

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.

December 2, 2020
Volume 29, No. 46

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Mark L. Barden, Senior Pastor
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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



It goes without saying that 2020 has been a difficult, difficult year. But as members of Central we are fortunate to have such a strong and dedicated staff to guide us through this storm. A staff that has worked tirelessly to consistently provide worship services, daily devotionals, communication with the congregation and the continual operation of the church's ministries. A staff that continues to be this "beacon of light" even during a pandemic. A light that helps us to maintain our course each day as Christians and which gives us the hope of a better tomorrow. Therefore in this season of thankfulness and gratitude we ask you if you would consider making a small donation to the church that would be provided to our staff during the week before Christmas. If you are so inclined please mark "staff" on the memo line of your check or if it is an online donation at <http://cumcshelby.org/give/> select **Christmas** as the fund choice.

Thank you for your consideration and we hope you have a safe and wonderful Christmas season.
Staff Parish Relations Committee



Virtual Christmas Caroling!

Sunday, December
13th, 7 pm

Are you ready for a sleigh ride throughout the community, singing favorite Christmas

songs and sharing Christmas cheer? And how about ending the evening with a warm fire, surrounded by friends, drinking hot chocolate and eating homemade cookies? Well, we are too! BUT, needless to say our caroling adventures will look a little different this year... Our music ministry is preparing a fun evening of singing and hope you will join us on Facebook Live on the 13th. AND that's not all – gift bags of hot chocolate, marshmallows and goodies will be available beginning Monday, December 7th. You may receive your goodies: 1) by picking them up during office hours; 2) drive through the parking lot PAC entrance on Sunday, December 13th, 11am-12 pm; or 3) call the church office for delivery.



Holiday Hours for Church Office

Please note that 2020 Financial contributions need to be in the office no later than December 30th. The office will be closed for the following holidays:

Christmas—(Dianne will be out the 23rd-25th)

Thursday, Dec. 24th at 1 pm

Friday, Dec. 25th

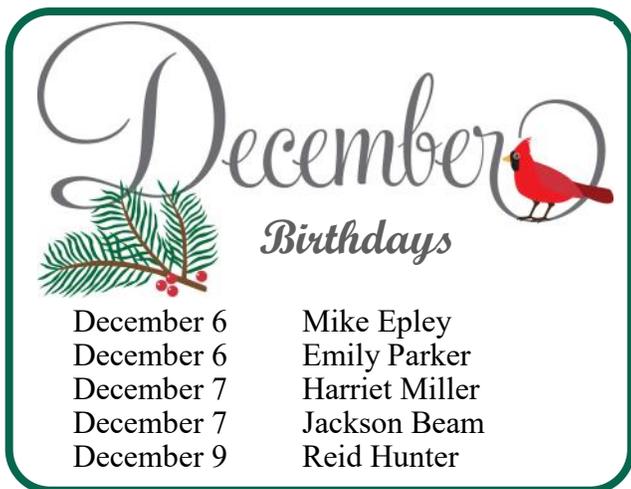
New Years—(Dianne will be out Jan 4th)

Thursday, Dec. 31st at 1 pm

Friday, Jan. 1st

Adult Sunday School Classes

Just when it looks like we are getting close to *normal* it all changes. Our adult Sunday School classes have worked so hard to continue, recently meeting inside in the church (with proper guidelines of social distancing and masks). However, with increased positive cases in our state the governor and Western North Carolina Conference has issued that no more than 10 people are to meet together **INSIDE**. So Sunday School classes may continue to meet with this added restriction. If your class would like to meet, please contact Gina in the church office to schedule your meeting space. And thank you for adhering to these regulations!



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.

2020 Stewardship

2020 Monthly Budget Needs.....	\$63,576.49
Total Receipts in November.....	\$56,998.49
November Expenses.....	\$59,947.77
Over/—Under Budget for the month.....	-\$2,949.28
Over/—Under Budget for the year.....	-\$51,762.97

Taking Care Of Each Other

Jesus used food and sharing meals to build community. We continue 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, please contact Pastor Fawn at 954-547-2593 or fawn@cumcshelby.org. This week will be pulled pork and all the fixins!

Just Because We Love You

Each person of the Central UMC family is desperately missed! In an effort to stay connected, great effort is being made to contact our families by leaders and staff. BUT if you should need ANYTHING, please do not hesitate to call Pastor Mark or Pastor Fawn. We cannot guarantee solutions but we would love to walk with you!

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:

*Do you have a specialty dish you would share with our guests? We love it when cooks share their talents – Terry’s world-famous meatloaf, Beverly’s incredible squash casserole, Evelyn’s bodacious mac-and-cheese are BIG hits! We will provide the ingredients and some helping hands! This is a great gift to our kitchen staff...

*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!**

*Every Wednesday and Friday afternoon we are able to receive cases of food from the Episcopal church, as well as Friday mornings from Wal-Mart and Food Lion. **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.

*Delivering meals to our shut-ins and vulnerable are a HUGE part of the ministry. You don’t have to deliver every week – but the joy you receive in seeing those smiles may make you want to!

*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



ADVENTUS

Preparing for Christmas is looking so different this year...possibly giving us a great blessing of spending time preparing OURSELVES for the Messiah's presence in our lives. The Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church is offering this reflective Bible study to help us this Advent season. Using the ancient practices of Lectio Divina to read and meditate on Scripture, the study will focus on the Advent experiences of hope, peace, joy and love. To download

the study go to <https://www.wncumc.org/adventus> . The study may be used for individual, personal use, or you may wish to gather a few friends or family members for a small group study.

Bible Studies

Fall has arrived and we are excited to jump into opportunities to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ through new Bible studies! We hope you will join us:

WORD AND WINE – Mondays, 6:30 pm We are still “together” and growing as disciples as we meet via ZOOM to study the Scriptures! Do you ever wonder how on earth you can be a REAL disciple of Jesus? Grab your Bible and a glass as we learn, sharing our thoughts and Insights. 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. Join leader, Savanna Craig, at Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86843458934>

Take a Breathers



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!

December 1st

Welcome back, friends, to our Tuesday December 1st edition of “Take a Breather”. I'm Danny Buckner and it's my privilege to serve as music director for Central Methodist Church in Shelby, NC.

Well, we've come 'round full circle and we're back to the season of Advent. Today we're gonna be talking about hope and I don't know about you, but I need some hope today. Let's turn first to some scripture and this will be our central focus for this week...

What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead. (Hebrews 11:1, TLB)

Good words, indeed, for today. Now I'd like to share a devotional titled *Together in Our Hope*. It's written by Lindy Thompson.

Together in Our Hope

"Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand."
(Isaiah 64:8, NRSV)

Welcome to Advent! I'm not sure when God's clay has been more collectively fatigued, but here we are; and we are, despite our physical distance, together in our hope – our hope for our world, our hope for our faith, our hope for a meaningful and transformational Advent season.

We are all leading and contributing in uniquely challenging – some might say stunningly challenging – times. When problems seem insurmountable, give yourself grace, and then more grace, because whatever joyful noise (perfectly synchronized or not) we make to the Lord is pleasing in God's ear and is a lifeline for the singers and hearers.

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200 East Marion St
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Speaking as a layperson, there have been so many heavy emotions in the last eight months, I have sometimes resisted music because it makes me *feel*, and I have had all the feelings I could deal with on a daily basis. But music is woven so deeply into the preparation for the birth of Jesus that it cannot, and should not, ever be separated, and this music moves and stirs us – and when have we ever been more ready for a message of hope?

So let voices rise and music soar as the songs and scripture of Advent take us all by the hand and lead us back in time, forward into God's future, and fill us with the eternally renewing hope of Christ.

I'd like to close our time together today a little differently using the words from one my favorite Advent hymns, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
Hold on, friends, hope is coming!

We invite you join us again at noon tomorrow to “Take a Breather” and each day of the week (Monday – Saturday). We also invite you to join us for our “Virtual” worship service each Sunday live on our Facebook page (Central Methodist Church in Shelby NC). We love you and hope you have a great rest-of-the day!

Prescription/Over-The-Counter Bottles

YES, we are still collecting empty prescription, vitamin, over-the-counter medicine bottles for use in 3rd world countries. You may bring them to the church office. (Please remove any labels with your name.)

Memorials and Honorariums

Operating:

- In Honor All CUMC Staff by June Miller
- In Memory of Martha Laney by James S. Wilson
- In Memory of Nancy Morgan by James S. Wilson
- In Memory of Nancy Morgan by Mike & Evelyn

Ribadeneyra

Music Ministry:

- In Memory of Nancy Morgan by Frankie Patterson
- In Memory of Nancy Morgan by J Vance Suttle
- In Memory of Nancy Morgan by Jerry & Lynn

Eskridge

- In Memory of Nancy Morgan by Boomerang Design

Backpack Food Drive

Our schools are back in the swing of things as is our Backpack Ministry! As the schools recognize children who are food insecure, CUMC provides meals for them to take home for the days they are not in school. For the month of November we're asking for **individual fruit cups** (apple sauce, mixed fruit, mandarin oranges, etc) 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.

