

# The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

**Vision Statement:** Build a healthy and diverse community of disciples of Jesus Christ.

**VOLUME 16, NO. 38**  
**DECEMBER 19TH 2025**

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

**SUN.**  
Dec 21st

**8:30AM:** Sanctuary Worship Service  
**9:30AM:** Sunday School  
**9:30AM:** Coffee with the Pastor  
**10:30AM:** Lessons and Carols  
**10:45AM:** Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services  
**4:30PM:** Sunday Night Youth Group  
**5:00PM:** Sunday Night Worship & Dinner

**MON.**  
Dec 22nd

No events scheduled

**TUES.**  
Dec 23rd

**10:00AM:** ABIDE Respite Ministry  
**10:00AM:** Crafty Capers  
**10:30AM:** United Women in Faith Chris Bowles Circle

**WED.**  
Dec 24th

Church Offices Closed  
**3:00PM:** Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services  
**5:00PM:** Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services  
**11:00PM:** Sanctuary Worship Services

**THURS.**  
Dec 25th

Church Offices Closed

**FRI.**  
Dec 26th

Church Offices Closed

**SAT.**  
Dec 27th

No events scheduled

## CENTENARY CHRISTMAS PARTY



THANK YOU to everyone who donated and shared their Christmas with The Centenary! Through our Angel Tree, Donations, and Sponsor-a-Family programs, you helped make this season brighter for our Centenary kids. They received their gifts at their Christmas party on December 5th, and the joy on their faces said it all. Your generosity brought hope, excitement, and holiday magic!



## From the Editor

Have a wonderful holiday and a happy new year church family! The next First-Centenary publication date will be January 9th, 2026.





## CLERGY CORNER

In our modern minds Christmas can become routine and mundane but the first Christmas (and the reality of the incarnation) was any-

Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

thing but! Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God, came into this world not in triumph and pageantry, but in humility and servanthood. I wonder what that upside nature of the incarnation might mean for how we experience the birth of Christ anew this year? How might God be calling us to be a part of the inverse natures of God's love breaking into the mundane and routine of this world? My Sunday School class is doing an Advent devotion together that focuses on some of our favorite hymns for this time of the year by Charles Wesley (Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus by Paul Wesley Chilcote) and the devotion for Christmas Eve is a powerful reminder of how the gift of the incarnation ought to change our perspective.

Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new-born king  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic host proclaim  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new-born king"

Dr. Chilcote reminds us that, "Mary births this newborn King so that he might conquer, raise, and give. He comes not to conquer nations, rulers, or people; rather, he destroys the power of death. He comes not to elevate himself; rather, 'he lays his glory by' that he might lift us up as the children of God. But he comes not to condemn; rather, he regenerates us, breathes new life into us so that we might be whole. Why is this night different from all other nights? 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'"

Everything changed on that first Christmas. Christ was born in Bethlehem, and every Christmas since the gift of the incarnation continues to transform this world. Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born king!"

In Christ,  
Will



Celebrate Christmas Eve with us at First-Centenary! Join us on **December 24th** for a time of worship as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Services will be held at **3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. in both The Vine and the Sanctuary, and at 11:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** Each service will offer inspiring music, meaningful messages, and a warm atmosphere to share with loved ones. All are welcome to experience the joy and hope of the season with our church family. We look forward to celebrating with you!



**December 21st** is the Festival of Lessons and Carols. **From 10:30-10:45a.m. the Sanctuary** will resonate with Sounds of the Season that are being prepared for you by our keyboard and brass musicians. Then, from the rousing congregational singing of O Come, All Ye Faithful to the delightful anthem settings that are filled with surprises, music by The Chancel Choir, organ and instrumentalists will enrich and enliven the story of Christ's birth. This meaningful service is always one of our congregation's favorites, and our musicians look forward to sharing the wonder of God's love as we continue our journey through Advent to Christmas.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CHRISTMAS DINNER







God didn't need social media to broadcast the greatest birth announcement of all time. Instead, God sent an angel to Mary and a full-on angel choir to the shepherds. Then, because no-big-deal, God placed a brand-new star to share the news with the wise men. Throughout history, the extraordinary news of Jesus' birth has been spread in every way imaginable, which is why we're shouting it out through this month's K-5 theme: "Extra! Extra!: Celebrate the Good News of Jesus' birth."

This month in First Kids Preschool our theme is Christmas Shapes. Christmas is such a special time of year. There are so many things to see and do at Christmas that it's easy to miss what Christmas is all about. That's why we want to use shapes that preschoolers already know to help them remember the most important thing they will ever know: God gave us Jesus.

### Join us in the Children's Wing for our Sunday School and Worship Opportunities!

- Early Service Childcare: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- First Kids Worship: 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
- First Kids Sunday Night: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

## NO REHEARSAL NATIVITY PAGEANT



## KIDS CHRISTMAS BASH



## NIGHT OF WONDER CONCERT



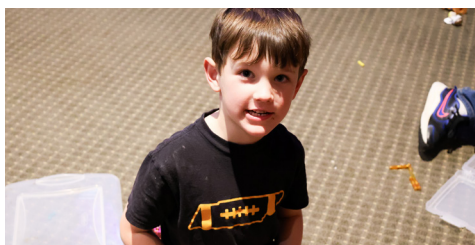


419 McCallie Avenue  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
Senior Pastor:  
Rev. Jason Gattis  
(423) 756-2021  
[www.firstcentenary.com](http://www.firstcentenary.com)



Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Chattanooga, TN  
Permit No. 428

## CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG



## SUNDAY WORSHIP

December 21st, 2025

**Sanctuary Services:**  
**8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.**  
"Wonder - Inexplicable"  
Matthew 1:18-25  
Rev. Jason Gattis

**The Vine Services:**  
**10:45 a.m.**  
"Wonder - Inexplicable"  
Matthew 1:18-25  
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

**Mustard Tree Services:**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**The Vine**  
Rev. Barry Kidwell

**Lectionary Readings:**  
Isaiah 35:1-10  
Luke 1:46b-55  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

**WDEF-TV Televised Sermons:**  
**11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays**  
"Wonder - Beautiful"  
Rev. Jason Gattis