



# Central United Methodist Church

Our Mission:

To make disciples of Christ who WORSHIP God,  
GROW in their faith and SERVE in the church and world.

Rev. Mark L. Barden, Pastor  
Rev. Fawn Mikel, Director of Discipleship and Outreach  
Danny Buckner, Director of Music Ministries  
Nick Richart, Director of Youth Ministries

200 East Marion Street  
Shelby, NC 28150  
704-487-6336

<http://cumcshelby.org>

## The Worship of God

December 31, 2017

10:00 am

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Gathering Music David Parker, guitar

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Fawn Mikel

Lighting of the Candles LeeAnne McDowell

Prelude *Joy to the World* arr. Aber  
Libby Alexander, organ

\*Call to Worship Rev. Fawn Mikel

Leader: Come away today to Bethlehem.

**People: Come adore on bended knee the One whose  
birth the angels sing.**

Leader: Come with wonder. Come with awe. Sing with joy  
the good news of Christmas...

**People: Emmanuel... God with us...  
the Christ has come.**

\*Prayer Rev. Fawn Mikel

**God of mystery, God of revelation, God of joyful sound,  
we worship you with the most profound devotion,  
and with the simplest wonder at the foot of a manger bed,  
singing in the Spirit so that our joy may be received  
as true worship; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*HYMN #246 *Joy to the World* (st. 1-3)

Children's Time Caroline Laney

Prayers of the People Steve Talbert

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever.**

Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

A CHILD IS BORN Luke 2:1–7 Holli Goforth  
Hymn #217 *Away in a Manger*

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.

ANGELS ANNOUNCE GLAD TIDINGS Luke 2:8–16 Brad Richardson  
Hymn #240 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus,  
the King of the Jews.

A STAR GUIDES THE WAY Matthew 2:1–11 Jay Morgan  
Hymn # 254 *We Three Kings* (refrain after 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> stanzas only)

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

THE WORD MADE FLESH John 1:1–14 Claudia Lutz  
Hymn #184 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

A Christmas Litany of Intercession (see insert)

Offertory *What Child is This?* arr. Smith  
Marilyn Jack, piano and Libby Alexander, organ

\*Doxology #95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Prayer of Dedication Rev. Fawn Mikel

Hymn #228 *He Is Born*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude *Postlude on "Gloria"* arr. Payne  
Libby Alexander, organ

\*Please stand as you are able.

Central UMC is a *Safe Sanctuaries* church. Please be sure that your children are accompanied at all times by a parent or responsible adult caregiver including if and when they need to use the restroom during service. We appreciate your assistance as we strive to ensure the safety of all.

**To Our Guests:**

Thank you for sharing in worship today. We are honored that you have chosen to spend a portion of your day with us and we want to help you have a meaningful experience. Here are a few things that you may find helpful.

-**Childcare** is available for infants and preschool aged children. Our nursery staff awaits you in room E105.

-**Hearing devices** are available for those who need them.

-**Large print Bibles & Hymnals** are available for those who need them.

The Ushers are at each door and will happily assist you with any of these.

District Leadership Conference, which will be held on

**Sunday, January 7, 2018**

**2:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**St. Luke's UMC (Hickory)**

**[52 16th Ave. NW](#)**

**[Hickory, NC 28601](#)**

The following courses are available:

- **“The Discipleship of Faith and Generosity”**
- **“The Mission and Ministry of Staff/Pastor Parish”**
- **“Do’s and Don’ts of Local Church Finance”**
- **“Single-Board Governance— It’s About Vision and Leadership”**
- **“Local Church Historians”**
- **“Ministry of the Trustees”**
- **“Children’s Ministry”**
- **“Building Relationships through Nurture, Outreach, and Witness (NOW Ministries)”**
- **“In the Beginning”**
- **“Igniting the Fire of Youth Ministry”**
- **“Baptism is the Ordination of the Laity”**

**There is no cost for these courses, but registration is required.**

**Registration deadline: January 1, 2018**

For more information including course descriptions or to register for a course, visit [https://wnc-](https://wnc-reg.brtaapp.com/DistrictLeadershipConference2018)

[reg.brtaapp.com/DistrictLeadershipConference2018](https://wnc-reg.brtaapp.com/DistrictLeadershipConference2018). Transportation will be provided, please meet in the church parking lot at 1 pm. Note that this is an earlier time than was announced previously.

A CHRISTMAS LITANY OF INTERCESSION          Hattie & Ella Hensley

Reader A. We have celebrated Christmas with Mary and Joseph.

Reader B. We have rejoiced with the angels and the shepherds.

A. We have celebrated the birth of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

B. Lord, you came to live among us, caring, loving and healing us.

ALL    **Be with us.**

B. Lord, you blessed the home of Mary and Joseph.

A. Bless our homes this Christmas and make our families a blessing to others.

B. O Lord Jesus,

ALL    **Be with us.**

B. You were born in a stable, then driven out as a refugee.

A. May we give shelter to the homeless as you open our hearts to those in need.

B. O Lord Jesus,

ALL    **Be with us.**

A. Lord, you were born among the poor. You experienced hurt and pain and disappointment.

B. Make us your arms, your hands and your feet as we strengthen the weak, care for the sick and comfort those who are suffering.

A. O Lord Jesus,

ALL    **Be with us.**

A. Jesus, you bring peace and pardon with God.

B. Bring peace to our hearts and love to our homes. Guide the nations with justice and hope.

A. O Lord Jesus,

ALL    **Be with us.**

(cont.)

B. Lord, you bring joy to all people.  
A. Teach us to be a friend to the lonely, lifting up the depressed attending to the sick, and celebrating life, even in death through resurrection.

B. O Lord Jesus,  
ALL **Be with us.**

B. Be with us today and always. Be with us as we journey through this life and when our life here ends,  
A. May see your glory in heaven, and with the angels and all your people, praise the heavenly Father,  
B. O Lord Jesus,  
ALL **Be with us. Amen.**

*We hope you'll join us for the remaining  
Christmas events as listed below:*

*January 7<sup>th</sup>, 9-9:45 am – Worship Workshop celebrating Epiphany!*

*January 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord Service*

*January 10<sup>th</sup>, noon -- Kid's Place Epiphany Service in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited.*

### **Adam Hamilton Bible Study**

Beginning January 9th at 7 pm, Rev. Mark will start a 7 week study on "Making Sense of the Bible". This study addresses the hot-button issues that plaque the church and cultural debate, and answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike. If you would like to sign up, please call the office or go online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084ea9ad2fa4f85adam>.

Please signify if you want us to order your book (for \$12 each) or if you will be purchasing it yourself (they are available at Amazon and other online retailers). Deadline for registration is Thursday, Jan. 4.