

FEBRUARY 2026

# CROSSTALK

## Centenary United Methodist Church

February often brings us two very different invitations. Valentine's Day surrounds us with cards, flowers, and reminders to tell the people we love how much they matter. Lent, which begins just days later, invites us into reflection, repentance, and a deeper awareness of our need for God. At first glance, these seasons can feel at odds. One celebrates love with chocolate and roses. The other calls us to fasting, prayer, and the cross. And yet, at their heart, both point us to the same truth: love.

Valentine's Day reminds us that love is meant to be expressed. It shows up in words spoken, time shared, and small acts of care. Lent reminds us that real love costs something. It is shaped by sacrifice, humility, and faithfulness. Together, these seasons invite us to consider not just how we feel love, but how we live it.

Scripture tells us, "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). This is not sentimental love or fleeting affection. It is a love that steps toward us in our brokenness and refuses to let us go. Lent draws us closer to that kind of love, a love revealed most clearly at the cross.

At Centenary United Methodist Church, this season invites us to reflect on how God's love is shaping our lives. How are we loving our neighbors? Where might God be calling us to let go, forgive, or begin again? As we move from Valentine's Day into Lent, may we remember that love is more than a feeling. It is a way of life, grounded in the grace of God and lived out each day in hope and faith.

*Pastor Patty Groot*



## Sunday Morning Services

Coffee and Doughnuts in the Fellowship Hall

9:00am

Sunday School for all ages at 9:30am

Worship at 10:30am

### **Join us online:**

Facebook Live @ *centenaryshelbyville*  
&

YouTube @ *Centenary UMC Shelbyville*

Two ways we try to keep everyone updated about  
our programs and events are by email and  
Facebook.

Please contact the church office at 502-633-4510  
with any questions or if you would like to be added  
to the email list.

**DEADLINE**

Deadline for the  
March 2026 Crosstalk  
is Wednesday, February 18, 2026

## Service Opportunities

- 2/4 Open Table (Dinner Church)
- Children's Area Sunday Mornings
- 2/17 Fat Tuesday Community Dinner



Lay Leader: Renee Clark

Council Chair: Heather Hood

Chair of SPRC: Holly Husband

Chair of Ops Team: Tracy Bertram

Chair of Trustees: Jim Sharp &  
Brandon Pratt

Chair of Finance: Jeff Gaither

Treasurer: Michael Watts

Children's Ministry Chair:

Amanda Ethington

Youth Ministry Chair: Jill Baker

## Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm  
and Friday 8:00am-11:00am (remotely)

Assistance days and hours are Tuesday & Thursday  
9:00am-1:00pm. Centenary offers financial  
assistance for rent or utilities and food assistance.

Assistance is available to all  
Shelby County residents

## STAFF

### **Pastor**

Patty Groot- [pgroot@shelbycumc.org](mailto:pgroot@shelbycumc.org)  
or 502-674-2048

### **Office Manager**

Amanda Shirley- 502-633-4510  
[ashirley@shelbycumc.org](mailto:ashirley@shelbycumc.org) or  
[centenaryumc@twc.com](mailto:centenaryumc@twc.com)

### **Children's Ministry Director**

Reesa Headley- [rheadley@shelbycumc.org](mailto:rheadley@shelbycumc.org)

### **Youth Director**

Tiffany Rainey- [trainey@shelbycumc.org](mailto:trainey@shelbycumc.org)

### **Music Director**

Damaris Nevitt- [dnevitt@shelbycumc.org](mailto:dnevitt@shelbycumc.org)

# FEBRUARY

# Happy Birthday

1st 4th Annual Chili Cook Off Following Worship  
4th CYF Worship 5:30pm  
Open Table (Dinner Church) 6:00pm  
Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm  
8th Safe Sanctuaries Training following worship  
9th Redwoods Meeting 10:00am  
Ops Team Meeting 6:30pm  
11th Choir Rehearsal 6:15pm  
16th Presidents Day-Office Closed  
17th Fat Tuesday Community Meal 6:00pm  
18th March 2026 Crosstalk Deadline  
Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm  
25th Choir Rehearsal 6:15pm

8 Diana Beaton  
9 Bob Ethington  
Ashley Chacon  
10 Raegan Stovall  
11 Charlotte Bond  
12 Ashley Ethington  
Cheryl Gibbons  
13 Tracy Gayle  
Bob Mattson  
14 Michael Watts  
20 Paul Gayle  
Nancy Angell  
24 Leigh Burnett  
Ronnie Vanarsdale  
25 Pauletta Stovall  
26 Mark Knowles  
28 Shirley Luttrell

**FEBRUARY 4TH**

## OPEN TABLE

"A warm meal and welcoming space for all. Optional singing and reflection are available for anyone interested."

Join us in our Dining Room at 6:00pm. Park in the parking lot next to the new courthouse and enter from Washington St.

**Everyone is welcome!**

### Schedule

Youth Worship 5:30pm

Dinner 6:00pm-6:25pm

Group Singing 6:25pm

Deep Dive 6:30pm

Children and Youth activities 6:30pm

**Centenary United Methodist Church**  
429 Main St.  
Shelbyville, KY, 40065

[WWW.CENTENARYSHELBYVILLE.COM](http://WWW.CENTENARYSHELBYVILLE.COM)

## Safe Sanctuary Training

To be able to work with our children, youth or at risk adults safe sanctuary training must be completed yearly.

Reesa Headley will be in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 worship on February 8th to conduct this training. If you have any questions, please reach out to Reesa Headley.

**FAT TUESDAY  
FREE COMMUNITY DINNER**

**FEB.17, 2026  
6PM**

**CENTENARY UMC  
429 MAIN ST  
SHELBYVILLE KY 40065**



Centenary United Methodist Church

# **Ash Wednesday Service**

**FEBRUARY 18TH  
6:30PM**



**Ladies and friends of CUMC....**

**The Redwoods are branching out!!**

**In March, a new Redwoods group will begin meeting at night.  
Please consider joining this group to “embrace opportunities  
to serve Christ “**

**Please call the church office if you are interested in this  
ministry.**

**Be on the lookout for more information about date and time.**

# Assistance Program Update

## **Centenary's Assistance Ministry: 2025 Impact Report**

In 2025, Centenary's Assistance Ministry continued to be a vital source of support and compassion for our neighbors in need. Through the generosity of donors, community partners, grantors, and volunteers, our church made a meaningful difference in thousands of lives throughout the year.

Through our food assistance program, Centenary distributed 1,915 bags of food, each representing a household. These bags helped feed 4,377 people in our community. To support this effort, Centenary spent \$7,731.19 on food assistance.

We were also blessed by the generosity of our community partners. In 2025, Centenary received:

- 28,853 pounds of food from Dare to Care, with an estimated value of \$45,299.21
- 9,814 pounds of food from Kroger, valued at \$12,223.12
- Approximately 300 pounds of ground beef from Farmers Feeding Families, valued at \$471.00

Altogether, Centenary received 38,967 pounds of donated food, with an estimated total value of \$57,993.33, using Dare to Care's valuation of \$1.71 per pound of donated food. In addition to food assistance, Centenary also provided direct financial assistance totaling \$14,961.32 in 2025. During the year, we received 157 applications for assistance and were able to assist 98 applications, supporting 229 people through financial help during times of hardship.

The Assistance Ministry was further strengthened through grant funding received in 2025, including:

- \$11,128.00 from Shelby County 100 Women Who Care
- \$2,000.00 from UMC Global Ministries related to SNAP challenges and the government shutdown
- \$5,000.00 from the Kentucky Annual Conference Good Samaritan Grant
- \$1,500.00 from Shelbyville Rotary

These grants provided a total of \$19,628.00 in funding for the Assistance Program and were essential in helping us meet growing community needs.

When food and financial assistance are considered together, Centenary directly impacted the lives of 4,606 people in 2025 through the Assistance Ministry.

We give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve and are deeply grateful to our volunteers, donors, grant partners, and community organizations who make this ministry possible. Through your generosity and faithfulness, Centenary continues to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

**Assistance is open to all Shelby County residents  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-1pm**

## Weekly Youth Bible Study

The Weekly Youth Bible Study is going strong and it's a great place for our young people to connect, build friendships, and dig into the Bible together. Come join the conversation!

- When: Every Sunday, 9:30 AM
- Where: The Youth Building, First Floor Classroom
- Ages: Middle and High School Students

## Monthly Open Table

Join us for our next Open Table! This is a relaxed, family-friendly worship experience where we share a meal, reflect on scripture, and engage in meaningful discussion around the table. We also offer age-focused lessons and activities for children and youth.

- When: The first Wednesday of every month, starting at 5:30 PM
- Where: The Fellowship Hall
- Next Date: Wednesday, February 4th, 2026
- Schedule:
  - o 5:30 PM: Youth Fellowship
  - o 6:00 PM: Dinner is Served
  - o 6:30 PM: Lessons/Meeting Time

## Upcoming Happenings & Youth Updates

**Chili Cookoff Fundraiser:** Due to weather, the new date is February 1st. Will our reigning champions defend their titles, or will a new chef seize the crown? Come for the heat, stay for the community!

**Prepare for Lent:** Ash Wednesday is approaching. Please stay tuned to church-wide details for our full Lenten schedule. To kick things off, join Open Table for a Fat Tuesday Dinner on February 17th!

**WinterJam 2026 Concert:** Save the Date Get ready for an unforgettable night of music! We're heading to the Yum! Center on March 7th for WinterJam. Mark your calendars now; you won't want to miss this.



# NEWSLETTER

We are continuing to learn the Bible through Superbook. This video series helps our children get a better understanding of God's word and how we use his teachings in our everyday life.

## DATES to Remember

Feb 15<sup>th</sup>

VDAY Party

Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>

Sticker Exchange



## FEBRUARY LESSONS

Having A Trusting Heart

Having A Respectful Heart

Having A Serving Heart

IN A FAMILY  
Love  
IS SPELLED  
T·I·M·E

We are looking for volunteers to help out during continued worship. If you would like to be a floater during a Sunday, please reach out to Reesa Headley.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND PROTECT YOU. MAY THE LORD SMILE ON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU. MAY THE LORD SHOW YOU HIS FAVOR AND GIVE YOU HIS PEACE.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO.  
LUKE 12:34

WE LOVE BECAUSE  
HE FIRST

*Loved us.*

1 John 4:19



## Bible Stories



- February 1 - The Good Samaritan
- February 8 - Love/Valentines Day
- February 15 - Man Through a Roof
- February 22 - Woman at the Well

FEBRUARY 2026



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