

APRIL 2026

CROSSTALK

Centenary United Methodist Church

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! These words never get old, do they? After our journey through Lent and walking with Jesus through "The Path to the Cross", we arrive at the most glorious day of the Christian year. Easter Sunday reminds us that the story doesn't end at the cross. Death doesn't get the final word. The tomb is empty, and everything has changed.

Think about what the resurrection means for us today. It means that when life feels dead-ended, there's always hope for a new beginning. When relationships feel broken beyond repair, God specializes in resurrection. When dreams have been buried and situations seem impossible, we serve a God who rolls away stones and breathes life into dry bones.

“From death came life, from sorrow came joy; this is the hope of Easter”

Aloo Denish Obiero



The disciples walked away from that tomb transformed. They went from hiding in fear to boldly proclaiming good news. That same resurrection power is available to us! What in your life needs the touch of Easter morning? What needs to be brought back to life?

This Easter season let's live like people who truly believe the tomb is empty. Let's love with resurrection joy. Let's serve with resurrection boldness. And let's invite others into this life-changing story. Who can you bring with you to celebrate Easter at Centenary? An empty tomb means there's always room for one more at the table.

We have so much to celebrate together: our growing children and youth ministries, new small groups and Sunday school classes, and the many ways God is moving in our church family. But most of all, we celebrate this: Jesus is alive, and because He lives, we can face tomorrow. Death has been defeated. Hope has won. Love is victorious. Everything has changed. Happy Easter, Centenary! Let's celebrate like we mean it!

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
May 2026 Crosstalk
is Wednesday April 15, 2026

Service Opportunities

- Join the Worship Band Monday nights at 6pm
- Children's Area Sunday Mornings
- Sing in the Choir
- Be a Greeter for Sunday Mornings



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
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

April

- 1st Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 2nd Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service 6:00pm
- 3rd Good Friday Service 6:30pm
- 5th Easter Sunday Worship 10:30pm
Easter Egg Hunts- Youth & Children to follow worship
- 6th Grief Group led by Richard Nevitt 6:00pm
Worship Band Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 8th Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 12th Mission Trip Meeting following worship
- 13th Redwoods Meeting 10:00am
Missions Team Meeting 5:00pm
Worship Band Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 14th SOS Support Group Meeting 6:00pm
- 15th May Crosstalk Deadline
Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 20th Worship Band Rehearsal 6:00pm
Church Council Meeting 6:30pm
- 22nd Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 27th Worship Band Rehearsal 6:00pm
- 28th SOS Support Group Meeting 6:00pm
- 29th Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm

Happy BIRTHDAY

- 2 Pablo Chacon
- 17 John Evans
- 19 Thomas Gaither
William(Whitie)Gray
- 21 Barbara Scott
- 22 Aaron Rainey



Maundy Thursday Dinner & Worship Service

Everyone is invited to join us for a special Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service on Thursday, April 2nd at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

This gathering will replace our April Open Table Community Meal, which is normally held on the first Wednesday of the month. Just like Open Table, everyone is welcome to come enjoy a meal, fellowship, and time together as a community.

Maundy Thursday is part of Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter. It remembers the night Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, gave the commandment to love one another, and prepared them for the events that would soon follow. It is a meaningful time of reflection, gratitude, and community.

We will share a meal together followed by a short worship service as we remember this important moment in the story of Easter.



You are invited to join us for a Good Friday Tenebrae Service as we gather for a time of reflection during Holy Week.

Tenebrae means “darkness.” As scripture tells the story leading to the crucifixion of Jesus, candles are gradually extinguished, symbolizing the darkness of that night and inviting us to reflect on Christ’s sacrifice. All are welcome to this meaningful worship experience.



The Resurrection Cross is a tradition at Centenary UMC. Families bring flowers or branches from flowering trees to decorate the wire cross. It is a perfect family photo opportunity. The cross will be in the Sanctuary Easter Morning.



EASTER WORSHIP

Sunday April 5th at 10:30am
Centenary United Methodist Church
429 Main St
Shelbyville KY 40065

CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**EASTER
EGG HUNT**

5 April, 2026

Following the 10:30am Worship Service

Centenary UMC
429 Main St
Shelbyville KY 40065

Following our Easter worship service, children are invited to join us for a fun Easter Egg Hunt filled with eggs and treats. At the same time, our youth will have their own Easter Egg Hunt, searching for eggs with tickets they can exchange for special prizes.

It will be a joyful time of celebration and fun for kids and youth of all ages!

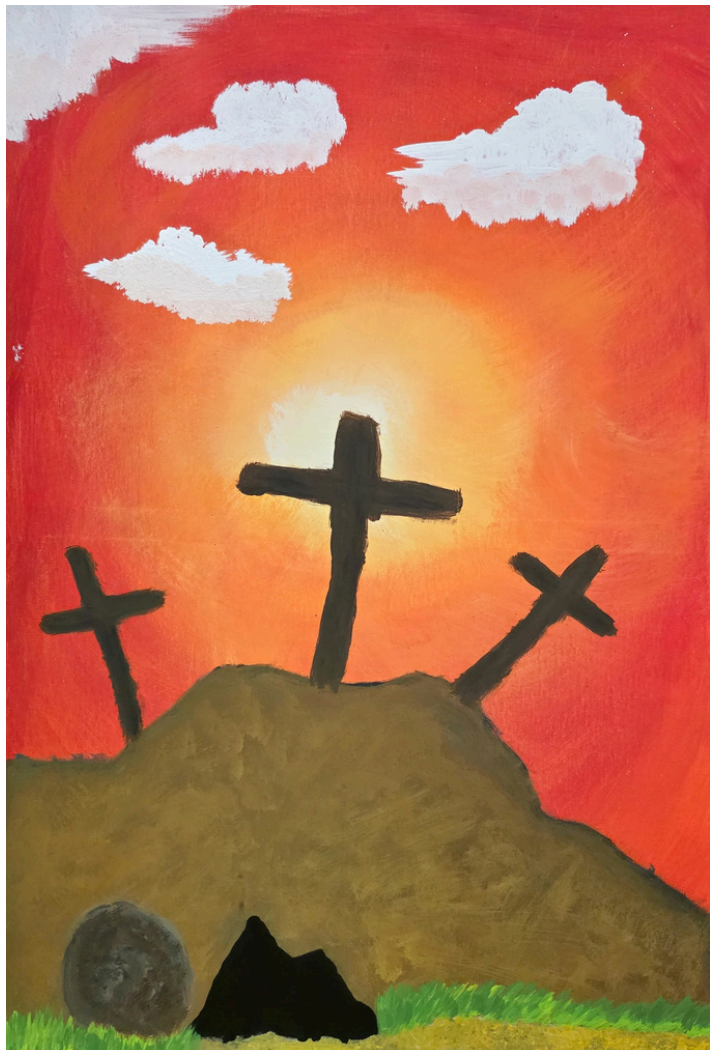
Liturgical Art Lent 2026



Elisa Rice
Wove the crown of
Thorns



Issac Cramer
"Where You There?"





Chellie Gaither
"What Wonderful Love is
This"



Briana Nelson
"When I Survey the
Wondrous Cross"



Centenary Assistance Program Update

The Assistance Ministry at Centenary continues to make a meaningful impact in our community, and we are grateful for the many prayers, volunteers, and supporters who help make this work possible.

In the month of February, Centenary served 170 households, providing food for 388 individuals in our community.

On the financial assistance side of the ministry, we received 11 applications for help. We were able to assist 9 of those households, directly impacting 15 individuals. One applicant did not return to complete the process, and one individual was not eligible for assistance at the time of the request. The total amount provided in financial assistance during February was \$1,392.44.

As we look ahead to April, we will be celebrating an important milestone—six years of food assistance as part of our Program. During those six years, Centenary has distributed 8,540 bags of food, each representing a household in need. Through those bags, we have helped provide food for 18,789 individuals in our community.

As you can see, the food assistance portion of this ministry has continued to grow each year as the needs within our community grow. Because of that growth, we will be making a small change to better serve those who come for help and to support the volunteers who faithfully make this ministry possible.

Beginning in May 2026:

- Financial Assistance will be available Tuesdays from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM in the church office.
- Food Assistance will be available Thursdays from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM downstairs in the Fellowship Hall near the food storage area.

While this change may limit access slightly for some, it will greatly improve the experience for those receiving assistance. The Fellowship Hall provides more space for individuals to wait comfortably and sit if needed, and it will help reduce the need for volunteers to constantly move food upstairs and downstairs. It will also limit the number of stairs for those with mobility challenges, making the process more accessible.

We ask that you continue to pray for and support this important ministry. In just a few short years, the food assistance program alone has made a tremendous impact in our community.

While we celebrate six years of food assistance, the financial assistance portion of the program has been serving our community even longer. Records for that part of the ministry go back to 2011, showing a long-standing commitment by Centenary to care for neighbors in need.

Thank you to everyone who gives, volunteers, and prays for this ministry. Because of your support, lives are being touched and hope is being shared every single week.

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.

- Where: The Fellowship Hall
- Next Date: Thursday April 2th, 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

Holy Week: Join us as we walk through the journey of Holy Week, including our Maundy Thursday dinner (held in conjunction with April's Open Table), our Good Friday service, and our Easter Sunday celebration. Please see the calendar for specific service times and additional details.

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 and a chance to win awesome prizes! We're turning the youth space into a neon battleground. Don't miss the glow-up!

Confirmation Class: We are currently ironing out details for this year's confirmation class. If you are interested in joining the class or becoming confirmed this year, please reach out to the office or the Youth Director so we can include you in the planning.

Volunteers and Mentors Needed! As we prepare for Confirmation 2026, we are looking for mentors to walk alongside our confirmands. We would love to pair each student with someone who can offer advice and wisdom during a one-evening class session. If you are interested in sharing your journey, please reach out to Tiffany Rainey at trainey@shelbycumc.org

The Redwoods New Branch!

The Redwoods Women's Ministry at Centenary UMC is excited to share that our new evening "Branch" is already beginning to grow!

About 11 wonderful ladies either attended our first gathering or have expressed interest in being part of this new group. It was a great time of connection, conversation, and excitement about building meaningful relationships, growing in faith, and finding ways to serve Christ together.



We are so grateful for the enthusiasm and support for this new ministry. Regular meeting dates have not been scheduled yet, but plans are already in the works.

Please keep your eyes open for more information coming soon—we are excited to see how this new Branch of the Redwoods will continue to grow!

A graphic with a blue wooden background. On the left side, there is a wooden cross, several colorful heart-shaped confetti pieces, and many small, colorful circular confetti pieces scattered around. On the right side, there is white text that reads: "In search for VBS donations. Please see QR code if you would like to help out." Below the text is a QR code.

In search for VBS donations. Please see QR code if you would like to help out.



Vacation Bible School is only 3 months away, and we're already preparing for a fun and meaningful week for our kids! If you would like to help support this year's VBS, we would greatly appreciate your donation. You can give using the QR code in the graphic.

Thank you for supporting our children's ministry!



APRIL

LESSONS

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Give it a Rest

Why, God?!

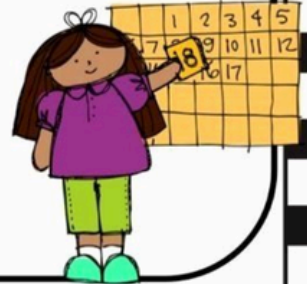


UPCOMING EVENTS

June 22-26

6pm-8pm

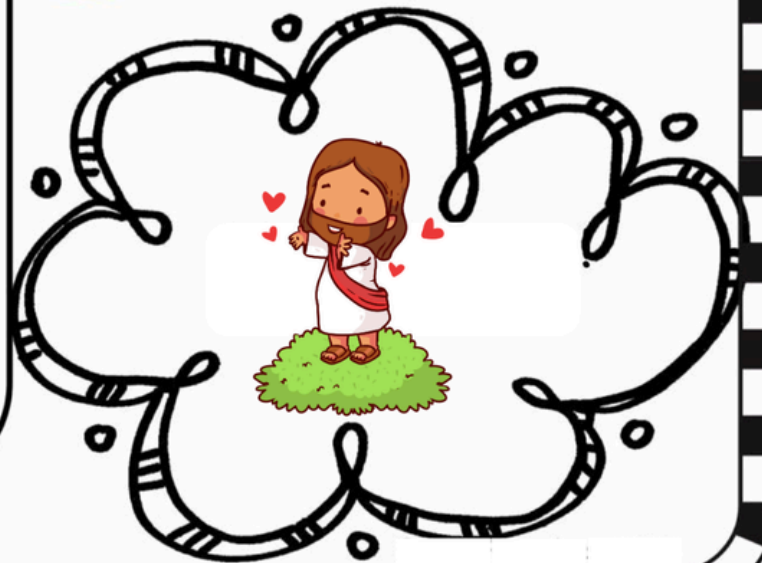
Vacation Bible School



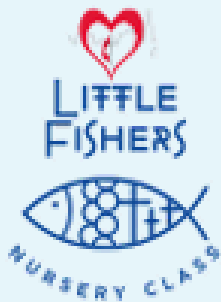
Starting this month, during Continued worship, our children are learning the Bible through The Chosen Adventures series. The Chosen Adventures is an animated adventure comedy series that follows nine-year-old Abby and best friend Joshua as they navigate life in the ancient city of Capernaum. When the 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



See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19



NURSERY NEWS!!!!



This summer we will decorate the nursery to do lessons and activities that are camp themed for June and July! It'll bring the joy and fun of church camp to our littles during weekly services! This program will culminate with a celebration and luncheon after worship on July 26th.

Our curriculum will be based on KidSpring Children's Ministry Camp Wannastay program.

If you want to volunteer to help with the end of camp luncheon, please reach out to Staci Bryan by June 14th



If you would like to donate any supplies towards this program our wishlist info is below!

Scan the QR code or type the following URL into your browser:



bit.ly/littlefishers



Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)

Thank you for supporting the Little Fishers nursery class!

You can email Staci Bryan at stacibryan@yahoo.com or see her Sunday Morning in the nursery



April 5 The Easter Story
April 12 Go & Tell
April 19 Daniel and the Lions Den
April 26 The Fiery Furnace



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