

# 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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February 11, 2026

Volume 34, No. 59

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

Hannah Walker, Administrative Communications

Doug Smith, Facilities Manager

Shelley Rempson, Kid's Place Preschool Director

Doug Lowery, Media Coordinator

Stacey Watkins Griffith, Pastoral Counselor

Stewardship Communications with Congregation

February 2026

Thank you all for your financial contributions in 2025.

To the Central congregation, thank you for your generosity in your financial support of our church in 2025. Your contributions have helped provide funding to support our mission, "To make disciples of Christ who WORSHIP God, GROW in their faith and SERVE in the church and world".

This past year we have been able to worship God and connect with each other through our Sunday services, music ministry, Christian discipleship, youth program, Open Table, children's ministries, congregational care, small group study and many other opportunities to grow in our faith. We have served our community and have been a strong presence in Shelby. Our pledged and non-pledged gifts for the year have allowed laity and staff leadership to lead our ministries and programs as we strived to reach our mission.

For 2026, we have received 68 Estimates of Giving, totaling \$574, 012. We continue to welcome new Estimates of Giving cards throughout the year.

Thank you again for your support and generosity to help Central remain a great church for Christ.

John Lattimore

Stewardship Chair



We started this year off with a BANG and have welcomed 4 new ladies to this amazing group! Now, all we are missing is YOU! Please come and enjoy the fellowship and energy of WinGs at our meeting NEXT WEDNESDAY, February 18th, in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00am.

# CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS Weekly Update

Youth Sunday School  
Youth Commons Room at 9am  
With Katie Bowers  
Sunday Evening  
5:00pm in Fellowship Hall

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2/15- Confirmation 4-5; Youth 5-7  
\*Parents come at 6:45 for a short meeting.
- 2/22- Youth Valentine's Fundraiser
- 3/1- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL or YOUTH due to retreat



### 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#/>

## SAVE THE DATE Saturday, March 7

Confirmands will be visiting a Jewish synagogue in Charlotte and getting lunch afterwards. Plan to be gone 8:45AM-3:30PM

Coming Summer 2026!



### Operation Restoration VBS

Sunday June 7 - Wednesday June 10, 2026

5:15-7:30pm

Ages 3-11

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

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.

Please register at <https://form.jotform.com/260134988250156>



Nursery is open to all Babies-PreK kids. Nursery is offered **Sundays, 9-11 AM in Room E105** (preschool 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

## REMINDER

The last day to donate items or purchase tickets for the Valentine's Day Fundraiser is 2/18!



February 15 - February 21, 2025

**Calendar of Events**

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

**Monday**

Church Office open 9-2

**Tuesday**

Church Office open 9-2

**Wednesday**

Church Office open 9-2  
5:15pm Butterfly and Sonshine Choir  
6:15pm Chancel Choir

**Thursday**

Church Office open 9-2

**Friday**

Church Office open 9-2

**Saturday**

10:30am Open Table Hot Lunch (PAC)

**Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study**

**The Book of Matthew**

8 am, Saturday mornings before Open Table

CUMC, Room E210

meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month

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

Taught by Tim Sieges, retired Director of Wycliffe Counseling  
Ministries

**Serving Sunday, February 15, 2025**

**Nursery Volunteer:**  
Dorothy Hernandez

**Elementary Sunday School Teachers:**  
Rocky Lutz

**Middle School Teachers:**

**Greeters**  
Mary Ann and Al Rogers

**Coffee Time Helpers:**  
Elizabeth and Rocky Lutz

**Coffee Maker:**  
Mike Schenck

**Welcome Table:**  
Ginny and Alan Hughes

**Children's Sermon:**  
Emily Ousely

**Offering Counters**  
Carol Schenck and Caroline Laney

**Trustees Lock Up:**  
Reid Hunter

**2026 Stewardship**

2026 Budget- In Process

Received as of 2/11/26.....\$108,468.63

\*This includes prepaid pledges that have been received.

**Memorials and Honorariums**

**Operating:**

In Memory of Betty Reeves

Sara Branton

**Special- Music Ministry:**

In Memory of Betty Reeves

Barbara Schafer

## Discipleship Opportunities

### 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!

### “Everyone Must Eat”:

### A New Adult Study on Food, Faith, and Community Action

We invite you to a new four-week class called “**Everyone Must Eat**”, a spiritually grounded and justice-minded conversation about food insecurity in Cleveland County **beginning 1/14 in the conference room**. Every Saturday, our Open Table Ministry feeds over 200 people with a hot meal and groceries—offering connection, care, and dignity. And yet, 1 in 6 of our neighbors in Cleveland County still struggle to access enough food. What more can we do—not just to feed people, but to build a more just and sustainable food system for all?

This class, co-led by Pastor David and Laura Lombardi, invites us to reflect deeply and act boldly over four sessions.

This isn’t a top-down teaching series. It’s not a lecture, but a lab for listening, learning, and leading together. We’ll ask hard questions, share personal stories, and begin shaping practical responses to food insecurity right here in Shelby. If you’re looking to connect your faith with real-life community impact, this class is for you.



200 East Marion St.  
Shelby, NC 28150

## FEBRUARY Birthdays

February 12	Larry Triplett
February 13	Gail Oliver
February 14	Ann Deaton
February 14	Jordan Mitchell
February 18	Steve Smith



### 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 8 am to noon to help us provide a free hot meal to our community. Join our Open Table volunteer communication by using the QR code here.



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!!!

### 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.

### 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 February we are requesting **Individual Oatmeal/Grits Packets**. 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).



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@centralunitedmet hodistchur6507>

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

