



**JUNE 2026**

# CROSSTALK

## **Centenary United Methodist Church**

### **The Most Important Investment You Can Make This Summer**

As we head into summer, I want to talk about something that weighs on my heart and should weigh on all of ours: the faith of the next generation.

The numbers tell a story we cannot ignore. Research shows that nearly two thirds of young adults who grew up in church have walked away from it by their twenties. These are not just statistics. These are our children, our grandchildren, our neighbors' kids. And that reality should move us to action.

So what can we do? The answer is exactly what the church has always done: show up faithfully, together, and bring the children with us.

Here is what gives me hope. Studies from Harvard and Barna both confirm that children who are raised in the life of the church grow up with a stronger sense of purpose, deeper joy, and greater resilience than their peers. The bonds formed in a faith community during those early years have a way of holding on, even though the hardest seasons of life. The church is not just a place we take our kids. It is a gift we give them.

Proverbs tells us to train up a child in the way he should go, and that training happens here, week after week, in worship and in fellowship and in the simple act of showing up together. It also happens at special moments like our upcoming Knights of North Castle Vacation Bible School, June 22 through 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. Come be a part of it!

My challenge to every member of Centenary is this: think of one child in your life who needs a church home. A grandchild, a neighbor, a friend from school. Invite them. Bring them. Love them through these doors. You may never fully know the difference it makes, but God will.

*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

- VBS
- Children's Area Sunday Mornings
- Sing in the Choir
- Be a Greeter for Sunday Mornings
- Food assistance Thursdays 9am-1pm
- Lead a small 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

Deadline for the  
July 2026 Crosstalk  
is Wednesday June 17, 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

# JUNE

- 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference
- 1<sup>st</sup> Trustees Meeting 5:30pm
- Redwoods New Branch Meeting 6:00pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Meet-Up 5:30pm
- Open Table Community Dinner 6:00pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> Redwoods Meeting 10:00am
- 9<sup>th</sup> SOS Support Group Meeting 6:00pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> UMCOR Sunday
- 15<sup>th</sup> Ops Team Meeting 6:30pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> July Crosstalk Deadline
- 19<sup>th</sup> Church Office Closed- Juneteenth
- 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> VBS 6:00pm-8:00pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> SOS Support Group Meeting 6:00pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> VBS Sunday

# Happy Birthday

- 1 Lois Bradford
- 3 Allen George
- 7 Sam Clark
- 8 Aaron Hood
- 10 Briana Nelson
- 14 Evan Waggener
- 15 Geri Roberts
- 16 Jeff Gaither
- 18 Linda Ethington
- 21 Graycee Pratt
- 22 Deborah Fitzgerald
- 23 Sammy Hood
- 24 Carol Saenger
- 26 Barb Hansen
- 27 David Pratt

**JUNE 3RD**  
**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.

**Menu**

- Burgers
- Sides
- Dessert

**Everyone is welcome!**

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

[WWW.CENTENARYSHELBYVILLE.COM](http://WWW.CENTENARYSHELBYVILLE.COM)

PARENTS OF VBS KIDS  
**JOIN US FOR A**  
*5-Day Study*  
**THE ARMOR OF GOD**  
BY PRISCILLA SHIRER

Standing Firm in Faith.  
Equipped for Every Battle.

**JUNE 22-26**

**EAT TOGETHER**  
Join your kids for dinner during VBS.

**BOOK STUDY**  
Then, head up to Room 206 for our 5-day study.  
**6:30PM-7:30PM**

**RECONNECT**  
After the study, you'll have time to meet back up with your kids as they finish up their VBS each night!

**DISCOVER HOW GOD EQUIPS YOU WITH EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO STAND STRONG!**

- ★ 5 short sessions based on *The Armor of God* by Priscilla Shirer
- ★ Practical, encouraging, and easy to apply
- ★ Connect with other parents and grow in your faith!

MEET IN ROOM 206 6:30PM-7:30PM *Invest in Your Faith. Encourage Your Family.*

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



## Redwoods

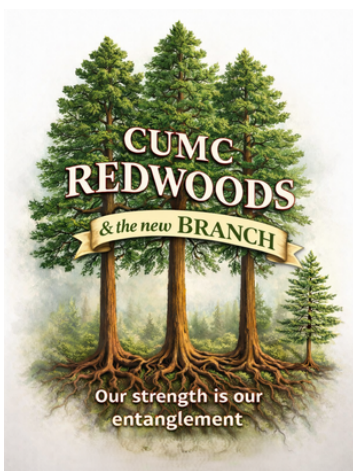
In March, state leaders gathered in Frankfort to honor 16 winners of the 30th Governor's Service Awards who were recognized for exceptional service and dedication to their communities. The ceremony, which took place at the Foundry, included Rocky Adkins, Senior Advisor to Governor Andy Beshear, and Dr. Steven Stack, Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS).

The award ceremony is a longstanding tradition in the commonwealth that honors community volunteerism and service to others. The annual event is hosted by Serve Kentucky, which administers the state's AmeriCorps programs, and coincides with National Volunteer Week.

"Every year, I am amazed and humbled by the willingness of Kentuckians to support each other, show up for their communities, and give so much of themselves in service to others," said Governor Beshear. "These awards are a token of our appreciation for their selfless acts, which have such a tremendous impact on the lives of others." The ceremony included eight individual and eight group awards. Recipients represented an array of services and fields from across the commonwealth. "You are the best of Team Kentucky. You embody the spirit of it being better to give than receive," said Stack. "In my life, I have learned to appreciate the power of gratitude, the power of surrounding yourself with kind and generous people. I thoroughly believe that we get much more in return by giving to others."

CUMC Redwoods of Shelby County received the Group Service Award, nominated by Maria Thomas, the Family Resource Coordinator at Northside Early Childhood Center (SCPS). Each year the Redwoods assemble 500 backpacks filled with school supplies for incoming kindergarten students across Shelby County Public Schools. These resources are more than materials—they provide students with tools that support health and wellness, social-emotional growth, communication skills, self-help skills, and foundational knowledge. Through quiet dedication and tangible action, the Redwoods strengthen educational foundations and inspire confidence among Shelby County's youngest students.

Six of the Redwoods Ladies traveled to Frankfort to receive the award. They were surprised but deeply honored and humbled to accept the award on behalf of CUMC. They wish to thank Ms. Thomas for nominating them, and all those who have made the Governors Service Awards possible for 30 years and our bus driver David Pratt.



**The New Branch will meet on Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> at  
6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall**

**The Redwoods will meet on Monday June 8<sup>th</sup> at  
10:00am in the Fellowship Hall**



## Assistance Program Update

Centenary's assistance ministries continued to make a meaningful impact in April through both our food pantry and financial assistance programs. During the month, we distributed 154 bags of food, helping feed 349 individuals in our community. Each bag represented more than groceries—it represented hope, encouragement, and the reminder that our church continues to serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

Our financial assistance program experienced a particularly challenging and eye-opening month. In April alone, we received 45 requests for financial assistance. While we deeply wish we could meet every need, we must also remain faithful stewards of the funds entrusted to this ministry. After careful review and prayerful consideration, we were able to assist twelve families during the month, though doing so pushed the program beyond its monthly budget.

Pastor and staff spent considerable time discussing the growing needs we are seeing and the importance of maintaining the guidelines established for the program. At times, we encounter individuals who feel entitled to assistance without wanting to follow those guidelines, which can make the ministry difficult to navigate. However, there were also several situations this month that powerfully reminded us why this ministry exists in the first place.

One such story involved a grandmother who unexpectedly took emergency custody of her three grandchildren. She believed certain household bills were being paid, only to discover they had not been. Faced with the possibility of losing housing while trying to care for her grandchildren, she turned to us for help. Through the generosity of our church and community, we were able to go above and beyond to help keep the family safely housed during an incredibly stressful time.

We also assisted a veteran who had become an educator and had fallen on difficult circumstances. Another request came through one of our local schools concerning a family whose father had been deported to his home country, leaving the family struggling to keep their utilities connected. These are only a few examples of the stories behind the requests we receive each month.

While we cannot meet every need, we remain committed to serving compassionately, responsibly, and prayerfully. Thank you to everyone who supports this ministry through donations, volunteer hours, and prayers. Your generosity continues to make a real difference in the lives of families facing difficult and unexpected situations.

**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 Shleby County residents!**

# CYF YOUTH CORNER

## 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: Front Lawn or the Fellowship Hall
- Next Date: Wednesday June 3, 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

**Confirmations & Baptisms:** On Sunday, May 24, our church family witnessed a beautiful milestone as Aspen was confirmed, and Anna Jo and Michelle were both baptized and confirmed into our church family. Their journey to this sacred day began with a meaningful, four-hour Confirmation intensive. During that class, the youth explored foundational pillars of our faith, including the rich history of the United Methodist Church, the Holy Trinity, and the daily application of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral. The intensive evening concluded with a fellowship dinner, where a panel of mentors shared inspiring stories of their personal faith journeys. A heartfelt thank you to the mentors for investing in our youth. Following the Sunday service, our church family gathered for a wonderful reception to celebrate our newest members. Please join us in keeping these young people in your prayers!

**Mother's Day:** Our youth group used Bible study time to honor godly mothers and mother figures by crafting personalized "peace jars." Each gift jar was filled with handwritten encouragement, uplifting scripture, and heartfelt prayers. It was a beautiful way for our teens to bless their mentors with a year-round reminder of love and faith.

**Summer Camp at Aldersgate & Loucon:** Registration is now open! These camps offer a fantastic opportunity for our youth to grow in faith, explore the outdoors, and build lasting friendships in a beautiful camp setting. If your family is interested, please head directly to the Aldersgate and Loucon websites for specific dates, age group details, and registration info.

## Ministry Spotlight: Behind the Scenes with Our Youth

When you see our youth ministry in action, you usually see the final product: laughing teenagers, energetic games, and life-changing milestones like our recent Confirmation Sunday. But what you don't see is the incredible dedication that happens behind the scenes every single week. Creating a safe, welcoming space where our students can encounter God requires hours of unseen work—from curriculum planning and prayer to setting up rooms and prepping crafts, games or snacks. I am incredibly grateful for our small, dedicated group of volunteers who consistently step up to love, lead, and serve alongside me to support our teens.

## Help Us Grow: Join the Team!

Our youth group is ready to expand, but to reach more teenagers, we need to grow our volunteer team first. You do not need to be a Bible scholar or an expert game leader; you just need a willing heart to show up and care. Whether you can commit to helping weekly, cooking a meal once a month, or praying for our students, there is a place for you here. Reach out to our youth director today to find out how you can help invest in the next generation!



# Confirmation Class 2026





Thank you to everyone who helped make our Confirmation celebration so special for our youth and their families. We are grateful to all who decorated, organized, sponsored, participated in worship, and worked behind the scenes to prepare for and celebrate our new confirmands.

Your love, support, and servant hearts helped create a meaningful and joyful day that will be remembered for years to come. Congratulations again to our confirmands!

# TREEHOUSE NEWSLETTER

 JUNE 

## 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.



## Upcoming events



June 22-26  
6pm-8pm  
Vacation Bible School

## 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.



## What we're learning

14th

Rocky Ground

21st

Blind Faith

28th

Father Knows Bass

## Reminders

We will not have continued worship on June 7th 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.

happy  
**Father's  
Day**



Set an example for others by what you say and do.  
1 Timothy 4:12 (CEV)

Our lessons are camp themed this summer!

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

Our lessons for June will include :

- "Jesus is My Leader"
- "Leaders Let Others Go First"
- "Leaders Help Others"
- "Leaders Obey"



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