

The First-Centurian

Volume 16, No. 18

April 12, 2024

Vision Statement of First-Centenary United Methodist Church: *Build a healthy and diverse community of disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Church Office Hours

Beginning Monday, April 29, the office hours for First-Centenary will be Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call the church office if you have any questions at 423-756-2021.

OFFICE
HOURS



Pastoral Appointment Update



On April 7, across the conference Clergy and Staff Parish Relations Committee Chairpersons announced projected appointments for the 2024-25 calendar year. The Staff Parish of First-Centenary is excited to announce that all of our clergy are projected to return. We look forward to what God has in store for the future!

ABIDE Information and Interest Session

Wednesday, April 17

1:00 p.m. – Oak Street Center (101/102) – ABIDE room

Are you looking for a meaningful place to serve?

Are you a caregiver for a person with dementia?

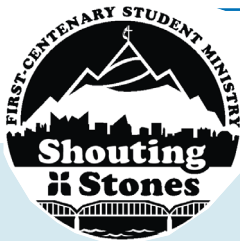
Do you have talents that you would like to share?

If so, then YOU ARE INVITED to come learn more about ABIDE Respite Ministry.

We are committed to providing joy, hope, dignity, and quality care to persons with dementia, as well as their caregivers. Join us in this important ministry!



ABIDE



April Sunday Night Youth

Sunday Nights at Youth are a little wonky this month! Here is our schedule for April:

- April 14 - Youth from 5 -7:30 p.m.
- April 21 - No Youth!
- April 28 - Youth from 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Come out for a good time on Sunday nights! We have food, games, and loads of fun together!

Sign-Up for Summer Mission Trips

◆ June 3-7: Middle School Mission Week at Camp Lookout, \$325; open to middle schoolers only

◆ July 1-5: Passport Missions Camp in Berea, KY, \$350; open to all students (limit 5 female, 5 male)

Contact Tori Crook at tcrook@firstcentenary.com for info.

Are you looking for a way to support the youth traveling to Romania this summer? Here's your chance to make a difference!

By purchasing stock, you'll

not only invest in their mission but also become an integral part of their journey. Your support will directly contribute to aiding in covering essential expenses such as supplies, food, travel, and accommodations. Each stock purchase will serve as a vital donation towards their mission trip fund. But that's not all!

When you buy stock, you'll receive:

- A receipt confirming your contribution.
- An exclusive invitation to a special luncheon hosted by the youth group at the end of July.
- The opportunity to engage with the students, hear their stories firsthand, and ask any questions about their experiences in Romania.

We recommend \$50 per stock, but any amount is immensely appreciated. Every dollar counts towards making this trip a success. Your support and prayers mean the world to us! Thank you for your generosity and let's make this mission to Romania an unforgettable experience for all!

For more information, email our Youth Director, Tori Crook, at tcrook@firstcentenary.com. Donations can also be given to Tori in-person. Scan the QR code to give through our website.

YOUTH STUDENT STOCKS
support the youth on their
Summer Romania Mission Trip
Participants will receive a free lunch with a youth student and learn more about their trip.



Clergy Corner



Rev. Michelle Hunter

Hello friends, I introduce to you Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection. He was born in 1614 as Nicolas

Herman. At the age of 16 he joined the French army to serve in the 30 years war. While on the battlefield he noticed a bare, leafless tree. He realized that the tree would soon be covered with leaves and understood this to represent the mystery of God's ability to transform the human heart.

To make a long story short, he was physically and emotionally wounded by the horrors of war. As a disappointed and bitter 26 year old he joined an order of Carmelite monks in Paris. He planned to be a hermit associated with that monastery, but God had other plans. He was assigned to the kitchen, peeling potatoes and preparing food. The work was boring and tedious, but through prayer he taught himself to find ways to be grateful for the present moment. He prayed for the potatoes - thanks for the sun and rain and dirt, the mystery of growth, the people that had gathered the vegetables and those that would eat them. In the same way, he prayed for the knife he used. He prayed this way for the building he was in, the water that washed the potatoes, the clothes he was wearing. On and on, day by day.

The process of praying this way changed the man we now know as Brother Lawrence. He became gentle and kind, appreciative and appreciated.

Prime Time Wednesday



April 17 (The Vine)

Pre-General Conference Update –

Learn about the process of General Conference of the UMC, the legislation that has the potential to get voted on, and the impact that it might have on our denomination.

April 17, 24 (Room 101/102)

Enneagram/Marriage Study – The

Marriage Enrichment Ministry is offering an Enneagram Class. An enneagram is a system of typology that classifies human personality into nine basic types. Big Self School will cover the nine types, plus extras. They encourage participants to take an enneagram test prior to starting the class. Scan the QR code for two options and if you search the web you will find many others as well. We recommend writing down your results!

While this is hosted by the Marriage Enrichment Ministry in preparation for a Date Night event at the end of the month, the Wednesday night classes are open to everyone.



April 17, 24, May 1 (Conference Rm)

Context: Putting Scripture in its Place – by Josh Scott led by Tim Threadgill Context looks at

PRIME TIME SCHEDULE

Meal 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Classes 6:30 - 7:15-30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
First Kids Wednesday & Children's Choirs at 6 p.m.

YOUTH MINISTRY
Wednesday Activities

Meal: 5:45 p.m.
Lesson: 6:30 p.m. **Gym:** 7:30-8 p.m.

CHOIRS: Chancel Ringers: 6 p.m.
Chancel Choir: 7 p.m.

verses we know by heart but may not know the people, places, and times that give them meaning. Josh Scott delves into well-known Scripture verses, exploring their true meanings by examining them in their original biblical context. Through this process, he unveils fresh and enlightening interpretations that are often missed when these Scriptures are taken out of context.

May 8, 15 (The Vine)

Post-General Conference Update

– The Pastors will share what was voted on at General Conference, what next steps are for that legislation, and what that means for our local church and denomination.

DINNER INFORMATION

Adults – \$10 each (meal) **Children** – \$5; 3 & under free **Family max** – \$30
Please make dinner reservations by 4 p.m. Monday.

Scan the QR code or go to firstcentenary.com/prime-time-wednesday for dinner reservations.



April 17 – Teriyaki Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Green Beans, Roll, Strawberry Cake, Chicken Casear Salad

CLERGY CORNER (cont'd)

Later in his life he made sandals for the poor and was treasured for his wisdom and peace.

Brother Lawrence had learned how to practice the presence of God moment by moment, and in so doing was transformed into the image of Christ for the service of others. Not unlike a bare and leafless tree transformed into a fruitful, life giving tree.

As we move into and through this Easter season, I invite you to read *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence. It is a beautiful reminder of the reality that the resurrection is ours for today and everyday. Moment by moment we are all invited to remember that nothing of this earth can defeat the promises of God. Love always wins. *With grace and peace, Pastor Michelle*

Hello April!!

All month long we are working on patience. PATIENCE is waiting until later for what we want now.

- When you think you can't wait, think twice.
- When you have to wait, remember what's true.
- God is with you while you wait.



Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord. Psalm 27:14, NIV

Join us in the **First Kids CM Wing Sunday for one or all of these times!**

- Early Service Childcare: 8:30-9:30 A.M.
- Sunday School: 9:45-10:30 A.M.
- Elem FirstKids LIVE Worship: 11-11:45 A.M.
- Pre-K Wiggle & Worship: 11-11:45 A.M.
- *FirstKids* Sunday Night: 5-6 P.M.



Meet Our New Members

Neil and Linda Smith transferred March 20 from Mayfield UMC in Chesterland, OH.



Camp Lookout Senior Adult Day

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Join us at Camp Lookout to enjoy great fellowship and food, hymn singing, awesome presentations and devotion, wonderful music, and much more. This year's Senior Adult Day event will feature several special guests: Charles Neal, Jeanne Eller, Charles Maynard, Lon Eldridge, Mark Gooden, and Mike Feely!

Cost for the day is \$10, includes refreshments and lunch, lots of music, time for fellowship and exploring Camp Lookout, and a history display! Check-in (with refreshments) begins at 9:30 a.m.

Call and let us know you'll be coming. You can pay your \$10 by card over the phone or bring payment with you the day of the event (card, check, or cash).

For more information, email info@camplookout.com or call 706-820-1163.

VBS Registration Is Open!

JUNE 24-28TH

Get ready for ONE of THE BEST Summer Events! VBS!! This year we are stepping back in time to Jesus' Hometown, Nazareth! We will explore ancient Nazareth and even get to hear Mary tell us stories about what happened when Jesus was a kid! It will be EPIC! Reserve your spot today!

Scan the QR code above or go to our website to sign up today!

Check out our website
www.firstcentenary.com

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Senior Pastor
(423) 756-2021
www.firstcentenary.com



Connect Visitation Ministry is a way to serve those who have become disconnected from our church family due to chronic illness or life circumstances.

Our goal with the CONNECT ministry is to be a companion to those who cannot physically come to church events and worship, a reminder that you are still part of our church family.

If you would like to receive visits from a trained volunteer to provide friendship and listening, please call the church office. Rest assured that confidentiality is very important to this ministry.

If you would like to serve as a volunteer in this ministry, please call the church office. All volunteers will be trained in listening and caring skills, and receive support through continued education and regular meetings.

Please call Pastor Michelle if you have any questions.

Sunday Worship

April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m.

Methodism 201 - Who Are We?

Hebrews 3:1-6

Dr. Will Lauderback

Sanctuary at 10:45 a.m.

They Thought Jesus Was A Ghost

Luke 24:33-40

Rev. Charles Neal

The Vine at 10:45 a.m.

Methodism 201 - Who Are We?

Hebrews 3:1-6

Dr. Will Lauderback

Reading from the Lectionary

Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48

Televised sermon by Rev. Gattis:

Methodism 101 - Where did we come from?

Televised on Channel 12, WDEF-TV

at 11:30 a.m. each Sunday & 12:35 a.m. Monday morning.

Mustard Tree Worship at 5 p.m.
in The Vine – Rev. Barry Kidwell