

MARCH 2024

CROSSTALK

Centenary United Methodist Church

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16 (NIV)

It can be hard to talk about the cross in the Christian faith. We have tendency to either focus completely on it and tend to wallow in guilt regarding Jesus' sacrifice for us or, we rush past it to Easter Sunday and the joy of an empty tomb. Both approaches are inadequate because when we follow Jesus, we follow him to the cross AND to the resurrection. To fully appreciate the joy of Easter, we must first pause to reflect on the solemnity of Good Friday.

Good Friday is a day marked by sorrow, as we contemplate the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. It is a day when we confront the reality of human sinfulness and the immense cost of God's love. Yet, even in the darkness of that Friday, there is a glimmer of hope shining through the shadows. For it is through Christ's death that we find the pathway to forgiveness, reconciliation, and new life.

As we meditate on the events of Good Friday, we are compelled to confront our own brokenness and inadequacies. We are reminded of the depth of God's. Good Friday challenges us to reckon with the weight of our transgressions but also assures us of the boundless grace and mercy found in Christ. It is only by understanding the depth of love on Good Friday that we can fully embrace the joy of Easter Sunday.

So, I encourage you to join us for our Holy Week services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in preparation for Easter Sunday. If you're not able to make it, then take time to read the crucifixion stories. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all recount them in their own way. I enjoy the richness of John's narrative, but the simplicity of Mark's also has its appeal.

Whatever way you decide to worship and remember that day, may we enter this season with reverence and awe, embracing the paradox of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. May we never forget the sacrifice of our Savior on the cross, for it is in remembering His death that we find the truest joy of Easter morning.

Grace + peace,
Pastor Trent

[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>



We keep everyone updated about our programs and events by email and Facebook. Please contact the church office with any questions or if you would like to be added to the email list.

Church office hours are Monday-Thursday on site
8:00am-2:00pm and Friday 8:00am-2:00pm
Remotely.

Assistance days and hours are Tuesday & Thursday
9:00am-1:00pm. Centenary offers financial
assistance for rent or utilities and food assistance.

STAFF

Lead Pastor

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Associate Pastor

Katie Lloyd- klloyd@shelbycumc.org

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Kay Burney- kburney@shelbycumc.org

Children's Ministry Director

Reesa Headley- rheadley@shelbycumc.org

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



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

Youth Ministry Chair: Nick Headley

****Notes from Ops Team & Church Council available upon request from the church office. You can call and request a copy emailed or mailed to you or come by during business hours.***



Deadline for the April 2024 Crosstalk
is Wednesday, March 20, 2024

MARCH



3rd	CYF	6:30pm
5th	Girl Scouts Informational meeting	6:00pm
6th	Mountain Mission Pick-up	
	Women's Bible Study	10:00am
	Choir	6:00pm
	Church Council	7:00pm
10th	CYF	6:30pm
11th	Redwoods	10:00am
	Ops Team	6:30pm
13th	Women's Bible Study	10:00am
	Choir	6:00pm
17th	Safe Sanctuaries Training after worship	
	CYF	6:30pm
20th	Women's Bible Study	10:00am
	Dinner Church	6:30pm
	Choir	7:45pm
24th	Palm Sunday	
	CYF	6:30pm
27th	Women's Bible Study	10:00am
	Choir	6:00pm
28th	Lunch Bunch	11:30am
	Maundy Thursday Service	6:30pm
29th	Good Friday Service	6:30pm
31st	Easter Sunday	
	Easter Egg Hunt to follow worship	

- 2 Sandra Murphree
- 4 Gentry Gaither
Abigail Alas
- 3 Buddy Bowles
- 6 Bill Scott
Vance Burnett
- 9 Mark Gibbons
- 13 Kay Burney
- 18 Annie Gardner
- 19 Trisha Hobbs
Julie Nalley
- 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



Well, here I am again making plans for everyone who is interested in a monthly adventure for fun, food, and fellowship. We will start on Thursday, March 28th (weather permitting) for our first gathering. We will enjoy lunch at Claudia's (Colonel's Lady) at 11:30am. Reservations need to be made. Please let me know by Tuesday, March 26th if you plan to attend. There will be some interesting times this year. Looking forward to those times with you this year.

Ms. Eleanor

HOLY WEEK AT CENTENARY

Mar. 24 @ 10:30am - Palm Sunday with Parade of Palms

Mar. 28th @ 6:30pm - Maundy Thursday

Mar. 29th @ 6:30pm - Good Friday

Mar. 31st @ 10:30am - Easter Worship & Easter Egg Hunt



2024
Easter Offering
For local ministries

Helping every baby sleep safer



A Place to Sleep
Providing beds for children
who don't have one

The mission of Crib for Kids® is to prevent infant sleep-related deaths by educating parents and caregivers on the importance of practicing safe sleep for their babies and by providing portable cribs to families who, otherwise, cannot afford a safe place for their babies to sleep. The local health department partners with Crib for Kids to provide education and safe sleep options for families in our community. It only costs \$92.99 to sponsor a Pack-N-Play Safe Sleep Survival Kit. Each bundle includes: a pack-n-play, safe sleep education material, a children's book, a pacifier, a sheet with a reminder to place the baby on its back and alone in the crib, and a sleep sack for the baby. Along with this, each gift will be matched dollar for dollar through federal grants funds.

[A Place to Sleep](#) provides bedding and beds for children in need in Kentucky. This ministry was started down the street at First Presbyterian Church in Shelbyville. Their main objective is simple: to provide beds for children who don't have one. Having a bed is essential to children getting a good night's rest, which effects so many areas of their life.

WELCOME

Staci Bryan



Staci is a native of Shelbyville and grew up attending Olive Branch UMC. She married Sean Bryan in the Fall of 2022 and they welcomed their son, Arthur, the following Summer. Staci loves spending time with her family, whether going for walks or cuddling up and watching a movie.

Staci is a certified paraeducator that was employed by Shelby County Public Schools as an instructional assistant for students with moderate-to-severe disabilities until October 2023, when she resigned from her full-time position to raise her newborn. She loved teaching but is excited about this new chapter in life of motherhood and homemaking.

Staci is delighted to be on staff at CUMC where she cares for children in the nursery by loving, nurturing, and teaching them while helping to create a foundation for their spiritual growth.

Lillian Baatz

I'm Lillian (Lily) Baatz. My husband and I have been together 7 years and will be married for 5. I have a 1 year old son named Benson and he makes life so fun. I work at Oldham County Public Schools as a Behavioral Technician in a highly structured classroom for kids with disabilities. In my free time you can find me with my family outside and probably at the zoo



Bullies, Praise, and Prayer

By Mary Lou Smith Madigan

Friends of my granddaughter, Lainey, gave her a dog several months ago, a Doberman. She had reservations, but accepted him. His name is Ringo. He gets along fine with her Pomeranian, Winnie. When they visited during Christmas vacation, I had reservations; pictured the two Dobermans in “Magnum, P.I.” Big. Hostile. Turns out Ringo is a big puppy: friendly, sensitive, and well-trained. All of us fell head-over-heels in love with him. He is most content on the couch with his head on someone’s lap.

On the first weekend in February, Lainey and Milan, her fiancé, took him to a nearby dog park. Another dog attacked and bit him, causing a large gash. He had surgery the next day. The owners of the other dog expressed no sympathy or regret.

This happening brought to mind a question: How do we pray for bullies? All of us have suffered physical or psychological hurt from bullies. I have always wanted to fight back but usually just walk away. But a grudge begins and can last for years. It hurts us far more than the one it is directed against. It hurts more when someone bullies a member of your family. Pray for that person {or that dog}? Really?

At times like these, we need to refer to Paul’s message in I Thessalonians 5:15-18. “Make sure no one repays a wrong with a wrong, but always pursue the good for each other and everyone else. Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation....”

Years ago in choir we sang an anthem about the sacrifice of praise. I wondered about that. It seemed counter-intuitive. But this is Paul’s message. If we can pray and praise during crises, we might get a new perspective on the problem. I am praying for Ringo’s recovery and praising the skills of the vet. However, I confess that praying for that dog and its owners will take a while.

Paul prayed and praised from prison. Jesus prayed, blessed, and forgave from the cross. I have some spiritual work to do.

Assistance Program

By Amanda Shirley

The new year started just as busy as the last one ended. In January, Centenary received 19 applications for assistance. Of those, we were able to assist 9 of them at a cost of \$1,233.07, impacting 22 individuals. I know that the fact we were unable to assist the other 10 may have some of you questioning why. Those 10 that we were unable to help were for various reasons. Mostly, it was because we had previously assisted the individual or family in the past 12 months. There were a couple of them that didn't have all the needed paperwork or did not complete the financial counseling course that they were referred to. I do my best to help those that come in; however, when there is a pattern or repeated need/use of the program, I refer people to financial counseling. They are given information for two locations locally that provide this free of charge. Once they receive the referral, they are notified that we cannot assist again until proof of completion of a course is provided. To date, I have not had a single person that has been referred to financial counseling come back in for financial assistance. Is this because they attended the course and benefited from it, or did they just figure out another way? Who knows. I do also refer people to other programs in our area. Shelby County does not have many financial assistance programs available. So, teaching people to manage and budget their finances helps them more in the long run.

In January, Centenary handed out 130 bags of food, feeding 284 people. As prices continue to increase, I don't see these numbers dropping. Centenary receives weekly food donations from Dare to Care, and periodically, we receive meat from Farmers Feeding Families as well. Centenary does purchase some of the food that is distributed as well. The funds for the assistance program are all from donations or grants. If you know of any grants that I should apply for, please let me know. Please know that this program is not possible without you, our congregation. Your generosity to the program and your love for your neighbors is shown through this program. As stated in the last newsletter, in 2023 we impacted 3,978 people's lives. Whether it is by providing food or helping keep the lights on, you have helped make a difference in their lives without even knowing them.



CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

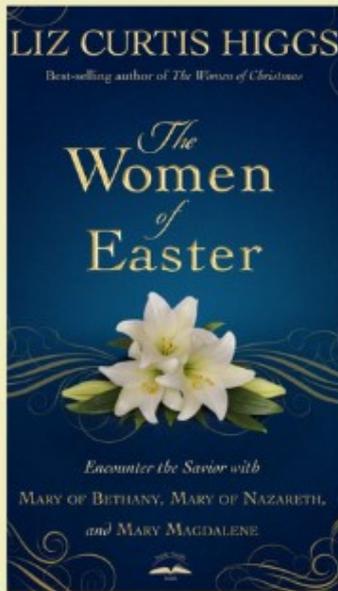
Instead of Giving Up Something for Lent
try
Giving Something to Someone in need

FEBRUARY 14TH - MARCH 31ST

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-2pm or Sunday mornings. If you need the items picked up please contact the church office.

Collection will take place during the 40 days of Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday (February 14th), through Easter Sunday (March 31st).

Some of the items we use for the Food Assistance: Canned Vegetables, Macaroni & Cheese, Rice, Beans, Tuna, Ramen Noodles, Boxes of Cereal, Granola Bars, Cereal Bars, Pop Tarts, Oatmeal, Grits Crackers, Noodles, Chips, Fruit Snacks.



Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:00am

(last session March 27)

Friendship classroom

~or~

you may join by Zoom

"Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store.

— N.T. Wright

Centenary Youth Fellowship

CYF

3/3 - SERVE

3/10 - FUN

3/17 - FAMILY WORSHIP

3/24 - STUDY

3/31 - OFF FOR EASTER

All youth are invited to join.
CYF meets Sunday night at
6:30pm, unless it's an outing.

Hope to see you there!

Children's Ministry



Calling for volunteers! Sunday mornings during our continued worship time, our numbers are slowly growing. However, to be able to keep them safe during this time, we are asking for volunteers to float in the Treehouse area. By volunteering, we are asking that you to help keep an eye on the children's area while our little ones listen to their lesson and play games. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Reesa Headley.



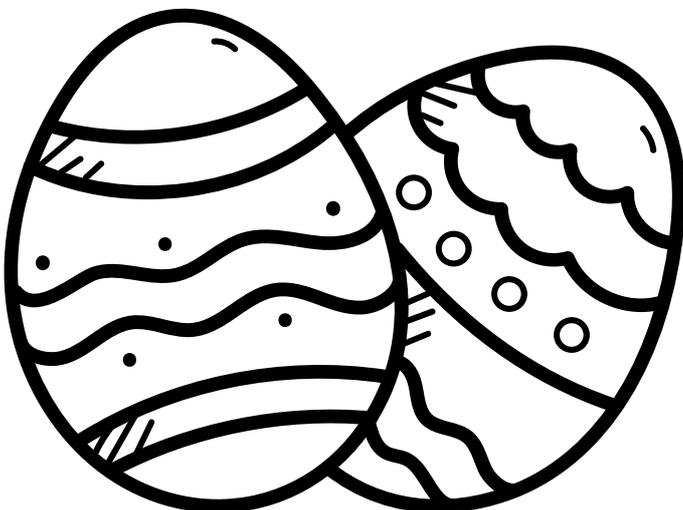
CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
429 MAIN STREET

EASTER
• EGG HUNT •



SUNDAY MARCH 31ST
FOLLOWING 10:30 SERVICE
ON OUR FRONT LAWN

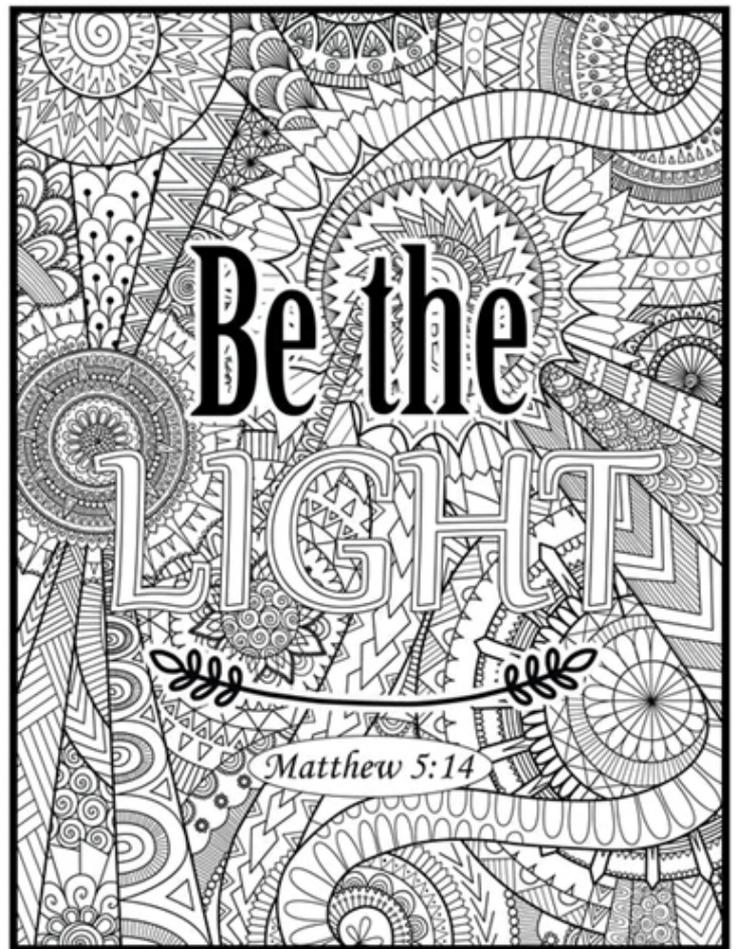
Join us for some Easter fun!





Being a teacher is not always easy and before school ends teachers tend to run out of supplies. This past month our children honored their teacher by writing cards and giving gift boxes to show their appreciation. We are so proud of all of our teachers in Shelby County and are so thankful for all their hard work.

Color with us! Downstairs near the elevator you will see a large wall coloring sheet. We would like for you to find your inner child and color with us. Be the Light and add your touch to this mural. We want to see this poster bright and colorful. This is for everyone. Adults and children. Spread the love with a bit of color.





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