AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

2nd Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Paraments – Blue

*Please stand as you are able. Please remember to turn off cell phones.

Vision Statement of First-Centenary United Methodist Church:

Build a healthy and diverse community of disciples of Jesus Christ.

Gathering Music (10:30)

Mrs. Trish Foy

Invocation

Voluntary (8:30) Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming arr. J. Purifoy Laurie Ziegler, flute

(10:45) Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
David Patton, organ

J. Brahms

*Call to Worship (8:30) Shannon Smith (10:45) Abbie Dallmann

Leader: In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation,

we come to be renewed and refreshed.

All: We come to be inspired by stories of a Messiah who will change the world—and change us.

Leader: We come to listen for words of hope and joy,

promise and challenge.

All: We come with open ears, open minds, and open hearts.

We're here to receive the blessings God has in store for us

in this season of waiting.

Leader: Come! Let us worship our God-

the One who brings all things to fulfillment.

*Hymn 213 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lighting the Second Advent Candle - Unfamiliar

8:30 – Steve and Laurie Ziegler

10:45 – Jane Chambers and Abbie Dallmann

Prayer: Lord, keep us from becoming too comfortable.

Open us to the possibility of finding wonder in the unfamiliar. Amen.

All sing: Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,

where evil is banished and faith takes the day, a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes. One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

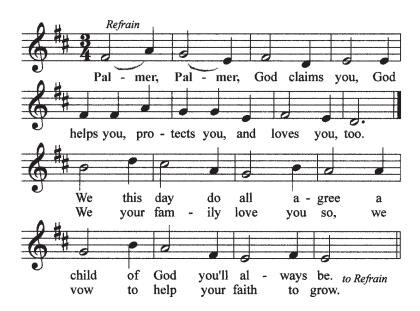
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (10:45)

Palmer Ann Cooke, daughter of Andrew and Virginia Cooke will receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Congregational Commendation and Pledge

Pastor: Members of the household of faith, I commend to your love and care, Palmer, whom we this day recognize as a member of the family of God. Will you endeavor so to live that she may grow in the knowledge and love of God through our Savior Jesus Christ?

People: With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.



Ritual of Friendship

Rev. Michelle Hunter

*Gratitude for Tithes and Offerings

Abundant God, your blessings and righteousness are bountiful in our lives.

May our tithes and offerings bear good fruit as they go forth, that peace may come,

that creation may be healed,

and that those who cry for justice may be heard. Amen.

*Doxology (#95)

Time for Children

Concerns and Celebrations of the Congregation The Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (#895)

Anthem (8:30) / Wonder as / Wander arr. Ledgerwood
Laurie Ziegler, flute arr. Ledgerwood

(10:45) The Advent Road arr. D. Wagner
The Chancel Choir

The Advent road to Bethlehem is paved with promise and hope; still travelers walking its winding path, with fears and sadness, cope. On ahead is peace for anxious hearts and refreshment for pilgrims all; for at journey's end will be found a friend in the guise of an Infant small. Rejoice, rejoice, good news we have to tell: "To you shall come, Emmanuel."

As darkness fills the endless sky, and a silence covers the earth, not a sign appears, not a sound is heard of the coming Savior's birth.

But the light is drawing closer in with each step along the way; and a heavenly music now begins, as the night turns into day.

Rejoice, rejoice, good news we have to tell: "To you shall come, Emmanuel."

(Words: Charlotte Lee)

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon Wonder-Unfamiliar

Dr. Will Lauderback

Response

Loving God,

be to us as a bulldozer of the spirit.

Clear your road in us;

clear a path through the detritus

of possessions and obsessions.

Thrust aside our divided aims and devious games.

Topple the ramparts of pride and the doubts that deride.

Make a highway on which Christ may come

and take possession of the whole territory of our being.

To the glory of your name, we pray. Amen!

*Hvmn 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Benediction

Voluntary Jesus Christ, the Morning Star

J.S. Bach

The **Call to Worship** ~ posted on the *Ministry Matters* website. http://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/article/entry/4431/worship-elements-december-8-2013. **The Advent Candle Liturgy** was written by First-Centenary member Cindy Stulce. The hymn in the liturgy, *One Candle is Lit*, was written by Mary Anne Parrott, 1988. Words © 1995 Chalice Press. **Gratitude for Tithes and Offerings** is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025 Edition*. © 2024 by Abingdon Press. **The Response** was written by Bruce Prewer and posted on the re:Worship blog at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/11/opening-prayer-prepare-way.html.

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICES:

Acolytes: Leighton Hill, Caroline Culbertson, Cornelius Kandakai, and

Noah Cockerham **Pew Volunteers**:

8:30: David Hudson

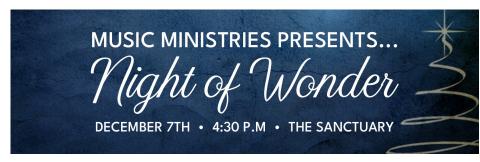
10:45: Adam and Beth Fletcher

Welcome Desk Volunteers:

8:30: Susan Byrd

10:45: Jennifer Fry

The fresh wreaths in the Sanctuary on December 7 are placed to the Glory of God and in appreciation of our Staff and Ministers.



You're invited to join us **this afternoon** for Night of Wonder, a musical celebration presented by 100 musicians of all ages. You'll be greeted with music by The Vine Praise Band, and treated to a delightful Christmas concert by our Music Ministry.

Scan this code to get started.



The Engage program is an ongoing opportunity to match your interests with ministry opportunities at the church.



WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

Please register your attendance on the Ritual of Friendship pad. ASSISTIVE LISTENING AVAILABLE - ASK USHERS FOR ASSISTANCE.

NURSERY & FIRST KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Check-in is in the Children's hallway.

WORSHIP INFORMATION:

THE VINE WORSHIP SERVICE (10:45 A.M.): REV. JASON GATTIS SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICE (5:00 P.M.): REV. BARRY KIDWELL

- 10:45 a.m. service telecast on Channel 12, WDEF-TV: 11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays
- Visitors please stop by the Visitor Information Desk in the Narthex.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

8:30 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School 10:45 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship

10:45 a.m. - The Vine Worship

12:00 p.m. - Confirmation Meeting

2:00 p.m. - OSP Let Nothing You Dismay

4:30 p.m. - Night of Wonder Concert

5:00 p.m. - Sunday Night Worship

6:00 p.m. - Sunday Night Meal

7:00 p.m. - Wesley Small Group

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

10:00 a.m. - ABIDE Respite Ministry

1:30 p.m. - Aldersgate Vibrations

7:00 p.m. - Wesley Small Group

7:00 p.m. - PCS Roueche Chorale

7:30 p.m. - OSP Let Nothing You Dismay

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

5:30 p.m. - PCS Dinner at Aubrey's

6:30 p.m. - fcCollege Parking Cars

7:30 p.m. - OSP Let Nothing You Dismay

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

2:00 p.m. - Executive Team Meeting 4:30 p.m. - Poinsetta Orders Due

7:00 p.m. - Wesley Small Group

6:00 p.m. - PCS Christmas Gift Exchange

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

10:00 a.m. - Church Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m. - ABIDE Respite Ministry

10:00 a.m. - Crafty Capers

10:00 a.m. - PCS Charley's Coffee Talk

12:00 p.m. - MTM Board Meeting

6:00 p.m. - UWF Christmas Dinner

7:00 p.m. - Wesley Small Group

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

10:00 a.m. - ABIDE Respite Ministry

4:45 p.m. - Youth Program 5:00 p.m. - College Program

5:15 p.m. - Prime Time Meal

6:00 p.m. - Children's Program 6:30 p.m. - Christmas Sing-Along

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

1:00 p.m. - UWF Parking Cars

6:30 p.m. - College Parking Cars

7:30 p.m. - OSP Let Nothing You Dismay



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA: @FIRSTCENTENARY

First-Centenary is a member of the Scenic South District of the Holston Conference P. O. Box 208, Chattanooga, TN 37401

(419 McCallie Avenue)

PHONE: (423) 756-2021 **FAX:** (423) 756-8589 www.firstcentenary.com

NEW MEMBERS COMMENDATION

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day receive into the membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

Congregation: We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church, and bid you welcome to the First-Centenary congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.





POINSETTIA ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN

Christmas poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary and The Vine on Sunday, December 21st. If you would like to order one to honor or 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. TOMORROW

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□ SANCTUARY	☐ THE VINE
NAME OF DONOR	
IN MEMORY OF	
IN HONOR OF	

For medical emergencies during worship services, contact the ushers. They will call 911. Defibrillator & Oxygen in see-through hallway cabinet near back of Sanctuary, where we hang our coats.

MAIL



SUNDAY OFFERING ONLINE **GIVING KIOSK BANK DRAFT**





DECEMBER 7, 2025

8:30 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.



