



# 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.

August 20, 2025  
Volume 34, No. 33

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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  
Iannah Walker, Administrative Communications  
Doug Smith, Facilities Manager  
Shelley Rempson, Kid's Place Preschool Director  
Doug Lowery, Media Coordinator  
Stacey Watkins Griffith, Pastoral Counselor

**You Are Invited To  
A Church-Wide  
Fellowship to celebrate  
all birthdays in one night!**

**SEPTEMBER  
WEDNESDAY | 3 | 5:30PM**

**A SNACK SUPPER IN THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
PLUS 12 BIRTHDAY  
DESSERTS!**

Regular Wednesday Night activities  
will begin the following week

JOIN US FOR  
CENTRAL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH'S

**... Back ...  
To School  
... Bash ...**

**08 | 27 | 2025**  
5:15pm-6:30pm

Located in the Uptown Court Square

Hotdogs | Obstacle Course Inflatable | Icy Pops

Free and Fun For All Ages!



# Hallway Reflections

## “Thoughts from the Hallway Class



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### Behind A Backpack

The Hallway Class has been fortunate to have leaders from different ministries at CUMC share about their programs with our Sunday School class. Sitting together in the classroom, we’ve heard stories and asked questions that gave us a glimpse into the heartbeat of our church. Friends from Open Table, Soup Group, the Congregational Care Team, and the Pack-a-Trunk Ministry have shared how their work quietly meets needs and builds community. This past Sunday, the Backpack Ministry shared about their work during Sunday School, giving us a look at the difference a simple bag of food can make in a child’s life.

A backpack can hold more than books. Sometimes it carries the weight of worry. A child may be wondering if there will be enough food at home over the weekend. According to the Feeding Kids Cleveland County website, a local nonprofit, 1 in 3 children in our county are facing food insecurity. That means right here in our own neighborhoods, many students begin the weekend unsure if they will have enough to eat.

That is why our Backpack Ministry matters. Each week, our church provides 12 bags of food for Shelby Middle School and 10 bags for North Shelby High School. These bags quietly slip into the hands of students who need them most, giving them nourishment and the assurance that someone cares.

As the new school year begins, let us remember the students and families we serve through this ministry. The items we collect, often listed in the newsletter or bulletin, may seem small, but together they add up to a gift of hope and strength for a child. Each ministry update has reminded us that God’s work is alive in so many forms, and we are grateful to be part of it together.

We can all make a difference in a child’s weekend and in their life by bringing items listed in the newsletter or bulletin, offering prayers, or simply spreading the word. Every small contribution helps a child in need.



- What would it be like to begin the weekend unsure if there will be enough food to eat?
- How does providing even a small gift, like a bag of food, reflect God’s love in action?

“Whoever has a generous eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.” – Proverbs 22:9

## Log Cabin Award



Quilting has long been identified as an arts and crafts endeavor closely linked to mountain culture. Of necessity those who settled in these areas needed the warmth that a quilt provided, and they could be made from scraps and remnants of cloth. There was a functionality and economy to the craft that suited life on the frontier, while beauty and creativity were sewn into what remained of worn clothing and sewing scraps.

This design is the Log Cabin block. The center red square represents the hearth fire and the heart of the home. The block

features an array of ‘logs’ or strips of fabric that build upon one another in a circular motion, similar to the way log cabins were once built. The strips are light on one side of the diagonal and dark on the opposite side signifying both the beauty and the challenges of life itself.

This quilt block has been crafted with love and given to Central United Methodist Church, Shelby, N.C., on Sunday, August 10, 2025, with sincere appreciation for your continuing gifts of service to those affected by Hurricane Helene. In our darkest hour you have been the hands and feet of Christ to those in need, helping us to rebuild lives and homes in our Blue Ridge Mountains.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.



## **Central Adult Supper Clubs are Back!** **Open to Everyone**

Would you enjoy getting to know other folks here at Central outside of church? Having a meal together brings a level of fellowship, connection, and encouragement that benefits us all! Sign up by **August 31** to be put into a group of 8 adults, singles and couples, that will meet 4 times between September and January.

When it is your turn to host or coordinate the supper club you can do it in many ways: have people in your home, choose a restaurant and everyone go “Dutch treat”, order pizza and meet in the church fellowship hall, have everyone bring a sandwich or picnic to a park, go to lunch after church, or even meet for breakfast on a Saturday morning. There are so many ways to build connections and make memories together!

Fill out the Supper Club form on our Linktree or visit [cumcshelby.org/supper-club](https://cumcshelby.org/supper-club) by August 31 to sign up. Any questions, call the church office at 704-487-6336 or email Tammy at [tammy@cumcshelby.org](mailto:tammy@cumcshelby.org).



# CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS Weekly Update

## Youth Sunday School

Youth Commons Room at 9am

With Katie Bowers

## Sunday Evenings

5:30pm Youth in

Fellowship Hall



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



The youth traveled to Central United Methodist in Clyde, NC, on Saturday.

The boys diligently prepared the ground and constructed garden boxes to initiate a garden project that will provide fresh produce to an area severely affected by Hurricane Helene. In contrast, the girls remained indoors and assisted with a similar endeavor to our Open Table ministry. This small church has dedicated the past 11 months to serving a hot meal to the community from 12-6pm, Tuesdays-Saturdays. The consistently serve an average of 173 meals daily and have a small pantry that provides groceries for individuals to take home. It was amazing to see the huge impact a small congregation of about 20 people and a handful of regular volunteers can make.



## 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.

## Nursery Volunteers Needed

We have an ongoing need of Nursery Volunteers each Sunday. Please visit our QR code to access the online signup form or sign up at the Welcome Table. If you have not served in the Nursery in a while, please consider volunteering twice a year.

We are still looking to hire a paid nursery workers! If you know anyone interested, please visit [cumcshelby.org/job-openings](https://cumcshelby.org/job-openings) for more information.



# Thank You

Several UMC pastors met at Central for a "Getting to Know" the New District Superintendent, Sally Queen.

Some of our WinGS ladies provided wonderful refreshments for the group! Thanks for making Central so hospitable for our guests!



## Fall Studies Are Starting Up!

### Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study

8 am, Saturday mornings before Open Table  
CUMC, Room E210

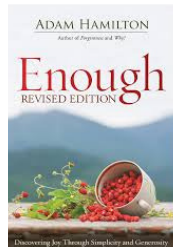
#### The Book of Matthew

Have you wondered about the nature of the Kingdom of Heaven? Good thing to wonder! Matthew's gospel pulls back the curtain and says, "Thanks for asking, here it is."

Taught by Tim Sieges, retired Director of Wycliffe Counseling Ministries

### Wednesday Night Bible Study

5:15-6pm  
Conference Room  
2nd floor Education Building



#### Enough by Adam Hamilton

This study will be available for anyone who is not going through the study in their Sunday School class.

### Evening Ladies Bible Study

Mondays at 6:30 pm, rotates locations.

The study is narrowed to two-three, watch for the final decision.

For more information contact Jillian Hunter, cell 870-688-9692.

### Daytime Ladies' Bible Study

The first meeting will be Thursday, September 4th at 9:30 in the Conference Room to decide on the study.

Come with your ideas and input! This group will likely do a 6-8 week study and then an Advent study. Feel free to join for one or both.

Serving Sunday, August 24, 2025

**Nursery Volunteer:**  
Abbie Ribadeneyra

**Elementary Sunday School Teachers:**  
Caroline Scism and Rocky Lutz

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

**Greeters**  
Manning Burton and Meaghan

**Coffee Time Helpers:**  
Evelyn and Mike Ribadeneyra

**Coffee Maker:**  
Mike Schenck

**Welcome Table:**  
Ginny and Alan Hughes

**Children's Sermon:**  
Tammy Hollifield

**Offering Counters**  
Stan Anthony and Lynn Carter

**Trustees Lock Up:**  
Dana Lundquist

**Operating: Memorials and Honorariums**

In Memory of Jim and Claudia Lutz by  
Linda Ware  
Don and Shirley Abernethy

In Memory of Claudia Lutz  
Bobby McDaniel  
Lady and Montrose Ballard

In Memory of Ron Clendening  
Bubba and Brownie Plaster

In Memory of Edward Lassiter  
Bubba and Brownie Plaster

**August 24 - August 30, 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)



The Central Staff kicked off Tuesday morning at Gardner-Webb University, diving into the Connect Fair to give a warm, cheerful welcome to the freshmen before classes began on August 20, thanks to our Legacy grant for our festival materials!

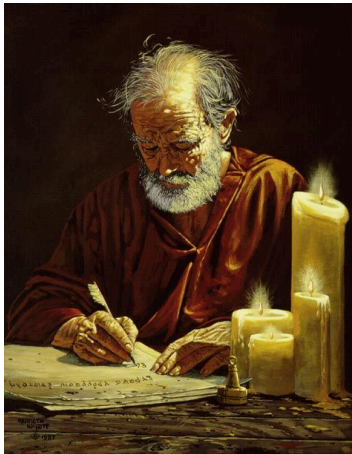


# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 21	Ollie Anthony
August 21	Matthew Grenier
August 23	Jim Pressley
August 23	Zane Rempson
August 23	Laura Mitchell
August 24	Justin Gregory
August 24	Benjamin Hamilton
August 25	Reagan Nestlerode
August 26	Jim Wilson

## 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.....	-\$3,339.21



## 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.



## 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!

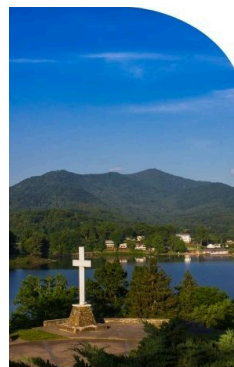
## Solo Flight

### Single's Ministry for 50+ Year Olds

This is a non-denominational gathering of Singles for the purpose of Fellowship and Ministry at First Baptist Church in Shelby, NC.

Please come join us this August 22 for our first Friday night Solo Flight get together after our summer break. We meet in the Single's Sunday School Class next to the elevators on the ground floor. There will be signs places around the outside of the church giving directions to the room. The gathering in from 6pm-9pm. Please join us for Food, Fun and Fellowship.

RSVP by text to Lynda Davis (704-473-2268) or Nancy Mercier (704-300-2810)



# SAVE THE DATE

CENTRAL FAMILY  
CHURCH - WIDE RETREAT

JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 1, 2026

LAKE JUNALUSKA  
MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW



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

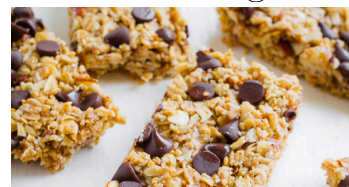
[www.cumcshelby.org/kids-place-preschool](http://www.cumcshelby.org/kids-place-preschool).

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 August, we are requesting Granola Bars. 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

