



Welcome!

Centenary United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation, extending hospitality and encouraging full participation of all, regardless of age, race, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, education, economic background, and physical or mental ability.

We are glad that you have joined us today!

Welcome to worship! In this shared space, we trust that God meets us just as we are - drawing us together in grace, hope, and love. Whether this is your first time with us or you return often, you are welcome here.

May this time of worship open our hearts to God and to one another.

October 11, 2026

The Benediction Project: Covenant Series

Prelude 🎵

Hornpipe from the Water Music

G. F. Handel

Choral Introit 🎵

Spirit of the Living God

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Call to Worship 📖

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, breathe on us today.

Movement: Both open hands at the chest, one above the other, then gently move outward and back in.

ASL: BREATH

People: We open our hearts to Your wind and Your wonder.

Movement: wave open “five” hands- palms facing- back and forth in front of yourself

ASL: WIND

Leader: God’s promise is for you — for your life, your story, your becoming.

Movement: point up to indicate God, then place finger on lips,
then smack that hand open-palmed onto the fist of the other hand

ASL: GOD’S PROMISE

People: We come to remember we are clothed with Christ.

Movement: Cross arms over the chest in a self-hug, then release slowly.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Pentecost. Stir us. Claim us. Renew us.

Movement: Wiggle fingers upward like rising flame, then open hands wide.

People: We gather to worship the One who calls each of us beloved.

Movement: Hands open upward, palms lifted in welcome.

Hymn No. 606 🎵

Come Let Us Use the Grace Divine

KINGSFOLD

1. Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord,
in a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord;
Give up ourselves, thru Jesus' power, his name to glorify;
and promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.
2. The covenant we this moment make be ever kept in mind;
we will no more our God forsake, or cast these words behind.
We never will throw off the fear of God who hears our vow;
and if thou art well pleased to hear, come down and meet us now.

3. Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, let all our hearts receive,
present with thy celestial host the peaceful answer give;
to each covenant the blood apply which takes our sins away,
and register our names on high and keep us to that day!

Welcome and Greeting 🗨️

Prayer of Gathering 🙌

Leader: God is with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: God of wind and flame, of water and word,
we have spent these weeks remembering your promises.
Today we hear the one that reaches the farthest:
*the promise is for you, for your children,
and for all who are far away.*

All: We come as we are.

Leader: Some of us have been in this room all our lives.
Some of us walked in only recently.
Some of us have been washed in water,
some of us never have been,
and some of us aren't sure what we believe about any of it.

All: Your promise was made before any of us earned it.

Leader: Some of us are sitting near the door,
and some near the front.
Some of us feel far away even in the middle of the room.

All: Gather us, God. Stay with us. Amen.

Passing the Peace 🎵

Into My Heart

INTO MY HEART

During this time we invite you to turn and greet those around you. You may introduce yourself with name and pronouns and/or simply say: The Peace of Christ be with you. Children may come forward during the sung response for the Children's Time.

**Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
come in today, come in to stay; come into my heart Lord Jesus.**

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Children of God Moment 🗨️

We welcome children to come down front for this time and afterwards they may return to their adults or stay up front in the Kid's Covenant Zone. The Parlor, just to the left out the back of the sanctuary, is open if your child needs a place to be for a moment; there is also a bathroom in that space.

Prayer of Illumination 🙌

**Holy Spirit, you came like a rushing wind,
and no one could stay comfortably seated.
Don't let us listen from a safe distance today.
Speak to our hearts, not with shame
but with being truly seen and truly wanted,
and don't comfort us out of the question *what should we do?*
Meet each of us where we are,
whether we have been washed in this water
or are still standing on the shore, and let the promise be for us all the same. Amen.**

Creative Word 📖

[Small Kindnesses](#)

by Danusha Laméris

After the reading you are invited to pause for a moment of silent reflection.

Scripture Reading

[Psalm 100](#)

Hymn No. 611

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTT GART

1. Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.
2. Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.
3. Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are; from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.
4. Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

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Scripture Reading

[Acts 2:1-4; 14a; 36-41](#)
[Galatians 3:26-29](#)

Sermon

My Baptism

Rev. Emily Bagwell

Offertory Invitation and Prayer

Your presence is a gift. Your time, talents, and resources are all ways we offer ourselves to God and to one another. To give a financial offering, you may do so [online here](#).

Offertory

Hymn to the Holy Spirit

Randolph Currie

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Doxology No. 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**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!**

Covenant of Membership

A Message of Welcome

Karen Daly Junker, Lay Leader

Receiving of New Members

Congregational response:

**We're so grateful for who you are
and for all that God is already doing in your life.
We welcome you with open hearts and open hands.
As part of this community, we walk with you—
growing in faith, serving with love,
and showing up for one another.
Together, we promise to support this church with
our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness—
so that in all we do, God's love can be seen and shared in the world.**

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Jesus gives us this prayer as a model for connection with God. Please feel free to address God in a way that connects with your soul.

Hymn No. 608

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

AZMON

1. This is the Spirit's entry now: the water and the word,
the cross of Jesus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
2. Let water be the sacred sign that we must die each day
to rise again by his design as followers of his way.
3. Renewing Spirit, hear our praise for your baptismal power
that washes us through all our days. Come, cleanse again this hour.

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Benediction

Choral Response

Spirit of the Living God

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Postlude

Toccata in E minor

Johann Pachelbel

***The altar flowers this morning are given by Jim Hill in honor of Doug Kleffner
on our 35th anniversary.***

This morning we welcome to the Centenary family:

Ian Devenish, Richard Devon, Jade Judik, Jess Piland, Kelly Riggan, Lydia Wallace

Assisting in worship this morning are:

Liturgist – Charlene Seitz A/V tech – Glenn Thomsen

Centenary Kids Serving - Elliott, Karisia

Ushers – Ryland Bailey, Kim Golden, Troy & Jan Nelson, Jane Newell,

Doug Wilson, Chris Wimbush

Large print bulletins and hearing assistive devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please let an usher know if either of those would better suit your needs.

Announcements

A WORD FROM CHURCH COUNCIL As we begin planning programs and the budget for 2027, the Church Council will be sharing some exciting plans for Centenary in the coming weeks. But first, we have three months of ministry and building upkeep still ahead in 2026, and right now our pledged giving is falling behind what we need to finish the year well. Please take a moment to look at your 2026 pledge.

If you're behind, we ask that you prayerfully consider catching up before the end of the year. If you have questions about your giving or would like a statement, contact Laura in the church office or email admin@centumc.org. Thank you for all you give to make Centenary's ministry possible.

COFFEE AND COOKIES AND WELCOME RECEPTION - Today following worship. Join us in the Fellowship Hall to reconnect with old friends, welcome our new members, and enjoy coffee and cookies.

CENTENARY KIDS MINISTRY GODLY PLAY - Every 3rd Sunday 9:15am-10:00am in Room 206. All children are welcome for fellowship, story and a small feast! Godly Play is a Montessori style faith development model to allow children the opportunity to grow and explore through the art of storytelling. For more information contact Melissa - children@centumc.org.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the Hodges Classroom /Room 106. This class is a relaxed space for conversation, fellowship, and growing together in faith. All are welcome!

SOULS TO THE POLLS 2026 - Centenary has once again joined the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) in committing that 100% of Centenary members who are eligible will vote this year. The 2026 ballot is full of important Congressional races, three amendments to the Virginia constitution, and some local races and referenda. Our bulletin board on the first floor has detailed information. After our service on **Sunday, October 18**, our Richmond voters can walk together to City Hall to vote. This Souls to the Polls walk is about a half mile each way. If a ride is needed let Jane Newell know.

PUB THEOLOGY - OCTOBER 18 AT 4:00pm - Join us at Ardent Craft Ales. PT is an informal, come-as-you-are gathering where we explore meaningful questions of faith, life, and spirituality. Whether you're a church regular or just spiritually curious, this is a space to bring your thoughts, doubts, and hopes to the table. Join us at 4:00pm for honest conversation in good company.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - Via Zoom at 10am! Join Pastor Emily for a lively, open conversation around scripture — digging into the passages we'll hear in worship in the weeks ahead. Come wrestle, question, and discover together as we explore what God is doing in the world (and in us!). Want the link? Email Laura at admin@centumc.org to be added to the list.

WE ARE ON INSTAGRAM! Centenary has its very own Instagram now! Be sure to give it a follow. We'll have community resources, educational opportunities, and a calendar of events coming soon to the church posted there weekly. [@centenarydowntown](https://www.instagram.com/centenarydowntown)

CARE PACKAGES - Centenary welcomes all our community members to join us in worship. If you're in need of an extra snack or resources, we have care packages located on our welcome table. Please ask an usher for assistance.

FRIDAY WALK IN LUNCH PROGRAM - Our Friday lunch program has been feeding the hungry for *over 45 years*. On October 2 we served 97 guests as volunteers from Centenary prepared, served, and cleaned up. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

This Week at Centenary

Today	11:30am	Coffee and Cookies and Welcome Reception for new Members - Fellowship Hall
October 12	5:00pm	Change the World/RVA
	7:00pm	Church Council on Zoom
October 13	Noon	AA - Hodges/Rm. 106
	7:00pm	Charge Conference at Skipwith UMC
October 14	10:00am	Bible Study - Zoom
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
October 16	10:30am	Walk In Lunch - Fellowship Hall
	Noon	AA- Hodges/Rm. 106
October 18	9:15am	Adult Sunday School - Hodges/Rm. 106 Children's Sunday School - Rm 206
	10:30am	Worship - Sanctuary and online
	11:30am	Souls to the Polls Walk to Vote
	4:00pm	Pub Theology at Ardent Craft Ales