



Central United Methodist Church

Our 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
704-487-6336

<http://cumcshelby.org>

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. David Lee

SCRIPTURE Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

HOMILY

ANTHEM *Guide Us, Lord* Patterson

Guide us through these days, O Lord; help us to seek your way,
trusting as you lead us with love, teach us again to pray.
Help us know you more clearly, help us love you more dearly,
help us follow you more nearly day by day. Guide us Lord, we pray.
Guide us through these days, O Lord; help us to seek your way,
seeking wisdom from your word, strengthen our tender faith.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES Rev. David Lee

God of mercy,
Bless these ashes.
May they remind us of our mortality,
our need,
and your unending grace.
As they are placed upon us, seal us again with your love.
Amen.

*IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

You are invited to come down the center aisles and receive your ashes from one of our pastors. You may proceed to the chancel rail for prayer or return to your seat up the outside aisles.

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Caroline Scism

Holy God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
and against one another.
We have chosen comfort over courage.
We have kept silent when love required speech.
We have benefited from what harms others.
We have failed to love you with our whole heart.

**We are dust — and we have forgotten
that we belong to you.**

Forgive us.

Restore us.

Teach us to walk the way of Jesus.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Katie Bowers

Hear the good news:

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in
steadfast love.

In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In Jesus Christ, you are loved.

Thanks be to God.

*PASSING THE PEACE

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*HYMN UMH #269 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*
(st. 1, 3, & 5)

*SENDING FORTH

Rev. David Lee

Faithful God, as we begin this Lenten journey, give us
courage to repent, humility to listen, and hope to trust your
mercy. Walk with us from ashes to Easter. Amen.

Dismiss in silence.

*Please stand

UMH denotes *United Methodist Hymnal*
TFWS denotes *The Faith We Sing* hymnal