



WORSHIP

Sunday, March 3, 2019
10 am

Central United Methodist Church

200 East Marion Street
Shelby, NC 28150
704-487-6336
<http://cumcshelby.org>

Welcome and Announcements - Nick Richart

Prelude - *I Will Follow You* - arr. Kerr

Lighting of the Candles - Belle Westbrook

*Hymn#154 st. 1,2,4, & 6 - *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Opening Prayer

As We Gather Today – Rev. Mark Barden

Video from Bishop Paul Leeland, Western NC Conference

Letter from the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church

Where Do We Go From Here?

Prayers for Understanding

Prayers of Lament – Rev. Fawn Mikel

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for you the living God.

Come in power, Almighty God!

My tears seem to be my food day and night; my tears seems to speak to me and say, "Where is your God?"

Answer my tears, O compassionate Father!

Yet these things I remember as I pour out my soul: how sweet your presence is and how exhilarating it is to worship you with shouts of joy amongst your people. As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for you the living God.

Come in power, Almighty God!

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Yet these things I remember as I pour out my soul: how sweet your presence is and how exhilarating it is to worship you with shouts of joy amongst your people.

I rejoice in you, O joy giving Lord!

These are the things I ponder: why my soul is sad and in turmoil within me? I want to hope in you God. I want to experience your power.

O come, Holy Spirit!

Yet even now, when my soul is cast down within me, I remember you in the land of trials and testing.

I trust in you, Jesus!

I want to hear your voice Lord like the sounds of great waterfalls, speaking with power and having powerful affects.

Come, O Holy Shepherd!

You are my rock, the One in whom I have trusted... yet I sometime feel forgotten, I often mourn so many losses. I sometimes feel oppressed.

Come, O God of deliverance!

My soul will not be cast down forever... the turmoil will end... my hope is in you Lord... I shall praise you afresh.

Jesus is my salvation and my God! Amen.

Hymn #117 st. 1, 2, 3, 6 – *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Prayers for Others

Each time you hear "O healing river," please respond with "**Pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.**"

Sermon – "A Message of Hope" – Gen. 50:15-21, Romans 8:18-28 - Rev. Mark Barden

Prayers of Thanksgiving

O LORD, a fractured relationship with you is like a death;

yet your one desire is life – community with you.

With darkness weeping remains,

but joy comes with the hint of morning light.

We've come to take so much for granted in our lives:

"I'm OK – steady as a rock.

In fact, LORD, you've been so good to me

I'm more secure than a strong mountain."

Then it seemed that you hid your face from me,

and I was terrified.

I cried out to you, LORD, when things were really grim;

I pleaded with you to restore my good circumstance:

"What profit is there in my weeping, in my going down in the pit?

Will the dust praise you? Will it declare your faithfulness?

Hear me, LORD, and be merciful.

O LORD, be my help."

You transformed my mourning into dance,

and gave me new life;

you have taken my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy,

so that my life will praise you, and not weep.

O LORD, my God, I will praise you – forever. Amen.

Offering – *Who Do You Say I Am* – Praise Ensemble

*Doxology #95

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn – *Bind Us Together*

*Benediction – Rev. Fawn Mikel

*Chimes of the Trinity

Postlude - *Psalm 100* - Knecht/Spong - 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.

RESPONSES FROM THE 2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE

From the Council of Bishops

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church would like to thank the delegates to the Special Session of the General Conference for their diligent work during the 2019 conference, which ended today in St. Louis, in the United States.

The General Conference is the highest legislative body in the church and the only group who can decide church law and speak officially for the global denomination.

The 864 delegates (half lay, half clergy) from all over the world met from Feb. 24-26 to discuss and act on the report of the Commission on a Way Forward over the issue of human sexuality. The delegates also considered petitions other than the report from the Commission.

The decision of the General Conference was to offer a majority support for the Traditional Plan. The vote was 438 to 384. The delegates then voted to ask the Judicial Council, the highest court in the denomination, to review the constitutionality of the approved legislation.

What is the Traditional Plan?

The Traditional Plan keeps the current language around sexuality and increases accountability by streamlining the processes to enforce penalties for violations of The Book of Discipline related to marriage and ordination of LGBTQI persons. Some parts of the Traditional Plan were ruled unconstitutional, and it will take some time to clarify which parts will become part of our church law and which parts will not.

"We continue to teach and believe that all persons are welcomed in the church, all persons are persons of sacred worth and we welcome all to receive the ministry of Jesus. Human sexuality is a topic on which people of faith have differing views," said Bishop Ken Carter, president of the Council of Bishops, after the conference ended. "Despite our differences, we will continue to work together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and share God's love with all people."

What is the next step for the UMC?

Since the legislation is not the official church law until January 1, 2020 for churches in the United States, the bishops are urging all Methodists to stay focused on the mission that glorifies God and reaches new people with the gospel. Bishops will be holding meetings with clergy and laity in their annual conferences on how details will be handled in each area. The legislation takes effect in churches outside the U.S. after the 2020 General Conference.

From the Western NC Conference

Delegates to the Special Session of General Conference approved the Traditional plan that affirms church policies on homosexuality and strengthens enforcement by a vote of 438 to 384. Several petitions included in this vote were ruled unconstitutional by our Judicial Council, so the full implications of this decision are not yet known. The General Conference then voted to request a declaratory decision by the Judicial Council on the constitutionality of the petitions passed. The motion passed 405-395. The Judicial Council will review this request at its next scheduled meeting on April 23-25.

We know that some are pleased with this outcome and others are saddened and in deep pain. Let us show love and care toward one another as a visible witness that ALL people are valued and of sacred worth.

On Friday, March 1, Bishop Leeland and the leaders of our Western North Carolina delegation, Jennifer Davis and Kim Ingram, will share a video message to our Conference on what happened and what's next.

Bishop Leeland will also gather with our districts for a time of worship and Holy Communion in March and April.
March 3, 1:30 p.m. at First UMC Hendersonville – Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountain Districts
March 10, 2:00 p.m. at Assurance UMC in Huntersville – Metro District
March 16, 10:00 a.m. at Main Street UMC Kernersville – Northern Piedmont and Yadkin Valley Districts
March 31, 3:00 p.m. at St. Luke's UMC in Hickory – Catawba Valley and Appalachian Districts
April 6, 10:00 a.m. at Central UMC in Albemarle – Uwharrie District

As this General Conference comes to an end, please know that God's call is for the United Methodist churches of the Western North Carolina Conference to continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in our churches and be in mission with our communities and the world.

For Factual Information, go to:

United Methodist News Service: <https://www.umnews.org/en/>

2019 General Conference: <http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2019-special-session>

Commission on a Way Forward (pre-General Conference): <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward>

Western NC Conference website: <https://www.wnccumc.org/>

Ash Wednesday Service Join us as we begin the Lenten Season together with the Ash Wednesday Service on March 6 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

Lenten Series This year's Lenten preaching series begins next Sunday with special guest preacher Kim Shockley. Kim is our district congregational vitality specialist who has been coaching our visioning team. All the Lenten Sunday services will focus on our church's purpose and vision featuring the work of our Vision Team.

Help Wanted Central UMC is looking for part-time persons to staff our nursery on Sunday mornings and as available for special events. Qualifications include loving God and God's smallest children. For more information, contact Fawn in the church office.

2019 LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP & LUNCH (noon) - Aldersgate UMC, 1207 West Dixon Boulevard, Shelby, NC 704.487.8491 **MARCH 6**– Rev. Randy Blanton, Aldersgate UMC, Shelby, NC, (Chicken & Wild Rice Soup, Egg Salad Sandwich, Cookie) **MARCH 13**– Rev. Louise Learson, Mundy's Chapel, Mooresboro, NC and Brooks Chapel, Ellenboro, NC (Tomato Basil Soup, Cheese Toast, Cookie)

Upcoming Events

For more information on the following events, please check our newsletter (available in the vestibules) or our website at <http://cumcshelby.org/>

March 4th—Deadline for District Lay Servant Training

March 6th—Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm

March 10th—Spring Forward at 2 am--Daylight Savings Time Begins!

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.