



# 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.

200 East Marion Street, Shelby, NC 28150-4610

Phone: (704) 487-6336;

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

Counseling Services: (704) 810-4344

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

July 23, 2025

Volume 34, No. 29

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



## Habitat for Humanity Build Day

July 26th 7:30am-12:30pm

On July 26, we will have a "Central Only" build day. We are looking to have 8 people to help build on this day plus others to provide food.

Sign up to help build at <https://cumcshelby.org/habitat-for-humanity> or contact Caroline Scism ([caroline@cumcshelby.org](mailto:caroline@cumcshelby.org)) to help with food.



## Youth Christmas

### Caroling in July

Sunday, July 27th  
5-7pm. Dress Festive!



## Our Nursery is Hiring!

We are beginning the hiring process for nursery workers! If interested, please visit [cumcshelby.org/job-openings](https://cumcshelby.org/job-openings) for more information.



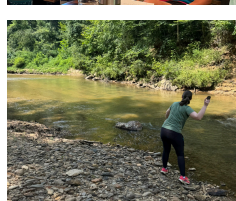
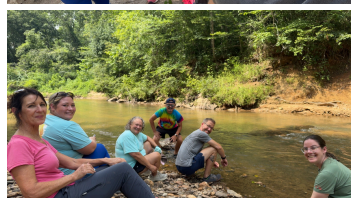
## Save The Date: Pumpkin Painting

It's that time of year again. Are you thinking of cooler fall days and pumpkins, like me? Please join me in providing another successful pumpkin painting event at the Livermush Festival on **October 18, 2025**. We sign up for 2 hour shifts for that day and help kids have a blast decorating mini pumpkins. We need about 25 volunteers from 6:30 am until 5:30 pm. Please call or text Leigh Mabry at (704) 472-1110 if you can help out. Cool breezes and pumpkin painting will be here soon!

## Youth Retreat

Please RSVP for the  
Connect Youth Retreat in  
Mt Shepherd by  
Wednesday, July 30th. The  
retreat will take place from  
Friday, September 19th to  
Sunday, September 21st.

Youth participants will  
need to make a \$50 deposit  
by the deadline on July  
30th. The funds raised from  
the youth fundraiser in  
February will cover the  
remaining costs of the  
retreat. If you have any  
questions, please contact  
Katie.



The staff took off to Tammy Hollifield's cabin for a planning retreat. We were able to plan the fall calendar for CUMC, as well as spend some time outdoors and fellowshiping together, including a fantastic meal by Shannon King. We are so thankful to Tammy for extending such hospitality and are ready to kick off our fall programing! Get ready for some fun events and time in the Word!



# Hallway Reflections

## “Thoughts from the Hallway Class



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### Letting Go of Control

When my daughter, Brooke, was a baby, she used to stand in her crib, reach out her little arms, and say, “Hold you. Hold you.”

As a brand-new parent and an eager educator, I saw this as a perfect teaching moment. Gently, I corrected her:

“Brooke, you’re using the second-person singular objective personal pronoun—you—when what you mean is the first-person singular objective personal pronoun—me. So you should say, ‘Hold me.’”

She looked at me with a big, proud smile, and my heart swelled. I was confident she understood. I told myself, Wait for it... wait for it...

And sure enough, she reached her arms out again, smiled even bigger, and said, “Hold you. Hold you.”

I laugh about it now, but here’s what I’ve come to realize: she didn’t need a grammar lesson. She needed to be held.

There’s a subtle form of control that hides in our desire to be helpful. We think we’re teaching, guiding, improving—when maybe the holier response would be to simply receive the person and the moment just as they are.

Are there areas in your life where you’re tempted to correct when what’s really needed is connection?

That moment in the crib wasn’t about language. It was about love.

Why is it so hard to let the moment be what it is, without trying to fix it?

Sometimes our need to instruct becomes a barrier to connection. Sometimes our desire to be right keeps us from being present. Sometimes we forget that the people in front of us don’t always need answers—they need arms.

I wonder: What would change if we saw the people around us not as problems to be solved, but as souls to be embraced?

Todd Bolin



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“The ego wants to fix, control, and explain. The soul is more interested in letting go, in trusting, in being present.”

— Richard Rohr, *Falling Upward*



## july BIRTHDAYS

July 24	Bill Owens
July 24	Rocky Lutz
July 25	Carter Reeves
July 27	Wayne Gregory
July 28	Ann Anthony
July 29	Sidney Smith
July 30	Wil Hunter
July 30	Carter Plaster



### Have an announcement or something to share?

Send in any news, articles or pictures to be shared in the newsletter to [central@cumcshelby.org](mailto:central@cumcshelby.org)



Prayer List: We have updated the prayer list as of July 1. If you would like to have your prayer request added, please contact the church office, or email at [central@cumcshelby.org](mailto:central@cumcshelby.org).



Please check out the new QR code we will be using in order to condense the amount of different codes there are. This is a one-stop shop for any thing you need at Central, including: the website, connect card, newsletter, online giving, and more! We are very excited to be able to bring you a convenient way to find the information you need and be involved here.



If you have interest in donating a Prayer Shawl or being a part of a Prayer Shawl Group, please let Tammy Bass or Holly Mabry know.

### 2025 Stewardship

2025 Monthly Budget Needs.....	\$66,750.33
Total Receipts in May.....	\$71,861.63
May Expenses.....	\$75,200.84
Over/-- Under for the month.....	<b>-\$3,339.21</b>

## Welcome BABY

Carolyn Eileen Gaskill was born Monday evening, 7/21, in Morehead City, NC. Her proud parents are Anna Rucker and Morty Gaskill. Proud grandparents are Tina & Will Rucker.

### Memorials and Honorariums

#### Operating:

In Memory of Will Corn by  
Ellen Warlick  
In Memory of Jim Lutz by  
Linda McSwain  
In Memory of Joe Eller by  
Anne Wray  
Ms. Joe Mauney  
Mr. & Mrs. Hill Hudson III  
Mr. & Mrs. Lacy Ballard

### Serving Sunday, July 27, 2025

**Elementary Sunday School Teachers:**  
Caroline Scism

**Middle School Teachers:**  
Katie Bowers and Matt and Holli Clark

**Greeters**  
Leigh Mabry and Ellen Benfield

**Coffee Time Helpers:**  
Elizabeth and Rocky Lutz

**Coffee Maker:**  
Mike Schenck

**Welcome Table:**  
Ginny and Alan Hughes

**Children's Sermon:**  
Keeley Benfield

**Offering Counters**  
Evelyn Ribadeneyra and Carol Schenck

**Trustees Lock Up:**  
Leila Lattimore

### July 27 - August 2, 2025

#### Calendar of Events

##### Sunday.

9:00am Sunday School  
10:00am Worship Service  
5:30pm Youth in Fellowship Hall

##### Monday

Church Office open 9-2

##### Tuesday

Church Office open 9-2  
5:30pm Church Council

##### Wednesday

Church Office open 9-2  
6:00pm Chancel Choir  
7:15pm Praise Ensemble

##### Thursday

Church Office open 9-2

##### Friday

Church Office open 9-2

##### Saturday

10:30am Open Table Hot Lunch (PAC)

## Central Kids

Nursery is open to all **Babies-PreK** kids. Nursery is offered **Sundays, 9-11 AM in Room E105.**

#### Elementary Sunday School

**Sundays 9-9:45am**  
4 & Under- Nursery Room E105  
K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Godly Play Room E309

#### Wednesday

9am-12pm- VBS in Fellowship Hall

## CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS Weekly Update

#### Youth Sunday School

Youth Commons Room at 9am  
With Katie Bowers

#### Sunday Evenings

5:30pm Youth in  
Fellowship Hall



### Daily Devotions and 2025 Sermon Series

You will find "A Yearlong Journey through Luke and Acts Devotions" on our website, <https://cumcshelby.org/devotions> as well as on the "Devotions" section on our app. Pastor David will be preaching from this devotion for the 2025 church year.  
June 1<sup>st</sup> Pastor David will begin the book of Acts.





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 Remind text group to get updates and information. This is not a group text and you do not have to download the app. Text the message **@otcumc** to the number 81010.

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!!!

## PRESCHOOL registration



### Kids Place 2025 Registration

Kids Place Preschool Early Registration for the 2025-26 School year is officially open!

You can register online at

[www.cumcshelby.org/kids-place-preschool](http://www.cumcshelby.org/kids-place-preschool).

Please feel free to contact Director, Shelley Rempson for any questions! 704-487-6357 or email [kidsplace@cumcshelby.org](mailto:kidsplace@cumcshelby.org)

### 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 July, we are requesting 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/@centralunitedmethodistchurch6507>

And our App: Central UMC-Shelby on all app stores

