

Good morning & happy November!

We hope this finds you enjoying all the candy that was collected last night and setting your hearts towards a brand-new month! October was super full of amazing ministry moments and an overwhelming response of compassion to the horrible devastation of Hurricane Helene. We stand in awe at each and every one of you! Continue to visit our website to see up to date information regarding how you can continue to support our brothers and sisters in the Western North Carolina mountains.

We are still savoring the goodness of our time with David Magee this last weekend at our church and then this week in our various schools. If you didn't get a chance to be with us or hear David speak at your school, please listen to the podcast we recorded with him on our "Heart, Mind, & Soul" channel. David is just incredible! If you haven't yet read his book "Things Have Changed" we encourage you to pick up a copy and read it. Also, "Dear William" and "A Little Crazy" will give you a glimpse into opening the conversation regarding mental health, substance misuse, and finding JOY!

We know the next few weeks will be filled with anticipation for the holidays and exams soon after, so we want to share with you a "forecast" of what is coming up in Youth Ministry this month. We hope you will mark your calendar and plan to be with us as often as possible:

Here are some highlights:

- This morning, November 1st, at 9:00am, registration opens for our 2025 Senior High Mission trip to Benton Harbor, MI. If you are a Senior High youth (rising 9th-12th grader) this trip is for YOU! We invite you to join us for a nine-day trip, July 19-27, 2025, with YouthWorks to Benton Harbor, MI. Each year we partner with this incredible organization. YouthWorks essential core values are being youth-minded and relationship-oriented, focusing on servant leadership, and believing in the life-change that Christ offers us all. All of the very things we value in our youth ministry at Centenary. You can register here!
- November 6th registration opens for our 2025 Confirmation class! Confirmation by definition is faith formation. Forming one's faith is an ongoing journey throughout life... our hope is that through our Confirmation process you will be given the opportunity, tools, support, and inspiration you will need to build your faith on a firm foundation (Matthew 7:24-25).
Starting on January 8th, 2025 (through May 18), we invite all 7th graders to join us as we meet each Wednesday night from 6:00pm—7:30 p.m. to learn about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the spiritual life, and how they form us and help us to change the

way we live our lives. You won't go through this class alone; **YOU** will each pick a Shepherd (an adult spiritual companion from our church) who will walk beside you in faith. There will be several field trips and two retreats to help us along this journey as well. The hope is that through these experiences, you will come to encounter Jesus in a very real way and that encounter will change the way you live your life! You can register here!

- Join us on Wednesday evenings from 5:00pm-6:00pm for our church dinner at Nourish. You can register for meals here. Then from 6:00pm-7:00pm Rev. Kate May will be leading us in making Crismons (a white and gold Christmas tree ornament that displays Christian symbols to represent Christ and God) in Memorial Auditorium. Everyone is welcome!
- Friday night, November 15th, our Sixers! (our ministry to our 6th graders) will meet at Urban Air for an awesome night of bouncing, climbing walls, and flying through the air as a sky rider! You must register ahead of time. Friends are welcome, but also must register. The cost is \$20 per person. You can register here!
- This month we are continuing our Sunday school study, "How Much More Discovering God's Extravagant Love in Unexpected Places". Come be with us at 10:00am in the Youth Commons and let's explore God's love for us revealed. As always, there will be plenty of coffee and breakfast treats to be had!
- Speaking of Sunday school...we have a ton of options for parents. Check out what's available to you here so that you can grow in your faith as well.
- This coming Sunday, November 3rd, we have our Love Thy Neighbor lunch and medical clinic. Come to Sunday school at 10:00am, help set up at 11:00am in Memorial Auditorium and serve our neighbors from 12:00pm-2:15pm. It's the best way to live out your faith, by loving God and loving neighbor.
- November 10th, join us for our annual shopping spree for Angel Tree! We love this event as we get to shower four little angels with gifts for Christmas. We invite all youth to meet us at Target (on Hanes Mall Blvd). Bring \$20 to contribute to the purchase of gifts. All are welcome...including friends!

5:00pm-6:00pm Middle school youth shopping

6:00pm-7:00pm All youth dinner at Marios (just down from Target)

7:00pm-8:00pm Senior high youth shopping

- On November 17th, we will gather at Mount Tabor High school to Stroll into Light to raise awareness for mental health. The cost is \$10 per walker. You can register here. Gates open at 5:00pm and the walk will begin at 6:00pm.
- There are still a few spots open on our Centenary basketball team with the Twin City Basketball Conference. Twin City Conference is a unique basketball league that

exists in partnership with our friends at Winston-Salem Street School, along with our friends at St. Paul's Episcopal, the Greek Orthodox Church, Ardmore Baptist, and First Pres. Senior High boys (9th-12th grade) -- who are NOT on their school's varsity basketball team -- are invited to play for Centenary's basketball team... and yes, friends are welcome too! The cost to join the league is \$50. You MUST be registered to play (no walk-ons allowed) and have a liability release form on file.

- Finally, we are inviting parents to read with us! Youth Ministry and Shining Light on Mental Health have partnered to read four important books to help us better understand our teenagers. Our second book in the series is "The Anxious Generation How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness" by Jonathan Haidt. Pick up a copy wherever you like to buy your books, read it as your leisure, and then join us on December 29th at 10:00am in the Senior High room for coffee and conversation around the book.

Ways parents can volunteer:

- Be a table leader for Sunday school. Come be a part of the conversations we have on Sunday mornings during Sunday school. You will be amazed at how God is at work!
- Volunteer your home to host our Annual Friendsgiving Dinner on November 24th! Please reply to this email to let us know if you would be willing to share your home. We will provide all the food and drinks.
- Volunteer to help coach, keep score, or wash uniforms for our Twin City Basketball Conference Centenary team. Please reply to this email to let us know if you would like to volunteer.
- Help stock our refrigerator with drinks and our pantry with goodies for our youth on the 4th floor Youth Commons. Simply ask your teenager what they love to snack on at church, buy some extra, and bring it with you on Sunday morning!

We are so grateful to have the chance to be with you all throughout the month of November in so many ways! All we do is for YOU so that you may grow in your love for one another, grow in your faith, and grow in your understanding of God's great love for you. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or just need a listening ear, we are here to help you navigate all things Centenary Youth Ministry.

Be Here! Be You! Be Loved! Belong!

Tammy & Kevin