



AUGUST 2026

CROSSTALK

Centenary United Methodist Church

What It Means to Be Told You Shouldn't Be Here

I read the Southern Baptist Convention voted to ban women from serving as senior pastors. I wasn't surprised. But I sat with it anyway, and here's what I realized: I was sad in a way I haven't let myself be in years. Because I've spent so long making peace with being second-class, I forgot to be angry about it.

A young woman called me last year. She felt called to ministry but was terrified, not of the work, of the cost. Of spending her life fighting for space in rooms that don't want her. I told her yes, do it. But I also told her the truth: it will cost you. Some churches won't hire you. You'll preach sermons nobody remembers while a male colleague preaches the same thing and gets a book deal. You'll stand in the pulpit knowing half the people in front of you think you shouldn't be there.

She asked: is it worth it?

I said yes. But I said it like I was still convincing myself.

The SBC vote doesn't change my calling. But it does something quieter: it tells every woman considering ministry that the largest evangelical denomination in America has officially decided you're not supposed to be here. And if they decide it, how many others are quietly agreeing?

I've made peace with being a second-class pastor. But peace and acceptance are different things. I've accepted it because I had to. Because the alternative was giving up something God called me to.

Here's what I want to say to anyone considering ministry, especially women:

Your calling is real. It doesn't come from any denomination or vote. It comes from God. And God doesn't take back callings based on institutional decisions.

But go in with your eyes open. Know what you're choosing. Don't let anyone convince you that second-class status is actually humble service. It's not. It's injustice.

If you answer the call despite everything, find other women doing it. Find the ones who understand. This work will break you some days, and you'll need people who get why.

I'm here. I'm standing in this pulpit, barefoot and tired and defiant. I'm here because God called me and because I'm stubborn and because the church needs women's voices, even when it doesn't think it does.

And I'm here because Centenary has never once made me feel like a woman pastor. You've made me feel like a pastor. That distinction matters more than you know. In a world where institutions fight over whether women belong at all, you simply decided I did. That grace has kept me going on the days when other churches and other denominations said otherwise.

If you're called: come. We need you.

Just know what you're walking into. And know that there are churches like Centenary out there, churches brave enough to say yes when everyone else is saying no.

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

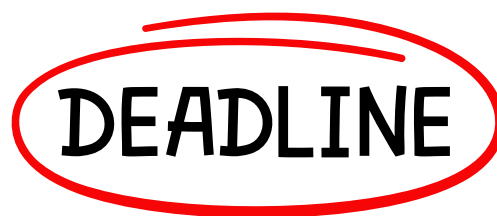
Centenary offers financial assistance for rent or
utilities and food assistance. Assistance is available
to all Shelby County residents

Service Opportunities

- Children's Area Sunday Mornings
- Youth Bible Study Sunday Mornings
- Be a Greeter for Sunday Mornings
- 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



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
September 2026 Crosstalk
is Wednesday August 19, 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



3 rd	New Redwoods Branch Meeting	6:00pm
5 th	Open Table	6:00pm
9 th	The Noblemen & Blessing of the Backpacks	
10 th	Redwoods Meeting	10:00am
11 th	SOS Support Group Meeting	6:00pm
12 th	SCPS First Day of School	
17 th	Ops Team Meeting	6:30pm
19 th	September Crosstalk Deadline	
	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
25 th	SOS Support Group Meeting	6:00pm
26 th	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm

1	Annette Stephens
2	Brenda Snawder
9	Ken Beaton
	Jill Baker
12	Graham Waggener
16	Tiffany Rainey
21	Tony Husband
22	Brenna Bertram
	Terry Coots
23	Don Gayle
30	Diane Gerlach



Welcome to an exciting Fall season here at Centenary! We will be resuming our weekly Choir rehearsals on Wednesday, August 19th at 6 pm. We will also be looking at having our Worship Band meet before or after Choir to get ready for Sunday worship.

Choir is for everyone and you are invited to join us. A church can have a vital music ministry if its choir focuses on four key functions —

1. leading and enlivening congregational singing
2. singing music that the congregation cannot
3. serving as a small group within the church for faith formation, and
4. singing music that glorifies God and edifies the congregation.

Come check us out. Don't worry if you don't read music, we will be learning the basics of music reading and vocal technique every week. You will improve your musicality and widen your social circle. These next couple of months will have us not only prepare for Sunday worship but also for Celebration of Lights in November and Christmas music in December. Come be a part of a group that is here to lift up the name of Jesus at every opportunity!

Soli Deo Gloria!
Damaris

Assistance Program Update

Our Assistance Ministry continues to be a vital outreach to our Shelby County neighbors, providing both food and financial assistance to families experiencing difficult times.

June Highlights

In June, we received **15 applications for financial assistance** and were able to assist **11 households**, providing a total of **\$2,000.00** in emergency financial assistance to help with rent and utility needs.

Our **Food Assistance Ministry** served **141 households**, helping feed **341 individuals** throughout the month.

One encouraging trend we continue to see is the positive impact of relocating our food distribution to the Fellowship Hall in May. The new location has made our ministry much more accessible, and our numbers have steadily increased. We are welcoming many first-time visitors, including several individuals who use power scooters or would have struggled with the stairs in our previous location. By removing this barrier, we have been able to serve a broader demographic within our community and ensure that more of our neighbors can access the assistance they need with dignity and ease.

Mid-Year 2026 Update

As we reach the midpoint of 2026, we are grateful for the opportunity to continue serving our community.

Financial Assistance

- **82** applications received
- **53** households assisted
- **\$11,316.08** provided in emergency financial assistance

Food Assistance

- **953** households served
- **2,171** individuals fed
- **\$2,669.03** for supplies, additional food and personal care and cleaning supplies

These numbers represent more than statistics—they represent families facing unexpected hardships, seniors living on fixed incomes, individuals recovering from illness, and parents working hard to provide for their children.

None of this ministry would be possible without the faithful generosity of our church family, community partners, volunteers, and supporters. Your donations of food, financial gifts, and time allow Centenary to continue being the hands and feet of Christ to those in need.

Thank you for your continued prayers, generosity, and support as together we serve our neighbors with compassion, dignity, and hope.

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

VBS Helpers: We are so grateful for our wonderful youth volunteers who made this year's VBS such a success! These students did it all—they taught music, mastered our dance routines, managed the craft station, kept the fun going during rec time, and especially the brave teen who volunteered to be a dragon. Their willingness to jump in, clean up, and serve with a smile made a lasting impact on our kids. Thank you for your time, your talent, and your incredible spirit of service!

Summer Youth Outing: We are heading to The Parklands at Broad Run for an exciting group hike along the Limestone Gorge Trail on July 24th! We will meet at the church at 9:00 AM. Please remember to bring a sack lunch, plenty of water, and wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes. We look forward to a great day of fresh air and fellowship! Check out this link to register: [Register Here!](#)

Back to School Already? It feels like summer just began, but the new school year is right around the corner! We have a packed calendar of youth events coming your way, and we will be updating it 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!



TREEHOUSE NEWSLETTER

 AUG 

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

9th

Father Knows Bass

16th

Lonely But Not Alone

23rd

You Heard It Here First

Upcoming events



August 9th
Blessing of the Backpacks

October 24 12pm-2pm
Downtown Trick or Treat

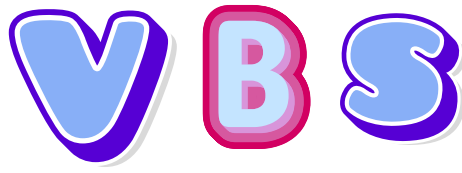
Volunteer

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.



Reminders

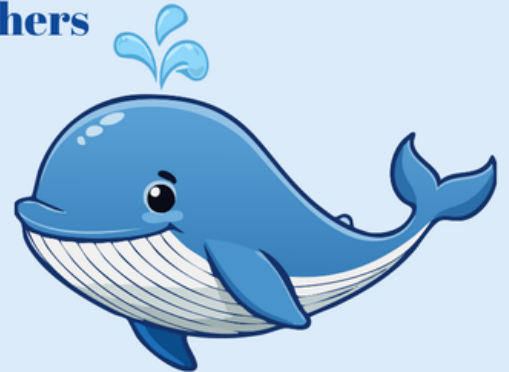
We will not have continued worship on August 2nd due to communion Sunday. There will be coloring pages and fidgets in the front pew for kids. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Reesa Headley.



AUGUST



August 2 **Creation**
August 9 **Jonah**
August 16 **Jacob & Esau**
August 23 **Joseph & His Brothers**
August 30 **Armor of God**



AUGUST 5TH
OPEN TABLE

A warm meal and welcoming space for all.
Optional singing and reflection are available
for anyone interested.

Dinner will be at 6:00pm on the front lawn
weather permitting or in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is welcome!

Centenary United Methodist Church
429 Main St.
Shelbyville, KY, 40065

WWW.CENTENARYSHELBYVILLE.COM



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(502) 633-4510
Email: centenaryumc@twc.com
w www.Centenaryshelbyville.com

The Noblemen



August 9, 2026
10:30a.m. During Worship
Centenary United Methodist Church
429 Main St Shelbyville KY 40065

We will be doing a Blessing of the Backpacks as
children and teachers head back to school.

A Love Offering will be collected

