



OCTOBER 2026

CROSSTALK

Centenary United Methodist Church

When you join Centenary, you say yes to five simple words: prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. These words feel ordinary. They are not. They carry centuries of thought behind them.

John Wesley never wrote a membership vow. He built something different. He gathered people into small groups called class meetings and asked them one question over and over. How is it with your soul? Wesley cared less about a formal pledge and more about a daily walk with God, tested in community.

Our modern vows grew out of that same instinct. The Methodist Church needed a way to describe what committed discipleship looks like in practice. Early Methodists promised to support the church with their prayers, their presence, their gifts, and their service. In 2008, the United Methodist Church added a fifth vow: witness. Leaders realized that faith without a voice stays hidden. They wanted every member to know that sharing Christ with others belongs at the center of church life, not the edge of it.

So why do we still say these words today? Because a church runs on more than good intentions. A congregation needs people who show up, who give generously, who serve without waiting to be asked, and who talk about their faith outside these walls. The vow puts words to a commitment that might otherwise stay vague.

Think of it like a wedding vow. Love exists before the ceremony. But the spoken promise changes something. It creates accountability. It gives two people, or in our case a whole church family, a shared standard to return to when life gets hard.

Your membership vow works the same way. On a Sunday morning when you would rather sleep in, the vow calls you back to presence. When the offering plate passes and your bank account feels tight, the vow calls you back to gifts. When a coworker asks why you go to church, the vow calls you back to witness.

Taking this vow does not add a new obligation to your life. It simply names what is already true and invites you to stand before this church family and claim it out loud. Membership tells us we can count on you, and it tells you that we count you as one of our own.

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
- 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
- Join the Redwoods or the New Branch Group
- Help with downtown Trick or Treating
- 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

Deadline for the
November 2026 Crosstalk
is Wednesday October 21, 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

October



5 th	Redwoods New Branch Meeting	6:00pm
7 th	CYF meet-up	5:30pm
	Open Table Fall Festival	6:00pm
12 th	Columbus Day Office Closed	
	Redwoods Meeting	10:00am
13 th	SOS Support Group Meeting	6:00pm
19 th	Ops Team Meeting	6:30pm
21 st	October Crosstalk Deadline	
	Choir	6:00pm
24 th	Main St Trick or Treating	12:00-2:00pm
	Youth Bonfire	5:00pm-7:00pm
25 th	KY Charge Conference	2:00pm
26 th	Nominations Team meeting	6:30pm
27 th	SOS Support Group Meeting	6:00pm
28 th	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm

1	Cinda Compton
	Karen Warford
4	Rena George
6	Marty Hickman
8	Bonnie Coffee
12	Aiden Nelson
	Fernando Isa
18	Jane Bailey
19	Simon Kovach
24	Dianne Frazier
25	Sterling Headley



What Are You Passing On?

Fall reminds us that seasons change. In the life of the church, there are seasons too. Throughout Centenary's Passing the Mantle series, we are reflecting on the people who helped shape our faith and the ways we are now helping shape the faith of others.

Maybe someone invited you to church, taught your Sunday School class, showed you how to serve, or simply showed up when you needed them. Often, the people who have the greatest influence on our faith never realize the impact they made.

Now, each of us has something to pass on.

We do that when we welcome a new face, serve a meal, teach a child, give generously, pray for someone, or offer our time and talents wherever they are needed.

As we prepare for Commitment **Sunday on October 25**, consider not only what you are committing to Centenary today, but what you hope to help carry forward for tomorrow.

Who passed the mantle to you? And what will you pass on?



Our October Open Table is getting a fall makeover! Join us Wednesday, October 7 at 6:00 PM for a Fall Festival on the front lawn, weather permitting.

We'll enjoy chili, hot dogs, popcorn and cotton candy, along with lawn games, pumpkin cookie decorating, crafts, and plenty of fall fun. As always, Open Table is free and open to everyone—a chance to share a meal, meet our neighbors, and enjoy time together as a community.

Church family, we need your help! Volunteers are needed to serve food and treats, help with cookies and crafts, assist with activities, and welcome our guests. We're also looking for straw bales and other fall decorations we can borrow to create a festive setting and a fun fall photo area.

If you can volunteer or have fall décor to share, please contact Jill Baker. Come help us create an evening of good food, good friends, and a stronger community!

Assistance Program Update

Our Assistance Program continues to provide much-needed support to our neighbors throughout Shelby County. During August, we distributed 159 bags of food, serving 369 individuals.

Since moving Food Assistance to the Fellowship Hall and offering distribution on Thursdays, we continue to see new families as well as families who have visited us in the past but have not needed assistance regularly. We are also seeing the positive impact of having a more accessible location. Individuals with mobility challenges are able to enter the Fellowship Hall more easily, receive their food, and be served with greater comfort and dignity.

Food Assistance is available to all Shelby County residents on Thursdays from 9:00 AM–1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There is no income requirement. Individuals simply need to bring a photo ID or another document showing a Shelby County address.

During August, we also received eight applications for Financial Assistance. We were able to assist six households, providing a total of \$2,660.42 in financial assistance. The two applications we were unable to complete were from individuals who did not return with the required documentation.

Financial Assistance is available on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM–1:00 PM through the church office. Applicants must be Shelby County residents and provide the required documentation so that their request can be reviewed.

If you know someone in our community who is struggling with food insecurity or facing a financial crisis, please encourage them to contact the church office or come during the appropriate assistance hours.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support this ministry through donations, volunteering, and prayer. Through your generosity, Centenary is able to offer practical help and a welcoming place to our neighbors when they need it most.

**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!

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. Whether you want to share your thoughts or just hang out, there is always a spot in the circle for you!

Upcoming Happenings & Youth Updates

Jeep Invasion: Get ready for the upcoming Jeep Invasion on September 26th from 2-5pm! We are currently looking for youth and youth parent volunteers to help set up the duck pond and warmly greet community families right on the church lawn. Please see Tiffany for more details and to sign up!

Youth Bonfire: Grab your favorite hoodie! Our upcoming Youth Bonfire is the perfect chance to kick back, catch up with friends, and enjoy the ultimate crisp fall weather. We'll have hot dogs, endless s'mores supplies, and plenty of lawn games lined up. Mark your calendars for October 24 from 5-7pm at the Baker's Residence—you won't want to miss it!



2025's Bonfire



Confirmation Class: Did you miss confirmation class last spring and find yourself not wanting to wait another full year to take the next step? See Tiffany today about scheduling a confirmation or baptism class to get started on your faith journey!



Youth Registration: Now that everyone is settled into the routine of the new school year, it's time to dive into a great season together. We have a packed calendar of youth events coming your way, and we'll be updating it regularly as dates are finalized. To make sure you stay in the loop, please register each student for the new year—even those already in our youth group—using the QR code below. We are officially moving to a new communication system called Breeze; by registering, you will be automatically added to our updated text and email threads, ensuring you don't miss any important announcements all year long!

October Treehouse News

Continued Worship Learning

We started a new series last month called Friends and Heros. This curriculum goes through the Old and New Testament with easy to follow videos.

Volunteers Needed

It is such a blessing to see the children's area growing with more and more new faces. However, we need responsible volunteers to come down during Sunday School hours and Continued Worship. If you would like to volunteer for a Sunday, please reach out.

Reminders

Please remember that we will not have Continued Worship on October 5th due to Communion Sunday. Coloring books and fidgets are available in the front left pew. Also, if your child is 2nd grade or older and would like to learn how to be an acolyte, please reach out to Reesa Headley for further details.



Upcoming Community Events

October 24th 12pm-2pm:
Downtown Trick or Treat
November 14th 3pm-8pm:
Celebration of Lights
S'more Event

Attention

We would like to decorate our large tree in our classroom with the faces of our children. Please email Reesa Headley with a photo of your child to be placed on the wall.





Fruit of the Spirit
Love Joy Peace Patience
Kindness Goodness
Faithfulness Gentleness
Self-Control

OCTOBER



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