



THE CENTRAL ISSUE

December 15, 2021
Volume 30, No. 47

CENTRAL UMC SHELBY IS A SAFE SANCTUARIES CHURCH

Our MISSION: To make disciples of Christ who
WORSHIP God, GROW in their faith, and SERVE in the
church and world.

David Lee, Senior Pastor
Savanna Craig, Director of Discipleship
Danny Buckner, Director of Music Ministries
Libby Alexander, Organist
Gina Blanton, Director of Communications
Ed Winder, Facility Manager
Shelley Rempson, Kid's Place Preschool Director
Stacey Watkins Griffith, Pastoral Counselor

200 East Marion Street, Shelby, NC 28150-4610
Phone: (704) 487-6336; Fax: (704) 487-4351
Kid's Place Preschool: (704) 487-6357
Counseling Services: (704) 810-4344
Email: central@cumcshelby.org; Website: www.cumcshelby.org



Since I began serving at Central in January 2018, I have seen God do incredible things here. I have seen our kids grow into who they are made to be... Just like we are all in the process of

doing! I have witnessed relationships being built, tough questions being explored, and love being freely shared. There have been lots of laughs, messes, smiles, celebrations, and, of course, snacks galore. There have been challenges too: COVID-19, grief, navigating growing up, stress, and wrestling with the hard parts of our faith journeys. My prayer more than anything else is that in the midst of it, our congregation has seen the light of Christ in me, just as it has been shining on me through all of you for the past four years. God has been and continues to be so faithful at Central. The past few months in the life of our church give me such hope for just how much God is working here. There is only more good to come! It has been my absolute privilege to play a small role in that process. Central has been a home to me. You all have held me well, and I am changed forever.

Love always,
Savanna



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.

Join us for Coffee and Donuts

Each Sunday we will be hosting Coffee and Donuts from 9:30-10 am outside of the Sanctuary on the Washington Street side of the Sanctuary building. We hope you'll make plans to join us for fellowship and food each Sunday during the Advent Season.



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

December 26th Jams & Jammies:

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



Office Hours for Christmas

December 23rd closes at 1 pm
December 24th closed
December 27th closed

Normal hours will resume Tuesday, December 28th. Deadline for Newsletter and Bulletin will be Tues, Dec. 21st at noon. The office will also be closed Monday, January 3rd for the New Year's Holiday.

CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS
Weekly Update

Co-lab-orate Youth Sunday School Class
 Youth Common Area, each **Sunday, 9-10 AM.**

Crossfire

All **6th-12th graders** who love to sing. Enjoy the Christmas break and see you in January!

Sunday Night Hangs

All **6th-12th grade students.** Come out on December 19th at 5:30 PM to support this amazing ministry to the Shelby community put together by our very own Hattie Hensley!

DECEMBER 19, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

Light Ball Dash

Our one-mile route starts on the Marion Elementary playground and ends under the lighted arch on Peach Street. We are accepting monetary (cash, check, or

Venmo) donations for Feeding Kids Cleveland County.



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

**December 19-25, 2021
 Calendar of Events**

Sunday

- 9:00am Sunday School for all Ages
- 9:30am Coffee and Donuts (outside on Washington Street)
- 10:00am Worship Service
- 4:30pm NO Crossfire
- 5:30pm Sunday Night Hangs (Central Youth) at Light Ball Dash

Monday

- 9:00am Church Office opens
- 10:00am Staff Meeting
- 6:00pm Cub Scouts (in the PAC)
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts (in the PAC)

Tuesday

- Counseling Center open (by appointment)
- 9:00am Church Office opens
- 6:30pm NO Central Ringers

Wednesday

- 9:00am Church Office opens
- 6:00pm NO Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:15pm NO Praise Ensemble Rehearsal

Thursday

- 9:00am Church Office Opens
- 1:00pm Church Office Closes
- 6:00pm NO 1 & 2 Samuel Bible Study

Friday

- 9:00am Church Office Closed
- 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service
- 11:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Saturday Merry Christmas!

- 10:30am Open Table Hot Lunch (PAC)



New Location for Donations

We now have a shelving unit set up outside of the office to collect donations for Open Table, the Backpack Ministry, Medicine Pill Bottles, and any other donations we may collect throughout the year. If you are in charge of one of these ministries, please be sure to check your shelf at least once a week to keep your donations from overflowing.



Outreach Opportunities

Looking for an opportunity to serve our community? We have some things you can do!



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. Each month we will request a specific item that will be included in the backpacks. You may drop them off at the office **Mon.-Thur. 9AM-4 PM and Fri. 9 AM-1 PM**. For December, we are requesting **individual packages of oatmeal or grits—any brand is fine**. If you would like more info about how to serve, contact Ellen Benfield at benfield@med.unc.edu.



Goodnight Ministry

CUMC helps to fill one of the most basic needs for families in Cleveland County- a safe, clean place to sleep. We can always use help putting bed kits together... All are welcome! You can also serve by keeping these children and families in your prayers. If you would like to help, contact Suzanne Hensley at hensuzie@yahoo.com.

Soup Group

Soup Group started as a way to expand our ministry to members of Central UMC who are shut-in, experiencing sickness, or dealing with other stressful situations. Soup Group meets in the church kitchen to cook soup and fellowship with each other. Soups are bagged, labeled and frozen for future use. Throughout the month members of Soup Group deliver soup and visit with those in need. Contact Rhonda Keeley to get involved at rjkeeley@bellsouth.net.

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.)

Children's Ministry

Nursery is open to all **Babies-PreK kids**. Nursery is offered each **Sunday, 9-11 AM in Room E106**.

Elementary Sunday School

Holy Moly! Mixed-Age Class- Come learn all the amazingly cool stories that the Bible is full of! This class is open to all elementary-aged students.

Facility Repair/Service Requests

There is now a black box outside of the office for any Facility Repair/Service Requests. If you know of anything that needs to be addressed by our Facility Manager, Ed Winder, please fill out a Request form and place it in the box and he will handle it on the next business day.



- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| December 19 | Carol McPhail |
| December 19 | Holli Clark |
| December 19 | Jackson Lundquist |
| December 20 | Barbara Pla |
| December 20 | Jack Secrest |
| December 20 | Jill Mabry |
| December 21 | Mary Beth Hunter |
| December 24 | Charles Peeler |



200 East Marion St
Shelby, NC 28150

COVID Policy

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.

The following applies to all persons vaccinated and unvaccinated:

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.

Bible Study

1st & 2nd Samuel. This study will be taking a break after December 16th—see you in January!

Memorials and Honorariums

Open Table:

In Memory of Jean Eaker by Dick & Barbara Schafer

Piano:

In Memory of Bill Story by Bill & Jo Marsh

In Memory of Jane Rosberg by Bill & Jo Marsh

In Memory of Paul Ellison by Bill & Jo Marsh

In Memory of Ethel Willis by Bill & Jo Marsh

In Memory of Jean Eaker by Bill & Jo Marsh

In Memory of Jackie Guy by Bill & Jo Marsh

In Memory of Bernard Hamrick by Bill & Jo Marsh

In Memory of Bill Beattie by Bill & Jo Marsh

In Honor of CUMC Staff by Bill & Jo Marsh

In Honor of Bill and Marilyn Jack by Bill & Jo Marsh

In Honor of Bobby and Ann McDaniel by Bill & Jo Marsh

In Honor of CUMC Members by Bill & Jo Marsh

Communion To Go Cups Available

For those of you worshipping at home via the internet, **communion to go cups** are available in the office Mon-Thurs 9-4 or Fri 9-1. (Please note office hours for the week of December 20th on page 1). Our next Communion will be offered December 24th at our 11pm service.

Sunday Morning Door Openings

For now, the Board of Trustees have decided that only the following doors will be unlocked on Sunday Mornings:
Handicap/Elevator Door (#2)
Washington Street Doors (#8 and #10)
Both doors will be unlocked at 8:45 am. Please adjust your arrival time accordingly.
We apologize for any inconvenience.

Sunday School Every Sunday at 9 am

We are excited to regroup-with masks of course!

Adult classes:

Growing Christians – Fellowship Hall, 9-9:45

Hoey Bible Class – 2S, Hoey Class

Saints and Sinners – 203E, Saints & Sinners

Classroom



Central UMC Christmas Ornament

Historic Shelby Foundation has Christmas Ornaments of Historic Cleveland County Landmarks for sale and Central UMC is included in this series of ornaments. They come complete with a ribbon hanger and a

red gift box. Stop by the office and pick one up. They are \$20 each with \$5 going to Central and the remainder going to the Historic Shelby Foundation.

2021 Stewardship

2021 Monthly Budget Needs.....	\$59,490.59
Total Receipts in November.....	\$67,869.93
November Expenses.....	\$64,667.74
Over/—Under Budget for the month.....	\$3,202.19
Over/—Under Budget for the year.....	-\$34,428.21