

NOVEMBER 2026

CROSSTALK

Centenary United Methodist Church

Over five weeks of Passing the Mantle, you wrote the names of people who shaped your faith, gathered at the Lord's Table, celebrated our young people, remembered times you stepped out before you felt ready, and made your commitments for the year ahead. Week after week, the altar rail filled with ribbons until it looked like a tapestry of grace. That rail told the story of who we are: a people who have received something precious and have chosen to pass it on.

Now, as November arrives, we give thanks. Thanksgiving is the natural next step after a season of stewardship. Gratitude looks back and sees the hands that carried us. Generosity looks forward and asks whose hands we will strengthen next.

And then comes Advent, beginning Sunday, November 29. Advent is a season of waiting, and it reminds us that God has always worked through faithful people passing faith along. Simeon waited in the temple for years, trusting a promise he had received. Mary and Joseph carried a promise none of them fully understood. The mantle of faith has never been handed to people who felt completely ready. It has been handed to people who were willing.

This Advent, we will explore that story through some of our favorite Christmas movies, starting with "You'll Shoot Your Eye Out," inspired by A Christmas Story. These beloved films are full of family, hope, and the joy of the season, and each one points us toward the greater story of God's love coming down at Bethlehem.

So bring your family. Bring a friend who loves these movies. Come ready to laugh, to remember, and to prepare your heart. Christ came to meet us right where we are, and He still does.
The mantle has been passed. Now let's go meet the One who gives it.

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.

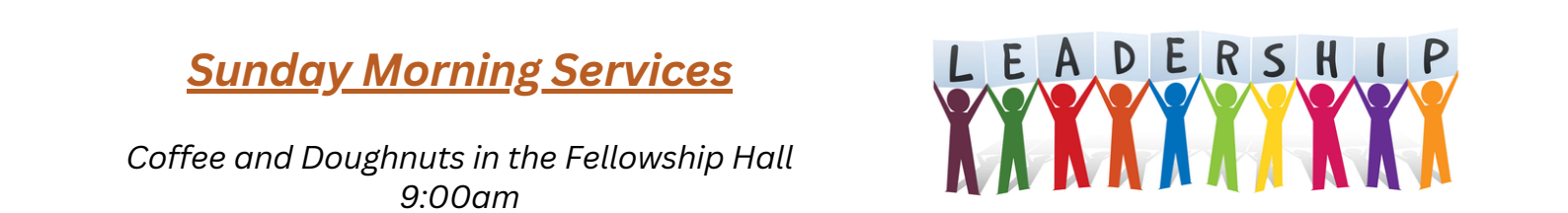
Office Hours

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

Assistance days and hours are:
Tuesdays Financial Assistance 9:00am-1:00pm.
Thursdays Food Assistance in the Fellwoship Hall 9:00am-1:00pm
Centenary offers financial assistance for rent or utilities and food assistance. Assistance is available to all Shelby County residents

Service Opportunities

- Children's Area Sunday Mornings
- Youth Bible Study Sunday Mornings
- Be a Greeter for Sunday Mornings
- Assist in unloading the Dare to Care truck Wednesdays
- Food assistance Thursdays 9am-1pm
- Lead a small group/Bible or book study
- Help with Open Table
- Join the choir or play music
- Join the Redwoods or the New Branch Group
- Sponsor a family from the giving tree
- Volunteer to help with Celebration of Lights



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



Do you Have a Prayer request you would like shared with the Prayer warroirs?
Send it to:
Prayer@shelbycumc.org



Deadline for the
December 2026 Crosstalk
is Wednesday November 18, 2026

STAFF

Pastor
Patty Groot- pgroot@shelbycumc.org or 502-674-2048

Office Manager
Amanda Shirley- 502-633-4510 ashirley@shelbycumc.org or centenary@shelbycumc.org

Children's Ministry Director
Reesa Headley- rheadley@shelbycumc.org

Youth Director
Tiffany Rainey- trainey@shelbycumc.org

NOVEMBER

3rd	Financial Assistance	9:00am-1:00pm
	ROTARY	11:30am-1:00pm
4th	CYF Meet-up	5:30pm
	Open Table	6:00pm
	Nominations Team Meeting	6:30pm
5th	Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting	8:00am-5:00pm
	Food Assistance	9:00am-1:00pm
	SOS Recovery Café	10:00am-2:00pm
7th	SOS Recovery Café	10:00am-2:00pm
9th	Redwoods Meeting	10:00am
10th	Financial Assistance	9:00am-1:00pm
	ROTARY	11:30am-1:00pm
	SOS Support Group	6:00pm
11th	Veterans Day Office Closed	
12th	Food Assistance	9:00am-1:00pm
	SOS Recovery Café	10:00am-2:00pm
14th	SOS Recovery Café	10:00am-2:00pm
	Celebration of Lights	3:00pm-6:00pm
16th	Ops Team Meeting	6:30pm
17th	Financial Assistance	9:00am-1:00pm
	ROTARY	11:30am-1:00pm
18th	December Crosstalk Deadline	
19th	Food Assistance	9:00am-1:00pm
	SOS Recovery Café	10:00am-2:00pm
21st	SOS Recovery Café	10:00am-2:00pm
23rd-25th	Office Closed	
26th	Thanksgiving Day	
28th	SOS Recovery Café	10:00am-2:00pm
29th	Little Fishers Advent Kick-off	Following Worship
30th	SPRC Meeting	6:30pm

Happy Birthday!

6	Judy Knowles
7	Kimberly Aitken
13	Tracy Bertram
15	Brandon Pratt
20	Callie Aitken
24	Natalie Hickman
27	Mary Lou Madigan
	Clyde Tharp
29	Heather Hood
	Cruz Isa





Assistance Program Update: Serving Our Neighbors and Preparing for Christmas

September was another busy month for Centenary's Assistance Program! Through our Food Assistance ministry, we served 151 households, providing food for 363 individuals. Our Financial Assistance ministry received 12 requests and was able to assist 8 households, providing $1,822.74 toward essential expenses such as utilities and housing.

As we close out the first three quarters of 2026, we can see just how much this ministry continues to impact our community. From **January through September, we distributed food to 1,430 households, helping feed 3,280 individuals.** During that same period, **we received 117 requests for financial assistance and were able to assist 76 households, providing $17,210.52** in direct financial assistance. Overall, our Assistance Program has spent **$23,089.08** through September, made possible through the generosity of those who support this ministry.

Looking Ahead: Christmas Giving Tree and Meal Distribution

As the Christmas season approaches, we are preparing to bring back our **Christmas Giving Tree**, which will be displayed in the sanctuary throughout November. This year, our goal is to provide **75 Christmas meal bags** to families in our community.

Each bag will include a ham or turkey breast roast, traditional holiday sides, and dessert. We are also expanding the bags this year to include items for Christmas morning breakfast! We have already begun collecting supplies and have purchased pancake mix and syrup to help families enjoy a special breakfast together.

Our Christmas meal distribution will take place on **Thursday, December 17th**, during our regular Food Assistance hours of 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. This will also be our final food distribution of the year, as the following two Thursdays fall on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.



Knowing that families will need additional food during those two weeks, we are planning something extra. Along with the Christmas meals, **we will be doubling our regular pantry bags** and including additional items such as cooking oil for brownie mix and shelf-stable milk. Our hope is to help families stretch their food supplies during the holiday break. While other community food pantries will remain available, we want to do what we can to help those who depend on our ministry.

Many Hands Make Light Work!

Preparing and distributing this much food will take some extra helping hands!
On **Sunday, December 13th**, following worship, we will assemble the Christmas meal bags and additional pantry bags in preparation for distribution.

We will also need **extra volunteers on Thursday, December 17th, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** to help with the larger-than-usual distribution, especially assisting families with carrying their bags. More information about volunteer opportunities will be shared as we get closer.

Whether you support this ministry through donations, volunteering, prayer, or simply spreading the word, you are helping Centenary make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Thank you for continuing to help us Love God, Love People, and Make Disciples through acts of compassion and service. Together, we can help make this Christmas season a little brighter for families in Shelby County.



Fincancial assistance is Tuesdays 9am-1pm in the office.

Food assistance is Thursdays 9am-1pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The assistance program is open to all Shelby County residents!

CYF YOUTH CORNER

Upcoming Happenings & Youth Updates

Jeep Invasion: Last month, our team was out at the Jeep Invasion on September 26th. A huge thank you to the youth and volunteers who helped set up the duck pond and warmly greeted community families right on the church lawn. If you have any questions or would like to get involved in future events, please see Tiffany!







Pat Barrett Concert: On October 3rd, our youth group hit the road for an incredible night of worship! Joining a crowd of fellow worshipers for the I've Got A Fire Tour, we sang along to powerful acoustic sets and moving worship songs. It was an unforgettable evening of music, faith, and fellowship.







Rake N Run: Join us on Tuesday, November 3rd (no school!) at 1:00 PM for our annual Rake 'N Run outreach! We'll meet at the church before heading out to rake yards for those in our community needing an extra hand. Stick around for snacks and refreshments!

Light Up Shelby: On Saturday, November 14th, the youth building will be open to the community once again! We will be providing device charging stations, clean restrooms, and a fun drink station. Whether you'd like to volunteer or simply stop by to hang out, your presence is more than appreciated!

treehouse newsletter

NOVEMBER 2026



what we've learned

We are still learning and growing with our series called Friends and Heroes! This engaging curriculum takes children on a journey through both the Old and New Testaments, bringing the stories of the Bible to life through easy-to-follow, animated videos. As we explore these stories together, children will discover the people, lessons, and timeless truths of God's Word while growing in their faith and learning how to apply biblical principles to their everyday lives.



reminders

We would like to deccorate our giant tree in the Treehouse with pictures of the children. Please email me with your child's photo so they can be added to the wall.



upcoming events

- Nov. 1: No Continued Worship Children will remain with their families for Communion
- Nov. 14: S'more Event
- Dec 13: In class Christmas Party


Happy Thanksgiving
LITTLE FISHERS
NURSERY CLASS
November 1 Beatitudes
November 8 God Finds Us
November 15 Pray to God
November 22 Thanksgiving
November 29 Gratitude


Join us after worship on Sunday, Nov 29 for a Kickoff to Advent event hosted by the Little Fishers nursery! There will be light refreshments and Christmas crafts available for kids and adults.
LITTLE FISHERS
NURSERY CLASS