



Crosstalk

March 2022

*Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

We live in a culture bent on definitions of a good life as continuous upward mobility—climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we can post to ever-more-likable social media accounts. We are told that we can get there by a never-ending stream of self-help books and spiritual leaders who promise great rewards if we only do, believe, or say “the right thing”. I was recently watching a reality TV show in which one set of contestants said that they simply visualize what they want and then they get it.

Perhaps I’m bad at visualizing, but from my experience life doesn’t happen this way. Most times we are not moving upward but trying to repair the rung we’ve just slipped from. We have to pick ourselves up over and over again, admitting more and more each time that we are not perfect. In the meantime, we see the seemingly successful lives of others and wonder what we are doing wrong.

Jesus has a different scorecard for success than we do. Instead of calls for upward mobility, quick fixes, or self-help, Jesus says that there is blessing, there is goodness, there is grace right where we are. Jesus says blessed are the poor, blessed are those who mourn, blessed are the meek, blessed are those who the world would never think of as being blessed. We don’t have to race to the top in the Kingdom of God, instead we find God’s blessing we find grace right here and that is good enough.

So, this Lent, what if we stopped trying to climb the ladder and instead started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? I hope that you will join us for our Lenten teaching series “Good Enough,” as we seek to affirm a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our “good enough” lives.

Grace + peace,
Pastor Trent

A Blessing for a Joyfully Mediocre Journey

*"Blessed are you who realize there is simply not enough—time, money, resources.
Blessed are you who are tired of pretending that raw effort is the secret to perfection.
It's not. And you know that now.
Blessed are you who need a gentle reminder that even now, even today,
God is here, and somehow, that is good enough."¹*

¹ from Good Enough: 40-ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.



Sunday Morning Services

8:48am- Contemporary
10:00am- Sunday School
11:00am- Traditional

Virtual Information

Facebook Live at
<https://www.facebook.com/centenaryshelbyville>
&
YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFQ7gRUEwC_TavSK9UvqiMaQ



Lay Leader & Chair of SPRC - Amy Waggener
Co-Chairs of Trustees –
Rena George and Doug Butler
Chair of Finance - Candice Isa
Children's Ministry Chair - Amanda Ethington
Youth Ministry Chair - Nick Headley



We keep everyone updated about our programs and events by email and Facebook. Please contact the church office with any questions or if you would like to be added to the email list.

Church office hours are Monday-Friday
8:00am-2:00pm.

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

Lead Pastor

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Deadline for the April 2022 Crosstalk will be
Wednesday, March 16th, 2022



1 st	Fat Tuesday	
2 nd	Noon Ash Wednesday Service	12:00pm
	Ash Wednesday Service	6:30pm
6 th	CYF-Worship	6:30pm
9 th	Children's Programming	6:30pm
	Bible Study	6:30pm
13 th	CYF	6:30pm
14 th	Mountain Mission Pick-up	
	Redwoods	10:00am
	Ops Team Meeting	6:30pm
16 th	Deadline for April Crosstalk	
	Children's Programming	6:30pm
	Bible Study	6:30pm
20 th	CYF	6:30pm
23 rd	Children's Programming	6:30pm
	Bible Study	6:30pm
25 th	Children's Movie Night	6:30pm
27 th	CYF	6:30pm

- 2 Sandra Murphree
- 4 Gentry Gaither
- Abigail Alas
- 6 Bill Scott
- Vance Burnett
- 9 Mark Gibbons
- Elizabeth Igleheart
- 13 Kay Burney
- 18 Annie Gardner
- 19 Trisha Hobbs
- Julie Nalley
- 20 Myra Hardesty
- 23 Pam Phillips
- Meaghan Pratt
- 24 Kaden Schooler
- Tristen Schooler
- 25 Tanya Reeder
- 27 Diana Beaton
- Zachery Krauss
- 28 Robin Chandler Cook
- 29 William Whisman
- 30 Abigail (Burks) Siemen
- 31 Amy Waggener



"Witnesses For God"-Lunch Bunch

Ms. Eleanor Warford



When I became a Staff Member, I was asked to go with the ladies' group for lunch occasionally. Later the group became known as the "The Ladies Lunch Bunch" who met monthly and traveled to different places within a radius of 50 miles. We visited over 50 different places including the Governor's Mansion. There were 15 or 16 ladies always ready to and eat. We had some fun times.

The past 5 or 6 years, the men have been invited to go also. The selection of places has been left up to me and I hunt for places of interest and good food. Last year we did not go on many trips because of the Covid Virus. However, talking and asking people what they would like to do this year we have decided to have outside events whenever we can. "Picnics" So, we will start witnessing at Eleanor and Karen Warford's home on Thursday, April 14th at 11:30. Bring your own lunch, drink, and chair. Chips and desserts will be furnished. If it rains another day will be scheduled. The Bible says - "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be there also. So come join us for a good time of fun, food, and relaxation. Masks are optional.

Terry and I are so very grateful for our church family. You welcomed us with open arms when we moved here. Your love, support and prayers have carried us through the last several months. Thank you for your prayers for my sisters, Ngaire Kuper and Marilyn Mills. Thank you for the many phone calls and cards. Your prayers wrapped us in love and gives us strength in each new day. God Bless Centenary United Methodist Church. Barb and Terry Hansen





Picking up on March 14th

Donations can be brought to the church Starting March 1st. Please stack donations neatly in space across from the elevator. If you need to drop off during the week, please call the office to arrange a time.

March Madness UNDIES SUNDAYS

1. Purchase packaged underwear
2. Slam dunk it into the **red** bin or the **blue** bin
3. See which team wins donation drive
4. Donations are distributed to those in need





NOTES FROM KAY



Easter is just around the corner! It will be a joyful celebration of life, resurrection, and the ultimate victory. That celebration is heightened when we have first observed the forty days of Lent and the events of Holy Week preceding Easter Sunday. We have a deeper understanding and experience of resurrection when we intentionally walk through these days with an open heart. We rejoice more exuberantly when we have first felt the anguish of the wilderness, betrayal, and crucifixion of Jesus. We connect with the hope and joy of Easter more solidly when we have drawn nearer to Christ through our Lenten journey.

The late author Rachel Held Evans wrote, “**Lent is about so much more than just ‘giving something up.’** It’s about repentance, preparation, reflection, discipline, self-denial, and reevaluation.” She suggested:

10 Questions to Ask Yourself

- 1. When I wake up on Resurrection Sunday morning, how will I be different?*
- 2. From what do I need to repent?*
- 3. Is there one particular sin in my life that repeatedly gets in the way of loving God with my whole heart or loving my neighbor as myself? How do I address that sin over the next 40 days?*
- 4. Is there anyone in my life from whom I need to ask forgiveness or pursue reconciliation?*
- 5. What distractions most commonly interfere with my time in prayer/Scripture?*
- 6. What spiritual discipline do I need to improve upon or want to try?*
- 7. What are some things in my life that I tell myself I need but I don’t?*
- 8. Why am I giving this particular thing up? How does giving it up draw me closer to God and prepare me for Easter?*
- 9. What am I going to tell myself when self-denial gets hard?*
- 10. Is it necessary/helpful for me to share the nature my fast with others or should I keep it private?*

We don’t have to walk through the valley of Lent alone. Join us each Sunday for worship. Plan to attend Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services. Participate in one of our Bible studies. Meet with a Sunday School class. Reach out to encourage one another through calls, texts, and cards. Pray with and for each other. God gave us one another; take care of your church family and let us care for you. We will help one another along the journey. Then on Easter, we will meet at the empty tomb to proclaim together joyfully, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!”



Assistance Program

By Amanda Shirley

In January, Centenary received 31 applications for financial assistance. After reviewing the applications and vetting each one we were able to assist 22 of the applicants, affecting 53 people. Total amount spent on financial assistance last month was \$3,755.07. In January we received \$2,205.00 in donations from our congregation. It is very clear that the need for help in our community keeps growing. Centenary will continue to assist people with rent or utility assistance, as long as we the funds to do so.



Food assistance in January saw an increase as well. Centenary handed out 61 bags of food feeding 147 individuals in our community. As I write this article, we are only 6 weeks into the year. Centenary has already handed out 105 bags of food total as of February 10th. You read that right 105 bags in 6 weeks! That means that in just the first two weeks of February we handed out 44 bags. At this same time last year, we had handed out 62 bags of food. The need for food seems to be growing with the rise in food prices. Even with more food assistance places the need keeps growing. “The food insecurity rate in Shelby County is 10.3% of the total population, and the child food insecurity rate is 12.8%.”- From the Dare to Care Website. So far this year Centenary has received

3,322lbs of food from Dare to Care. Total estimated value of this food is \$4,949.60. The value to the people that receive it is immeasurable. We have helped feed 249 of our neighbors as of February 10th. I am so thankful that we are able to help our community through this program.

If you are looking for ways to help this program continue to serve our community, you can in a few ways. First, I ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this ministry by donation funds to the assistance program. Second, is to give of your time. Each month a different small group helps prep the food bags that are handed out. We can always use more people to help make bags as the need is evidently growing. Third you can help unload the Dare to care orders that come in when extra help is needed. If, you have any questions about the ministry or ways to help, please contact me in the office.



Assistance days are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-1pm.

For financial assistance applicants need to bring:

- Photo ID
- Proof of Income
- Lease or current disconnect notice for electric, water or gas
- Financial Assistance is available once in a 12-month time frame. Meaning if you get assistance in January 2022, you would not eligible again until February 2023.
- Referrals to other agencies and programs are available

For Food assistance applicants just need an ID

Assistance is available to all Shelby County residents!

Redwoods Happily Sharing

The Love Valentine's Day 2022

It was a Redwoods plan in the making since Autumn 2021. Then Lois Bradford took the lead to make it happen. God set the calendar millennials before and planted the seed so Centenary could show its love and appreciation for others in February. Redwoods' first meeting in 2022 was scheduled for February 14. How neat the group's love gift would be delivered on Valentine's Day.

Redwoods chose to deliver a brunch to the frontline workers (morning shift at least) in our local hospital, UL Health – Shelbyville. Lois and her team of Annette Stephens, Barbara Scott, Jane Bailey, Sydney Lawson and Trisha Hobbs made delicious

breakfast casseroles, a fruit salad and added assorted pastries, creating a feast for the over 30 nurses, aides, technicians, administrators, and doctors. The chefs also made extra for a Redwoods Valentine brunch to honor Centenary's staff.

Wearing their reds, pinks and whites, the Redwoods' members had fun sharing their love for the Lord and church family. Members were so thankful Pastor Trent was able to join them for the brunch shared after the food was delivered to UL Health. Following a devotional by Geri Roberts and a business meeting, the Redwoods stuffed 69 food bags for Centenary's Assistance Ministry.

In the past year Redwoods has served residents of three assisted living facilities including Colonial Hall Manor on three different occasions, students at Northside Child Development Center twice, families seeking food assistance periodically, donated money to the ALC Pregnancy Center and served Centenary with special projects. The next Redwoods meeting is March 14th, 10 AM, Fellowship Hall. Come join us, please.



*Photos top to bottom: Lois Bradford and Jane Bailey prepare food for delivery to UL Health on *Valentine's Day. Breakfast Casseroles ready for the oven.

*Food and cards loaded for delivery to the hospital.

*Redwoods stuffed 69 food

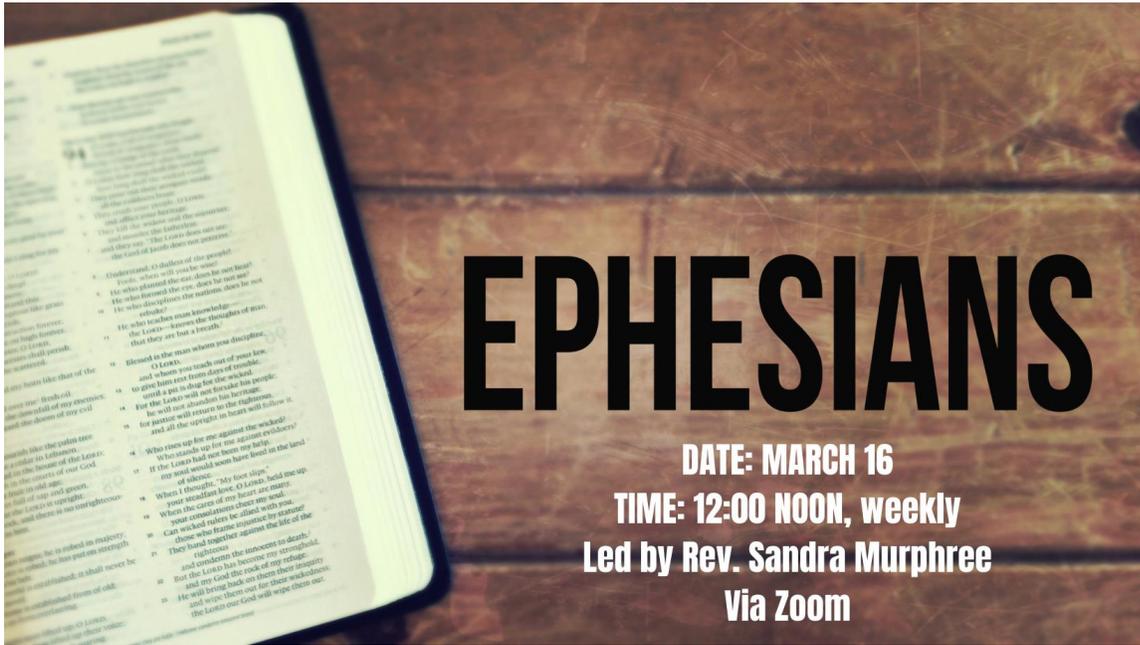


Redwoods Celebrated Valentine's Day in Service & Fun

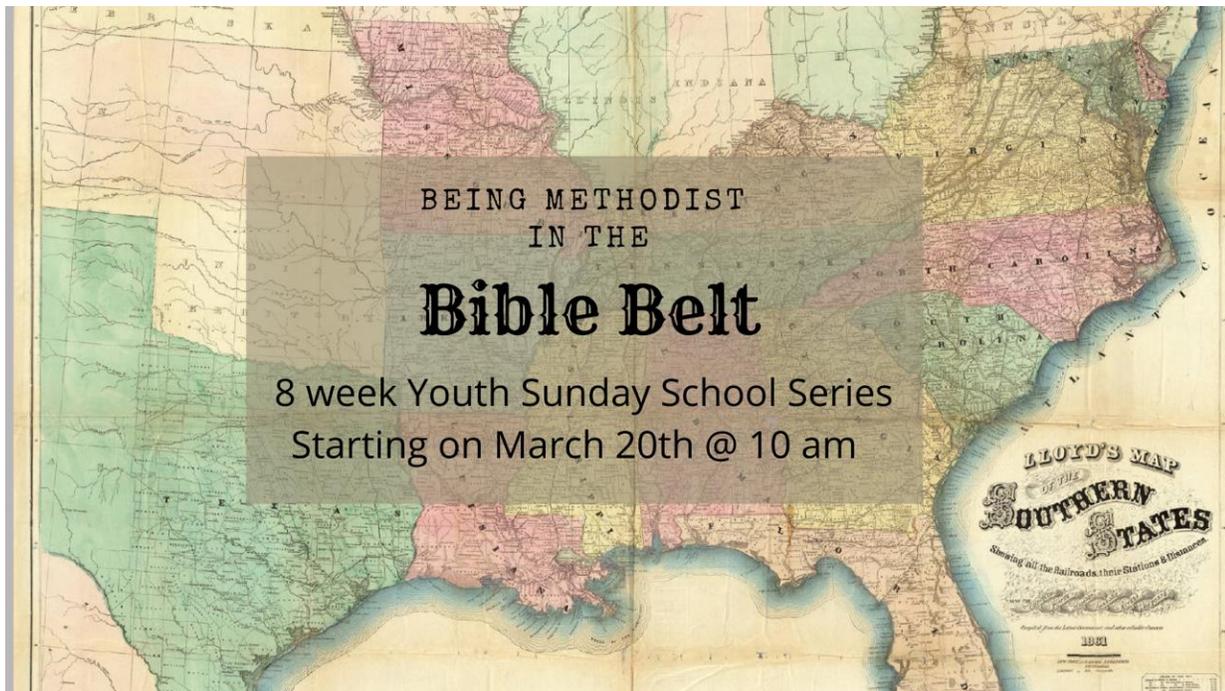


*Photos Top-bottom, left-right. Diana Beaton decorated the tables for V-Day Brunch.
*Redwoods broke bread together.
*Redwoods' members Bonnie Burks Gray & Geri Roberts labeled truffle bags. *Sisters Brenda Snawder & Pauletta Stovall helped Trisha Hobbs store food bags under tables.





COMING SOON! Zoom Bible Study on *The Queen of the Epistles: Ephesians*. Paul's Letter to the Ephesian church gives us a great view of the Big Picture of Christianity as he introduces one theme after another within early Christian thought: God's Plan for the world, Jesus and who we are in him, the means of salvation, Christian behavior, marriage and the family, and how Believers in Christ can stand firm in the face of opposition. This circular letter, meant to be read in all the churches in Asia Minor, is relevant for the church today as we continue to ask: What is our place in the cosmic order? Where do we really belong? How do we fit into the grand scheme of things? What does life really mean? How will it all come out? If you would like to participate in this study, please call the church for the Zoom address.



Children's Ministry



Our Wednesday Night Programming has started. Our kids are having fun with our 5-week series of To Mars and Beyond. They are learning the verse from Ephesians 3:20. "Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us." To Mars and Beyond invites Voyagers of all ages on a space travel adventure to explore where God's power can take them! Along the journey, Voyagers discover a new realm of possibilities as they reach for the stars and encounter the limitless power and love of God! If your kids have not had a chance to stop in and join us, make sure they don't miss out.

Glory to God,
who is able to do
far beyond all
that we could ask
or imagine by his
power at work
within us!
Ephesians 3:20





The Children's Team has decided to try something new this year. Since our numbers are down in our Sunday School class due to the pandemic, we have decided to move our Sunday School class to the 11 o'clock worship service. Kids will be invited down after the Children's Moment video and will either be instructed into the large Treehouse class area or the Children's Chapel which is located past the nursery. Because this is a new change and we want to make sure that our children are safe, we are asking for any volunteers to be floaters once a month or every other month. This ensures that we are following the safe sanctuary guidelines and providing an opportunity for our children to learn and grow together. If you would like to volunteer to be a floater, please contact Reesa Headley or our church office.

In March, we are planning a Movie Night in the Sanctuary March 25th 6:30 p.m. The movie will be announced March 4th. We will provide snacks and pizza before the movie down in the Fellowship Hall. We hope that you get to join us and kick off our new year with our 1st Children's Event. If you have any questions, please contact Reesa Headley or the Church office.

