



# The Central Issue

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

September 9, 2026

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## Do You Know?

### The Enduring Power of Parables

Parables have been used for thousands of years to share wisdom, challenge assumptions, and help people understand complicated truths through familiar experiences. Long before most people could read or write, communities passed down important lessons through memorable stories. Hebrew prophets, ancient philosophers, religious teachers, and community leaders all used comparisons and storytelling to invite people to see an issue from a new perspective.

The word parable comes from the Greek word parabolē, meaning “to place beside.” In a parable, an everyday experience is placed beside a deeper spiritual or moral question. Jesus did not invent this style of teaching, but he used it with extraordinary creativity and purpose. He spoke about seeds, vineyards, family disagreements, lost possessions, workers, weddings, meals, and travelers; ordinary parts of life that helped people consider the extraordinary nature of God's kingdom.

Parables are powerful because they do more than provide an answer. They invite us into the story. We may recognize ourselves in a forgiving father, a resentful brother, a late-arriving worker, a wounded traveler, or someone who unexpectedly chooses compassion. Because parables often leave room for questions and interpretation, the same story may speak to us differently as our experiences and circumstances change.

Throughout our Beautiful Things: A Summer of Pentecost Parables series, we have explored how Jesus used these creative stories to reveal grace, confront injustice, challenge expectations, and expand our understanding of who belongs in God's kingdom. Each parable has offered us another way to consider how the Spirit is moving within our lives and our community.

The enduring power of a parable is found in its ability to make faith both personal and shared. Jesus' stories continue to invite us not only to listen, but also to imagine, wrestle, respond, and discover the beautiful things God may be creating among us.

# Fall Discipleship Opportunities

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

## Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study

**September 10 - October 15**

Thursdays | 9:30 - 10:30 am

Conference Room

Facilitated by Jessica Talbert,

"Messy People" by Jennifer Coward

for more info call Jessica at 704-692-3441.

## 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**

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](mailto:tim_sieges@wycliffe.org).

## Disciple IV Bible Study class

Disciple IV Bible Study class will begin on Tuesday afternoon September 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 in the conference room.

Class meets every Tuesday from 3:00 until 5:30. The Disciple IV series will begin with 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles and cover 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles, Nehemiah, Esther, Daniel, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, Song of Solomon, and Psalms in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, we will cover the gospel of John; 1,2,3 John; Jude; James; and end with a study of Revelation. The class is open to anyone interested in attending.

The cost of a Disciple IV workbook is \$45.

## 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.

## Wednesday Night Book Study: Field Notes for the Wilderness:

**Wednesdays | 5:15–6:00 PM**

**Conference Room**

Facilitated by Tammy Hollifield - Tammy Bass will sub in tonight to kick us off!

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.

## Calendar of Events

September 13<sup>th</sup>-  
September 19th, 2026

### Sunday

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

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

Church Office Hours - 9:00am-3:30pm  
WinGs - 10:00am

### Thursday

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

### Friday

Church Office Hours - Closed

### Saturday

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

## Service Sunday September 13th, 2026

### **Nursery Volunteer:**

Diana Snyder

### **Elementary Sunday School Teachers:**

Caroline Scism

### **Greeters:**

Page & Jim Morgan

### **Coffee Time Helpers:**

Allison & Rod Mauney

### **Coffee Maker:**

Rita Sprinkle

### **Children's Sermon:**

Daniel Sprinkle

### **Offering Counters:**

Carol Schenck & Jessica Talbert

## **2026 Stewardship**

2026 Approved Budget

Amount-\$876,810.72

Needed Weekly-\$16,862.00

Received Last Week-\$15,098.00

Total Received to Date-\$561,832.00

\*Includes Pre-Paid Pledges

## **In Honor and Memory**

Central's Soup Group would like to honor **Carol McPhail** with this donation to Soup Group for the many years that **she has faithfully given her time, energy, and heart** to this food ministry.

 **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!

**The Ladies of WinGs had a great summer break, but we are looking forward to our SEPTEMBER MEETING!** Please join us as we gather for caring and inviting fellowship, information galore and plans for service to our church and this community.  
See YOU there!

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH @ 10:00am**  
**in the church**  
**Fellowship Hall.**

## **Kids Serve at Open Table Saturday** **September 12**

As a Children's Ministry service initiative, children and parents are invited to help distribute food at **Open Table** on **Saturday, September 12.**

Please enter through the Kids Place doors and **meet in the PAC at 10:00am and we will start serving at 10:30.**

This is recommended for ages 3+ with a parent. We will go out to eat afterwards at **Chickfila at the mall.**

## **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 August we are requesting **granola bars.**

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

Our linktree: [linktree](#)

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 9/13**

Sunday School 9am – HIVE  
Youth Council after service - conference room  
Youth 5-7pm Meal provided

- **Sunday 9/20**

Sunday School 9am – Pioneer Coffee  
Youth 5-7pm

- **Sunday 9/27**

Sunday School 9am – Pioneer Coffee  
Youth 5-7pm



**Please see the link and QR code to sign up to feed our youth this fall.**

**Thank you for your support going into this fall season!!**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B49A4AB23A1FFC70-65411038-youth>

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY September**



3<sup>rd</sup> - Addelyn Bishop

4<sup>th</sup> - Tammy Bass

5<sup>th</sup> - Mike Schenck (Tripp)

6<sup>th</sup> - Rebekah Young

6<sup>th</sup> - Martha Plaster (Brownie)

7<sup>th</sup> - Beth Norman

7<sup>th</sup> - William Arey (Jack)

10<sup>th</sup> - Mary Mabry (Jennifer)

10<sup>th</sup> - Mason Wright

11<sup>th</sup> - Karen Winder

14<sup>th</sup> - Bob Bass

14<sup>th</sup> - Emily Tapp

A heartfelt thank-you to Shannon King for graciously sharing her beautiful backyard and pool with not one, but two youth groups on Sunday afternoon! It was a delightful day filled with fellowship, laughter, and wonderful weather.

Central and Aldersgate have partnered for several youth events this summer, and it has been heartwarming to watch new friendships blossom between the two groups.

—Katie Bowers

### 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

**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).**