

AUGUST 2024

# CROSSTALK

## Centenary United Methodist Church

*“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,

I want to thank you for the warm welcome that I have received at Centenary. It is good to be among you as we look to the future and seek God’s will for the church. And thank you for wearing your name tags. I think of the verse from Isaiah 43 when God says, “I have redeemed you. I have called you by name and you are mine.” Names are important and I want to learn, not only your name but more about you.

And what a great VBS we had! It was a great **“Blast Off”** for the rest of the summer and into the new school year. Our thanks to Reesa Headley and her team of leaders. Our time together reminded me of the verse from Luke 18 when Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

These words were a big shock to those around Jesus. After all, to them, kingdoms were made of warriors, strong and mighty men. In Jesus’ time children were weak, vulnerable and expendable. So what is the message that Jesus wanted to send to the disciples and to us? He is calling us to be childlike but not childish, demonstrating humility, dependence, and trust. He is calling us to have a sense of wonder that makes life exciting. He is calling us to be welcoming, trusting and dependent – all childlike characteristics which help the Kingdom of God to come on earth as it is in Heaven.

*“Holy Spirit, come and empower us to be like children and to have faith like you have called us to have.”*

May God bless you and yours,

Becki

## [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.



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**

### **Lead Pastor**

Becki Curry-revbecki@yahoo.com

### **Office Manager**

Amanda Shirley- 502-633-4510 or [ashirley@shelbycumc.org](mailto:ashirley@shelbycumc.org)

### **Children's Ministry Director**

Reesa Headley- [rheadley@shelbycumc.org](mailto:rheadley@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:



Deadline for the  
September 2024 Crosstalk  
is Wednesday, August 21, 2024



- 4th Blessing of the Backpacks during  
Worship 10:30am
- 7th SCPS First Day of School
- 12th Redwoods meeting 10:00am  
Ops Team meeting 6:30pm
- 14th Lunch Bunch Shelby's Diner  
11:30am

- 1 Annette Stephens
- 2 Brenda Snawder
- 5 Don Ernst
- 9 Ken Beaton
- 12 Graham Waggener
- 13 Terry Hansen
- 21 Tony Husband
- 22 Brenna Bertram  
Terry Coats
- 23 Don Gayle
- 26 Jeremy Nalley
- 29 Rachel Goodwin
- 30 Diane Gerlach

### LOVE Word Search

T F L O V E H Y M L P F T  
 H C T D G C L W W B R R J  
 O S S D N I K H R N L I B  
 U F E H Y T N S E L P E N  
 G Y R C A R E I U I M N L  
 H L V U N R V G Q B M D F  
 U A M K P I U D N G A F P  
 T I E R E M E H J L T O F  
 F M T N E I T A P C R I Y  
 L F G B U L K G I H E L P  
 D X U P Y L F V R W H T A  
 H U H A V R E N L O P N H  
 S S E L F L E S B I M R O

- |         |       |            |
|---------|-------|------------|
| CARE    | HEART | PATIENT    |
| FAMILY  | HELP  | SELFLESS   |
| FORGIVE | HUG   | SERVE      |
| FRIEND  | KIND  | SHARE      |
| HAPPY   | LOVE  | THOUGHTFUL |



**The Lunch Bunch will be heading to Shelby's Diner located in Frankfort on August 14th. We will meet at 11:15am at the church to carpool or convoy to the restaurant. Reservations are needed so please RSVP to Ms. Eleanor Warford by noon on Monday August 12th.**

**Here is a schedule for the next 2 months:**

**September 11th - Gallreins -Shelbyville**

**October 9th - Farm Kitchen - Shelbyville**

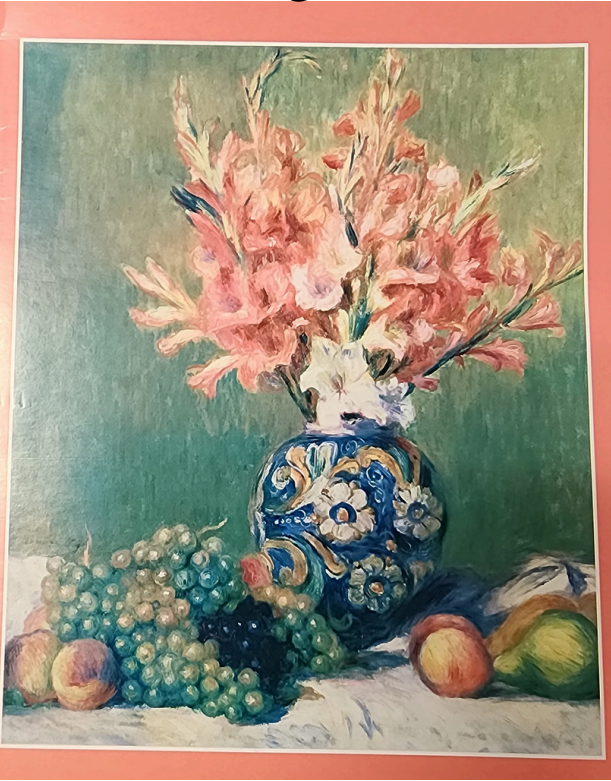
**Lunch  
Bunch**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

- Set up slides for Worship
- Run the sound board and slides on Sunday mornings  
(Training is available)
- Greeters to welcome people as they enter the church on Sunday mornings.
- Communion Stewards to help prepare communion elements.
- Communion servers to serve communion.

***CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, THANK YOU!***

# Thank you!



Dearest church family,  
• There are not enough words to fully express our gratitude for the wonderful meal after Chuck's memorial service. It's not an easy task to coordinate all of the food, set-up, serving, parking and clean up but everyone did an amazing job. The meal was delicious. We were able to relax and visit with family and friends after a very difficult day.

I feel blessed to have love and support from each of you and I will never forget it.

Love, Geri & family

## Peace, Be Still

By Mary Lou Smith Madigan

An old hymn during a revival still speaks to me: "Peace, Be Still." In our storms of grief, disillusion, dissension, and violence, we look for escape. We live in an era of extreme differences of opinion. We see them on TV, and sometimes in the eyes of friends and family. Sometimes we feel so alone.

I don't know about you, but occasionally I want to shout: "Be reasonable, do it my way!" But that won't work. So I keep quiet. And I suspect my blood pressure is rising.

About that time I remember "the master of ocean and earth and sky" and his words, "peace, be still." That feeling of aloneness begins to disappear. I think about the bridges between us, what we have in common, our love for family, friends, and country, and church family. Yes, there are differences, "troubled waters," but we have the bridges of companionship, worship, and happy memories. Add to that the missions, schools, and hospitals of the United Methodist Church. We can continue to work together to build a better world.



## Looking Forward...

Dear Centenary church family,

I have written a “Looking Forward...” article for each of the past three months. This is my fourth installment of articles and this may be my final installment since Pastor Becki is now here with us. My intent in writing these articles has always and only been to provide encouragement and hope for all of us as we entered into this season of change. I hope you have been and continue to read my articles as a message of hope.

Pastor Becki was with us and in the pulpit on Sunday, July 14th. Thank you for your warm Centenary Welcome to her and her husband Ken. Becki has jumped right in... meeting with individuals...meeting with leadership...meeting with the choir. She has been with us each night during the “To Mars and Beyond” Vacation Bible School...there is picture proof that she sang along and did the motions with the kids. She has lots of names to learn, so please continue to help by wearing name tags and smiles on Sunday mornings. Please sign up for one of the Table Talk sessions to give her a chance to meet you and learn a little more about you...or call Amanda in the church office to volunteer to host a Table Talk session at your home. Please also continue to pray for Pastor Becki and our church during this time of transition.

While change can be scary, I am both hopeful and excited for this season of change. I see so many glimpses of the good things happening here at Centenary. Our church family continues to show love to one another...it is one thing visitors notice first about us. Our church family continues to be committed to the children of our church and our community...the kids attending VBS were a great mix of our kids (and grandkids) and kids from out in the community. I could continue to list the good things I’ve noticed... but I want you to think of your own list.

With your list in mind...of the good you have glimpsed recently...does it fall into our mission and vision?

Our purpose (our mission) as Centenary U.M.C. is not changed...”We exist to: Love God, Love People, Make Disciples.”

Our vision of Centenary U.M.C. is not changed...we are here “To be changed by Christ to love and serve in the streets of Shelbyville and the world”.



My two examples earlier...how our church family continues to show love to one another and how our church family supported the children who attended VBS... definitely fit into our mission and vision. Loving one another is “Love People”. Loving on the kids, feeding the kids, teaching the kids the songs and crafts, playing games with the kids, helping the kids with the Bible Verse, praying with the kids, giving the kids a Bible...all of those things (and the many other things our volunteers did during VBS) fit into “Make Disciples” and “love and serve in the streets of Shelbyville”.

With Pastor Becki now here and asking questions of all of us...we have the opportunity to decide HOW we will move forward to live into our mission and vision. I hope that you will join me in praying for Pastor Becki, ourselves, and our church family during this time of transition. Pray please that we seek to discern God’s plans for each of us individually and for us as the body of Christ here at Centenary. Please pray too that we keep our ears, our minds, and our hearts open to hear from God to hear when He tells us where He is calling us to go and to serve in His name.

As I encouraged us to do last month, as you pray, go ahead and do some dreaming too. During this season of change, we have the opportunity to dream big. We can dream up new ideas for ministry areas. We can dream up new outreach opportunities and new programming to help us grow too. As you dream, share your ideas with Pastor Becki and the church leadership. We can’t implement new ministries without knowing someone has a passion for that ministry...and the Nominations Committee won’t fill leadership positions this fall that we aren’t aware are needed. I still firmly believe that the bigger our dreams, the more we will see God use us to do even bigger things in the hearts and lives of those whom we reach and serve.

This is now a season for Centenary U.M.C. to focus on healing and restoration and growth within our church family. I firmly believe that God has plans to use Centenary U.M.C. to accomplish great things for His kingdom. Let’s continue to LOVE one another through these changes. Let’s remember to BE PATIENT with ourselves and with one another during this time. And let’s EXTEND GRACE to ourselves and to each other as changes usually come with some growing pains along the way. I love you all!

Submitted by Trisha Hobbs



## The Redwoods Group



For our July meeting, the Redwoods planned to meet at the Simpsonville Pavilion for our summer picnic. With the weather forecast, Eleanor Shrader offered to hostess at her home so we could be out of the heat...THANK YOU ELEANOR!

Our potluck picnic was a lot of fun, with good food and a wonderful time of fellowship. Lynda Tharp had pre-addressed cards that were passed around and sent to those on our hearts. One person received a Thank You card from the Redwoods and happened to be sick that week...he shared with us later that it made his week when he received the card. His card wasn't a Get-Well card as we sometimes send... but it helped uplift his spirit just the same. We know that other people appreciate receiving our cards and we enjoy passing them around and signing them. We want you to know we are thinking about you...and even though we can't send a hundred cards each month, we send each of them with our love.

Our next regular monthly Redwoods meeting will be August 12th (meetings are held the second Monday of each month), so please save that date. We meet at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall for a time of devotion, planning, service, and fellowship.

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to join us, we hope you will consider joining us and becoming a part of this women's ministry.

In Christ,  
Trisha Hobbs





## Service Opportunity for the Assistance Ministry

Early in July, the Sanctuary Sunday School Class had another opportunity for fellowship and service as we were asked to pack bags for the assistance program. The partnership Centenary has with Dare to care was approved by the Ops Team in 2021 and several groups have taken turns packing bags each month, so they are ready for distribution.

Some of our class members look forward to their month in the rotation. Sometimes class members will have their grandchild(ren) join in helping, but for July Terry Coots decided to join our fun. As always, we do our fair share of chatting and catching up with what is happening with each other while we fill the bags. We usually pack bags until we run out of a particular food type, or we run out of shelf space for the packed bags, so we are usually done in less than a half hour. I forgot to count the bags this month, but we stopped when the shelves were full.

If your small group is ever invited to help by packing bags, it is easy, quick, and fun. If your small group has not been asked yet, I'm sure that Amanda would welcome a call or message volunteering your time. Here are a couple of pictures from that morning...

Submitted by Trisha Hobbs



## **Assistance Program**

By Amanda Shirley

This year has been marked by significant transition and uncertainty. For many of the individuals seeking our assistance, such instability is a constant reality. Numerous households are precariously balanced, with a single illness or injury potentially leading to financial distress. The impacts of inflation and the shortage of affordable housing are profoundly affecting many lives. Astonishingly, some of our clients are paying more in rent for a two-bedroom apartment than I do for my house mortgage. The escalating prices at grocery stores and other retailers exacerbate the struggle, leaving many people in dire circumstances.

Our records show a growing number of individuals who previously managed are now struggling to make ends meet. By the end of June, Centenary received 80 applications for financial assistance. We were able to directly assist 44 of these households, positively impacting 85 individuals at a total cost of \$6,899.77.

What stands out and is particularly concerning is that of the remaining 36 households, 20 had been assisted within the past 12 months, 12 did not return with the necessary paperwork, and 4 had not completed the required financial counseling courses. It is not uncommon for individuals to seek assistance before the 12-month period is up but seeing 25% of applications or requests falling into this category is both surprising and disheartening. The level of need within our community is indeed alarming and heartbreaking.

On the food assistance front, Centenary has distributed 784 bags of food so far this year, serving 1,677 individuals. Dare to Care has generously donated 15,932 pounds of food, valued at approximately \$25,013.24. Additionally, we received around 200 pounds of high-quality lean ground beef from Farmers Feeding Families. Centenary has also spent \$1,546.23 on food and other essential items for the food assistance program.

In these challenging times, many people turn to faith for support. Churches are often seen as a sanctuary and a source of help, reflecting our Christian commitment to be like Christ in serving those in need. As Pope Francis said, "You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them." Let us all pray for the individuals in our community who seek our help and then work to meet their basic needs.

Let's embody our vision: **To be changed by Christ, to love and serve, in the streets of Shelbyville and the world.** We continue our mission to: **Love God. Love People. Make Disciples.**

The assistance program is open to ALL Shelby County residents.

**Assistance days are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00am-1:00pm.**

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.

## College-Age Ministry

With the start of the new school year, if you are of college age and do not have my (Trisha Hobbs) phone number please send me an email at [thobbs87@bellsouth.net](mailto:thobbs87@bellsouth.net).

Please include your name and cell phone number so I can make sure you are added to my contact distributions. You will receive the periodic text invites to activities from me. Even though this ministry is a COLLEGE-AGE ministry...you do not need to be enrolled in classes to participate with us.

Please reach out to me if you are interested.

We want all of our college-age young adults to know they are still loved, they still have our support, and that they are still wanted to be present when they are in town (and every week if they happen to be one of several that are still local).

I'm going to be planning events to start in September again so that you will have a few weeks to adjust to your classes and schedule. IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR EVENTS, THEN I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! This is your ministry and you always have a say in what we do together, just send me your ideas. I'm looking at a possible day-hike for a Saturday this fall while the leaves are colorful, possibly October or November. I know some of you attend school further away...so if you give me advance notice of your visits home, I am willing to plan additional events during those weekends too. I'm still putting together dates, so...high school graduates from the class of 2020 forward, make sure you are on the look-out for text message invites from me and join in on the fun! Make sure I have your number! If you are the parent of one of our college-age young adults and you haven't heard them mention any text invites...feel free to send me their information. I want to keep them all engaged as much as possible.

Church family, I ask you to please be in prayer for us as we work to grow a greater outreach to our college-age young adults. I'm excited about this opportunity and believe that the response from the kiddos will continue to be positive.

In Christ,  
Trisha Hobbs





## **Barnabas Pal 2024-2025 is coming soon...**

In July, we held our “To Mars and Beyond” Vacation Bible School, so after VBS comes August and the “Back To School” time of year...even for our college kids.

When we bring a child forth for baptism, we pledge to help them grow in their faith. You can probably repeat this with me...

“With God’s help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal”

During our “To Mars and Beyond” VBS week, it was easy (and a lot of fun) to be involved in the lives of the children filling our building that week. And it is easy to be involved with the children and youth while they are growing up here at Centenary...we can teach Sunday School, we can help with Extended Worship, we can share a meal at their table at special dinners or luncheons (such as at our upcoming Pork Chop Dinner), we can sit in the pew with them and share our hymnal during worship, we can help chaperone a youth group outing/event, we can thank them for their participation after they read scripture or acolyte during worship, we can let them know we are praying for them when they need prayer, we can decorate a trunk and talk with them as we pass out candy at Trick or Trunk, we can ask them how their week is going when we see them at church, and the list goes on and on.

But how do we stay involved once they graduate from high school and go off to college? I have a list for that as well! We can keep in touch with them via texting, calling, sending e-Mail messages, via social media, and by sending letters. We can keep in touch with them, letting them know that we continue to keep them in our prayers. We can keep in touch with them, asking if they have something they specifically would like for us to pray for them about that week. We can keep in touch with them, checking to see how their classes are going and how they are adjusting to campus and living with their roommates. We can keep in touch with them, letting them know that we want to see them when they are in town from campus. We can keep in touch with them, letting them know what is happening at Centenary that they may want to come home to see or participate in occasionally. We can keep in touch with them, asking if they have found a church to attend near campus or a Bible study group to join. We can keep in touch with them, asking about mission trip and retreat opportunities they have participated in through a campus group. I’ve been amazed and blessed to hear some of their stories from campus involvement. It can bring tears to your eyes and joy to your heart as you hear what God is continuing to do in their lives and through their willingness to be God’s hands and feet and voice to their peers.

I have informational forms being distributed to our college kids (yes, I said kids because they are still my kids even though they are taller than me and many of them are no longer teenagers). Very soon, I will be asking for volunteers to step up as Barnabas Pal Sponsors. While I do not have all of the forms back to have a final count of college kids needing to be paired with a sponsor, I believe we will have around a dozen students needing to be paired with a Barnabas Pal Sponsor. Please be in prayer about whether you wish to continue to be a sponsor, start to be a sponsor, or take a break from being a sponsor.

Thank you for praying about this opportunity!  
Trisha Hobbs

# Children's Ministry



Our children are continuously learning each and every Sunday during Continued Worship. Each Sunday, they are encouraged to come down to the Treehouse, where we learn the stories of the Bible through Chris, Joy and Gizmo in 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. While watching the show, the adventure begins for the trio when a mysterious device appears and takes them on journeys throughout the Bible. If your child enjoys these videos, Superbook is available as an app that can be downloaded to your device, so they can take, learn and play anywhere.

## Vacation Bible School

Our thanks to Reesa Headley, our Children's Ministry Director and her team of leaders and helpers. It was a great week because of to the willingness of these people to give of their time and talent:

- Amanda Ethington
- Renee Clark
- Trisha Hobbs
- Margaret Tuttle
- Nancy Angell
- Bonnie Burks Gray
- Chellie Gaither
- Elisa Rice
- Ashley Chacon
- Amy Waggener
- Lenora Headley
- Jeff Gaither
- Ashley Ethington
- Mark Gibbons
- Pauletta Stovall



THANK

YOU!



Another successful VBS! During our week, our children learned lessons from the Bible like Daniel and the Lions, Queen Esther, The Good Samaritan, The Lepers and The Road to Emmaus. Each and every night our children attended crafts and learned a new dance. On our very first night we had two of our older children come forward and request a Bible of their own. Because of this, we decided to hold a children's altar call on Thursday, in which we gave children the opportunity to accept Jesus and take home a Bible of their very own. We ended our VBS this year with a Foam Party! All the kids enjoyed the massive amount of bubbles and cotton candy. Thank you to all those that volunteered to help out and make this event wonderful.

On Sunday morning, 13 of our VBS children sang during worship. They sang one of their favorite songs "ROAR". It was good to see the kids, parents and grandparents. Thank you to everyone who gave our visitors a warm welcome.



# Nursery NEWSLETTER

August

## Note from the Teachers:

August is a time of change for our kids. Summer ends and school begins. We are praying over the littles in our care and their families as they adjust to school schedules for siblings and friends

~ Mrs. Staci



## Lesson Plans

8/4	BY HIS POWER
8/11	ANOTHER HOME
8/18	OBEYING GOD
8/25	FRUIT TREES

THIS MONTH WE WILL CONTINUE EXPLORING "THE ONE YEAR DEVOTIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS"

I CAN DO ALL THINGS  
THROUGH CHRIST  
WHO STRENGTHENS  
ME

PHILIPPIANS 4:13



We are hoping to grow our class!

We welcome you to visit the nursery with your little ones so they can explore the toys and puzzles and we can answer any questions you may have about lessons, care, or routines.

## Contact Us:

Reesa Headley: 270-302-1761  
Staci Bryan: 502-321-1424  
Ashley Chacon: 502-655-6373





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