



SEPTEMBER 2026

CROSSTALK

Centenary United Methodist Church

When you join Centenary, you say yes to five simple words: prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. These words feel ordinary, but they are not. They carry centuries of thought behind them.

John Wesley never wrote a membership vow. He built something different. He gathered people into small groups called class meetings and asked them one question over and over. How is it with your soul? Wesley cared less about a formal pledge and more about a daily walk with God, tested in community.

Our modern vows grew out of that same instinct. The Methodist Church needed a way to describe what committed discipleship looks like in practice. Early Methodists promised to support the church with their prayers, their presence, their gifts, and their service. In 2008, the United Methodist Church added a fifth vow: witness. Leaders realized that faith without a voice stays hidden. They wanted every member to know that sharing Christ with others belongs at the center of church life, not the edge of it.

So why do we still say these words today? Because a church runs on more than good intentions. A congregation needs people who show up, who give generously, who serve without waiting to be asked, and who talk about their faith outside these walls. The vow puts words to a commitment that might otherwise stay vague.

Think of it like a wedding vow. Love exists before the ceremony. But the spoken promise changes something. It creates accountability. It gives two people, or in our case a whole church family, a shared standard to return to when life gets hard.

Your membership vow works the same way. On a Sunday morning when you would rather sleep in, the vow calls you back to presence. When the offering plate passes and your bank account feels tight, the vow calls you back to gifts. When a coworker asks why you go to church, the vow calls you back to witness.

Maybe you have been sitting with us for months, or even years. You know the people. You know the rhythm of our worship. You already give, you already serve, you already show up. If that describes you, I want to ask you a direct question. What is holding you back from membership?

Taking this vow does not add a new obligation to your life, it simply names what is already true and invites you to stand before this church family and claim it out loud. Membership tells us we can count on you, and it tells you that we count you as one of our own. You belong here.

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

- Children's Area Sunday Mornings
- Youth Bible Study Sunday Mornings
- Be a Greeter for Sunday Mornings
- Assist in unloading the Dare to Care truck Wednesdays
- Food assistance Thursdays 9am-1pm
- Lead a small group/Bible or book study
- Help with Open Table
- Join the choir
- Join the Redwoods or the New Branch Group
- Jeep Invasion 11/26



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 for the
October 2026 Crosstalk
is Wednesday September 16, 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



2 nd	CYF meet-up	5:30pm
	Open Table	6:00pm
7 th	Office Closed Labor Day	
	Redwoods New Branch Meeting	6:00pm
8 th	SOS Support Group Meeting	6:00pm
9 th	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
14 th	Redwoods Meeting	10:00am
16 th	October Crosstalk Deadline	
	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
21 st	Church Council Meeting	6:30pm
22 nd	SOS Support Group Meeting	6:00pm
23 rd	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
26 th	Jeep Invasion on Main St	
28 th	Nominations Team meeting	6:30pm
	SPRC Meeting	6:30pm
30 th	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm

10	Brandon Hobbs
14	Patty Ethington
17	Dan Hardesty
	Jamie Vowels
18	Sierra Ethington
20	Renee Clark
21	Carol Furrow
22	Edward Hayes
24	Amanda Ethington
30	Bill Fraizer (Sr)

SEPTEMBER 2ND

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 lawn weather permitting.

Everyone is welcome!

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

WWW.CENTENARYSHELBYVILLE.COM

Service Opportunity

Serving in the Streets at the Jeep Invasion

On **Saturday, September 26**, Main Street Shelbyville will host the **Jeep Invasion**, and Centenary has a wonderful opportunity to welcome and serve our community—right in our own front yard!

We would love to set up a **Duck Pond and yard games** for children and families attending the event. But we need the support of our congregation to make it happen! **Volunteers are needed to give a little of their time** to help with the activities and offer a warm Centenary welcome to our neighbors.

Can You Help?



JEEP INVASION
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

The streets of Shelbyville are coming to our front yard!

Main Street Shelbyville is hosting the Jeep Invasion, and Centenary has an opportunity to welcome our community and **serve in the streets!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
We hope to offer:

- DUCK POND**
- YARD GAMES**
- FUN & HOSPITALITY**

Give a little of your time and help Centenary welcome the children, families, and neighbors gathering right outside our doors.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER BY SEPTEMBER 10

Contact the church office by **SEPTEMBER 10** so we can determine if we have enough volunteers to participate and have time to order the ducks, prizes, and supplies.

OUR VISION:
To be changed by Christ
To love and serve
In the streets of Shelbyville
And the World

★ **CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO VOLUNTEER** ★
⇒ Let's live our vision right in our front yard! ⇐

Please contact the church office by **Thursday, September 10**, if you are willing to volunteer. We need commitments by September 10 so we can determine whether we have enough volunteers to participate and, if so, have **time to order the ducks, prizes, and other supplies** needed for the event.

This is about more than games. It is an opportunity to live into our vision:

To be changed by Christ
To love and serve
In the streets of Shelbyville
And the World

On September 26, the streets are coming to us! Let's be present, welcoming, and ready to serve.

Volunteer Deadline: September 10
Contact the church office to sign up!

Assistance Program Update

July was another busy month for Centenary's Assistance Ministry as we continued serving our neighbors through both our Food Assistance and Financial Assistance programs.

Food Assistance

During the month of July, we served **167 households**, providing food for **377 individuals** throughout Shelby County. This marks our **second-highest monthly distribution** of the year, surpassed only by our special Easter food giveaway in March.

Since moving our distribution to **Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall**, we've noticed some changes in the families we serve. While we haven't seen a few of our longtime regulars since the schedule and location change, we have been blessed to welcome many new families, along with several new regular participants. Because households may receive food **every other week**, we're grateful to see our ministry continuing to reach new neighbors in our community while remaining accessible through the Fellowship Hall's convenient, ground-level entrance.

Financial Assistance

In July, we received **15 requests** for financial assistance and were able to assist **9 households**, providing a total of **\$1,411.28** in rent and utility assistance.

Of the six requests we were unable to approve:

- One applicant did not return with the required documentation needed to complete the application process.
- Five applicants were not eligible under our current assistance guidelines. This typically means they had either received financial assistance within the past 12 months or had not yet completed the required financial coaching referral they received following previous assistance.

Our financial coaching requirement is designed to provide long-term support by connecting individuals with resources and education that can help improve financial stability and reduce the need for future emergency assistance.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support this ministry through your prayers, donations, and volunteer service. Your generosity allows Centenary to meet practical needs while sharing Christ's love with our community.

Weekly Youth Bible Study

Youth Bible Study: Come join us! Our Youth meet each Sunday morning at 9:30am for a fun, judgment-free space where you can ask big questions and have in-depth conversations about faith. Every week, we dive into scripture to see how it relates to your real life, pairing our lessons with engaging games, crafts, or activities. Whether you want to share your thoughts or just hang out, there is always a spot in the circle for you!

Upcoming Happenings & Youth Updates

Summer Youth Outing: The Summer Youth Outing to The Parklands at Broad Run was a fantastic success as our group hit the trails for an unforgettable day of outdoor fellowship! Everyone enjoyed exploring the scenic Limestone Gorge Trail, breathing in the fresh air, and sharing a well-deserved sack lunch together. A special thank you goes out to our wonderful volunteers, Gary and Jill, for helping make the day run so smoothly. We loved seeing our youth connect with nature and one another, and we can't wait for our next group gathering!



ReadyFest: Reesa and Tiffany had a wonderful time connecting with about a hundred families and sharing information about our ministries at the recent Readyfest event. It was a joy to meet so many people in our community and raffle off two fun prize baskets. Huge congratulations to our lucky winners!



Jeep Invasion: Get ready for the upcoming Jeep Invasion on September 26th! We are currently looking for youth and youth parent volunteers to help set up the duck pond and warmly greet community families right on the church lawn. Please see Tiffany for more details and to sign up!

Confirmation Class: Did you miss confirmation class last spring and find yourself not wanting to wait another full year to take the next step? See Tiffany today about scheduling a confirmation or baptism class to get started on your faith journey!

Back to School Already? It feels like summer just began, but the new school year is right around the corner! We have a packed calendar of youth events coming your way, and we will be updating it as dates are finalized. To make sure you stay in the loop, please register each student for the new year—even those already in our youth group—using the QR code below. We are officially moving to a new communication system called Breeze; by registering, you will be automatically added to our updated text and email threads, ensuring you don't miss any important announcements all year long!



TREEHOUSE NEWSLETTER

September

Continued Worship

During Continued Worship, our children have finished up our Bible lessons with The Chosen Adventures and are shifting back to our previous stories through Superbook. When best friends Chris and Joy have a problem along with their robot named Gizmo, they uncover the secrets of Superbook through a mysterious portal to the past, traveling back in Biblical times from the eras of the Old Testament and the New Testament to solve them.



What we're learning

13th

In the Beginning

20th

The Test

27th

Jacob and Esau

Upcoming events



October 24 12pm-2pm
Downtown Trick or Treat

November 14th 3pm-8pm
Celebration of Lights

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 to Reesa Headley.



Reminders

We will not have continued worship on September 6th 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.



SEPTEMBER 6
SEPTEMBER 13
SEPTEMBER 20
SEPTEMBER 27

BABY MOSES
BURNING BUSH
RED SEA
10 COMMANDMENTS



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