



# The Central Issue

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

May 20, 2026

Volume 35, No. 9

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This has been a joyful season of celebration at Central as we honored milestones big and small across our church family! Last Sunday, we recognized our high school and college graduates on Graduation Sunday, celebrating their hard work, dedication, and the exciting journeys ahead. This past Friday, our youngest graduates also reached an important milestone as our Kid's Place pre-school students proudly crossed the stage. Be sure to look inside for photos, highlights, and more as we celebrate these special moments and the incredible accomplishments of our graduates!

# Graduation Week Highlights



Last Friday, Kid's Place celebrated a very special milestone as we honored our 2026 pre-school graduates.

We are so proud of **Evelyn Boyle, Maddox Grigg, Sully Herndon, Landon Jones, Rohry Lee, Maisie McAvoy, Reese McClellan, Kunj Patel, Rhett Roderick, Maverick Stephenson, and Kannon White** as they completed this exciting chapter and prepare to begin kindergarten in the fall. Through a year of learning, growth, friendship, and discovery, these students have built a strong foundation and will be well prepared for the journey ahead. Congratulations to our graduates—we know they have bright futures in store!



On Graduation Sunday, Central proudly celebrated our 2026 high school graduates and the exciting next steps ahead for each of them.

Congratulations to **Zoe Rempson** (Crest High School), who will attend the College of Charleston to major in Exercise Science; **Mitchell Maxwell** (Thomas Jefferson), who will attend UNC Charlotte to study Business;

**Brooke Bolin** (Crest High School), who will attend Gardner-Webb University to major in Communications; **LeeAnne McDowell** (Shelby High School), who will attend Appalachian State University to study Elementary Education; and **Ethan Ledford** (Crest High School), who will attend Cleveland Community College to major in Auto Engineering. We

are incredibly proud of their hard work and accomplishments, and we are also excited to share that five scholarships were awarded by the church to support some these students as they begin this next chapter. We congratulate our graduates and pray for God's guidance and blessings as they move forward into bright futures ahead.

# Upcoming Events at Central

## Pentecost Sunday & New Members

Join us on Sunday, May 24, as we celebrate Pentecost, a powerful reminder of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. We invite everyone to wear red as a symbol of the Spirit's presence and movement among us.

This will also be a special day in the life of our church as we welcome new members into our Central family. It is always a joy to celebrate the ways God continues to grow our congregation and draw people into community.

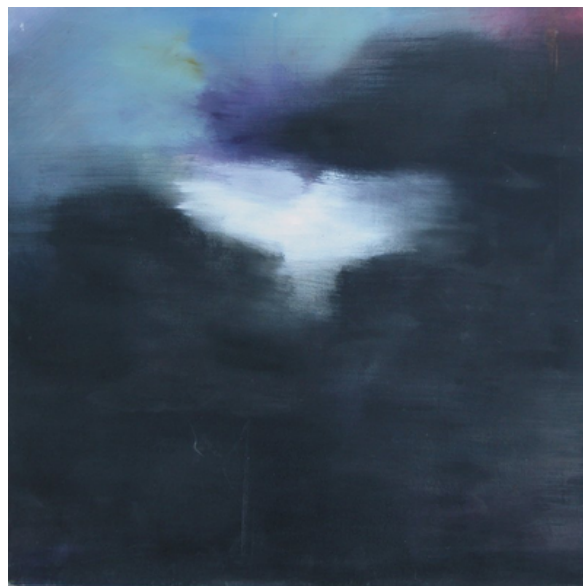
As we reflect on Christ's ascension and the promise of the Holy Spirit, we give thanks for both the rich history of our faith and the new life unfolding here at Central. We hope you will join us for this meaningful and joy-filled Sunday! 🔥

## CUMC Outdoor Worship Service

Join us on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, for a special outdoor worship service at 10:00 AM on the Court Square. This will be a wonderful opportunity to gather together in the heart of our community for worship and fellowship.

Following the service, we'll enjoy a picnic meal together. The church will provide chicken strips, and we invite **each family to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. Please bring your own chair if you need one.**

Please note that there will be no Sunday School that morning. We hope you'll make plans to join us for this meaningful and joy-filled day!



John Brokenshire, Untitled/Pentecost, 2003  
Methodist Modern Art Collection  
Image Copyright © Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

## WINGS

WINGS will be meeting May 27<sup>th</sup> at Devereaux Hunter's House at 11am.

Please make sure to save that date on your calendar!



**Calendar of Events**  
**May 24 - May 30, 2026**

**Sunday**

Sunday School - 9:00am  
Worship Service - 10:00am  
Pentacost

**Monday**

Memorial Day - Office Closed

**Tuesday**

Church Office Hours - 9am-3pm

**Wednesday**

Church Office Hours - 9am -3pm

**Thursday**

Church Office Hours - 9am -3pm

**Friday**

Church Office Hours - Closed

**Saturday**

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

**Service Sunday May 24, 2026**

**Nursery Volunteer:**

Dorothy Hernandez

**Elementary Sunday School  
Teachers:**

Caroline Scism

**Greeters:**

West Bishop & Family Member  
N

**Coffee Time Helpers:**

Leigh & Chris Mabry

**Coffee Maker:**

Mike Schenck

**Children's Sermon:**

Monica Noble

**Offering Counters:**

Caroline Laney & John Lattimore

**Memorials and Honorariums**

**Becky and Gene Cook and Warren**

**Cook :**

**Special: Music Ministry**

**In memory of Margaret Ellis**

**Operating**

**In memory of Prentice Johnson**

**Family of Margaret Ellis:**

**Special: Music Ministry**

**In memory of Margaret Ellis**

**Special: Bereavement Ministry**

**In memory of Margaret Ellis**

**Will and Tina Rucker**

**Special: Prayer Garden/Columbarium**

**In honor of Kitty Williams and Bill and**

**Marilyn Henshaw**

**2026 Stewardship**

2026 Approved Budget

Amount-\$876,810.72

Needed Weekly-\$16,862.00

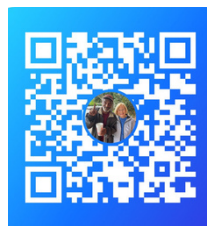
Received Last Week-\$12,095.00

Total Received to Date-\*\$339,838.00

\*Includes Pre-Paid Pledges

**Open Table**

We are asking for donations of **PAPER TOWELS**. 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 **Mac N Cheese Cups**. 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.

**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

## CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS **Weekly Update**

### Youth Sunday School

9am- Pioneer Coffee Shop

### Sunday Evening

No Youth for Memorial Day

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



### VBS "Operation Restoration"

Ages 3-11

Sunday June 7- Wednesday June 10,

5:15-7:30pm

Family meal every night 5:15-5:45pm, followed by family worship (for all parents/guardians & siblings)

Please register in advance (preferably by May 26) at [www.cumcshelby.org](http://www.cumcshelby.org).

Thanks to the CUMC Legacy Grant, the family meal is free for VBS attendees, their families, and volunteers. Our theme this year is "Operation Restoration." This VBS invites us to share in the dream of restoration through exploring all the ways we can help mend God's world.

We will explore the themes of Feeding, Healing, Forgiving, Praying.