



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 19, 2021

10:00am

Gathering Music David Parker, guitar

Welcome and Announcements Savanna Craig

Prelude *Christmas Fantasia* Thallender/Wilkins/Bach
Libby Alexander, organ

*Congregational Song *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Dellinger Family

*Congregational Song *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (st. 1)*

Anthem *What Sweeter Music?* arr. Lightfoot
Chancel Choir

Responsive Prayer

Savanna: In the beginning, you spoke all that is into existence and breathed life into the world. You made light in the midst of darkness, and all that you made was good.

Congregation: What a labor of love.

Savanna: You sent John the Baptist to be a witness to the light you would send into the world.

Congregation: What a labor of love.

Savanna: The Light of the World, through whom all things were created, came into the world, but the world did not always recognize him. The Son came to his own people and they rejected him.

Congregation: What a labor of love; you loved until it hurt.

Savanna: When you invite us each by name to draw near to you, sometimes we accept, and sometimes we turn away. When our pain keeps us away from you, you continue to love us, protect us, and wait patiently as we find our way home to you.

Congregation: What a labor of love, you love us through our hurt.

Savanna: You give us the opportunity to be called daughters and sons of the Most High God. You call us to believe in the One you sent to us – a reflection of you, who reveals your love. Though we constantly reject you, and find love hard, though our thoughts and deeds are often evil, you still find ways to care for us and call us your own.

Congregation: What a labor of love, you love us even when we are hurtful.

Savanna: You give us the privilege of loving our brothers and sisters, our strengths to share, our shoulders to support each other. Give us grit and courage to do the hard thing: to love one another

in our humanness. "And the word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

Congregation: What a labor of love. What a labor of love.

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Anthem *Stars of Fire and Flame* Beall
Chancel Choir

Children's Message Mitch Hensley

Anthem *Wexford Carol* arr. Johnson
Chancel Choir

Ethan Triplett, cello

Sermon "Joseph" Rev. David Lee
Matthew 1:18-25

Offertory *I Wonder as I Wander* arr. Niles
David Parker, guitar

*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 #203 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* (stanzas 1,3, 4)

*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

Office Hours for Christmas

December 23rd Office closes at 1 pm; December 24th Office closed;
December 27th Office closed. Normal hours will resume Tuesday, December
28th. Deadline for Newsletter and Bulletin will be Tues, Dec. 21st at noon.

Christmas Wreaths

This year's exterior Christmas Wreaths are in memory of the following by
Dicky and Marywinn Amaya.

Betty Harris	Loyd Smith	Arthur Ledford
Polly Payne	Paul Ellison	Nancy Anthony
Bill Story	Jean Eaker	Anne Bowen Goss
Alma Doty	Cecil Jenkins	Betty Jackson
Margaret Dedmond	Ethel Willis	Jackie Guy
Jane Olsby Rosberg	Andy Powell	Doris Kunkle

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. Deadline is December 24th.

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 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**.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve:

5pm—Outside on the Court Square, bring your own chair and some canned goods. This year we will continue the work of Hattie Hensley's Light Ball Dash by collecting canned goods for Feeding Kids Cleveland County.

11pm—In the Sanctuary with Communion and Candlelight. Special prelude music starts at 10:40pm.

December 26th Jams & Jammies:

10am—Come in your PJs and join us for a Musical Christmas celebration

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

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. Especially the family of Bill Beattie
- ❖ 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.

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.

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
