

Centenary United Methodist Church
1290 College Street
Macon, GA 31201
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CENTENARYCHURCH
a place at the table

April, 2024

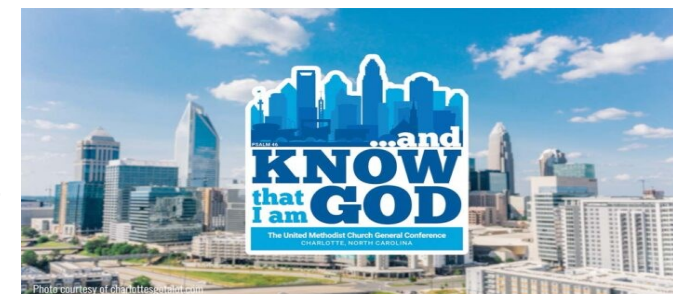


United Methodists will be in the news this month as they gather in Charlotte, NC for the postponed 2020 United Methodist General Conference April 23 – May 3. General Conference is the only body that can set official policy and speak for the denomination. 862 delegates, half clergy and half lay, will come together to consider revisions to church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. The General Conference will also approve plans and budgets for church-wide ministry for the next four years. Delegates will worship, pray, debate, and vote as one body.

As this is the first General Conference held after the disaffiliation process, there will be lots of conversation around regionalization and how we re-structure as a denomination. Many groups continue to put forward resolutions to remove the harmful language in our Book of Discipline that limits full participation of our LGBTQ community within the life of the church. Each day during this two week global conference, I invite you to join me in prayer using our daily prayer prompts. We'll pray for our South Georgia General Conference delegates, our Bishop, denominational leaders, and the legislative groups as they go about doing this hard and holy work.

“As we continue to focus on making disciples in our local churches, we are also mindful of the important work that will take place in Charlotte this Spring,” said Bishop Graves. “I invite all South Georgia clergy and laity to join me in prayer for our United Methodist Church and for our delegation as they prepare for General Conference 2024. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, may those things of God and each other connect us so we can lean into all God is calling the South Georgia Conference to be today and in the days to come.”

If you have any questions or hear anything within the national media that you don't understand, please feel free to reach out to me at sara@centenarymacon.org. May this whole General Conference come together and fully recognize that all are beloved children of God, deserving of love and respect, who God will use to change the world!
Pastor Sara



YOUR CENTENARY STAFF

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Video Production

Elliott Dunwody

Who we are:

We are an intentionally diverse, radically hospitable, perfectly imperfect, counter-cultural community committed to rediscovering the mysteries of our faith.

You are invited:

Join us around the sacred table to which we are all invited to be fed spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, and physically and at which we all belong. Come connect, grow, serve, and play as together we strive to become the wholly authentic selves God has made us to be.

We believe that God has given every person a gift.

We want to be the type of place where you are excited to use your gift in service to your church and community! What is it that you are passionate about?

Can we help in any way to turn your passions and dreams into lived reality?

Prayer Prompts for General Conference:

- | **April 23** - Pray for Rev. Doreen Smalls, head of our SGA GC Delegation; pray for the beginning of the conference gathering as guidelines are set that love and compassion will surround all
- | **April 24** - Pray for Richard Shinoster (lay delegate); pray for those within legislative committees discussing petitions - Church and Society, Conferences, Discipleship, and Financial Administration
- | **April 25** - Pray for Rev. Dr. Scott Hagan (clergy delegate); pray for those within legislative committees discussing petitions - Faith and Order, General Administration, Global Ministries, and Independent Commissions
- | **April 26** - Pray for Allison Lindsay (lay delegate); pray for those within legislative committees discussing petitions - Judicial Administration, Local Church, Higher Education/Superintendency, and Ordained Ministry
- | **April 27** - Pray for Rev. Dr. Jimmy Asbell (clergy delegate); pray for our young adult delegates and for their voices to be heard
- | **April 28** - Pray for Patsy Thomas (lay delegate); pray for this day of Holy Sabbath Rest for all those at General Conference
- | **April 29** - Pray for Rev. Dr. Ben Martin (clergy delegate); pray for the elections of leaders for our denomination
- | **April 30** - Pray for Karen Forrester (lay delegate); pray for conversations on the floor around different legislation, that hearts and minds will be open to God's voice breaking through
- | **May 1** - Pray for Bishop Graves and our other Bishops, especially as they led the General Conference
- | **May 2** - Pray for Rev. Michael Culbreth and Rev. Tony Crosby (clergy alternates); pray for the future of the United Methodist Church
- | **May 3** - Pray for John Ray and Denise Rooks (lay alternates); pray for the safe travel of all delegates back to their homes

How to Worship Online

Our services can be accessed weekly through the **Centenary Community Facebook page** (no Facebook Account required), our website, www.centenarymacon.org (under the worship menu tab), as well as through the weekly worship email.

Worship in April

Signs of New Life Sermon Series

- April 7: Doubt and New Life
John 20:19-31
- April 14: Storytelling as New Life
Luke 24:36b-48
- April 21: Supporting One Another as New Life
Mark 2:1-12
- April 28: Love as New Life
1 John 4:7-21

If you have items for the May newsletter, please bring or email them to the office by **Monday, April 15**. Be sure to include date, time, place and contact information.

Greeters & Counters



- April 7 — **Carolyn Bradley & Teri Hatley**
Counting—El Click
- April 14 — **Jack & Pat Castle**
Counting—Kirk Taylor
- April 21 — **Charles & Jody Lewis**
Counting—Karen Hahn
- April 28 — **Debbie Krafft & Charlotte Storey**
Counting—John Holik

Prayers for All

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Eloise Harrison | Barry Horton | Teri Hatley |
| Kit Jensen | Beverly Hickman | Carol Lee Money |
| Jonathan Hutchison | Dallas Stokes | Davina Gray |
| Johnny Davis | Dr. Ned DeJournett | Marnie Gray |
| Graison McGehee | Laura Green | Greg Krafft |
| Hinda Jonathan | Karen Thompson | Richard Nickel |
| Norah Hanson | Natalia Welch | Elvira Nickel |
| Ben Brantley | Jon Eric Fischer | Sandra Rogers |
| Josie Wales Rawls | Melanie Wagner | Jody Lewis |
| Jeanette Vesely | Haley Snow | Mary Darragh |
| Beth Grace Strachman | Thomas Johnson Sr. | Karen Martin |
| Angie Lann | Mike Holik | James Smith |
| Chloe Hanson | Amber Deavers | |
| Anna Bush | Ian S. Gomez | |



Dear Centenary Community, We are in the process of updating our prayer list and could use your assistance in helping keep it current. First, if there are those that remain on the list above that need to come off, or if we have inadvertently removed someone who you wish to remain on the list, please contact: sara@centenarymacon.org or beth@centenarymacon.org. Also, when requesting that we add someone outside of Centenary, please be sure to include **your** name on the Connect Card, so we know who to contact for follow up. Thank you and know that each and every one of you and those you love remain in our prayers constantly whether by name or not.

YTD Comparative Finances Through February

	2024	2023	Change
Income	\$31,387	\$30,284	\$1,103
Expenses	35,186	38,251	(3,065)
Net	\$ (3,798)	\$(7,967)	\$4,168

Compared to the same time period in 2023, income is up \$1,103 and expenses are \$3,065 less! The YTD deficit is \$13,950 compared to \$18,407 last year. Your generosity is appreciated as we continue our effort to achieve a balance budget. We are making progress!

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Freshening Up Fellowship Hall

We have replaced the old, heavy (falling apart), wooden tables with new lighter ones. And our new friend, Curtis, has used paint on a few walls to brighten up the area. Take a look when you get a chance.



JOIN US FOR CENTENARY'S
Blood Drive
April 24 from 2-6pm

Register to donate blood at
www.redcrossblood.org and search
Centenary

CENTENARYCHURCH
a place at the table

The Downtown Tapestry is joining together for an educational time this summer with two camp offerings for our kids and youth! Mulberry Street UMC, First Baptist Church of Christ, High Street Unitarian Universalist and Centenary will combine for June 17-21 for Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is Camp Firelight and we'll be looking at scripture that encourages our students to not be afraid for God is our light! We do need some adult and youth volunteers so reach out to Pastor Sara to receive the signup form. Kids can signup to participate in VBS here: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/ElisaReece/VBSParticipantRegistrationMulberryStreetUMC>

Adults and youth can signup to volunteer using this form: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44AAA922A4F5C70-47627106-vacation>



Join us for combined Vacation Bible School at Mulberry Street UMC!

June 17-21 from 9-12pm, PreK through rising 5th (youth can signup as helpers with Pastor Sara!)
Aftercare until 5pm for church members at \$100/kid
Join us for a great week of singing, crafts, science, missions, and sharing how God is our light so we don't have to be afraid!
Please reach out to Pastor Sara if you need aftercare for your child.

PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

AS SEXUALITY EDUCATORS

A collaborative offering by High Street UU and Centenary UMC

This small group ministry workshop is an opportunity for parents and caregivers to explore their roles as the most important sexuality educators their children will have. This two-day workshop will be hosted at Centenary UMC, and childcare will be available. Registration required. Contact Rev. Amanda at rev.amandas@gmail.com to register or with any questions, concerns, or accessibility needs.

APRIL 26 2024 & **APRIL 27, 2024**
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM & **9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

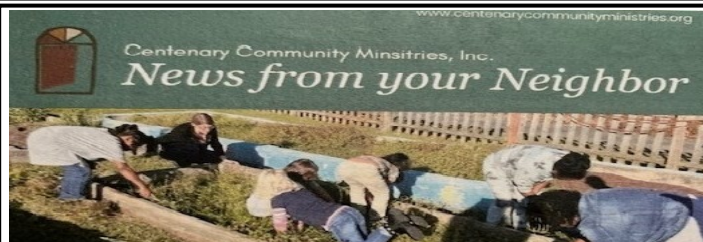
MISSION CAMP

We'll learn from:

- Temple Beth Israel
- High Street Unitarian Universalist
- Macon Quakers
- Ocmulgee Mounds Staff
- Islamic Center in Macon

June 24-27 from 9-5pm
Rising 1st Grade through 8th
Learn more about our interfaith neighbors by visiting places of worship and doing missions together
\$50/student and includes shirt
Register by June 3

Temple Beth Israel will join us the next week as we participate in an Interfaith Mission Camp! During this camp, students who are rising first grade (and in a booster seat) through 8th grade will journey to different faith communities in town to learn more about faith practices and participate in a mission with members of that faith community. Registration is \$50/child for this 9-5pm camp. Please signup on this google form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ckaaO2tTtjM3I3J4nRHO9tRzh3NjizWxp9eeGwukjKO/edit?ts=65e9de4f>



Pledge a Monthly Act of Kindness

According to a recent Gallup poll, 17% of adults surveyed felt lonely on any given day. While that figure has decreased since the pandemic, it still equals 44 MILLION people (Source: Gallup [Witters, 2023]). This report also emphasizes that these figures are higher among low income adults at 26% and underserved populations like the ALICE families we serve in our Financial Outreach ministry (asset-limited, income constrained, and employed). This is doubled in homeless and food insecure populations like our Community Breakfast participants. Loneliness looks different in everyone: it's a desperation to be heard, a hunger for more, reacting with crisis and panic, fighting relapse, and more. We see this every single week when our participants come to our programs with heavy hearts, just looking to be heard.

If 30 people pledged to give a gift of \$50 every month to CCMI, starting RIGHT NOW, that would cover almost the entire cost of our Community Breakfast expenses for the rest of the year! Your \$150 monthly pledge could keep at least 10 families from falling behind on a utility bill this year alone. Keeping these ministries alive lets people be heard, fed, and cared for. Think about these as monthly Acts of Kindness that YOU could give to drastically change the lives and wellbeing of our participants and neighbors. Maybe something small for you could be monumental to someone else.

Make your pledge now by visiting <https://onrealm.org/CCMI/give/naw> and filling in the amount for your Act of Kindness Pledge. Schedule it to run monthly and we'll take care of the rest! Help us do our part in supporting Homelessness Prevention in Macon.

Celebrating Rose

For four years we've been grateful to have Rose Thornburg as our admin for the church. This May, she will be retiring so that she can travel without having to worry about work schedules! No worries though as Rose will still be around as a faithful member of the Centenary Community! We'll gather in worship on May 12 and have a moment to recognize and honor Rose and her dedication and time as our church admin. After worship, there will be a small reception as well to offer up thanks! Please join us in saying thank you for all the ways Rose kept us organized and informed!


SAVE THE DATE: HUNGER FOR MORE

SUNDAY
APRIL 14
AT 6PM

A STORYTELLING PARTNERSHIP WITH
STORYTELLERS MACON AND CENTENARY
COMMUNITY MINISTRIES INC




We are grateful to the ladies of Mercer's Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Chapter for taking an interest in beautifying our community garden! They worked hard to get our plots ready for the Community Cookout event and to have the plots ready for this year's renters.



Check the C.C.M.I. website for garden packages.





Chair Exercise

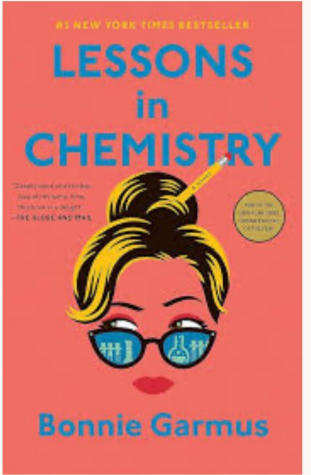
THURSDAYS AT 1PM
STARTING APRIL 4

CENTENARY COMMUNITY
1290 COLLEGE STREET
USE THE DOOR ON ASH STREET

JOIN HINDA JONATHAN
FOR THIS HOUR LONG
EXERCISE CLASS FOR
MATURE ADULTS



CENTENARY WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB




Join our monthly book club for a great time of conversation around "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. Contact Karol Daniel for more information at karoldaniel@gmail.com

Sun, April 21 at 3pm



Ladies Luncheon is an exciting and growing group of gay men and their friends who gather for Sunday lunch and conversation on the first Sunday of each month. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome! For restaurant location call Don at 404-556-0729.



Women's Interfaith Alliance of Central Georgia

April Meeting
Monday, April 8, 2024
12:00noon until 2:00PM

Wesley United Methodist Church
4256 Hartley Bridge Road, Macon

Meeting Forum/Topic
Transformation: Rituals and Practices
Fasting—Panel presentation and conversations (Sharing of our various faith traditions and personal experiences)

Note: because of Ramadan, there will be no meal during this meeting

For information email flosappmartin@aol.com

Gender and Sexuality: L-G-B-T-Q-I-A

JOIN DR. CAROLE SEEGERT - MACON
PSYCHOLOGIST - AS SHE GUIDES US THROUGH
DIFFERENT TERMS FOR THE LGBTQIA
COMMUNITY TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING
AND COMPASSION FOR DIFFERENCES

Wednesdays, April 24 - May 15 from 12-2pm

Lunch included so RSVP is appreciated to office@centenarymacon.org by April 21





Sunday Schedule:

7:30am — Community Breakfast

9:30am — Sunday Study-Hybrid

10:00am — Children’s Class

10:20am — Choir in Round Room

11:00am — **Worship in Sanctuary**

11:00am — Nueva Vida
in Fellowship Hall

Centenary/CCMI



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 He Is Risen! “The Cup that Never Runs Dry” <i>John 20:1-8</i> 6:00pm — AA	1 6:30pm—Willingway Community Continuing Care	2 7:30pm—Wesley Worship, Fellowship Hall	3 12:30pm—Falling Upward Study w/ Beth Dunwody	4	5	6 2:00pm—Quaker Group
7 “Doubt and New Life” <i>John 20:19-31</i> 6:00pm—AA	8 12:00pm—Women’s Interfaith Alliance 6:30pm—Willingway Community Continuing	9 6:00pm — Macon Periods Easier Board meeting 7:30pm—Wesley Worship, Fellowship Hall	10	11 5:00pm—Support Group for Parents of Trans Kids 6:00pm—Community Watch Meeting	12	13
14 “Storytelling as New Life” <i>Luke 24:36b-48</i> 6:00pm—Storytellers of Macon and CCMI Event 6:00pm—AA	15 6:30pm—Willingway Community Continuing Care	16 7:30pm—Wesley Worship, Fellowship Hall	17 10:30am—Staff Meeting	18 12:00pm—Neuro Divergent Parents Support Group	19	20
21 “Supporting One Another as New Life” <i>Mark 2:1-12</i> 3:00pm—Book Group Pastor Sara to Valdosta 6:00pm—AA	22 6:30pm—Willingway Community Continuing Care	23 GENERAL CONFERENCE	24 CHARLOTTE, N.C. 12:00pm—Gender and Sexuality: L-G-B-T-Q-I-A Class 2:00PM—Blood Drive	25 GENERAL CONFERENCE	26 CHARLOTTE, N.C. 6:00pm—Parents and Caregivers Sexuality Training	27 GENERAL CONFERENCE 9:00am—Parents and Caregivers Sexuality Training 10:00-1:00pm—Education & Support Expo for Children & Young Adults with Disabilities
28 GENERAL CONFERENCE “Love as New Life” <i>1 John 4:7-21</i> Baptism of Jojo O’Connor	29 CHARLOTTE, N.C. 6:30pm—Willingway Community Continuing Care	30 GENERAL CONFERENCE 7:30pm—Wesley Worship, Fellowship Hall	1 CHARLOTTE, N.C. 12:00pm—Gender and Sexuality: L-G-B-T-Q-I-A Class 5:30-7:00pm—Wednesday Night Supper	2 GENERAL CONFERENCE	3 CHARLOTTE, N.C.	4 2:00pm—Quaker Group

Notes

Tax Prep

The United Way of Central Georgia is sponsoring the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program at Centenary again this year. This is for anyone of low to moderate income; persons with disabilities, and limited English-speaking ability. If you know anyone who qualifies, tax preparers will be in our Fellowship Hall Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00am to 3:00pm until April 19th.