me to slow down and see more clearly?

Todd Bolin

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).....\$795,532.00

Memorials and Honorariums

Special- Open Table:

In Honor of Sallie Craig
Devereux Hunter
In Honor of the Morgan Family
Jim and Ann Morgan

CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS Weekly Update

Youth Sunday School
Youth Commons Room at 9am
With Katie Bowers
Sunday Evening
5-7pm- Youth Game Night

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1/4- Youth Game Night! 5-7pm
- 1/11- Confirmation Kick Off- 4-5pm
- 1/18- Confirmation 4-5pm; Youth Group 5-7pm
- 1/25- Confirmation 4-5pm; Youth Group 5-7pm
- 2/1- NO YOUTH- Church Wide Retreat



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

Serving Sunday, January 4, 2025

Nursery Volunteer:
Anne Wray

Elementary Sunday School Teachers:
Caroline Scism and Debbie Powell

Middle School Teachers:
Katie Bowers and Holli Clark

Greeters
Julianne and Dave McDowell

Coffee Time Helpers:
Carrie and Brad Richardson

Coffee Maker:
Leigh Mabry

Welcome Table:
Ginny and Alan Hughes

Children's Sermon:
Ann Anthony

Offering Counters
Will Mabry and Devereaux Hunter

Trustees Lock Up:
Barbara McLarty

January 4 - January 10, 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

Thursday
Church Office open 9-2

Friday
Church Office open 9-2

Saturday
10:30am Open Table Hot Lunch (PAC)



Kids Serve at Open Table

As a Children's Ministry service initiative, children and parents are invited to help distribute food at Open Table on **Saturday, Jan 17**. Please enter through the Kids Place doors and meet in the PAC at 10:00am and we will start serving at 10:30. This is recommended for ages 3+ with a parent. We will go out to eat afterwards at Chick-fil-a at the mall.



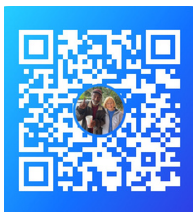
200 East Marion St.
Shelby , NC 28150

January BIRTHDAYS

January 1	Bill Henshaw
January 2	Bubba Plaster
January 2	Bryan LeGrand
January 2	Chris Grenier
January 2	Jon Goforth
January 4	Margaret Ellis
January 4	Evelyn Ribadeneyra
January 5	Thomas Wood
January 6	Laura Gray Lefcoski

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!!!

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.



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 January we are requesting **Fruit Cups**. 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

