

MAY 2026

CROSSTALK

Centenary United Methodist Church

The Kentucky Derby happens every first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs. Two minutes, that's all it takes, but those two minutes don't tell the whole story.

A Derby horse trains for months before race day with early morning workouts. Slow builds in distance and speed. It's conditioning work nobody sees. By the time the horse gets to the starting gate, the real work is already done. The race itself? That's just showing what's already been built. I think that's a picture of faith.

We want the big moments the dramatic conversions, the answered prayers everyone can see. We want the two minutes of thunder but most of our faith happens in the quiet. Moments like we find in morning prayer, reading Scripture when you'd rather scroll your phone, choosing kindness when you're tired, forgiving when it costs you something. When nobody's watching, nobody's cheering, it's just you and God. And that's where the race is actually won.

Hebrews 12:1 says, "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Not speed, perseverance. Not flash, endurance. The Derby horses that win aren't always the fastest out of the gate, they're the ones trained to finish strong. Your faithfulness might not get applause, your obedience might not trend on social media, but God sees it. Every choice, every prayer, every quiet act of trust. You're not running someone else's race, you're running yours. And the finish line isn't two minutes away, it's a lifetime away.

So keep going, keep training, keep showing up on the mornings nobody sees because the race isn't won at the starting gate. It's won in the daily faithfulness nobody's watching.

Pastor Patty Groot

***"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." -
2 Timothy 4:7***



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 Fellowship Hall
9:am-1:00pm

Centenary offers financial assistance for rent or utilities and food assistance. Assistance is available to all Shelby County residents

Service Opportunities

- Join the Worship Band Monday nights at 6pm
- Children's Area Sunday Mornings
- Sing in the Choir
- Be a Greeter for Sunday Mornings
- Aldersgate Work Day May 23rd



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



Deadline for the
June 2026 Crosstalk
is Wednesday May 20, 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

Music Director

Damaris Nevitt- dnevitt@shelbycumc.org



- 3rd Mission Trip Application Deadline
- 4th Redwoods New Branch Meeting 6:00pm
- Worship Band Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 6th Worship Band Rehearsal 1:15pm
- Youth Meet-Up 5:30pm
- Open Table Community Dinner 6:00pm
- Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm
- 11th Redwoods Meeting 10:00am
- Worship Band Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 12th SOS Support Group Meeting 6:00pm
- 13th Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm
- 17th Safe Sanctuaries Training Following Worship
- 18th Mission Trip Deposit Due
- Worship Band Rehearsal 6:00pm
- Ops Team Meeting 6:30pm
- 15th June Crosstalk Deadline
- Worship Band Rehearsal 1:15pm
- Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 23rd Aldersgate Workday 7:00am-6:00pm
- 24th Mission Trip Meeting 12:00pm
- 25th Church Office Closed- Memorial Day
- 26th SOS Support Group Meeting 6:00pm
- SPRC Meeting 6:30pm
- 27th Worship Band Rehearsal 1:15pm
- Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 28th Missions Team Meeting 5:00pm
- 31st Annual Conference Begins

- 1 Sue Covert
- 6 Nola Ann Ethington
- 11 Lois Newton
- 15 William (Shug) Hickman
- 17 Bonnie Burks Gray
- 20 Aspen Ethington
- 27 Elisa Rice
- 28 Troy Hood
- Ashton Stovall
- Reesa Headley
- Jim Sharp

MISSION OFFERING:
ALDRSGATE LODGE REBUILD

This year's Annual Conference Mission Offering will support the rebuilding of the lodge at Aldersgate Camp, which was lost to a devastating fire last fall. For generations, Aldersgate has been a place where lives are shaped in faith, where young people hear God's call, and where community is built through shared experiences.

The lodge serves as the heart of camp life. It is where campers gather for meals, worship, learning, and fellowship. Rebuilding this space is essential to restoring the rhythm of daily life at camp and strengthening its ability to form disciples across the Kentucky Conference.

Your gift will help restore not just a building, but a place where relationships are formed, leaders are developed, and faith takes root. As we gather for Annual Conference, we invite you to give generously and be part of what God is rebuilding at Aldersgate.

Please have donations in by Sunday May 24th so that our delegates can take the offering with them to Annual Conference.

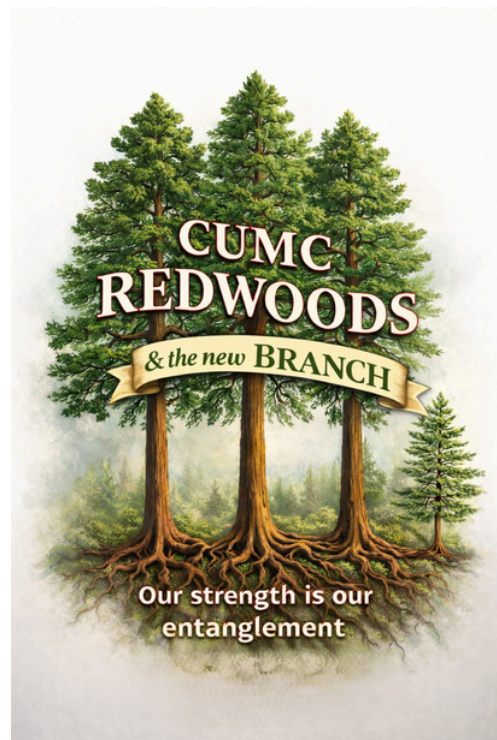
Redwoods & the New Branch: A Shared Vision for the Future

The Redwoods ladies group is excited to gather with the new, younger “Branch” group for a special time of connection, planning, and visioning. This joint meeting will be an opportunity to look ahead together, share ideas, and begin shaping the future of these ministries.

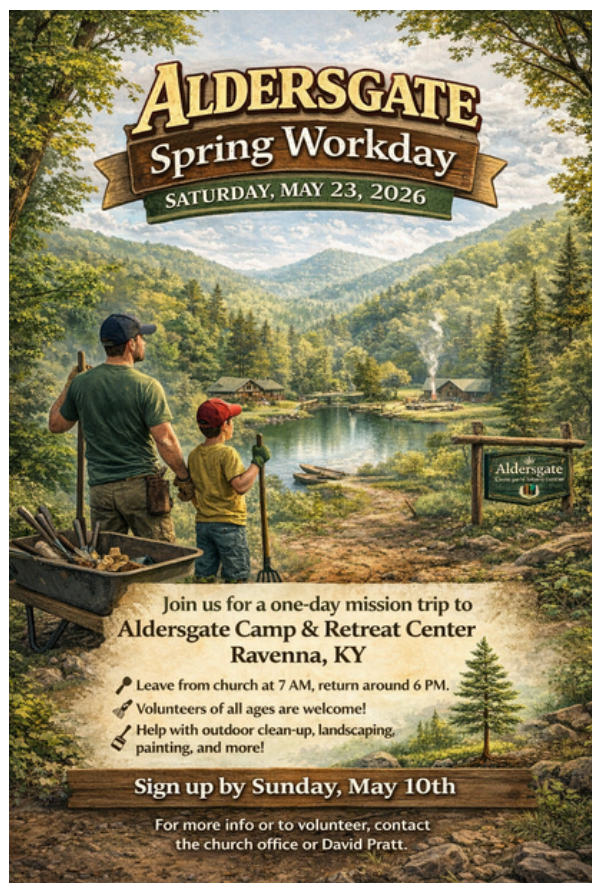
Together, the groups will discuss goals, dream about upcoming opportunities, and make plans for projects over the next several months. This is a meaningful step in strengthening the bond between generations and growing a vibrant, supportive community for all women of the church.

The meeting will take place on Monday, May 4th at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

All ladies are warmly invited to attend, whether you are already part of the Redwoods, the New Branch, or simply interested in getting involved. Your voice, ideas, and presence are an important part of what God is building through these groups. We look forward to a wonderful evening of fellowship, inspiration, and shared purpose!



Aldersgate Spring Workday, Saturday May 23, 2026



Our Mission Team is sponsoring a one-day mission trip, and you are asked to join us as we travel to Aldersgate Camp & Retreat Center in Ravenna, KY. We will leave the church parking lot at 7am and should return around 6pm.

We will be working alongside other teams from the KY Conference to assist the camp as they prepare the grounds for another incredible season of camps and retreats! Volunteers of all ages are invited to spend the day serving together through projects like cleaning cabins, landscaping, painting, trail work, and general camp improvements. It's a great way to enjoy the outdoors, give back to a place that impacts so many lives, and connect with the Aldersgate community. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided, and no special skills are required, just bring your willingness to help and a love for camp!

The last day to sign-up for this mission trip is Sunday, May 10. For more information or to volunteer for this trip contact the church office or David Pratt.

Centenary Community Support Update – March & First Quarter 2026

As we reflect on the work accomplished in March and throughout the first quarter of the year, we are grateful for the continued opportunity to serve our community in meaningful ways.

During the month of March, Centenary distributed 228 bags of food, supporting 479 individuals in our community. Included in these efforts were 64 Easter dinner bags, helping families celebrate the holiday with dignity and joy. Of those, 38 were distributed on March 27th, our first distribution day, and the remaining 26 were shared the following week during assistance hours, which also coincided with Holy Week.

In addition to food distribution, we received 21 requests for financial assistance. Of those:

- 10 households were assisted
- 1 individual did not return to complete the process
- 2 requests could not be processed due to account-related issues
- 5 applicants were either not eligible or did not complete financial coaching
- 2 requests came after the monthly budget had been exhausted

March also marked the conclusion of the first quarter of 2026, providing an opportunity to look at the broader impact of our ministry. Over the first three months of the year:

- We distributed 536 bags of food, each representing a household
- These efforts supported 1,192 individuals

For financial assistance:

- 41 applications were received
- 25 households were assisted
- 5 applications were incomplete due to missing documentation
- 5 applicants were not eligible at the time of request
- 6 individuals did not complete financial coaching

This assistance totaled \$4,403.41, directly impacting 51 individuals.

At times, we may wonder if we are doing enough, or if we are serving in the right way. Yet, time and again, God reminds us that this work matters. While not everyone who walks through our doors expresses gratitude, there are many in our community who genuinely need a helping hand to regain stability. Often, it is in the most unexpected moments that we see the true impact of this ministry.

We remain committed to serving with compassion, stewardship, and faith—trusting that God is working through each act of care and support.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of this vital ministry.

[Exciting Updates to Our Assistance Program](#)

We are excited to share some important updates to our Assistance Program as we continue working to better serve our community.

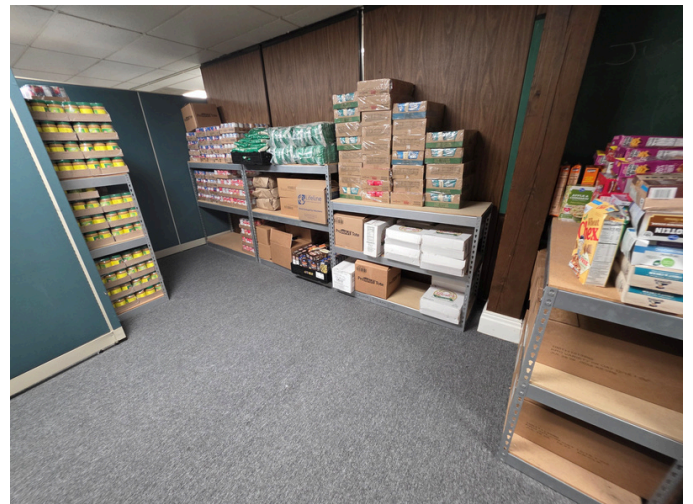
Moving forward, we will be offering assistance on two designated days each week. **Financial assistance** will be available on **Tuesdays from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM** in the **church office**. **Food assistance** will take place on **Thursdays from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM** in the **Fellowship Hall**, just outside the food storage room.

In preparation for these changes, we spent time reorganizing and improving our food storage area—and what a difference it has made! The space is now more efficient, accessible, and better equipped to serve those who come through our doors. This update will help our volunteers work more smoothly and allow us to better meet the needs of our community.

We are grateful for everyone who helped make these improvements possible and for those who continue to serve faithfully in this ministry.

As we move into this new structure, we look forward to serving with greater clarity, organization, and care.

(Photos below highlight the updated food storage space and setup!)



CYF YOUTH CORNER

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.

- Where: Front Lawn
- Next Date: Wednesday May 6th, 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

Holy Week Reflections: Our journey through Holy Week was a powerful season of community and reflection. From the warm fellowship of our Maundy Thursday Open Table dinner to the poignant Good Friday service, each moment prepared us for the joy of Easter morning. It was truly special to celebrate the Resurrection together.

The Glow-Up: Youth Egg Hunt: The "neon battleground" lived up to the hype! Following our Easter services, the youth took over for an epic glow-in-the-dark scramble that proved you're never too old for an egg hunt. With blacklights blazing and prizes on the line, the energy was electric. A huge thanks to everyone who came out to make our first neon hunt a glowing success!

Confirmation Class: Our Confirmands will meet at the Youth Building on April 26th at 3:00 PM for class. Mentors will join the group for dinner and a dedicated time of discussion and reflection. We are looking forward to Confirmation Sunday on May 24th, followed by a celebratory reception immediately after the service!

Aldersgate Work Day: Roll up your sleeves and join us for a day of service at Aldersgate on Saturday, May 23! We'll be tackling various projects to help maintain and beautify the grounds, and we'd love your hands on deck. To keep everyone fueled, both breakfast and lunch will be provided. Whether you're a skilled handyman or just willing to help, please reach out to me or the Missions Team if you're interested in joining or have any questions.

Summer Camp at Aldersgate & Loucon: Registration is now open! These camps offer a fantastic opportunity for our youth to grow in faith, explore the outdoors, and build lasting friendships in a beautiful camp setting. If your family is interested, please head directly to the Aldersgate and Loucon websites for specific dates, age group details, and registration info.



TREEHOUSE NEWSLETTER

 MAY 

Continued Worship

During Continued worship, our children are learning the Bible through The Chosen Adventures series. The Chosen Adventures is an animated adventure comedy series that follows nine-year-old Abby and best friend Joshua as they navigate life in the ancient city of Capernaum. When the children encounter a wise craftsman and teacher, Jesus of Nazareth, he helps them change the way they see the world and they help spread his influence far and wide.



Upcoming events

May 31
Celebrating the end of
school during worship



June 22-26
6pm-8pm
Vacation Bible School

Volunteer

As our class continues to grow, we are asking for volunteers to come down during continued worship to assist in helping our children learn and grow in Christ. If you would be willing to come down one Sunday, please reach out.



What we're learning

17th

Not what I Imagined

24th

Little Caesars

31st

Vengeance is whose?

Reminders

We will not have continued worship on May 3 due to communion Sunday and May 10 due to Mother's Day. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Reesa Headley.

A Heart for Our Children's Ministry

By Reesa Headley, Children's Director

Hi Church Family,

I'd love to take a moment to share a little about my heart for children's ministry—and some of what happens behind the scenes to make it all possible.

For me, this isn't just a role—it's a calling. I believe every child deserves to be seen, known, and deeply loved. One of the greatest joys in this ministry is building relationships and watching children light up when they realize they are valued and have a safe place to belong.

Children's ministry is about so much more than lessons and activities. It's about creating an environment where faith can grow and where seeds are planted that can last a lifetime.

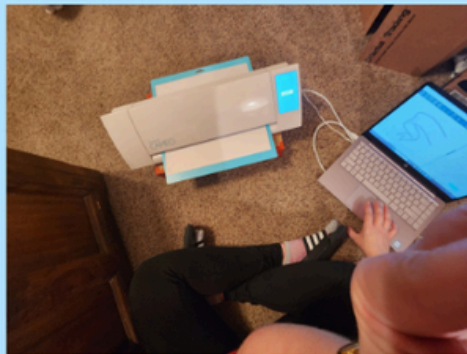
What you see on Sundays and at special events is just part of the story. Behind the scenes, there is prayer, planning, and preparation that goes into everything we do—from weekly Children's Moments, Continued Worship, and Sunday School, to caring for our nursery and its needs.

Events like Vacation Bible School and the Easter Egg Hunt are created with intention and love, with the goal of making every child feel welcomed and connected.

This ministry wouldn't be possible without dedicated volunteers. It takes caring, dependable hearts to help create a space where children can truly thrive.

So I invite you to consider—do you have a willing heart? Would you like to be part of helping our children grow in faith?

With gratitude,
Reesa Headley
Children's Director (serving for 6 years)





May 3 Abraham & Sarah
 May 10 Hannah & Samuel
 May 17 Queen Esther
 May 24 Deborah
 May 31 The Lord is My Shepherd



Happy Mother's Day



Join us this summer for camp-themed ministry!



We're bringing the fun of church camp to Centenary without the need for travel and overnight bags!!! There will be crafts, lessons, and songs following this theme every Sunday in June & July during our regular Sunday School & Worship time AND during the Open Table dinners (dates to be announced). This offer is open to all children birth to age 5!



The final day of Camp Wannastay (July 26th) we will also be hosting a luncheon after worship service to celebrate the end of camp! Everyone is invited to stay for food and fellowship while we display some of the hard work our campers did!

If you would like to volunteer to help with the luncheon, please let Mrs. Staci know by June 14th by visiting the nursery or contacting via email at StaciBryan@yahoo.com

If you would like to donate any supplies our wishlist can be found by scanning the QR code or typing in the following URL: bit.ly/littlefishers





FIFTH & MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 38
SHELBYVILLE, KENTUCKY 40065
(502) 633-4510
Email: centenaryumc@twc.com
www.Centenaryshelbyville.com