



THE CENTRAL ISSUE

December 23, 2020
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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.

200 East Marion Street, Shelby, NC 28150-4610
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Kid's Place Preschool: (704) 487-6357
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Mark L. Barden, Senior Pastor
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

SANCTUARY OPEN FOR PRAYER ON CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24th 3-5 pm or 7-9 pm

Our beautiful sanctuary is a place of inspiration, especially at Christmas. Even though we are not able to gather for full worship at this time, we wanted to open the sanctuary for prayer on Christmas Eve for those who would like to stop by. Christmas carols will be playing. Pastor Mark will read the Christmas story for each group. And you may wish to light a votive candle and leave it on the Chancel rail to honor Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. To be safe and respectful for all, only 9 persons at a time will be allowed in the Sanctuary. The time will be divided into 20-minute time slots. You will need to reserve your spot at the following links:

3-5 PM at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084EA9AD2FA4F85-sanctuary>

7-9 PM at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084EA9AD2FA4F85-sanctuary1>

If you don't have a computer and would like to reserve a place, please contact Gina Blanton in the Church Office.

One of my favorite Scriptures in the telling of the birth of Jesus occurs in the gospel of Luke following the shepherds visit to see the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Luke says the shepherds share with Mary and Joseph the news of an angelic visit and proclamation of the Messiah's birth. They are compelled to come and see for themselves and then they leave the manger and can't wait to share the news. And then Luke says: ***"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."*** (Luke 2:19, NIV)

Pondering is hard for us most of the time. There is just always too much to do. And then just when we need it, Christmas gives us great opportunities to ponder... and a pandemic helps a little. So I have been pondering and many of my thoughts have included all of you. How blessed I am to have each of you in my life! You are a great light as you care for each other, share your resources, serve our community, and BE the hands, feet, and yes **HEART**, of Jesus in the world. You encourage me to grow as a faithful disciple. I am blessed by you affirmations and abundant prayers. Thank you for being in my life and bringing great joy ...

I know Christmas Eve services will not be what we are used to or desire... but I hope you will watch one (or both) services on Facebook Live. As you watch, know we are still connected as a church family and nothing – and I do mean NOTHING – can keep us from celebrating as the body of Christ the gift of God with us.

So sing the hymns loudly, pray softly, light your candle and continue to carry the light of Christ into the world... and spend a little time pondering how blessed we are.

Merry Christmas with Much Love,
Fawn



Christmas Eve Worship Services

5 pm – Family Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

11 pm – Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

This year we will be worshipping together via Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/cumcshelby/>.

Pick up your Communion bread and juice,

as well as candles for candle lighting, from the church office beginning Monday, December 21st during office hours. Or you may call the church office at 704-487-6336 to arrange for delivery.



Birthdays

December 27	Finn Parker
December 28	Jennipher Harrill
December 28	Gracie Schmoutz
December 29	Mary McLarty
December 29	Jay Morgan
December 30	Bill Arey
December 30	Ellen Keeley
December 31	Jay Wilson
January 1	Bill Henshaw
January 2	Bubba Plaster
January 2	Bryan LeGrand
January 2	Chris Grenier
January 2	Jon Goforth

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.

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.

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 more 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

Bible Studies

Our Word and Wine and Revelation Bible studies will be taking a break during the holidays. We hope you will join us when we resume the week of January 4th.

Advent/Christmas Services Available For Viewing Anytime

Broadcasts such as the Hanging of the Greens service and Virtual Christmas Caroling, along with the Christmas Eve Services will be posted on our website. You may also view them any time from the Video section of the church's Facebook page. Services are automatically saved on Facebook for later viewing. Feel free to share the links with your friends. <https://www.facebook.com/cumcshelby/> and <http://cumcshelby.org/latest-sermons/>

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

Building Use Updates

Now that the weather has gotten colder, we are trying to conserve costs by lowering the heat in non essential areas. That being said, we are asking that the interior door at the handicap entrance remain closed to keep the cold air from entering the stairwell.

We are also asking that everyone be sure to turn out the lights as they leave a room/area.

Thank you for your cooperation and for all you do to support our ministry and community. We try to be very good stewards of your gifts.



Be sure to check out our website: www.cumcshelby.org
And our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/cumcshelby/



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

Because of Gina's Chemo treatments, unfortunately, these may change at a moments notice. Please call the office beforehand if you plan on stopping by from December 23rd to 24th.

Christmas Eve Offering

This years Christmas Eve Offering will go to support our Open Table Ministry. We thank you for your generosity and support of this greatly needed mission to our community.

Full Schedule Announced for the Winter Leadership Training Webinar Series!

Like most events during the pandemic, our District Winter Leadership Training Events will look a little different for 2021. Rather than hosting in-person events in each district, we will offer a series of Conference-wide training webinars during the week of January 10-14 to resource and equip all areas of your Church leadership.

Jason Moore of Midnight Oil Productions will lead the keynote webinar to launch the series on "Telling the Old Story in a New Time." Other topics will include: Financial Faithfulness in Uncertain Times, The Ministry of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Evangelism During A Pandemic, Leadership During a Pandemic for Church Councils, Racial Equity and Justice, Courageous Conversations, and much more.

Click the above link (in the headline) for more information and to register.



200 East Marion St
Shelby, NC 28150

Memorials and Honorariums

Operating:

In Memory of Jimmy Wilson by Will & Tina Rucker
In Memory of Joe Ellis by Rucker Family Trust
In Memory of Joe Ellis by Will & Tina Rucker
In Memory of James White by Connie Rupprecht
In Memory of Nancy Morgan by Connie Rupprecht
In Memory of Martha Laney by Connie Rupprecht
In Memory of Dave Rupprecht by Will & Tina

Rucker

In Memory of George Newman by Will & Tina

Rucker

In Memory of Ruth Wilson by Will & Tina Rucker
In Memory of Alice Southern by Will & Tina Rucker
In Memory of Billie Ann Haynes by Rucker Family

Trust

In Memory of Billie Ann Haynes by Will & Tina

Rucker

In Memory of Jane Hunter by Will & Tina Rucker

Music Ministry:

In Honor of Scott and Sheila Ellison by Paul & Pat

Ellison

Piano:

In Memory of Martha Laney by Rucker Family Trust
In Memory of Martha Laney by Will & Tina Rucker
In Memory of Martha Laney by Paul & Pat Ellison
In Memory of Nancy Morgan by Rucker Family

Trust

In Memory of Nancy Morgan by Will & Tina Rucker

In Memory of Nancy Morgan by Paul & Pat Ellison

In Honor of Bill and Marilyn Jack by Paul & Pat

Ellison

In Honor of Bill and Marilyn Jack by Bill & Jo

Marsh

In Honor of Bobby and Ann McDaniel by Bill & Jo

Marsh

Upper Room Devotions

The January/February edition of the Upper Rooms will be available outside of the office starting Monday, December 21st.. You may pick one up Mon-Thurs 9-4 or Fri 9-1 but please keep in mind our Holiday hours found on page 1 of the newsletter. Contact Gina if you need to make different arrangements.

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 December 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.



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.)

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!