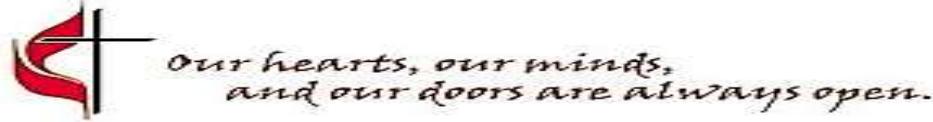


**Centenary United Methodist Church**



**Welcome Back Sunday**  
**September 12, 2021**      **16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**      **10:15AM**

**Welcome to worship with Centenary United Methodist Church!**  
**Today we gather as an online community to worship together.**  
**Please light a candle to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit.**

\*All who feel comfortable standing are invited to do so.  
 UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal — TFWS = The Faith We Sing Songbook  
 W&S = Worship and Song Book

**\*Opening Hymn**      *All My Days*      **W&S 3011**

**\*Call to Worship**      **by Nancy C. Townley**

L: Just as the heavens burst forth in praise to God.  
**P: We celebrate God's abundant and powerful love.**  
 L: Day by day, and night by night.  
**P: God watches over us, loving and healing us.**  
 L: Come, celebrate with joy the love of God.  
**P: Open our hearts and spirits, Lord, and teach us your ways. Amen.**

**\*Opening Prayer**      **by Joanne Carlson Brown**

Loving and caring God, we come this morning seeking wisdom and guidance for our lives. Open us to your words of life and love and truth. May we proclaim with our tongues what we know in our hearts. In this time of worship, help us more fully understand what it means to truly be a disciple, a follower of the way of Jesus, a follower of the path of wisdom. May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

**Song of Praise**      *This Is the Day*      **UMH 657**

**Let the Children Come**      *Hello (VBS Song)*      **video**

**Blessing of Backpacks/Students/Teachers & Staff**      **Pastor Sooah & Nicole Tierno**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**\*Scripture Lesson**      *James 3:1-12*

**Sermon**      *"Live What You Believe 2: Loving with Your Words"*      **Rev. Sooah Na**

**Prayer in Song**      *More Like You*      **TFWS 2167**

**Offering Invitation**

**\*Offertory Hymn**      *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise*      **TFWS 2031**

**\*Doxology**      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*      **UMH 94**  
 Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*Prayer of Dedication**      **by June Boutwell**  
 God, we hear and we respond to your words of wisdom, your words of call and life. May these gifts, not only of our gifts, but of our very selves— our words, our thoughts, our actions— be acceptable to you, and help spread your words of life and love. **Amen.**

**Celebration of Joys, Concerns, and Announcements**

**A Prayer for the Anniversary of 9/11**      **by Rev. Jeremy Pridgeon**

**\*Closing Hymn**      *Shalom (VBS Song)*      **video**

**\*Benediction**      **by June Boutwell**  
 As we go forth, may the words of our mouths be acceptable and true. May the meditations of our hearts be loving and pure. As we leave this place, may the actions of our lives be compassionate and just. May the stirrings of our hearts be guided by God's thoughts and wisdom. **Amen.**

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**OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED      NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS**

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**THE STAFF**

<b>Ministers.....The Congregation</b>	<b>Pastor.....Sooah Na</b>
<b>Dir. of Music Ministry.....Donavon Soumas</b>	<b>Sunday School Coord.....Nicole Tierno</b>
<b>Worship Assistant(s).....Sarah Kanchi</b>	<b>Custodian.....Olga Alvarado</b>
.....	<b>Administrative Asst.....Mary Wu</b>
<b>Usher(s).....Scott Woodfield</b>	
<b>Refreshments.....TBD</b>	<b>Early Learning Ctr.....Melinda Wilson</b>

**Remember in your prayers:**  
 Debra Martin (daughter of Mary Ellen Heim); Fran Koppell (friend of Bruce & Ellen Clarke); Roger Mullenhard (Linda Serentino's brother-in-law); Stephanie Ringler; Melanie Spanko (daughter of member Janet Spanko); Lee Lehman (former member of CUMC); Clyde Soumas (brother of Donavon Soumas); Christine Shaver (friend of Nicole Tierno); Lester Heim, Jr.; Carla Giordano; Juliana Martino; Howie Reenberg (friend of Tom Moyer); Rev. Carl H. Kearns; Richard Lake; Walter Spanko (family of Nancy Rapp); Laura Vasile (Rita Vasile's daughter); the Martino family; Dorothy Horner; Sylvia Woodfield; Portia Lashley; Mary Ellen Heim; Rohan Punith; John Wooding; Samantha (neighbor of Nicole Tierno); Austin Banks' family; Monika Van Houten; Karen Soumas (sister of Donavon Soumas); Evelyn Thomas' family (friend of Donavon Soumas).



*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Arms*



**Mission Statement**

“Centenary United Methodist Church is a community of people growing in faith, love and hope, doing all the good we can, following in the footsteps of Jesus.”

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**Hymn Lyrics**

<i>All My Days (W&amp;S 3011)</i>	<i>This Is the Day (UMH 657)</i>
<p>1 You know my words before they're said. You know my need and I am fed. You give me life. You know my ways, my strength, my path, for all my days, my strength, my path, for all my days.</p> <p>2 If I should fly beyond the dawn, the darkness will not overcome. If I lie down in deepest night, still you are there, my Lord, my light, still you are there, my Lord, my light.</p> <p>3 Our every thought, each word we say, the whole of time, the present day, are held within your mighty hand, too wonderful to comprehend, too wonderful to comprehend!</p> <p>4 O mend my heart and free my voice. From sin released, I will rejoice. O search me, Lord, my spirit cries, and let my song of praise arise, and let my song of praise arise!</p>	<p>This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made, that the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice, let us rejoice, and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made.</p>

**Hymn Lyrics**

<i>All My Days (W&amp;S 3011)</i>	<i>This Is the Day (UMH 657)</i>
<p>1 You know my words before they're said. You know my need and I am fed. You give me life. You know my ways, my strength, my path, for all my days, my strength, my path, for all my days.</p> <p>2 If I should fly beyond the dawn, the darkness will not overcome. If I lie down in deepest night, still you are there, my Lord, my light, still you are there, my Lord, my light.</p> <p>3 Our every thought, each word we say, the whole of time, the present day, are held within your mighty hand, too wonderful to comprehend, too wonderful to comprehend!</p> <p>4 O mend my heart and free my voice. From sin released, I will rejoice. O search me, Lord, my spirit cries, and let my song of praise arise, and let my song of praise arise!</p>	<p>This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made, that the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice, let us rejoice, and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made.</p>

### Hymn Lyrics

<i>More Like You (TFWS 2167)</i>	<i>We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise (TFWS 2031)</i>
More like you, Jesus, more like you. Fill my heart with your desire to make me more like you. More like you, Jesus, more like you. Touch my lips with holy fire and make me more like you. Lord, you are my mercy. Lord, you are my grace. All my deepest sins have forever been erased. Draw me in your presence. Lead me in your ways. I long to bring you glory in righteousness and praise.	We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord. We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord. And we offer up to you the sacrifices of thanksgiving; and we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy.

### Hymn Lyrics

<i>More Like You (TFWS 2167)</i>	<i>We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise (TFWS 2031)</i>
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***Blessing of Backpacks (Back to School Blessing)**  
by the Rev. Kathie Wilkinson, Mt. Sylvan UMC, Durham.*

**Pastor Sooah :** God of all knowledge and wisdom, bless these backpacks and each student that will carry them every day of this school year. We give thanks for these children and ask a blessing on these that we name before you now: Kevin, Orianna, Sandhya, Arthur, Amelia, Rosie, Liliana,

**Nicole:** Jamie, Devin, Lance, Olivia, Sonia, Sarah Downes, Sarah Kanchi, Ohanna

**Congregation:** As students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each day.

**Nicole:** Help them to do their best, guide them to make right choices, and remind them that your love and presence are always with them. Fill them with curiosity, understanding, respect for their teachers, and care and compassion for other students.

**Congregation:** Help us encourage our children and understand the challenges and fear of failure that can come with each new year. Help us to have realistic expectations of children that are neither unreachable nor unchallenging.

**Pastor Sooah:** We give thanks for teachers, administrators, and staff that work with students each day, and ask a blessing on these that we name before you now: Arlene Gray, Bruce Clarke, Carlston Gray, Donavon Soumas, Peggy Martino, Sara Martino.

**Congregation:** May these teachers and staff be reminded that this congregation supports them in their roles and surrounds them with our love and care.

**Nicole:** Help the teachers and administrators care for every student, find the best in each one, and understand those who have special needs. Give them patience and strength to never give up, and assurance that you are always with them.

**Congregation:** In your love and mercy, surround our children and our schools with your protection that they may be safe places for all who enter. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.



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**A Prayer for the Anniversary of 9/11**  
**by Rev. Jeremy Pridgeon**

O God, our hope and refuge,  
in our distress we come quickly to you.  
Shock and horror of that tragic day have subsided,  
replaced now with an emptiness,  
a longing for an innocence lost.

We come remembering those who lost their lives  
in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania.

We are mindful of the sacrifice of public servants  
who demonstrated the greatest love of all  
by laying down their lives for friends.  
We commit their souls to your eternal care  
and celebrate their gifts to a fallen humanity.

We come remembering  
and we come in hope,  
not in ourselves, but in you.

As foundations we once thought secure have been shaken,  
we are reminded of the illusion of security.

In commemorating this tragedy,  
we give you thanks for your presence  
in our time of need  
and we seek to worship you in Spirit and in truth,  
our guide and our guardian. **Amen.**

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