

MARCH 2026

CROSSTALK

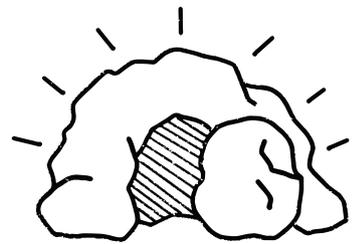
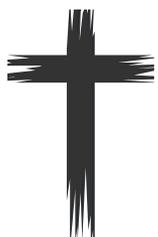
Centenary United Methodist Church

If you listen to the conversations around town, March has a clear identity. It's tournament season. Brackets are printed and debated. Someone is certain this is the year their team makes a run. By the second weekend, most of those predictions are already crumpled in the trash. There are parades and green shirts. Families compare spring break plans. The weather gets checked as if it owes us an answer. We look for signs that winter is finally letting go. March runs on scoreboards and schedules. It's about who's advancing and who's going home. The Church, however, is already somewhere else.

Ash Wednesday came and went in February. The ashes have been washed from our foreheads, but Lent did not end with that service. Now we are in the middle of it. The hymns sound different. The Scripture readings are heavier. The road in front of us leads, step by step, toward Jerusalem and a cross. While the world is asking who will survive the next round, we are asking what in us needs to die. While others track wins and losses, we take stock of our habits, our grudges, our quiet compromises. While the culture pushes forward at full speed, Lent asks us to slow down long enough to tell the truth about ourselves. We can live in both rhythms. Many of us will check scores on Sunday afternoon and bow our heads in worship on Sunday morning. We can enjoy a good game and still take sin seriously. That is not hypocrisy. That is life in the real world. But we do have to decide which story is shaping us. By early April, the tournament will be over. A net will be cut down. Most of us will struggle to remember who we picked to win. The headlines will move on. We will not have moved on.

We will be standing at the edge of Holy Week. We will hear again the story of betrayal, denial, and a cross. And on April 5, we will gather to proclaim resurrection. March, then, is not just a month of noise and motion. For the Church, it is the stretch of road between ashes and empty tombs. It is where habits are examined, forgiveness is practiced, and faith is tested in ordinary days. In March, the world cheers. In March, the Church prepares. So fill out the bracket if you want. Wear the green. Step outside and welcome the longer evenings. But do not miss the deeper work happening among us. We are not just turning pages on a calendar. We are walking with Christ toward a cross, trusting that beyond it waits life.

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.



Deadline for the
April 2026 Crosstalk
is Wednesday March 18, 2026

Service Opportunities

- 3/4- Help with the Open Table community meal
- Children's Area Sunday Mornings
- 3/7- Youth outing to Winter Jam
- Donate Candy and Prizes for the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.
- Sing in the Choir
- Join the New Branch of the Redwoods
- Donate bars of soap for the Touched Twice clinic



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

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm
and Friday 8:00am-11:00am (remotely)

Assistance days and hours are Tuesday & Thursday
9:00am-1:00pm.

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

STAFF

Pastor

Patty Groot- pgroot@shelbycumc.org
or 502-674-2048

Office Manager

Amanda Shirley- 502-633-4510
ashirley@shelbycumc.org or
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Children's Ministry Director

Reesa Headley- rheadley@shelbycumc.org

Youth Director

Tiffany Rainey- trainey@shelbycumc.org

Music Director

Damaris Nevitt-dnevitt@shelbycumc.org

MARCH

- 2nd Grief Group led by Richard Nevitt 6:00pm
New Branch of the Redwoods first meeting 7:00pm
- 4th CYF Meet-up 5:30pm
Open Table 6:00pm
Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm
- 7th CYF Outing- Winter Jam 2026 3:00pm
- 9th Mountain Mission Pick-up
Redwoods Meeting 10:00am
- 10th SOS for Addictions Grief Support Group 6:00pm
- 11th Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 16th Ops Team Meeting 6:30pm
- 18th April 2026 Crosstalk Deadline
Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 24th SOS for Addictions Grief Support Group 6:00pm
- 25th Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 29th Palm Sunday
- 30th - April 3rd SCPS Spring Break
- 30th SPRC Meeting 6:30pm

Happy Birthday

- 2 Sandra Murphree
- 4 Abigail Alas
- 6 Bill Scott
Vance Burnett
- 9 Mark Gibbons
- 19 Trisha Hobbs
- 20 Myra Hardesty
- 23 Pam Phillips
Meaghan Pratt
- 24 Kaden Schooler
Tristen Schooler
- 25 Tanya Reeder
- 31 Amy Waggener

Mountain Mission Pick-up

March 9, 2026

Donations can be dropped off starting **March 4th** in the **Youth building**.
Go in the door with the ramp and please stack items neatly.



MARCH 4TH

OPEN TABLE

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

Join us in our Dining Room at 6:00pm. Park in the parking lot next to the new courthouse and enter from Washington St.

Everyone is welcome!

- Menu:
- Baked Pasta
 - Garlic Bread
 - Salad
 - Dessert

Schedule

Youth Worship 5:30pm

Dinner 6:00pm-6:25pm

Group Singing 6:25pm

Deep Dive 6:30pm

Children and Youth activities 6:30pm

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

WWW.CENTENARYSHELBYVILLE.COM

The Redwoods Are Branching Out!

The Redwoods women's ministry at Centenary UMC is excited to announce the launch of a new evening "Branch" of the Redwoods—created especially to welcome and connect the next generation of ladies who have a heart for service and a love of Christian fellowship.

This new group will focus on building meaningful relationships, growing in faith, and finding hands-on ways to serve Christ together. Whether you are already involved at Centenary or simply looking for a welcoming community of like-minded women, you are invited to be part of this new ministry. You do not need to attend or be a member of Centenary UMC to join.

The first meeting will be held on Monday, March 2nd at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall at Centenary UMC. Come see what this new Branch is all about and help us grow something special together!



New Grief Support Group at Centenary UMC

Centenary United Methodist Church is pleased to announce the launch of a new Grief Support Group led by Richard Dean Nevitt, MSW, CS. This group is designed to provide a safe, caring, and supportive space for individuals who are experiencing the pain of loss.

Grief can feel overwhelming and isolating, but no one has to walk this journey alone. Through guided conversation, compassionate listening, and shared experiences, participants will find encouragement, understanding, and hope as they navigate their personal grief.

The group will meet Monday nights at 6:00 PM in the Youth Building, beginning March 2nd, and will run for six weeks.

This group is open to anyone in the community who is grieving a loss. Whether your loss is recent or in the past, you are welcome. For more information, please contact the church office.



Easter Offering

Red Bird Christian School – Cool the School

Centenary UMC's Easter Offering this year will support the Cool the School initiative at Red Bird Christian School.

For years, classrooms have relied on window units that struggle to keep up during the hot early weeks of school, sometimes leading to early dismissals. Thanks to gifts already received through Red Bird Mission, a new central chiller has been ordered. Approximately \$10,000 is still needed to complete installation before warmer weather arrives.

Your Easter offering will help provide a cooler, safer, and more comfortable learning environment for students and teachers.

Please prayerfully consider giving to make a lasting difference.

Centenary Assistance Program Update – Serving Our Neighbors with Compassion

Centenary's Assistance Program continues to be an important ministry of care and support for our community, offering both financial and food assistance to Shelby County residents who are facing difficult circumstances.

In January, we received nine applications for financial assistance and were able to fulfill six of those requests, providing a total of \$1,080.97 in assistance, impacting 18 individuals. The remaining three applications were either deemed not eligible or were incomplete due to missing paperwork. Centenary offers financial assistance specifically for rent or necessary utilities. After an individual has received assistance twice, they are referred to financial coaching and must complete a class before additional assistance can be considered. While no one has completed a class in the three-plus years of offering this requirement, we recently attempted to make classes more accessible by scheduling them in person during regular assistance hours. Unfortunately, no one attended the first class, and the second session had to be canceled due to snow and ice.

Our food assistance ministry also continues to see significant need. In January, Centenary served 143 households, providing food for 318 people. This total includes a week when we were closed one day because of winter weather, which also prevented some individuals from traveling even when we were open. Each household is eligible to receive food every other week, helping us stretch resources while serving as many neighbors as possible.

The Assistance Program is open to all Shelby County residents, and we are grateful for the generosity of our congregation and partners who make this ministry possible. Through your prayers, donations, and volunteer support, Centenary is living out Christ's call to love our neighbors and meet both practical and spiritual needs in our community.



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.

- When: The first Wednesday of every month, starting at 5:30 PM
- Where: The Fellowship Hall
- Next Date: Wednesday, March 4th, 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

Chili Cookoff Fundraiser: Congrats to our reigning champion, Zach Cramer! A huge thank you to everyone who cooked, participated, and donated. Together, we raised over \$750 for our youth and children's ministries!

Fat Tuesday: What a blast playing "Minute to Win It" games with everyone! We were so impressed by the amazing turnout—I think we've officially started a new tradition.

WinterJam 2026 Concert: Get ready for an unforgettable night of music! We're heading to the Yum! Center on March 7th for WinterJam. Registration is open, please sign up now!

Youth Egg Hunt (April 5): Think you've outgrown egg hunts? Think again. Directly after Easter services, we're hosting an Epic Glow-in-the-Dark Egg Hunt! We're turning the youth space into a neon battleground. Don't miss the glow-up!



MARCH



Each Sunday, during Continued Worship, our children are learning the Bible through Superbook. This video series, helps our children get a better understanding of God's word and how we use his teachings in our everyday life. If your child enjoys these videos, Superbook is also available as an app that can download to your device, so they can take, learn and play anywhere.

Sunday School Lessons

The Temptation of Christ
Under His Wing
Bearing Good Fruit
A Most Precious Gift
Praise Parade

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5
Easter Egg Hunt
June 22-26
Vacation Bible School



"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9



March

- March 1 Jesus Teaches and Heals
- March 8 Jesus Feeds a Crowd
- March 15 St Patrick's Day 
- March 22 Jesus the Good Shepherd 
- March 29 Palm Sunday- The Road to Jerusalem

REMINDER- some of our younger students aren't able to eat most typical candies, so non-edible Easter goodies are encouraged for Easter Egg hunt donations as well



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