

JULY 2026

CROSSTALK

Centenary United Methodist Church

As fireworks light up the sky this Fourth of July, it's worth pausing to ask what freedom really means. We celebrate the courage of those who fought for our nation's independence, and we are right to be grateful for liberties we often take for granted, and for the men and women, past and present, who have served to protect them.

But Scripture invites us into a freedom that goes even deeper. Paul writes that Christ has set us free, and we are to stand firm rather than fall back into slavery (Galatians 5:1). The freedom we celebrate on July 4th is a gift; the freedom Christ offers is eternal. One liberates us from a king on the other side of an ocean. The other liberates us from sin, shame, and fear.

It's a good thing to hold both freedoms with gratitude. As citizens, we get to vote, worship openly, and speak our minds without fear. As children of God, we get something even greater; full access to the Father, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and a hope no government, election, or headline can take away (2 Corinthians 3:17).

This Independence Day, let's celebrate well. Gather with family, grill something delicious, watch the fireworks, but let's also remember where our deepest freedom comes from. Pray for our country and its leaders. Thank a veteran. And rest in the truth that whatever happens this week, you are already free in Christ, and the Son makes us free indeed (John 8:36).

Happy Fourth of July, Centenary family. May we always be grateful citizens of two kingdoms and faithful witnesses to the One who truly sets us free.

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 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

- Children's Area Sunday Mornings
- Be a Greeter for Sunday Mornings
- Food assistance Thursdays 9am-1pm
- Lead a small group



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

Deadline for the
August 2026 Crosstalk
is Wednesday July 15, 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

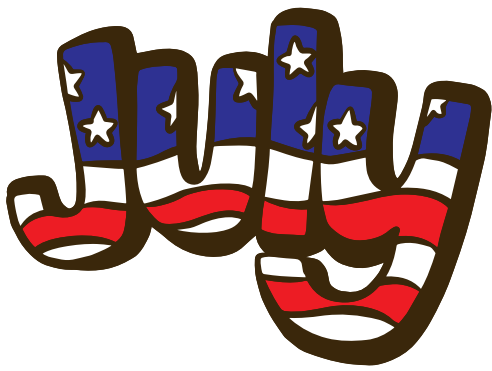
Reesa Headley- rheadley@shelbycumc.org

Youth Director

Tiffany Rainey- trainey@shelbycumc.org

Music Director

Damaris Nevitt-dnevitt@shelbycumc.org



- 1st 250th Birthday Celebration Carnival 6:00pm
- 6th Trustees Meeting 5:30pm
- New Redwoods Branch Meeting 6:00pm
- 13th Redwoods Meeting 10:00am
- 14th SOS Support Group Meeting 6:00pm
- 15th July Crosstalk Deadline
- 20th Ops Team Meeting 6:30pm
- 27th SPRC Meeting 6:30pm
- 28th SOS Support Group Meeting 6:00pm

- 2 Lenora Headley
- 3 Kate Raisor
- 8 Arlene Yount
- 9 Emily Henderson
- 10 Sabrina Pratt
- Margaret Tuttle
- 14 Lynda Tharp
- Gary Baker
- 20 Savannah Stovall
- Cathy Hobart
- 21 Tom Angell
- 23 Jim Cleveland
- Brianna Isa
- 24 Candice Isa
- 25 Emily Stovall
- 28 Amanda Shirley
- 30 Jillian Gayle
- Suzanne Gayle



Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with Centenary UMC!

Join us on Wednesday, July 1st at 6:00 PM on the front lawn as Centenary UMC celebrates America's 250th Birthday with a fun-filled community carnival! Enjoy games, food, prizes, and activities for all ages as we gather together to celebrate this historic milestone.

Everyone is welcome, so invite your family, friends, and neighbors for an evening of fellowship, laughter, and patriotic fun. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Dessert Wheel Donations Needed!

We'll be featuring a fun Dessert Wheel game at our upcoming event and are looking for individually portioned desserts to use as prizes.

If you would like to donate or make desserts, please contact Jill Baker.

Thank you for helping make this event a sweet success!



Celebrating Nearly 17 Years of Ramp Ministry Service

Centenary UMC is grateful to celebrate nearly 17 years of faithful service through our Ramp Ministry. Since August 2009, David Pratt has faithfully led this vital outreach, helping provide safe and accessible ramps for individuals facing mobility challenges.

These ramps do much more than improve access—they increase independence, enhance quality of life, and allow people the freedom to safely leave their homes and remain connected to their communities.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to David for his years of leadership, dedication, and servant-hearted ministry. As he passes the reins to Thomas Gaither and Adam Rainey, we look forward to the continued impact of this important mission. Please join us in thanking David for his service and supporting Thomas and Adam as they lead the Ramp Ministry into its next chapter.



November 2015—Oldest Picture Available



David Pratt- June 2022



Ramp Build- June 2026

[Assistance Program Update](#)

In May, Centenary served 122 households through our food assistance ministry, helping feed 283 individuals in our community. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue meeting practical needs and offering care to our neighbors.

During the month, we also received 7 applications for financial assistance. Of those, we were able to assist 3 households with a total of \$534.14. Of the applications we were not able to complete, 2 applicants did not return with the necessary paperwork, 1 was ineligible, and 1 received assistance elsewhere.

May also marked the beginning of our new split assistance schedule. Financial assistance is now offered on Tuesdays in the office, while food assistance is offered on Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall. Moving food assistance to the Fellowship Hall has already made a positive difference. With no stairs, we are better able to serve neighbors with mobility issues. The larger space also gives people more room to wait in line and allows us to spread out the food more easily.

Another blessing of this new schedule is that, since food deliveries arrive on Wednesdays and distribution now takes place only on Thursdays, we no longer have to determine how much food to hold back for Tuesday. This allows us to distribute more food each week. Many neighbors are now leaving with nearly as much food as they would after a trip to the grocery store.

Thank you to everyone who supports this ministry through donations, prayers, and volunteer time. Your generosity helps Centenary continue to offer food, assistance, and hope to our community.



**Financial 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

Weekly Youth Bible Study

Youth Bible Study: Come join us! Our Youth meet each Sunday morning at 9:30am for a fun, judgment-free space where you can ask big questions and have in-depth conversations about faith. Every week, we dive into scripture to see how it relates to your real life, pairing our lessons with engaging games, crafts, or activities. Recently, we played an "Origin Story" game to explore the mystery of the Trinity, ran through an energetic "Inclusion Circle" to see how Jesus welcomes everyone, and packed hypothetical bags for Antarctica to learn how Psalm 116 helps us strip away life's noise and pack our spiritual suitcases with gratitude. Whether you want to share your thoughts or just hang out, there is always a spot in the circle for you!



Youth Involvement:

Beyond our Sunday morning discussions, our youth are a vibrant and essential part of our church and community life! You will find them actively serving as acolytes, operating the equipment as AV Sound Booth Techs, and sharing their incredible musical and artistic talents during our worship services. They are also deeply committed to serving others, whether they are volunteering with the Ramp Build team, helping distribute communion, assisting in the nursery, or leading the next generation as youth VBS helpers. For youth looking for a role, we still have open spots to help clean the sanctuary after worship or serve as a music room librarian. We are so proud of our students for putting their faith into action, and we ask our congregation to please keep encouraging and supporting our youth for their incredible involvement!



Summer Fun:

We are excited about our upcoming Open Table gathering, where our youth will be helping run the game booths. Additionally, we will be hosting a booth at ReadyFest! To prepare, we are currently collecting pencils to hand out alongside our youth program materials. We are looking into planning a special summer outing for our youth! So stay tuned for more details on this exciting adventure .

[To get added to the Youth Text Thread for the most current news contact Tiffany Rainey at \[trainey@shelbycumc.org\]\(mailto:trainey@shelbycumc.org\)](#)

TREEHOUSE NEWSLETTER



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.



What we're learning



12th

Lonely But Not Alone

19th

You Heard It Here First, Part 1

26th

You Heard It Here First, Part 2

Reminders

We will not have continued worship on July 5th due to communion Sunday. There will be coloring pages and fidgets in the front pew for kids. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Reesa Headley.

Upcoming events

JULY 25
READY FEST
at Shelbyville Conference
& Welcome Center
10 am-2 pm

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.



**"Set an example
for others
by what you say
and do."**

1 Timothy 4:12 (CEV)



Our lessons are camp themed this summer!
Our curriculum will be based on KidSpring
Children's Ministry Camp Wannastay
videos.

Our lessons for July include :
"Leaders Do What's Right"
"Leaders Celebrate Others"
"Leaders Work Hard"
"Jesus Is My Leader"

Thank you to the wonderful people that have
donated supplies and time. Your contributions
have made this camp and luncheon possible!

Please join us after worship on July 26 in the
fellowship hall for a luncheon hosted by our Little
Fishers to celebrate the end of the summer program!



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