



The Central Issue

August 19, 2026

Volume 35, No. 25

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

200 East Marion Street, Shelby, NC 28150-4610

Phone: (704) 487-6336;

Kid's Place Preschool: (704) 487-6357

Counseling Services: (704) 810-4344

Email: central@cumcshelby.org

Website: www.cumcshelby.org

David Lee, Senior Pastor

Tammy Bass, Director of Discipleship

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

Stacey Watkins Griffith, Pastoral Counselor

Inside This Week's Issue

NEWS • MINISTRY • CONNECTION • COMMUNITY

1

Central Supper Club

Registration ends Sunday, August 23

2

Celebrating Danny Buckner

Twenty years of music and ministry

3

Gratitude & Community

Staff-Parish note • Gardner-Webb Connect Fair
Upcoming Discovery Class

4

Care & Celebration

Final mural painting • Supporting Shelley
Welcome, Tripp Hunter!

5

Kids at Central

Upcoming events and Sunday School

6

Fall Discipleship

Book studies and faith opportunities

7

Church Life & Service

Calendar • Stewardship • Ministry needs
Volunteer opportunities

8

Youth & Kids Place

Youth updates • Preschool wish list
Blessing of the Backpacks • Birthdays



Central Supper Club Registration Ends on Sunday the 23rd!

Central Supper Clubs are returning for another year of delicious meals, meaningful conversation, and growing friendships!

Participants will be placed in small groups that gather approximately once a month for dinner. Groups may take turns hosting in their homes or choose to meet at local restaurants. Registration is open now through Sunday, August 23, and new Supper Club groups will be announced on Sunday, August 30.

Scan the QR code included here or click the link below to register:

[Register for Central Supper Clubs](#)

There is always room at the table!!





Twenty Years of Music, Ministry, and Community

Celebrating Danny Buckner's 20 Years at Central

When Danny Buckner first arrived at Central United Methodist Church 20 years ago, he remembers feeling a little like “a deer in the headlights.” Central was only the third church he had served, and it was his first experience leading music in a church of this size and scope. With two worship services and a contemporary service that incorporated a variety of instruments, the role presented an exciting new challenge. Classically trained, Danny had limited experience working with a band and describes those early days as one of the steepest learning curves of his career. Fortunately, he was surrounded by wonderful people who helped him grow into the role and find his place within the Central family.

During the first 12 or 13 years of his ministry, Danny watched Central's music program grow to include large groups, full choirs, orchestras, praise ensembles, and many other opportunities for people to share their gifts. When COVID disrupted church life, the music ministry, like so many others, had to adapt and restructure.

That season led to a meaningful shift in Danny's understanding of ministry. Success became less about the size of a choir or the number of people involved and more about creating genuine connections. What once may have felt more program-driven has grown into something deeply rooted in community; a place where everyone is welcome.

Danny believes worship music should feel authentic rather than simply polished or performative. The congregation is not meant to be an audience of listeners, but a community of active participants in worship. For him, music is an instrument that helps communicate messages of hope and grace. It can create a pathway that opens people's hearts to God's message and reminds them that they are part of something larger than themselves.

Behind every Sunday's music is also a great deal of dedication that the congregation may not always see. Volunteers gather throughout the week and on Sundays to rehearse, prepare, and work together. Danny is deeply grateful for the time, energy, and practice each person contributes to making the music ministry successful.

Central has also been much more than a workplace for Danny, it has been an important part of his family's life for two decades. He and his wife raised their two daughters within the church, and the entire family has been involved in the life and ministry of Central. Through worship, relationships, and shared experiences, this church has helped shape their family's story. The connections they have formed here have made a lasting impact on each of their lives and have given them a church family with whom to grow, serve, and share many meaningful seasons.

Over the years, his own faith has grown through many seasons of challenge, renewal, ebb, and flow. He has learned that ministry is not only about programs or performances, it is about loving people, showing up for one another, and building honest, meaningful connections. The relationships formed through ministry become family.

Looking toward the future, Danny hopes Central's music ministry will continue to welcome people who are open to participating and sharing their unique gifts. Rather than measuring success only by numbers, he hopes the ministry will remain focused on reaching people, creating belonging, and building a community where everyone has a place.

For 20 years, Danny has faithfully shared his talent, leadership, and heart with Central. We give thanks for the countless rehearsals, worship services, special performances, and meaningful moments he has helped create and especially for the community he has built along the way.

Congratulations, Danny, and thank you for 20 wonderful years of music and ministry at Central!



With Gratitude for 20 Years of Ministry

On behalf of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Danny Buckner as he celebrates 20 years of faithful service to Central United Methodist Church.

Throughout his tenure, Danny has shared his remarkable musical gifts while devoting countless hours to planning, rehearsing, encouraging others, and preparing meaningful worship experiences. We are grateful not only for the work we see and hear each Sunday, but also for the many unseen acts of dedication, care, and service that have shaped his ministry among us.

Danny, thank you for the joy, beauty, and inspiration you have brought to our church family. Your ministry has touched countless lives, and we are deeply grateful for these 20 wonderful years together.

—The Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Connecting with Gardner-Webb's Newest Students

Members of Central's staff recently attended Gardner-Webb University's Connect Fair, where we had the opportunity to welcome incoming freshmen and introduce them to our church family. The fair brought together campus organizations, local churches, businesses, and community partners to help students discover ways to connect and get involved.

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet new students, share a little about Central, and strengthen our relationship with the Gardner-Webb community. We are grateful for opportunities like this that allow us to step beyond our walls, build meaningful connections, and remind students that they have a welcoming church family nearby!



Upcoming Discovery Class

Sunday, September 27th | After Service

Location - Fellowship Hall

Taught by Pastor David Lee

The Discovery Class is an opportunity to learn more about the United Methodist Church and particularly, Central UMC. Anyone interested in joining Central should attend the class. Our next Discovery Class will be offered on Sunday, September 27th, in the Fellowship Hall right after the church service. A light lunch is served, so please let Tammy Bass know if you are planning to attend. It will last about 2 hours. A nursery is available upon request.

The Final Brushstrokes: One Last Day to Paint!

This Sunday, August 23, will be our final congregational painting session as we add beautiful blue tones to our Beautiful Things mural, and there is still room for you to participate!

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has shown up, picked up a paintbrush, and left their unique mark on this special project. Your enthusiasm and creativity have truly brought the mural, and its message of collaboration, to life.

After Sunday's session, there will be a short break of a few weeks while the mural is completed and prepared for its final presentation to the church. We cannot wait for everyone to see how your individual brushstrokes have come together to create something beautiful.

Thank you for being part of it!

Scan the QR code or [sign up online here](#) to join us for the final painting session!



Supporting Shelley Rempson During Her Recovery

Shelley Rempson underwent major surgery on July 31st and is expected to return home this week. **A Meal Train has been organized** to support Shelley and her family during her recovery. **If you would like to provide a meal, please visit [Shelley's Meal Train](#).** Please continue to keep Shelley and her family in your **prayers** during this time.



Olin Wilson Hunter III. "Tripp"

August 3, 2026

7 lbs 12 oz

19 ¾ inches long

Proud Parents: Jillian and Reid Hunter

Proud Grandparents: Will and Suzanne Hunter

Kid's at Central



If you would like to volunteer to help with the event or prepare food, please let Caroline Scism know.

Elementary Sunday School

Sundays 9-9:45am

Infants- Nursery Room E104

Preschool age- Nursery Room E105

K-5th Grade- Godly Play Room E309

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)**.

Fall Discipleship Opportunities

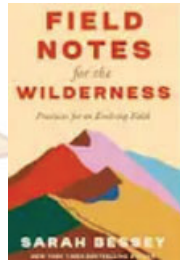
This fall, grow in faith and community through one of these discipleship opportunities at Central. All are welcome!

Wednesday Night Book Study: Field Notes for the Wilderness

Wednesdays | 5:15–6:00 PM

Conference Room

Facilitated by Tammy Hollifield



Field Notes for the Wilderness: Practices for an Evolving Faith by Sarah Bessey is a nurturing and hopeful book that helps Christians reconnect with their faith, pursue inner healing, and build spiritual community.

Join us for an inclusive conversation where everyone is encouraged to bring their questions and doubts to the table. Together, we will explore practices for an evolving faith, including:

- Practicing wonder and curiosity as spiritual disciplines
- Learning to mother yourself with empathy
- Making space for lament and righteous rage
- Finding good spiritual teachers

This class is open to everyone.

For questions, contact Tammy Hollifield at thollifield65@gmail.com.

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Thursdays | 9:30 AM

Conference Room

Facilitated by Jessica Talbert

The Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study will gather on Thursday, August 20, for a time of fellowship and to choose its study for the fall. All ladies are welcome to join!

For more information, contact Jessica Talbert at 704-692-344.

Men's Saturday Bible Study: The Sermon on the Mount

First and Third Saturdays | 8:00 AM

Room E210, Education Building

Taught by Tim Sieges

C.S. Lewis described the Sermon on the Mount as a blueprint for Christian living—one that challenges us to live counter-culturally in a world often driven by power, fame, and self-interest.

All men are invited to join this in-depth study of Matthew 5–7. The group meets on the first and third Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM, before Open Table.

For questions, contact Tim Sieges at tim_sieges@wycliffe.org.

Calendar of Events

August 23rd - 29th, 2026

Sunday

Sunday School - 9:00am

Worship Service - 10:00am

Mural Painting - After Sermon - 12:00pm

Monday

Church Office Hours - 9:00am-3:30pm

Tuesday

Church Office Hours - 9:00am-3:30pm

Wednesday

Church Office Hours - 9:00am-3:30pm

Back to School BASH & Open House - 5pm

Thursday

Church Office Hours - 9:00am-3:30pm

Friday

Church Office Hours - Closed

Saturday

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

Service Sunday August 23rd, 2026

Nursery Volunteer:

Dorothy Hernandez

Elementary Sunday School Teachers:

Caroline Scism

Greeters:

Carol & Ray Maxwell

Coffee Time Helpers:

Monica & Sergio Noble

Coffee Maker:

Mike Schenck

Children's Sermon:

Emily Ousley

Offering Counters:

Manning Burton & Devereaux Hunter

Robert Laney

In Honor Of Allison Durbin -

Operating

Memorials and Honorariums

2026 Stewardship

2026 Approved Budget

Amount-\$876,810.72

Needed Weekly-\$16,862.00

Received Last Week-\$8,310.00

Total Received to Date-*\$530,870.00

*Includes Pre-Paid Pledges

Help Stock Open Table's Toiletry Shelf

Our Open Table guests frequently request basic toiletries, and our supplies are running low. You can help by donating:

- Travel-size shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lotion
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Feminine hygiene products

Summer travelers are especially encouraged to bring home unused hotel amenities! Donations may be placed on the shelf outside the church office or dropped off in the PAC.

Thank you for helping us love and care for our neighbors!

Open Table

We are asking for donations of **WATER BOTTLES**. Join our **Open Table volunteer communication** by using the QR code here.

Backpack Ministry

For July we are requesting **cheese/peanut butter crackers**.

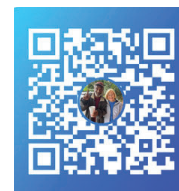
 **Pumpkin Painting at the Livermush Festival**
Saturday, October 17 •
9:00 am–4:00 pm

Volunteers are needed!

Contact Leigh Mabry
(704) 472-1110 to sign up
for a 2-hour shift.

Help us make this annual
event a success!

Be sure to check out our
website: www.cumcshelby.org
Our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/cumcshelby/
Our YouTube Channel:
[CENTRAL YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)
And our App: Central UMC-Shelby on all app stores





200 East Marion St.
Shelby, NC 28150

CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS Weekly Update

Sunday 8/23 -

Sunday School - Pioneer Coffee - 9am
Youth Group - 5-6pm

Sunday 8/30 -

Sunday School - Pioneer Coffee - 9am
Youth Group - Youth Pool Party with
Aldersgate at Shannon King's - Time TBA



Picture from the Blessing of the
Backpacks , Students, and Teachers

Kids Place Preschool is preparing for another wonderful school year! You can support this special ministry by purchasing classroom supplies from our **Amazon Wish List** or contributing toward **scholarships for two families in need**. Every gift—large or small—helps create a welcoming place where **children can learn, grow, and experience God's love**. Scan the QR code or link to visit the wishlist!

Wish List Information: <https://a.co/08QSTjOe>



- 24 - Benjamin Hamilton
- 25 - Reagan Nestlerode
- 26 - James Wilson (Jim)
- 28 - Jodi Morgan
- 29 - Lelia Lattimore
- 28 - Natalie Hamilton
- 29 - Michael Hill (Steve)
- 30 - Adam Tapp
- 31 - Joseph Morgan (Joe)