

Happy New Year!

As we stand on the precipice of a brand-new year, we can't help but smile on the incredible year 2024 was! From Confirmation to Graduation Recognition, to mission trips and retreats...Sunday school, worship, youth group, Love Thy Neighbor, Sixers, Bible study, and church ball...we have grown in our friendships and our love for Jesus. It has all been so good and so beautiful. Our hearts are full of love and gratitude for you and for the ways we can see the Lord moving among us.

We are thrilled to look towards a new year of Youth Ministry at Centenary and kick off some exciting and life-giving events and ministries this month.

Here are some highlights for the month of January:

- Confirmation registration is still open. 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 can register here!
- We are starting a new Sunday school series on January 12th, "Can I Ask That?" This new series will help us think about, talk about, and live out our faith in Jesus. Come be with us each Sunday at 10:00am in the Youth Commons and, 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.
- We still have a few limited-edition Centenary Youth Ministry sweatshirts. What better way to be reminded to "Be Here. Be You. Be Loved. Belong" at Centenary and with Jesus. The cost of the sweatshirt is \$60 (comfort color brand). Contact the Youth Ministry office to get yours today (by replying to this email).
- January 5th, (as you begin to think about going back to school) spend part of your afternoon ice skating with your friends at the Fairgrounds. The cost is \$10 per person which includes lunch, skate rental, and all the fun you can possibly have. Register here.
- The Twin City Conference basketball games pick back up on January 7th (CUMC vs. WSSS) after their holiday hiatus. Make sure to mark your calendars for Tuesday evenings to come cheer us on at the Fulton YMCA.

- On January 10th & 11th our Juniors and Seniors will retreat away for the weekend to Blowing Rock. In a world that continues to spin in uncertainty and chaos, we invite all our juniors and seniors to retreat away for just a moment. We will spend the weekend remembering our Confirmation journey and how we continue to live trusting the Lord in all things. Together we will rest, remember, and recommit ourselves to the One who reaches out to us in love. The cost of the retreat is \$150. You can register here!
- Join us for our first Love Thy Neighbor of 2025 on January 12th. We plan to help our neighbors ring in the new year with a fantastic meal of spaghetti and give away hats, gloves, and scarves to help keep them warm.
- Our Confirmation class will head to Camp Hanes for an overnight retreat on January 24th & 25th. We love this annual retreat where we get to explore the sacraments and spend some time alone with God.
- Mark your calendars, get out your basketball shoes, and start practicing your shots! We are hosting our first ever CUMC basketball tournament on January 26th. Our Twin City boys' team will go up against our girls' team and the winner of that game will go against our parents! You won't want to miss this super fun event for the whole family. Watch your weekly email blast for more details and how to sign up to be on your team.
- January 31st our Sixers will head to the movies! Join us for a night at the Grand for nachos, popcorn, candy and the movie "Mufasa: The Lion King". The cost is \$20 per person.
- Keep reading 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 third book in the series is "Never Enough When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic and What We Can Do About It" by Jennifer Breheny Wallace. Pick up a copy wherever you like to buy your books, read it as your leisure, and then join us on February 23rd at 10:00am in the Senior High room for coffee and conversation around the book.

Ways parents can volunteer: *(reply to this email to let us know what you want to do!)*

- If you are a physician, physician's assistant, nurse...medical professional of any kind, we are looking for volunteers to help in our Love Thy Neighbor medical clinic. Contact Tammy to get more information about helping our most vulnerable neighbors.

- 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!
- Bring dinner for youth group! You can cook one or order something and bring it...we always love to have a hot meal for youth groups.
- Volunteer to chaperone our upcoming Junior/Senior retreat to Blowing Rock Conference Center this month.
- Help stock our refrigerator with drinks and our pantry with goodies for our youth on the 4th floor Youth Commons. Simply ask your teenagers what they love to snack on at church, buy some extra, and bring it with you on Sunday morning!

We fully believe that 2025 is going to bring goodness, faithfulness, and so much love to us all. God, through Jesus, reminds us that *He came to give us life, but not just life, ABUNDANT life* (John 10:10)! Remember, 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