



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. Dr. Mark L. Barden, Pastor

Rev. Fawn Mikel, Director of Discipleship and Outreach

Danny Buckner, Director of Music Ministries

Savanna Craig, Director of Youth and Children's Discipleship

200 East Marion Street

Shelby, NC 28150

704-487-6336

<http://cumcshelby.org>

The Worship of God

January 3, 2021

10:00 am

Welcome

Prelude *What Child is This?*

Opening Song #237 *Sing We Now of Christmas*

Anthem *Carol of the Epiphany*

Children's Time Caroline Laney

Prayer

Sermon "What Will You Follow?" Rev. Fawn Mikel
Matthew 2:1-12

Offering *We Three Kings* arr. Kim
Libby Alexander, organ

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.**

Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Hymn #254 *We Three Kings*

*Benediction

*Postlude *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

Advent Wreath

For many years, the Jack Family has provided Central's Advent Wreath in celebration of the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ. This year, Marilyn wishes to honor Bill Jack, medically confined for his third Christmas and thank Central's Staff and Congregation for their love and prayers for him.

Backpack Food Drive

For the month of January we're asking for **individual packets of oatmeal or grits**. You may drop them off at the office during regular office hours.

Share Your Christmas Pictures

During the Sundays in worship during Christmas through Epiphany, we would love to share pictures of you and your favorite Nativity scene, Christmas tree our house decorations. Please email them to mbarden@wnccumc.net. It is a great way to send Christmas greetings to our church family.

Bible Studies

WORD AND WINE – Mondays, 6:30 pm. Grab your Bible and a glass as we learn, sharing our thoughts and insights on The Epiphany as found in Matthew 2:1-18. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83391585122>

REVELATION – Tuesdays, 7 pm. This is an incredible, in-depth study of one of the most intriguing books of Scriptures. This week we will be reading Chapters 17-18. Join leader, Savanna Craig, at Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86843458934>

OPEN TABLE: a shared community meal

As the pandemic worsens we are seeing many more in need in our community. We are currently serving over **170 people** per week a hot home cooked meal as well as fresh produce and food. This is only possible through donations of food and time – Boy Scouts, Food Bank, and YOU! If you are wondering how you could help consider:

Donate – non-perishable foods, gift cards, even monetary donations specifically for Open Table enable the ministry to purchase in bulk. *At this time we are filled to the gills with beans – all kinds of beans! **Please no beans!!!*** **BUT WE DESPERATELY NEED SMALL BOTTLES OF WATER AND PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS and SANDWICH SIZED ZIPLOCK BAGS! BUT WE REALLY NEED HELP** picking up and unloading all those goodies. Friday afternoons are usually the largest donations, so please 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. The kitchen is busy with last minute prep, orders are taken, guests are greeted outside, plates are made... Please arrive to help by 10 am with your MASK (because we follow the guidelines!).

For more information or to volunteer contact Evelyn Ribadeneyra at 704-473-9444 or evelyn@carolina.rr.com or Ann Anthony at 704-477-2492 or mrslibrary@gmail.com

PRAYER CONCERNS for January 3, 2021

- All of those recovering or suffering from medical issues, physical and emotional, including Claudia Rose; Emily and Ben Ousley; Gina Blanton; Bill Jack; Bill Harris; Peggy Almond; Betty Harris; Elton Hendricks; Bill Story; Tony Hamrick; Sandy Poston; Glenn Mikel; Linda Hooker; Sandy Griffin; Mary Szymborski; and Suzy and Clyde Buckner.
- We pray for those who experience injustice. Give us hearts of compassion to stand united with all people, treating each other as brothers and sisters, seeing the image of God in all.
- We pray for all those affected by storms. Keep those in harm's way and first responders safe.
- We pray for our world as we battle the Coronavirus. Be with those who are sick and their loved ones. Protect our medical personnel and researchers, giving wisdom and strength. Shield our elderly and those with health issues making them more susceptible. May God's abundant presence be made known to those feeling isolated. Be with those who are caring for us. May the vaccine be administered and provide the results we long for.
- For caregivers carrying more burdens than we may understand
- Those who grieve. May God grant abundant peace and presence
- Our shut-ins and others feeling alone. May we be arms reaching out, enfolding them into the body of Christ.
- The church universal and the United Methodist Church. May God's Spirit lead and direct, reminding us that the church is not a walled community but a living body of believers. Be with Central UMC, staff and leaders as they continue to lead our church.
- Give our government and world leaders wisdom in making decisions regarding the safety of all people. We pray for our brothers and sisters in Armenia and Project AGAPE. May we unite to be a planet of peace and compassion, caring for ALL people.
- We pray for peace in our world, nation and communities, Pray for wisdom as transitions are made. May God heal and unify our nation.
- May we be generous people, obedient to God's calling to give our time, talents and resources, especially in this time of giving.
- The ministries of Central United Methodist Church. We pray for our Church Council as they serve our church
- And all of the prayer concerns each person holds, may we help carry each burden and praise each joy.