

# The Central Issue

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

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Danny Buckner, Director of Music Ministries  
Caroline Scism, Director of Children's Ministries  
Katie Bowers, Director of Youth Ministries  
Libby Alexander, Organist  
Ila McInnis, Director of Communications  
Doug Smith, Facilities Manager  
Shelley Rempson, Kid's Place Preschool Director  
Doug Lowery, Media Coordinator  
Shelley Watkins Griffith, Pastoral Counselor



## Holy Week at Central

Walk with Christ from the cross to the resurrection.

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2026

# HOLY WEEK

SERVICES



MARCH  
29

## PALM SUNDAY

10 AM AT CENTRAL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL  
2

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

7PM AT CENTRAL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL  
3

## GOOD FRIDAY

7PM AT ALDERSGATE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL  
5

## EASTER SUNDAY

10 AM AT CENTRAL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

## Holy Week at Central

Holy Week invites us to walk step-by-step through the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry—from celebration, to sacrifice, to resurrection. It is a sacred journey that moves us from the joy of Palm Sunday, through the solemn remembrance of the cross, and into the hope and victory of Easter morning.

We invite you to join us as a church family for worship throughout the week. Each service offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect, pray, and prepare our hearts for the resurrection of Christ. Whether you attend one service or the full journey, we hope you will make space to be present during this holy time.

# COMMUNITY LENTEN LUNCHTIME WORSHIP

WORSHIP: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON ALDERSGATE SANCTUARY  
LUNCH TO FOLLOW IN THE EPWORTH GYM

FEB 18  
TO  
APRIL 1



FEB 18  
ASH WEDNESDAY

FEB 25

MAR 4

MAR 11

MAR 18

MAR 25

APR 1

Only one more Lenten Lunchtime Worship, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2026. Please make sure to join us with Rev. Carolyn Briggs from Living Waters Christian Ministries and NAACP.

CREAMY TORTELLINI SOUP

MARCH 18  
LENT 4-A

REV. DREW MANGIONE  
SHELBY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHICKEN CHILI WITH CORNBREAD, WALDORF SALAD, AND A COOKIE

MARCH 25  
LENT 5-A

REV. SALLY QUEEN  
CATAWBA VALLEY DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

PASTA E FAGIOLI WITH GARLIC MONKEY BREAD, CAESAR SALAD, AND A COOKIE

APRIL 1  
WED OF HOLY WEEK-A

REV. CAROLYN BRIGGS  
LIVING WATERS CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES & NAACP

LOADED POTATO SOUP WITH CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH, BROCCOLI SALAD, AND A COOKIE

REV. DAVID LEE  
CENTRAL UMC, SHELBY

BROCCOLI CHEDDAR SOUP WITH EGG SALAD SANDWICH, GRAPE SALAD, AND A COOKIE



SCAN HERE TO DONATE  
SUGGESTED DONATION - \$10





# Kid's Place Art Show

**March 25 5:30-7PM**

Our preschool will be having an Art Show in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 25th. In order to be able to host this special time and raise funds for our preschool we are looking for people or businesses to sponsor an artist. You can sponsor one student artist for \$50.00. Your name will be displayed with the artists work and you may also provide a business card to be sent home with each family.

Thank you for your kindness and help with this special event. We hope you will mark your calendars and plan to drop by for the show!

## CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS Weekly Update

**Youth Sunday School**

Pioneer Coffee Shop Uptown

With Katie Bowers

**Sunday Evening**

5:00pm in Fellowship Hall



Nursery is open to all Babies-PreK kids. Nursery is offered Sundays, 9-11 AM in Room E105 (pre-school age) and Room E104 (infants).

Elementary Sunday School

**Sundays 9-9:45am**

Infants- Nursery Room E104

Preschool age- Nursery Room E105

K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Godly Play Room E309



### Interested in Feeding Our Youth in 2026?

Sign up to provide a meal Sunday evening at 5pm in the fellowship hall. Please reach out to Katie with questions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B49A4AB23A1FFC70-61391068-meal#/>

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**JOIN US FOR VBS**

**JUNE 7-10, 2026  
5:15PM - 7:30PM**

**AGES 3 - 11**

**OPERATION RESTORATION**  
MENDING GOD'S WORLD

**VISIT CUMCSHELBY.ORG TO REGISTER**

## Coming Summer 2026!

Central UMC 2026 VBS is Operation Restoration: Mending God's World! During this exciting 4-day program, kids learn to be menders of the universe as they explore the daily themes of Feed, Heal, Forgive, and Pray.

Family meal will be 5:15-5:45pm

Please register at

<https://form.jotform.com/260134988250>

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**Calendar of Events**  
**March 29 - April 4, 2026**

**Sunday**

Praise Ensemble - 8:30am  
Sunday School - 9:00am  
Worship Service - 10:00am  
Youth - 5:00pm  
Central Ringers - 6:30pm

**Monday**

Church Office Hours - 9am -3pm

**Tuesday**

Church Office Hours - 9am -3pm

**Wednesday**

Church Office Hours - 9am -3pm  
Butterfly and Sonshine Choir - 5:15pm  
Chancel Choir - 6:15pm

**Thursday**

Church Office Hours - 9am -3pm  
Maunday Thursday Service - 7pm

**Friday**

Church Office Hours - Closed  
Good Friday Service,  
Aldersgate UMC - 7pm

**Saturday**

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

**Serving Sunday, March 28, 2026**

**Nursery Volunteer:**

**Elementary Sunday School**  
**Teachers:**  
Caroline Scism

**Greeters:**

**Coffee Time Helpers:**

**Coffee Maker:**  
Holli Clark

**Welcome Table:**  
Ginny and Alan Hughes

**Children's Sermon:**  
Gale Greene

**Offering Counters:**

**Trustees Lock Up:**



**Memorials and Honorariums**

**Operating:**

In Memory of Betty Reeves

Bubba and Brownie Plaster  
Lynn and Rachael Carpenter  
Rebecca and Gene Cook  
Mike and Carol Schenck  
Sandy Allen

In Memory of Chuck Hamilton  
June Miller

Brian and Ellen Benfield  
Mike and Carol Schenck  
Jim and Beverly Putnum  
Sandy Allen

**Special: Soup Group**

In Memory of Betty Reeves

Robert and Caroline Laney

**Special: Music Ministry**

In Memory of Chuck Hamilton

Michael and Libby Alexander  
Robert and Caroline Laney

**2026 Stewardship**

2026 Budget- In Process

Received as of:

TBD

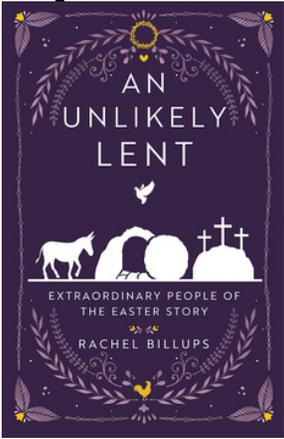
\*This includes prepaid pledges that have been received.

**Welcome Our New Director of Communication**

CUMC is pleased to welcome Ila McInnis as our new Director of Communications. Ila is originally from Shelby and has recently returned to the area with her 8-year-old son, Max. She brings with her a professional background in IT Operations, Marketing, and Communications, along with a passion for clear, meaningful connection within both the church and the wider community.

In her new role, Ila will help strengthen how we share the life and ministry of Central, ensuring that members and visitors alike feel informed, connected, and engaged. She is excited about building relationships, fostering a sense of community, and supporting the many ways Central serves Shelby and beyond. We are grateful to have her as part of our team and look forward to the gifts she will bring to our church family.





# Discipleship Opportunities

## New Lenten Study

Join the Women's Bible Study in the conference room on Thursdays at 9:30 am, February 25th through April 2nd.

Call or text Jessica Talbert with questions, (704) 692-3441.

## Disciple Class

Disciple is an in-depth four-year Bible Study that meets every Tuesday afternoon in the conference room from 3-5PM. We will be completing I and II Timothy, as well as Titus, after the Christmas holidays and will then be starting Disciple IV sometime in February. Everyone is welcome!

Please contact Rob Laney (704-472-5042) if you are interested in joining!

## Lenten Devotional and Prayer Time

### Wednesday Nights from 5:15-6PM

February 25, March 4, March 18, and March 25.

## Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study The Book of Matthew

Have you wondered about the nature of the Kingdom of Heaven?

Taught by Tim Sieges, retired Director of Wycliffe Counseling Ministries

Saturday, 8am before Open Table

CUMC, Room E210

meets the first and third Saturdays of the month

## 2026 Legacy Grants

The Legacy grant application season is upon us.

The schedule is as follows:

Monday, March 23 - Legacy applications available in the church office

Sunday, April 12 - Legacy Sunday worship service & workshop to follow

Monday, April 27 - Grant applications are due in church office

Friday, May 8 - Awards are announced

The Legacy endowment is a wonderful blessing to the church that funds projects that you wish to undertake to further the mission of the church and our discipleship. The Legacy committee looks forward to receiving your applications.

## February 2026 Lake Junaluska CUMC Retreat

Eighty-five folks from CUMC recently gathered at Lake Junaluska for a time of encouragement and fun as strong church family bonds were fostered in small group activities and large group worship services. We heard 4 testimonies from church members about how God had worked in their lives which highlighted our theme, "God Has Work For Us To Do!" Participants recognized their individual commitment to the work of God and our group commitment to be about the work of God in our church and community.

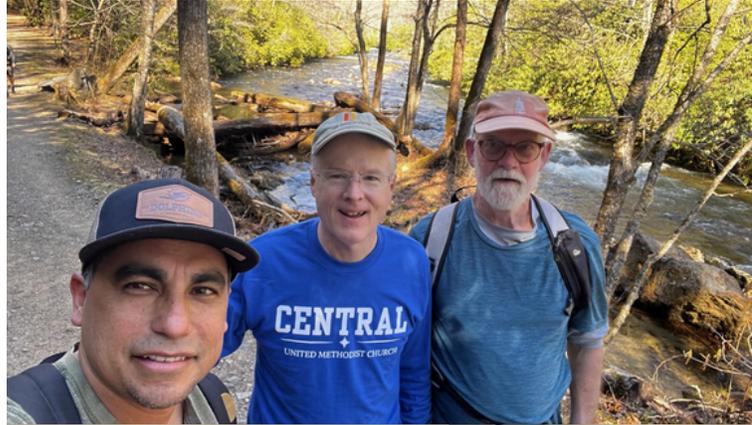
Children enjoyed a "PrayGround" that was located in the front of the room so they could keep their hands busy while their ears listened. They were great participants when it was time for music or motion! Intergenerational small groups lead to fun interactions and ideas. All ages participated in ice breakers, music activities, small groups, and worship! It was so much fun to be together in organized sessions, free time, and our meals together!

### T-SHIRTS

If you would like to order one of the CENTRAL t-shirts, we are gathering an order for short-sleeved t-shirts. Please follow this link to order and pay online:

<https://centralunitedmethodi-3.subspla.sh/3np7kw>

If you would like to order a long-sleeved t-shirt, please see Tammy. The deadline to order and pay is April 12.



JOIN US FOR AN  
**EASTER**  
**EGG HUNT**

UPTOWN SHELBY COURT SQUARE

4:00PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

We will have the egg hunt, snacks, and crafts for ages 3-11. Invite your friends!

HOSTED BY: CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Open Table

We are asking for donations of **BOTTLED WATER** (any size). We'll always take donations of grocery bags. We invite you every Saturday from 8am-noon to help us provide a free hot meal to our community. Join our **Open**

**Table volunteer communication** by using the QR code here.



## 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 during the school year. For March we are requesting **CANNED PASTA**. You may drop them off at the office Monday-Friday, 9AM-2 PM. For more info about how to serve, contact Ellen Benfield at [benfield@med.unc.edu](mailto:benfield@med.unc.edu).

## Coffee and Donuts

Join us every Sunday **OUTSIDE** on Washington Street (or in the Fellowship Hall depending on weather) from 9:30-9:55am each Sunday. We hope you'll make plans to join us for food and fellowship.

Be sure to check out our website: [www.cumcshelby.org](http://www.cumcshelby.org)

Our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/cumcshelby/](http://www.facebook.com/cumcshelby/)

Our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@centralunitedmethodistchur6507>

And our App: Central UMC-Shelby on all app stores





200 East Marion St.  
Shelby , NC 28150

# MARCH Birthdays

March 1	Erin Wilson	March 20	Peggy Conlon
March 3	Bet Ausborn	March 21	Jerry Clark
March 4	Gloria Newman	March 23	Ken Harrison
March 5	Shalamar Willard	March 23	Julia Peeler(Starr)
March 6	Slyvia Knight	March 23	Mike Ribadeneyra
March 6	Joy Knight	March 23	Leah Rose
March 8	Monica Noble	March 24	Jenny Alexander
March 8	Zoe Rempson	March 25	Casey Young
March 10	Hattie Hensley	March 26	Craig Witkowski
March 11	Daniel Sprinkle	March 27	Claudia Rose
March 12	Pat Ellison	March 27	Gavin Goforth
March 14	Stephen Ager	March 28	Anna Alexander
March 14	Beverly Putnam	March 28	Becky Sloan
March 15	Laura Rucker	March 29	Emma Buckner
March 16	Theo Asborn	March 30	Cassie Plaster
March 18	Becky Hill	March 31	Ben Ousley
March 18	Lydia Miller		
March 19	Nick Greene		
March 19	Meredith Benfield		
March 19	Cole Schmoutz		

We are a **Safe Sanctuary** and a **Tobacco-Free Campus**. Please be sure that your children are accompanied at all times by a parent or responsible adult caregiver. We appreciate your assistance as we strive to ensure the safety of all. *Church policy prohibits the use of tobacco products on our church grounds.*  
**Thank you** for your cooperation!!!