

MARCH 2025

CROSSTALK

Centenary United Methodist Church

LENT

Centenary will begin Lent this year with an observance of Ash Wednesday in conjunction with our Dinner Church meal on March 5, in Fellowship Hall.

What to Give Up for Lent

The age-old question resurfaces each year: What to give up for Lent? In a world bustling with constant distractions and demands, the quest for a meaningful Lenten sacrifice becomes more relevant than ever. Whether you're a seasoned Lenten observer or a curious soul considering the path of self-discipline, most people are often looking for guidance.

Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday

The purpose of Ash Wednesday is to focus your heart on prayer and repentance through communion and confession. In the Catholic Church tradition, a priest places ashes on the head to represent the dust of the earth from which we are made. The priest usually recites, "remember that you are from dust and to dust you will return."

These ashes help symbolize the grief of our sins and the need for repentance. It is the start of the Lent season, where the goal is to purify heart and soul, control desires, and pursue holiness in preparation for Easter.

Why Do We Give Up Things for Lent?

Fasting during Lent is a religious practice observed by many Christians as a period of penance, reflection, and preparation leading up to Easter. Lent is a season that lasts for 40 days (excluding Sundays) and is intended to replicate the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry.

While there are no set rules for Lent, there are some common practices observed by many.

The specific practices during Lent, including fasting, vary among Christian denominations, but the general idea is to engage in self-discipline, spiritual reflection, and repentance. Fasting during Lent often involves abstaining from certain foods or activities as a way of expressing solidarity with Jesus' sacrifice and reflecting on one's own need for repentance and spiritual growth.

In addition to fasting, people may also engage in other spiritual practices such as Lenten prayers, almsgiving (charitable acts), and attending religious services. The goal is to deepen one's relationship with God, seek forgiveness for sins, and prepare for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. (from Christianity.com)

Sunday Morning Services

Coffee and Doughnuts in the Fellowship Hall 9:00am
Sunday School at 9:30am
Worship at 10:30am

Join us online:

Facebook Live at

<https://www.facebook.com/centenaryshelbyville>

&

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFQ7gRUEwCTavSK9UvqiMaQ>

Two ways we try to keep everyone updated about our programs and events are by email and Facebook. Please contact the church office 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 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

Mark Gibbons- revmgibbons@gmail.com

Office Manager

Amanda Shirley- 502-633-4510
ashirley@shelbycumc.org or
centenaryumc@twc.com

Children's Ministry Director

Reesa Headley- rheadley@shelbycumc.org

Youth Director

Tiffany Rainey- trainey@shelbycumc.org

Music Director

Damaris Nevitt- dmnevitt@icloud.com



Lay Leader: Renee Clark
Council Chair: Heather Hood
Chair of SPRC: Bill Tuttle
Chair of Ops Team: Tracy Bertram
Chair of Trustees: Jim Sharp
Chair of Finance: Jeff Gaither
Treasurer: Michael Watts
Children's Ministry Chair:
Amanda Ethington



Deadline for the
April 2025 Crosstalk
is Wednesday, March 19, 2025

*Happy
Birthday*

- 2 Sandra Murphree
Gentry Gaither
- 3 Buddy Bowles
- 4 Abigail Alas
- 6 Bill Scott
Vance Burnett
- 9 Mark Gibbons
- 18 Annie Gardner
- 19 Trisha Hobbs
- 20 Myra Hardesty
- 23 Pam Phillips
Meaghan Pratt
- 24 Kaden Schooler
Tristen Schooler
- 25 Tanya Reeder
- 27 Diana Beaton
- 28 Robin Chandler
- 30 Abigail (Burks) Siemen
- 31 Amy Waggener



March



- 1st Choir Retreat 8:30am-12:00pm
Safe Sanctuary training at the
Conference office 10:00am – 2:00pm
- 2nd CYF 5:30pm
- 4th Volleyball Game at the FAC 6:00pm
- 5th Ash Wednesday
Beginning of the Lenten Food Drive
Dinner Church 6:00pm
Choir rehearsals 7:00pm
- 9th Daylight Savings Time begins
Welcome reception for Damaris Nevitt
following worship
CYF 5:30pm
- 10th Mountain Mission Pick-up
Redwoods Meeting 10:00am
Ops Team Meeting 6:30pm
- 11th Volleyball Game at the FAC 7:00pm
- 12th Lunch Bunch 11:30am
Choir Rehearsal 6:15pm
- 16th CYF 5:30pm
- 17th Church Council Meeting 6:30pm
- 18th Volleyball no game Bye week
- 19th April Crosstalk Deadline
Choir Rehearsal 6:15pm
- 22nd Touched Twice Clinic First Baptist
10:00am-4:00pm
- 23rd CYF 5:30pm
- 25th Volleyball Game at the FAC 7:00pm
- 26th Choir Rehearsal 6:15pm
- 28th SCPS Spring Break begins



Choir Rehearsal

Rehearsals are Wednesdays
6:15pm.

Everyone is welcome to join in the Music,
Fun and Fellowship!

MARCH 5TH

DINNER CHURCH

Free Community Meal + Worship
Join us at our dinner table
in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm

Everyone is welcome!

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



Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will be meeting at Cattleman's in Shelbyville at 11:30am on Wednesday, March 12th for the first meeting of 2025.

Responding to the winter storms that hit our state on the weekend of February 15



The pictures of Cleaning Bucket and the Hygiene Kit are taken from the UMCOR web site.

This information is to keep you informed of how CUMC is supporting the Bluegrass District and Conference as the we respond to this Disaster.

But first think back to just a short four months ago we took over 100 cleaning buckets from our church with additional buckets from Lawrenceburg UMC to help with flood clean up in NC. This depleted our supply of cleaning buckets, and we have not yet replenished this supply.

While we currently don't have buckets CUMC does have a truck and trailer to transport buckets from other churches in the Bluegrass District to flooded areas in the states. As I write this, we are entering the last week of February. The plans for this week are as follows and will involve several members of our church as we move forward. But based on needs these plans can change at any time.

On Sunday afternoon we will pick up approximately 150 cleaning buckets in Harrodsburg. Then on Monday these will then be delivered to the Joy Center in Big Creek, KY in Southeast KY. This is in the Central Appalachian Missionary Conference.

Later this week a distribution center is also being planned for the Munfordville, KY area. When this is established, we will transport approximately 95 buckets from Lawrenceburg to Munfordville area.

After these deliveries are made, we need to restock our supply of cleaning buckets and hygiene kits for future disasters. Here at CUMC our goal is to again complete 100 cleaning buckets. As listed by United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) the cost of each bucket is approximate \$75. For us to meet this goal, donations are needed. If you would like to donate, please make your check to CUMC in the memo area list "Cleaning Buckets" or you can list "Disaster Response". Thank you for your support of this ministry to others.

For more information contact David Pratt through the church office.



2025 UMCOR Early Response Team Basic Certification Course March 29th

The Early Response Team (ERT) Basic Certification Course will teach individuals who want to join a District ERT the basic requirements of certification. Early Response Teams (ERTs) fill a specific need in the early days after a disaster. While providing a caring Christian presence within a community, ERTs help individual/family survivors with clean-up, debris removal, roof tarping, and preventing further damage to a home.

Upon completing the course and receiving the proper identification and authorization from UMCOR, the participant will be certified; at this point, a participant may join a District Early Response Team. Each participant will be tested on the information taught, and they will need to pass a background check on the day of the class and have their picture taken for their Identification Badge. Those who complete this course, pass the background check, and have their picture taken will receive certification through UMCOR.

Date: Saturday, March 29, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Check-In on the day: 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Location: LAWRENCEBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

565 Carlton Drive

Lawrenceburg, KY 40342

To register for this course, go to the KY Conf web site KYUMC.ORG and type ERT in the search box, then click on SEARCH. When the results are shown click on the EVENT for 3/29/2025 course – 18903472. The cost is \$30. Scholarships are available through our Disaster Response.

For more information or if you plan to addend contact David Pratt through the church office and leave a message for him.



By Mary Lou Smith Madigan

God walks through time with us: through our job choices, vacations, families, health concerns. He is there. For example, when Bill and I took a cruise, the ship seemed so big as we boarded. Later standing on the deck, it seemed so small, a cork bobbing up and down in the vast ocean. On another cruise, we experienced the tail end of a nor'easter, unbelievable waves. We were too sick to be scared, but I remembered Jesus calming the sea. It gave me hope.

Another time we were flying from New York to Louisville and hit an air pocket. The plane shot down several feet. The coffee I was holding stayed up in the air while the cup went down, and then as we came back up, the coffee resumed its place in my cup—no spills. Bill and I laughed, amazed. Did God laugh with us? I think so.

When my parents died, and then Bill died, and other good friends like Sydney passed away, I was grief-stricken. Did God feel my tears? I believe He did. And then he showed me the door through which they passed—and he whispered that I will see them again.

He walks through time with all of us—our challenges, our successes and failures, our joys and griefs. Nothing can separate us from His love. Paul wrote in Romans 8:38-39, “I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” That is His promise.



Whether you have been a part of the choir or praise band in the past, or you just have played the radio in your car and sung along, we invite you to consider joining the music at Centenary United Methodist Church. We have room for all who want to sing or play an instrument (preferably you know how to play an instrument and have one) to lead in our services. We will be getting ready for Easter, so maybe you want to participate in just that event, or you want to make it a weekly thing with the choir and band. We want you to join us! There is also opportunity for learning how to use the worship slides and video with Brandon Pratt.

Our retreat is March 1st from 8:30 to 12:30. We will begin with a potluck breakfast and have a time of devotion and worship in the fellowship hall. From there we will move into the sanctuary to listen to the Easter music we will be working on for April.

It will be a fun time of fellowship and music. Please consider joining us. I would love to meet you. If you are planning to come to the breakfast and/or music session, please let me know so that we have enough food and music for all. You can contact me at dmnevitt@icloud.com.

Thank you! I hope to see you at our retreat!

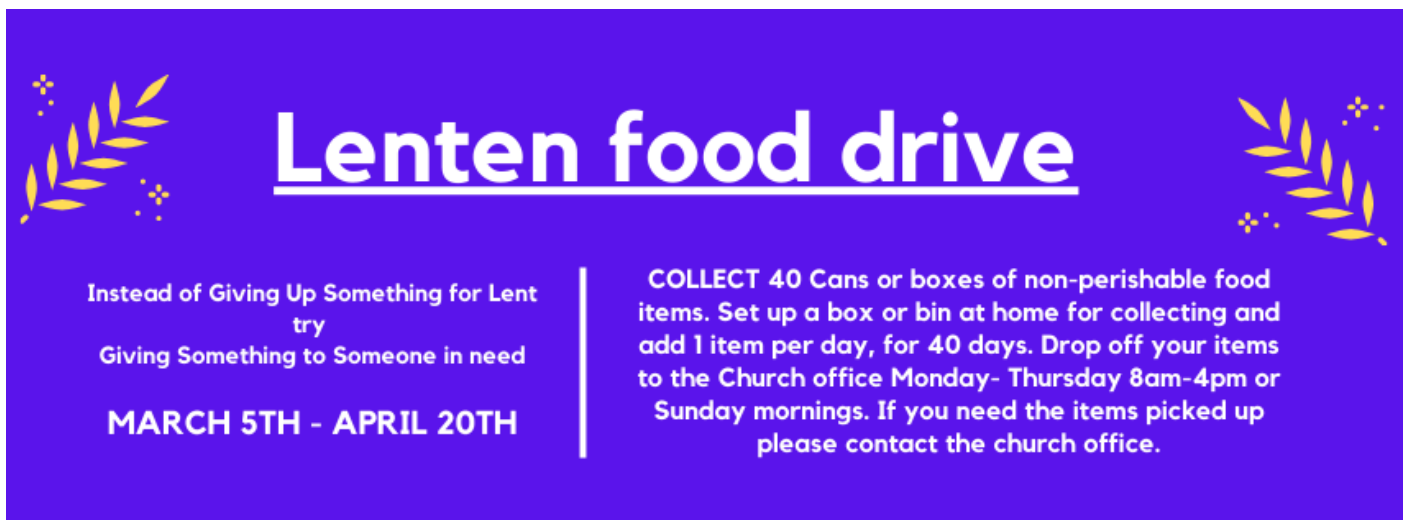
Damaris Nevitt
Director of Choral and Worship Music

Assistance Program

Centenary received 12 requests for financial assistance and was able to fulfill five of them, providing a total of \$524.59 in aid and impacting 11 individuals. Among the requests we could not fulfill, three applicants had already received assistance within the past 12 months, one had not completed the required financial counseling course, and three did not return with the necessary paperwork.

In addition to financial assistance, Centenary distributed 142 bags of food, helping to feed 321 individuals. Our food assistance program, which serves all Shelby County residents, allows households to pick up food every other week as needed. Unfortunately, we were closed for one day due to inclement weather.

Once again this year, we will be holding our Lenten food drive from Ash Wednesday, March 5, through Easter, April 20. The Lenten food drive is a meaningful way to embody the spirit of Lent, a season that calls for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. During this time, Christians are encouraged to reflect on their blessings and make sacrifices to support those in need. By donating food, we not only practice self-denial but also extend compassion to the hungry and vulnerable in our community. This act of generosity reflects the teachings of Jesus, who emphasized caring for the poor and sharing with others. Through this effort, we are reminded that true devotion is not just about personal sacrifice but also about uplifting others through love and service.

A purple banner with white and yellow text and decorative elements. The title 'Lenten food drive' is centered and underlined. To the left and right are yellow leaf-like graphics. The text is organized into two columns separated by a vertical line.

Lenten food drive

Instead of Giving Up Something for Lent
try
Giving Something to Someone in need

MARCH 5TH - APRIL 20TH

COLLECT 40 Cans or boxes of non-perishable food items. Set up a box or bin at home for collecting and add 1 item per day, for 40 days. Drop off your items to the Church office Monday- Thursday 8am-4pm or Sunday mornings. If you need the items picked up please contact the church office.

The assistance program is open to ALL Shelby County residents.

Assistance days are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00am-2:00pm.

For financial assistance people must bring: Photo ID, proof of income, current disconnect notice or lease agreement. Assistance is available once in a 12month time frame.

Food assistance can be picked up every other week.
Just need and ID showing Shelby County residency.

CENTENARY YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Dear Church Family,

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed, volunteered, and donated to this year's Chili Cookoff! We had a fantastic turnout with 10 delicious chilis to sample. Congratulations to our winners: Zach Crammer (1st place), Steven Henderson (2nd place), and Amanda Shirley (3rd place)! I'm already looking forward to next year's event.

Our youth had an amazing time at Winter Jam! It was incredible to worship with 13,000 other believers. Some of their favorite performances included Skillet, KB, and Anne Wilson (especially her sparkly cowgirl boots!).

This February, our lessons focused on God's love. Psalm 36:5-10 beautifully illustrates how God's love is vast enough to sustain us through our toughest times and enrich our happiest moments. It's a love that surpasses anything else in the world in its height, depth, and faithfulness. We also explored Proverbs 4:23 and discussed how to guard our hearts. By focusing on God's truth and filtering out distractions, we can grow stronger in our faith and be a light to others.

We're so blessed to see our young people actively involved in various ministries, including the worship band, reading scripture, sound booth and acolyte. Be sure to encourage them when you see them on Sunday mornings!

Please see the events listed below. Join the youth text group to receive the most current event updates.

Much Love,
Tiffany

Ongoing Programs

Bible Study & Parent Fellowship-
Sunday Mornings 9:30am

Youth Group Re/connect-
Sunday Nights 5:30pm

Upcoming Events

3/5 Dinner Church- Grub & Games
3/16- Breakfast & Service at Grace Kid's
TBD- Confirmation Classes
3/30 Youth Outing: Bowling

Treehouse NEWSLETTER

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.

Lesson Plan

03/02-A Giant Adventure

When God is with you, you can face anything.

01/09-Roar

Stand up for what is right.

03/16-Miracles of Jesus

True Miracles come from God

03/23-He is Risen

Jesus' life is about the restoration of relationships

3/30-The Road to Damascus

God can help you change



We are looking for volunteers to help out during continued worship. If you would like to help float during a Sunday, please reach out to Reesa Headley.

Upcoming Events

CANDY COLLECTION

3/5-Ash Wednesday

4/20-Easter Egg Hunt

Memory Verse

Rejoice in hope

Be patient in tribulation

Be constant in Prayer

Romans 12:12





March 2025

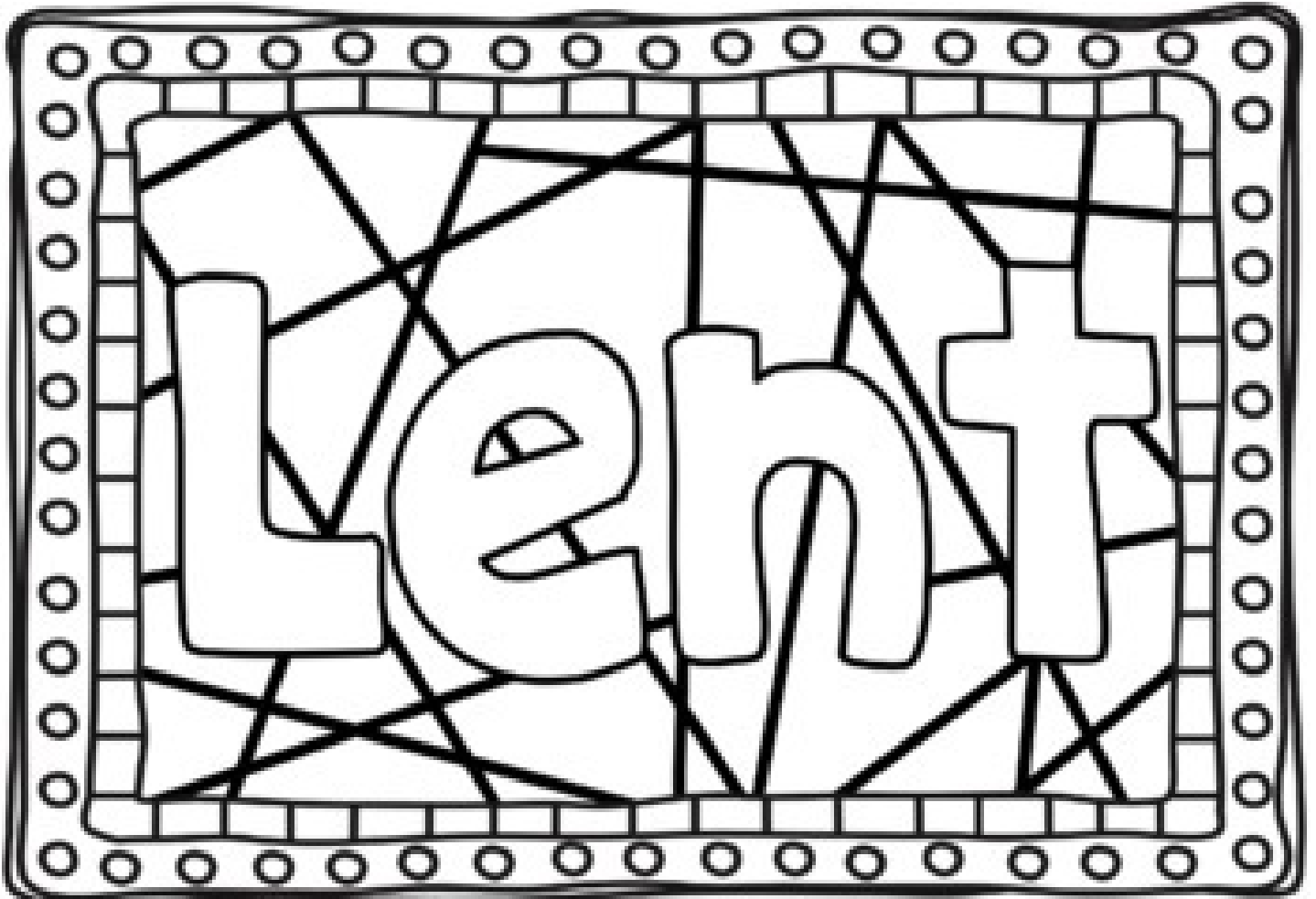


GROWING WITH GOD-

We will be studying more Old Testament stories, and will be doing lots of Spring crafts



- March 2 Daniel & The Lions Den
- March 9 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
- March 16 Saint Patrick's Day
- March 23 Jonah and The Whale
- March 30 David & Goliath





FIFTH & MAIN STREET

P.O. BOX 38

SHELBYVILLE, KENTUCKY 40065

(502) 633-4510

Email: centenaryumc@twc.com

www.Centenaryshelbyville.com