

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 16, NO. 37
DECEMBER 5TH 2025

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Dec 7th

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
12:00PM: Confirmation Parent Meeting
2:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Presents "Let Nothing You Dismay"
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group
4:30PM: Night of Wonder Christmas Concert
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner
7:00PM: College Small Group at The Wesley

MON.
Dec 8th

2:00PM: Executive Team Meeting
6:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Gift Exchange
7:00PM: College Small Group at The Wesley

TUES.
Dec 9th

10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00AM: Crafty Capers
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Coffee Talk at Jacks
12:00PM: Mustard Tree Ministries Board Meeting
6:00PM: United Women in Faith Christmas Dinner
7:00PM: College Small Group at The Wesley

WED.
Dec 10th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
4:00PM: Advent Wreath Creation
5:15PM: Prime Time Wednesday Meal
6:30PM: Christmas Sing-Along
7:00PM: Chancel Choir

THURS.
Dec 11th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00AM: ABIDE Caregivers Support
1:30PM: Altergate Vibrations
7:00PM: College Small Group at The Wesley
7:30PM: Oak Street Playhouse Presents "Let Nothing You Dismay"

FRI.
Dec 12th

6:30PM: Positive Christian Singles Dinner at Aubrey's
7:00PM: fcCollege Ministry Parking Cars
7:30PM: Oak Street Playhouse Presents "Let Nothing You Dismay"

SAT.
Dec 13th

1:00PM: United Women in Faith Parking Cars
6:30PM: fcCollege Ministry Parking Cars
7:30PM: Oak Street Playhouse Presents "Let Nothing You Dismay"



We invite you to celebrate the Advent season with us this year! Whether you follow along with the devotional or join us for special events throughout Advent, there's something for everyone as we prepare for Christmas.

Check out the 2025 calendar and devotional on our website at:
firstcentenary.com/advent-2025

You can also pick up a free devotional booklet outside each worship space.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:
@FIRSTCENTENARY
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
FIRSTCENTENARY.COM





CLERGY CORNER

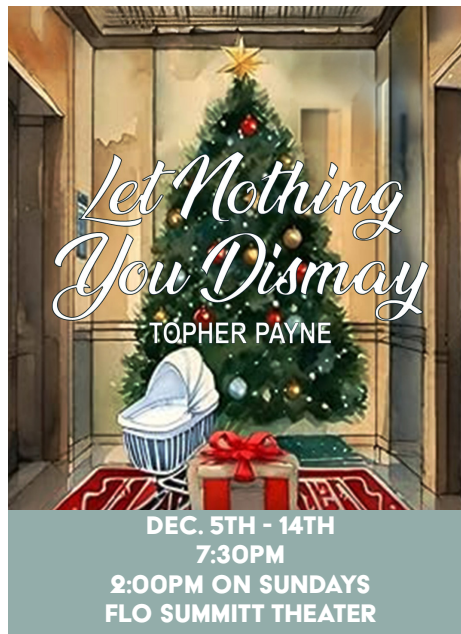
Rev. Michelle Hunter

I hear there is a tradition in the country of Turkey that is an act of generous kindness. When a customer goes into a bakery to purchase a loaf of bread, they purchase an extra loaf that is hung on a hook outside the bakery, available for anyone to take without having to feel the shame of asking. The indignity of hunger is briefly abated by a stranger's one small choice.

Sunday, November 30, was the first Sunday of Advent, the season that celebrates the generosity of God's goodness in the gift of Jesus Christ. Like the bread on a hook, the gift of Christ is available to anyone in need. What do you need this Advent season? What do your neighbors need? Let's not overestimate the temptation to turn away from Christ and toward indifference. Likewise, let's not underestimate the power of a small act of kindness and generosity to set someone's life on a whole new path.

The generous kindness we receive in the gift of Jesus Christ is proof of God's love toward us. In our service of Holy Communion we receive a bite of bread that represents Christ's body, and are reminded to take and eat it in remembrance of Christ's sacrifices for all people. In this Advent season, may the gift of simple bread, the body of Christ, nourish us so that our lives reflect the infinite love of God through the generous gift of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God.

~ Pastor Michelle



OAK STREET PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS ... LET NOTHING YOU DISMAY

Join us in the **Flo Summitt Theater** on **December 5th-14th** at **7:30p.m. and 2:00p.m.** for a holiday comedy as Kevin and Allie wait to become parents—while their families show up uninvited. With eight actors playing twenty-two roles, this show celebrates the chaos and joy of family during Christmas.

Starring: Sarah Pearce, Michael Myers, Claire Bartlett, Kyle Dagnan, Evie Durant, Thaddeus Taylor, Brenda Hodges Binder, Mike Pala

To purchase tickets, visit our website's announcements page.



CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

Get in the holiday spirit at our Christmas Sing-Along on **Wednesday, December 10th**, in **The Vine!** Prime Time meal begins at **5:15 p.m.**, followed by the sing-along at **6:30 p.m.** Join us for an evening of classic Christmas carols, festive cheer, and community fun, all are welcome to celebrate the season together!



CRAFTS & CAROLS

Crafts and Carols will be on **Wednesday, December 17th**, from **7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** at **Hutton & Smith Brewing Co.!** Come together to sing your favorite Christmas carols and enjoy a festive drink in a relaxed, joyful atmosphere. It's the perfect way to celebrate the season with friends, music, and cheer!



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

Join us for a No Rehearsal Nativity Pageant on **December 14th during the 10:45 a.m. worship services in the Sanctuary and The Vine!** Kids will dress up as characters from the nativity scene and walk down the aisles, bringing the story of Christ's birth to life. It's a great way for the whole church family to experience the wonder of Christmas together!

MUSIC MINISTRIES PRESENTS...

Night of Wonder

DECEMBER 7TH • 4:30 P.M. • THE SANCTUARY

Musicians of all ages from the Sanctuary and the Vine are preparing a concert of joyful and beautiful music to ready your hearts for Christmas. Invite your friends and family to join us in this festive celebration of the season that you won't want to miss!



Join us for the fcCollege Holiday Party on **December 19th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Rock City!** We'll meet at the church beforehand to ride over together and celebrate the season by enjoying the beautiful holiday lights. Be sure to bring money if you'd like to grab dinner or shop for gifts while we're there.



Our Youth Holiday Party is happening on **December 17th at 5:30 p.m. in the Student Center!** Come ready for an evening of games, festive activities, and holiday fun as we celebrate the season together. Don't miss this chance to share Christmas cheer with your friends!



POINSETTIA ORDERS



Christmas poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary and The Vine on Sunday, December 21st. If you would like to place one to honor or to remember someone, send your check (made payable to the ALTAR GUILD) for \$16 for EACH poinsettia to Nancy Tolar, P.O. Box 208, Chattanooga, TN 37401. **Orders must be received in the church office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 8th.**



SANCTUARY



THE VINE

NAME OF DONOR _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

Confirmation Parent Meeting

The Confirmation Parent Meeting will be held on **December 7th, after the 10:45 a.m. worship services in the Pit in the Student Center.** This meeting is for parents of 8th graders who are interested in being confirmed. Join us to learn more about the confirmation process, important dates, and how we'll help students grow in their faith journey.



FIRST-CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Chattanooga, TN 37401

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Senior Pastor:

Rev. Jason Gattis

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www.firstcentenary.com



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ABIDE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 2025



SUNDAY WORSHIP

December 7th, 2025

Sanctuary Services:
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

"Wonder - Unfamiliar"
Matthew 3:1-12
Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine Services:
10:45 a.m.

"Wonder - Unfamiliar"
Matthew 3:1-12
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

Mustard Tree Services:
5:00 p.m.

The Vine
Rev. Barry Kidwell

Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

WDEF-TV Televised Sermons:
11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays

"Wonder - Unexpected"
Rev. Jason Gattis