

JANUARY 2026

CROSSTALK

Centenary United Methodist Church

As we step into a new year, many people across the country are carrying familiar concerns. Rising costs, questions about healthcare, changes in the job market, and the noise of politics all weigh on our minds. These worries are real, and they touch families in every community, including ours. But this moment isn't only about what's uncertain. It's also full of possibility.

What gives us that confidence? Scripture reminds us that God is always doing a new thing. While the world may feel unsettled, God's people are never without direction or hope. Every generation of believers has faced seasons of challenge, and each time God has led them forward into something meaningful and life-giving. That same promise is ours today.

At Centenary, we have every reason to look toward the year ahead with anticipation. This is a season when God is knitting together new relationships, stirring fresh ideas, and opening doors for ministry we haven't even imagined yet. We are growing, serving, learning, and reaching out in ways that reflect the heart of Christ. The needs around us may be great, but so is the opportunity to shine Christ's light in a world searching for peace, stability, and joy.

As a church, we get to step into this new year together with faith instead of fear, courage instead of anxiety, and hope instead of hesitation. God has already gone ahead of us and is preparing good things for our community and our ministry. Let's enter this year ready to listen, ready to serve, and ready to be surprised by the grace of God at work among us.

The future is bright, and we get to walk into it side by side.
Happy New Year!

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

Deadline for the February 2026 Crosstalk is Wednesday, January 21, 2025

Service Opportunities

- 1/7 Open Table (Dinner Church)
- Advent Activities after Worship every Sunday of Advent
- 1/25 Chili Cook Off



Lay Leader: Renee Clark

Council Chair: Heather Hood

Chair of SPRC: Holly Husband

Chair of Ops Team: Tracy Bertram

Chair of Trustees: TBD

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
centenaryumc@twc.com

Children's Ministry Director

Reesa Headley- rheadley@shelbycumc.org

Youth Director

Tiffany Rainey- trainey@shelbycumc.org

Music Director

Damaris Nevitt-dnevitt@shelbycumc.org

January

1 st	New Years Day	
7 th	CYF Worship	5:30pm
	Open Table (Dinner Church)	6:00pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
11 th	Leadership Training following worship	
12 th	Redwoods Meeting	10:00am
	Ops Team Meeting	6:30pm
14 th	Choir Rehearsal	6:15pm
15 th	Bunco in the Fellowship Hall	11:00am
	Financial Coaching Lunch and Learn	11:30am
18 th	Mission Trip Meeting Following Worship	
19 th	Church Council Meeting	6:30pm
21 st	February Crosstalk Deadline	
	New Member/ Connections Class	6:00pm
	Choir Rehearsal	6:15pm
25 th	4 th Annual Chili Cook Off Following Worship	
28 th	Choir Rehearsal	6:15pm
29 th	Financial Coaching Lunch and Learn	11:30am



- 4 Dale Fitzgerald
- 5 Sandra Vanarsdale
- 6 Gretchen Gayle
- Helena Kruer
- 7 Shelby Kovach
- 9 Steve Henderson
- 10 Sherri Pratt
- 18 Louise Pratt
- 19 Meredith Gaither-Eads
- 20 Jaelyn Stovall
- 22 Clara Henderson
- 25 Hailey Waggener
- 28 Lynn Swigert



JANUARY 7TH
OPEN TABLE

"A warm meal and welcoming space for all. Optional singing and reflection are available for anyone interested."

Join us in our Dining Room at 6:00pm. Park in the parking lot next to the new courthouse and enter from Washington St.

Everyone is welcome!

Menu

- Chili
- Potato Soup
- Dessert

Schedule

Youth Worship 5:30pm
Dinner 6:00pm-6:25pm
Group Singing 6:25pm
Deep Dive 6:30pm
Children and Youth activities 6:30pm

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

WWW.CENTENARYSHELBYVILLE.COM



**Third Thursday of each month
beginning January 15th 2026 at 11am!**

You must sign up for this activity!

**The first 11 people to sign up would
be included in the group.**

For more information or to sign up please
contact Pastor Patty Groot at
pgroot@shelbycumc.org

OPERATION
HOPE

**In-person
WORKSHOP**
HOPE Inside

Hosted By:

Centenary United Methodist Church
429 Main Street
Shelbyville, KY, 40065

Lunch Provided

Trent Lloyd
Financial Wellbeing Coach
trent.lloyd@operationhope.org
502-265-6333



**Scan to
RSVP**

Setting Financial Goals

January 15 @11:30am

Learn the basics of money management and how to plan for the future. In this workshop, we walk through how to define realistic goals, break them into manageable steps, and create a roadmap that keeps you focused and motivated.

Building Strong Credit

January 29th @11:30am

Learn how credit works and the simple steps you can take to build or improve your score. This workshop gives you clear, practical habits to strengthen your credit and open the door to better financial opportunities.



*Join Us for our 4th Annual
Children's/Youth Fundraiser*



**Make the
best chili to
win the
trophy**

**FREE TO ENTER &
FREE TO TASTE**



**SUNDAY
JANUARY 25**

AFTER SERVICE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
Chili Cook Off Competition will be held in Fellowship Hall. The competition will be judged by the members of the congregation. If you would like to participate, please let Reesa Headley or Tiffany Rainey know. We are asking for donations to help support our Children and Youth Ministries.

**If you have any
questions, please
contact Tiffany or Reesa.**

Assistance Program Update

Centenary's Assistance Ministry continues to be a powerful expression of God's love through the generosity of our church family. We are grateful to share an update on how your support has made a difference in recent months.

In November, Centenary received eight requests for financial assistance and was able to help six households, providing a total of \$887.80 in assistance. During the same month, we distributed 188 food bags, feeding 470 people. This total included 24 Christmas meal bags, made possible by your generosity. Of those Christmas meals, seven went directly to families connected to our church, while the remaining meals were shared with members of the wider community.

As we moved into December, financial assistance concluded on December 11 in preparation for the Christmas meal distributions. Prior to that date, we received three financial assistance applications and were able to assist two households, totaling \$249.56. One application could not be assisted due to other circumstances.

At the time of writing this article on December 17, we are in the midst of distributing our Christmas meal bags and have already handed out 170 food bags for December. With additional distributions still ahead, we anticipate that December will far surpass 200 food bags. A full update on Christmas meal distribution, along with a year-end summary of assistance provided in 2025, will be shared in January.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that in January, Centenary will begin offering in-person financial coaching classes as part of our assistance program. We will be hosting Operation Hope, and Trent Lloyd will be returning to lead these classes for individuals who may benefit from financial education and support.

As part of our assistance guidelines, individuals requesting financial assistance for a second time are referred to financial coaching and are required to complete a course before receiving further assistance. These in-person classes will fulfill that requirement while also equipping participants with valuable tools for long-term stability.

Thank you for continuing to be the hands and feet of Christ in our church and community. Your prayers, generosity, and support truly make a lasting impact.

**Assistance is open to all Shelby County residents
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-1pm**

**Financial Coaching Lunch and Learn will be on
Thursday January 15th & 29th 11:30am
in the Youth Building**

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.

- When: The first Wednesday of every month, starting at 5:30 PM
- Where: The Fellowship Hall
- Next Date: Wednesday, January 7th, 2026
- Schedule:
 - o 5:30 PM: Youth Fellowship
 - o 6:00 PM: Dinner is Served
 - o 6:30 PM: Lessons/Meeting Time

Event Recap: Rake N Run

A lively crew of volunteers teamed up for our annual Rake n Run mission. It was a cold morning, but we still descended on the yard with rakes in hand, working together to clear out leaves. It was a blast working side-by-side, leaving the lawn looking sharp and our community spirit even stronger!



Christmas Celebrations:

What a beautiful season spent together! A huge thank you to all the youth who helped make our Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Eve services so special

Upcoming Happenings & Youth Updates

WinterBlitz Update: While WinterBlitz was originally on the calendar for January, it has unfortunately been cancelled this year. Although we're bummed by the news, we're already looking forward to some exciting youth events coming up! Keep an eye out for more details soon, and please make sure you're on the Youth Text Thread to get the latest updates, times, and signup info.

Treehouse NEWSLETTER

January

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.

11/4-New Year's Party

1/11-In the Beginning

God is loving and has a wonderful plan for the future.

1/18-The Test

The hardest choices in life can bring the greatest joy.

1/25-Jacob and Esau

Broken relationships can be fixed through forgiveness.



Memory Verse

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come!

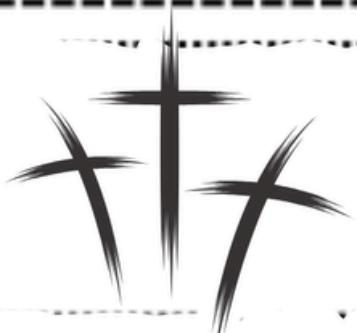
2 Corinthians 5:17



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

Upcoming Events

April 4- Easter Egg Hunt





January

- January 4 Young Jesus in the Temple
- January 11 Jesus is Baptized
- January 18 Jesus Calls Disciples
- January 25 Jesus Blesses Children



Little Fishers Families,

As we enter the new year we ask that you submit updated information so we can give your children the best care possible.

Forms will be available in the nursery. Thank you!



Thank you to everyone that supported Little Fishers in 2025 with donations, volunteering, and prayers.

We had an incredible year watching our littles growing in their relationships with God, teachers, and each other.

