

Come
Home for
Christmas



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. David Lee, Pastor
Danny Buckner, Director of Music Ministries
Savanna Craig, Director of Discipleship

200 East Marion Street
Shelby, NC 28150
704-487-6336

<http://cumcshelby.org>

The Worship of God

December 12, 2021

10:00am

Welcome and Announcements

Savanna Craig

Prelude

Away in a Manger/Silent Night

Children's Chimes

Advent Joy

Central Ringers

Childers

*Congregational Song

Hark the Herald (King of Heaven)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Clark-Goforth Family

*Congregational Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (st. 1)

Responsive Prayer

Savanna: A path to our God,

People: Winding through the ordinary,

Savanna: Weaving through the busyness,

People: Overcoming roadblocks and detours.

Savanna: A way to go home,

People: Leaving the past in the past,

Savanna: Moving from darkness and exile,

People: Coming into the light.

Savanna: Advent is a path to our God,

People: A way to come home.

Savanna: Come, joy, lighten our spirits.

People: Rejoice, rejoice. God is with us!

Savanna: Come, Jesus, be born in us.

People: Come, Lord, set us free.

Savanna: Come, God,

People: Rule in our hearts and teach us to sing with joy!

Savanna: We ask this in the name of the Christ-child, who taught us to pray...

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 who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever.**

Children's Message		Donna Boggs
Anthem	<i>Tidings of Comfort and Joy</i>	arr. Snyder
	<i>A Christmas Canon of Peace</i>	arr. Gray
	Crossfire	
Sermon	"Elizabeth" Luke 1:39-56	Rev. David Lee
Offertory	<i>Sing We Now of Christmas</i>	arr. Bish
	Libby Alexander, organ	

*Doxology #95

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

*Congregational Hymn #202 *People, Look East (stanzas 1-3)*

*Benediction

*Postlude

Let Your Little Light Shine

**Let your little light shine, shine, shine
Let your little light shine, oh my Lord
There might be someone down in the valley trying to get
home**

*Please stand if 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.

Sunday Night Hangs

All 6th-12th graders meet today 6-8 pm for Christmas PJ Party

Central Kids

All children 4 years-5th grade join us Wednesday, 5-5:54 pm in the Fellowship Hall for our Christmas Party.

Midweek Check-In

All 6th-12th graders join us Wednesdays 4-4:45 pm at Lily Bean Coffee

Bible Study

1st & 2nd Samuel Bible Study Thursdays 6-7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Based on the recommendation by the CDC, Governor Cooper, and the Bishop's office, and recognizing the ongoing Coronavirus in our community, we are requiring the use of masks inside the church building.

If you have tested positive for COVID-19: *Before participating in any activities at Central UMC, you must quarantine for 10 days beginning the first day you had symptoms and/or a positive COVID test.*

If you have been exposed to COVID-19 within your family household or high-risk exposure outside of household: *You must quarantine until the last person in your household that tested positive for COVID has completed their 10 day quarantine (beginning the first day they had symptoms and/or a positive COVID test). Following that 10 day quarantine period, wait an additional 5 days or test negative for COVID-19.*

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 E106.

-**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.

Sermon Notes

Christmas Love Offering

As we move from a season of Thanksgiving to the season of Advent we have had time to reflect on so much to be thankful for. As a Congregation, one of the many things we have to be thankful for is our "Church Staff".

In a year of transition for our pastors, our former deacon and former financial secretary, our church staff has made this process work seamlessly. However, that is only because they have dedicated themselves to working additional hours and taking on additional responsibilities so that us, as a Congregation, would not be affected. For these efforts we are again very thankful and as a means of sharing our gratitude we are hoping to collect a "Love Offering" for our staff during this season of Advent.

If you feel moved to do so and are able to do so, please contribute by placing a check in the offering boxes or by mailing it to the church office with the words "love offering" written on the memo line. If you would like to contribute by cash please write "love offering" on the envelope prior to placing it in the offering boxes.

And as always, thanks to you, our Congregation, for supporting our staff through encouragement, compliments and a willingness to assist our staff as we strive to work together as one body in Christ. May each of you this season be filled with the Peace of Christ.

Sincerely,
The Staff Parrish Committee

Christmas Gathering for College Aged Adults and High School Seniors

We will be having a Christmas gathering for our college students, college-aged adults, and high school seniors on Tuesday, December 21st from 4-6 PM at Pastor David and Amy's house. RSVP by Friday, December 17th, to Savanna at savannacraig91@gmail.com or Pastor David at DJLee75@yahoo.com.

Christmas Day Meal with Open Table

We are asking the congregation to help make our Christmas Day meal extra special for our guests. Donate a spiral cut ham (Aldi's has a good selection), individually packaged homemade desserts, or King's Hawaiian dinner rolls. We also would love to have your presence on Christmas Day! Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b44afac2ba75-christmas> Questions? Evelyn 704-473-9444 or Ann 704-477-2492

Also, join our Open Table Remind text group to get updates and information. This is not a group text and you do not have to download the app. Text this message **@otcumc** to the number **81010**.

Backpack Ministry

We need your help in filling our closet with food for the backpacks we deliver to North Shelby and Shelby Middle each week. For December, we are requesting **individual packets of oatmeal or grits—any brand is fine**. You may drop them off at the office **Mon.-Thur. 9AM-4 PM and Fri. 9 AM-1 PM**.

Prayer Concerns

We invite you to pray during the week for the following:

- ❖ All of those recovering or suffering from medical issues, physical and emotional, including Phyllis Brackett; Tammy Mauney; Christy Miranda; Sarah Beam; June Miller; Wayne Black; John Reid; Morgan Morrison; Talmadge Strickland; Jimmy Toole; Travis and Stacey Hoyle; William Pierce; Bill and Loretta Harris; Larry Brown; Lillian Rogers; Marilyn Herndon; Anne Stevens Cicci; Larry Thomas; Claudia Rose; Frankie Patterson; Bill Jack; Jessie Sumrell; Dawn Russell; Gina Blanton; Dale Almond; Emily Ousley; Rita Hamrick; Pat Ellison; Bill & Peggy Ledford; Brian Goff; Judy Beachley; and Alan & Scarlett Funderburke.
- ❖ We pray for those who experience injustice. Give us hearts of compassion to stand united with all people.
- ❖ We pray for our world as we continue the COVID-19 battle. May we continue to persevere with wisdom and care for each other.
- ❖ For caregivers carrying more burdens than we may understand
- ❖ Those who grieve, may they find comfort. We pray especially for the family of Jean Eaker; Ellen Benfield whose mother, Jane Corriher passed away; Virginia Story on the passing of her husband, Bill.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ We pray for peace in our world, nation and communities. May God heal and unify all people.
- ❖ The ministries of Central United Methodist Church. We especially pray for the CUMC youth group. May our young people continue to grow together and in relationship with God as they make a huge impact in our community.

And though unknown and unspoken, may we help carry each other's burden and praise God for each other's joys.