

THE CENTRAL ISSUE

CENTRAL UMC SHELBY IS A SAFE SANCTUARIES

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

August 26, 2020
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Fawn Mikel, Director of Discipleship & Outreach
Danny Buckner, Director of Music Ministries
Savanna Craig, Director of Youth and Children's Discipleship
Libby Alexander, Organist
Gina Blanton, Director of Communications
Dianne Whisnant, Financial Secretary
Ed Winder, Facility Manager
Shelley Rempson, Kid's Place Preschool Director
Stacey Watkins Griffith, Pastoral Counselor



Drive-By Communion Offered On Sunday, Aug. 30

Due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been unable to celebrate Holy Communion. That is about to change. On this Sunday, Aug. 30, you are invited to drive by the church between 11 am and noon, to receive consecrated communion elements.

During the worship service on Facebook Live at 10 am, the elements will be consecrated so they can be distributed to those who drive by the Kid's Place entrance. You are asked to enter from the East Marion St. side. You will be directed to one of two stations where Pastor Mark or Pastor Fawn will give you enough of the elements for your family. The bread and juice are prepackaged and have not been touched by human hands. To partake of communion, you will need to peel off the top tab that will allow you to pick up the wafer (bread). Then peel the second tab to drink the juice from the cup. Written instructions will be included. You may either take your communion home to partake or you can pull into the upper parking lot to do so. We will honor all COVID-19 precautions. So, you are asked to remain in your car at all times. If you are unable to come to the church, contact the Church Office and we'll make arrangements to take them to your home.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Mark at marklbarden@gmail.com or 704--300-8326. **Check out Monday's Take a Breather for a video demonstration.—the little cups can be tricky!**

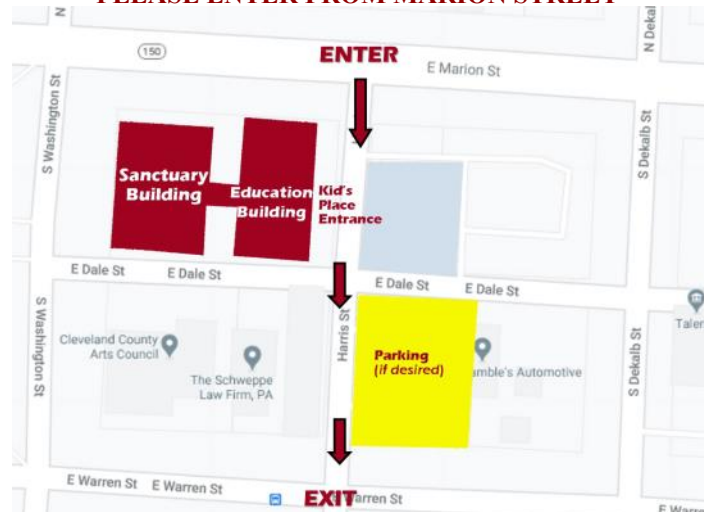
Family Camp Day @ Tekoa Foothills: Sunday, September 20th, 12-6 PM

On this day we will get to be together and enjoy all the great perks of Camp Tekoa Foothills here in Shelby. For just \$25 per family, you will have access to ziplining, hiking trails, axe throwing, swimming, and boating just to name a few things! Bring a picnic lunch for your family. See you there!

You must register at this link by September 10:
<https://forms.gle/si9X9jtayTmD9C7o8>

DRIVE -BY COMMUNION

PLEASE ENTER FROM MARION STREET



Sanctuary Open For Prayer

The Sanctuary will be open for personal prayer and meditation on Sunday, Aug. 30 from 2-4 pm. For your safety, we will observe the following precautions:

- Please enter from the Washington St. entrance. If you need to use the elevator, use the entrance by the prayer garden.
- A staff person will be at each entrance with hand sanitizer.
- Each person is required to wear a mask at all times and sign in to comply with state regulations.
- When you enter the sanctuary, you may sit anywhere there is a pink card indicating the spot has been sanitized. When you leave, please pick up that card and place it in the basket when you exit.
- Please maintain a distance of 6 ft. from each other unless you are with someone residing in the same household.
- Most importantly, don't let all these precautions get in the way of your prayer time! Ask the Holy Spirit to take away all distractions allowing you to connect with God in this holy space.

Upper Room Books

The September/October edition of the Upper Rooms are available outside of the office. You may pick one up Mon-Thurs 9-4 or Fri 9-1. Contact Gina if you need to make different arrangements.

SUMMER BACKPACK MINISTRY

Feeding Kids Cleveland County provides boxes of shelf food to families 3 times during the summer. CUMC partners with Feeding Kids to provide perishable food the remaining the weeks to students and their families. We have been so blessed with donations we are hoping to continue the ministry into the fall – but that is only possible with help. We need assistance in delivering groceries to families every Saturday from 11am-12 noon. If you would like to serve please contact Pastor Fawn at Fawn@cumcshelby.org.

TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER

And so it continues... we are delivering meals every Saturday to our community and church family, friends and neighbors. If you would like a meal, know someone who would like a meal or would be interested in delivering meals between 11am and 12 noon . If you would like a meal, know someone who would like a meal or would be interested in delivering meals between 11am and 12 noon, please contact Pastor Fawn via cell phone 954-547-2593 or email fawn@cumcshelby.org.



OPEN TABLE NEWS!

Every Saturday, I am reminded of how “open” the church is as OPEN TABLE provides a hot meal and groceries to approximately 160 people. It is such a blessing to know

we are delivering meals and food to families, shut-ins, the elderly, and church family. Yes, the church is alive and well. We are blessed with wonderful donations of fresh produce every Friday afternoon from the Episcopal church. **BUT we really need help** unloading the many cases at CUMC. Consider helping from 4:30-5:30 pm... students can receive volunteer hours as well as the knowledge of making a significant difference in our community. ALSO -- Extra muscles, hands and hearts are always needed on Saturdays, but especially, during the summer when so many are out of town. Please arrive to help by 10 am. **AND ONE MORE THING** – if you are able we are in need of **plastic grocery bags and paper towels!**



AUGUST

and

SEPTEMBER



Birthdays

August 30	Adam Tapp
August 31	Joe Morgan
September 1	Karen Winder
September 2	Alma Doty
September 3	Beth Hill
September 4	Street Hamrick
September 5	Bill Story
September 5	Tripp Schenck

Just Because We Love You -- Who would have ever thought we would still be staying at home, protecting ourselves and each other from a pandemic? I can assure you, the staff and leaders of the church, had no idea in March we would still be needing to refrain from group activities, especially worship and church events. We began almost 5 months ago creating a small team of individuals (staff and laity) to call and check on congregants. It is now evident that this may be continued for some time to come, especially for our more vulnerable church family members.

We are looking for interested men, women, AND TEENS, to contact 10 people every 2 weeks just to check in, see if they have any needs, and let them know they are important to this church “just because we love you.” Team members will make phone calls, text, email, even write notes and send cards (WHAT IS THAT???) to parishioners.

If you feel God calling you to be a part of the team, please contact Pastor Fawn at fawn@cumcshelby.org Or you may call her at 954-547-2593 or 828-675-3094.

2020 Stewardship

2020 Monthly Budget Needs.....	\$63,576.49
Total Receipts in July.....	\$49,783.33
July Expenses.....	\$60,186.73
Over/—Under Budget for the month.....	-\$10,403.40
Over/—Under Budget for the year.....	-\$30,962.79

Memorials and Honorariums

Operating:

In Memory of George Newman by Lorene Rogers
In Memory of George Newman by Jim & Beverly

Putnam

In Memory of George Newman by Bubba & Brownie
Plaster

In Memory of George Newman by Gene, Becky, &
Warren Cook

In Memory of George Newman by Sara G. Branton

In Memory of George Newman by Rita J. Hamrick

In Memory of George Newman by Ronnie & Cynthia
Whisnant

In Memory of George Newman by Jack & Kitty
Williams

In Memory of Tom Camp by Jim & Beverly Putnam

In Memory of Tom Camp by Bubba & Brownie

Plaster

In Memory of Tom Camp by Jack & Kitty Williams

In Memory of Tom Camp by Bob & Carolyn Gidney

IN Memory of Tom Camp by John and Lynda Gidney
Williamson

Music Ministry:

In Memory of Ellen Powell by Jim & Beverly Putnam

In Memory of Tripp Merritt by Jim & Beverly Putnam

Kid's Place Scholarships:

In Memory of George Newman by Julian & Anne
Wray

In Memory of Tom Camp by Julian & Anne Wray



Central UMC extends our deepest sympathies to Gloria Newman on the death of her husband, George, who passed away August 12th.

We also extend our deepest sympathies to Mariel Camp on the death of her husband, Tom, who passed away August 13th.



Attention: First of all, if you gave blood on August 25th at Central, thank you very much for your gift of life. Blood is needed now more than ever.

Also, thank you to the wonderful volunteers that helped out with registration and the canteen. The blood drive on August 25th was a huge success again, thanks to generous givers. The goal was 24 units. We exceeded our goal and 29 units were collected. Also, if you were a successful giver, your antibodies will be tested for COVID-19. The results of your antibody test will be available by logging in to your Blood Donor account on the [Blood Donor App](#) or [online](#) about 7 to 10 days after your donation. You can also find the results of your mini-physical, including temperature, blood pressure, pulse rate, and iron levels. Antibody testing is performed on all donations made on or after June 15, 2020. Log in to your donor account on [RedCrossBlood.org](#) or the [Blood Donor App](#) to see your test results. And again, thank you for taking time to donate. Mark your calendars, the next blood drive this year will be November 17th from 2-6:30. The blood drives at central are always in February, May, August and November. We will have the specific dates for 2021 soon.

PRESCRIPTION/OVER-THE-COUNTER BOTTLES

Thanks to all for bringing in your prescription bottles! You have been awesome! So keep up the great work and continue bring in your empty prescription, vitamin, over-the-counter medicine bottles to the church office during office hours for use in 3rd world countries. (Please remove any labels with your name.)



Church Office Closed

Please take note that the Office will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, September 7th. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 8th.

Outside Sunday School

The Saints and Sinners Class will be meeting each Sunday at 9:00 am, weather permitting, on the Court Square (near the information center—the small building on our side of the Earl Scruggs Center). Bring your own chair or blanket and join them for a socially distanced Sunday School lesson.

COVID-19 Updates

As per NC Mandate and for the health and safety of our staff and community, effective immediately, we ask that everyone wear a mask while inside the church buildings. We are also asking everyone that enters our facility to sign in with their contact information in order to aid with contact tracing should it be necessary.

Know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers and we hope you stay healthy and well.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Take a Breathers from Saturday, August 22nd

As we are being bombarded with news and anxiety may be building, Central UMC invites you to **Take a Breather** with us Monday-Saturday at noon on Facebook Live. One of our ministry staff will lead us in a short devotional and prayer, uniting us as we keep our eyes and hearts on God's promises. You do not have to have a FB account to see the videos. You will also find a week's worth of videos on our website at <http://cumcshelby.org/grow/>. Below you will find the transcripts for the previous weeks' videos. We hope you join us as we remember: Together, we ARE the Body of Christ!

August 22nd:

Often as I prepare my Take a Breather I begin with – “What the heck can I possibly talk about today?” I mean it! I am at a loss of anything to say (okay, those of you who know me know I can talk effortlessly). What I mean is to speak of anything of relevance or inspiring.

It never fails... God shows up. Usually in my own devotional time God shares a thought or Scripture. This morning was no different. I was reading the Gospel of John in the 12th chapter and verse 21 leaped off the page. Some Greeks came to the disciple Phillip and said, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.”

My reaction? Who didn't? I mean crowds followed him... the Bible often says thousands of people gathered to see and hear him. And then as I kept wrestling with those words, I couldn't help but think, “I WANT TO SEE JESUS.” Preferably about 600 feet tall so that I am aware of his presence and have no doubts as to who it is.

The reality is that I am pretty certain THAT is not going to happen. And then the more I think and pray the more I realize Jesus reveals himself to me all the time, I am just not paying attention...

Any time we see goodness, love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, patience, strength... well, you get it... we experience Christ in our midst. My problem is that I get so wrapped up in my own head and life that I get blindsided and ignored of his presence.

So, I am going to take a little vacation time this coming week to open my eyes and seek out Jesus... in nature, Scripture, the grocery clerk, my family. If you are like Glenn and I your summer vacation plans probably got changed drastically – we are not visiting children and grandchildren in Wisconsin and Texas. Our week at the beach on Lake Michigan has been cancelled. Our time with friends and family in Florida will have to wait. Nope, we are doing the stay-vacation... And I have finally reconciled myself to this may be our vacation ever – because I plan to spend the time “seeing”, quietly being in the presence of Jesus. My hope is when I reenter the real world, I bring the same eyesight with me...

Let us pray... Lord, give us vision to see you. We pray this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray together 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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive the trespasses of others. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Fawn Mikel

August 26th:

I have been VERY excited for the past week because there is starting to be just the smallest hint of “fall-ness” in the air. On afternoons in autumn, one of my favorite things to do is find a new recipe to bake, open up the windows to let in the breeze and the smell of leaves, and stream a great folk music playlist. It is just a beautiful experience for me.

I once heard someone say that beauty will save the world. I don't know if this is true, but I fully believe that savoring the beauty in life refocuses our attention to the goodness of God. It can help alleviate the darkness pressing in around us by offering a parting of the clouds- a pure glimpse of light and hope. I can't speak for

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anyone else, but I know my life can always use an extra reminder that God is working behind the scenes. I want to share a psalm with you today that I think is the perfect reminder of this.

Psalm 92: What a beautiful thing, GOD, to give thanks, to sing an anthem to you, the High God! To announce your love each daybreak, sing your faithful presence all through the night, Accompanied by dulcimer and harp, the full-bodied music of strings. You made me so happy, GOD, I saw your work and I shouted for joy. How magnificent your work, GOD! How profound your thoughts! Dullards never notice what you do; fools never do get it. When the wicked popped up like weeds and all the evil men and women took over, You mowed them down, finished them off once and for all. You, GOD, are High and Eternal. Look at your enemies, GOD! Look at your enemies—ruined! Scattered to the winds, all those hirelings of evil! But you’ve made me strong as a charging bison, you’ve honored me with a festive parade. The sight of my critics going down is still fresh, the rout of my malicious detractors. My ears are filled with the sounds of promise: “Good people will prosper like palm trees, Grow tall like Lebanon cedars; transplanted to GOD’s courtyard, They’ll grow tall in the presence of God, lithe and green, virile still in old age.” Such witnesses to upright GOD! My Mountain, my huge, holy Mountain!

This psalm is said to be a song for the Sabbath- our set apart time of rest. It’s a declaration of God’s justice and faithful love both in the morning and night. We need songs like this, songs of Scripture, to bury inside us and remind us what is true. This way, on an afternoon that doesn’t feel very beautiful, we can sing the song that declares God is just and advocates on our behalf for the rightness of all things. When we meditate on these songs, our hope is restored. And we can be sure that we will find rest again.

In this psalm, we read a lot of interesting metaphors drawn from nature to describe the characteristics of a righteous person. Though the wicked “sprout like grass” like the psalm says, the righteous will thrive like a “palm tree” or a “cedar tree in Lebanon.” The righteous are planted in the Lord like roots of a tree and will live a fruitful life, becoming “healthy and green.” These metaphors symbolize- and tell us the truth about- the vibrancy of life in Christ and the nourishment he gives us, just like water and sunshine to plants. As we pursue a life of righteousness, our legacy becomes a song of God’s faithfulness, declaring “the Lord is just; he is my rock.”

I love how many different layers are woven into this psalm. At first glance, we’re told it’s a song to accompany our Sabbath rest. But, in reading the lines in verse, we can detect the real heartbeat behind it all- a desire for all things to be made right. You have maybe heard the quote: “All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.” It was Julian of Norwich who first said this. She was an English woman who lived a solitary life devoted to God during the Middle Ages.

Psalm 92 could be the undercurrent of her words. They look ahead to a time when the fullness of God’s justice will have its reign on earth, even while we are working to bring in the wholeness of God’s Kingdom here and now. We can find true rest in the knowledge that God is just; there is “no unrighteousness in him.” But, he also chooses to partner with us in confronting the injustices of the world. As the Lord’s Prayer, that we will pray together next, says, “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Pray with me...

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 trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Savanna Craig





200 East Marion St
Shelby, NC 28150

Fall Children and Youth News

Beginning Sunday, September 6th- Monthly Discipleship Resource Kits

The first week of each month, we will be providing Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry families with discipleship resources for the month including Sunday School lessons, music, crafts, and other supplies. This will be supplemented with videos and social media posts done by Savanna and Danny.

Backpack Food Drive



Now that summer is winding down, we're going to be back to monthly specific donations. Beginning in September we will be collecting **Granola Bars and Individual Packets of Trail Mix**. You may drop them off at the office M-Th 9-4 and Fri 9-1. These will be added to weekly bags of food sent home from school with food insecure students for weekend meals. Thank you so much for all of your donations this year, you have provided a variety for the kids and helped our budget!



Bible Studies

Fall is quickly approaching and with it will come several new opportunities to grow as disciples of Christ. We hope you will begin praying how you would like to learn more about God and God's Word. Check out coming studies:

WORD AND WINE – Mondays, beginning September 14th, 6:30 pm

We miss gathering at Dragonfly to share a glass of wine and dive into the Scriptures, but we can still be “together” and share as we meet via ZOOM! With so much chaos in our society, we will take this Fall to see where God is in the midst of our fears, conflicts and uncertainty. Each week we will discuss a hot topic such as racism, pandemics, food deserts, justice, and more. Where is God leading us as individuals and community of believers to be God's presence in it all? Grab your Bible and a glass as we ask God and share our thoughts and insights.

REVELATION – Date and time to be determined

The book of Revelation has always intrigued Christians. This exciting and thought-filled study will NOT be your “Left Behind” theology of the end of times, but rather an understanding of God's promises to the early church as they struggled during severe hardships and how those same promises still apply to us today.

WHITE FRAGILITY – Date and time to be determined

This book study will help us answer the question: Why is it so difficult for white people to talk about racism? And if you don't think that is an issue, just check your blood pressure after having read this so far! We, as white men and women, have the opportunity to understand how we have protected racial inequality and learn how to engage in meaningful cross-racial dialogue to provide a positive change in our society. A men and women's study will be available with Stan Anthony and Jennifer Buckner leading us.

SAVING JESUS – Date and time to be determined

Who knew Jesus needed to be saved? And saved from what? This is a very progressive study, for those who may have ever felt like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right and discarded by the Secular Left? Through video presentations by theological scholars of today, participants will engage in meaningful conversations around the relevance of Jesus for today.