

# The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

**VOLUME 17, NO. 02**  
**JANUARY 16TH 2026**

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

**SUN.**  
Jan 18th

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service  
9:30AM: Sunday School  
9:30AM: Confirmation Classes  
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services  
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group  
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner  
5:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at Northgate Mall

**MON.**  
Jan 19th

Church offices closed

**TUES.**  
Jan 20th

10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting  
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry  
10:00AM: Crafty Capers  
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Coffee Talk at Jacks  
3:00PM: The Centenary Committee Meeting

**WED.**  
Jan 21st

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry  
4:45PM: Youth Program  
5:00PM: College Program  
5:15PM: Prime Time Wednesday Meal  
6:00PM: Children's Program  
6:30PM: Prime Time Classes  
7:00PM: Chancel Choir

**THURS.**  
Jan 22nd

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry  
1:30PM: Aldersgate Vibrations

**FRI.**  
Jan 23rd

5:00PM: Resurrection  
5:30PM: Positive Christian Singles Dinner at Aubrey's

**SAT.**  
Jan 24th

Resurrection



## THANK YOU DONORS!

Dear Donor,  
My family is so thankful with heartfelt gratitude for your kindness and generosity in assisting us for Christmas this year. Your support means more than words can express. Knowing that someone we may not even know personally chose to help our family this Christmas means so much.

Thank you for reminding us of the true spirit of Christmas- love, compassion, and giving. Your thoughtfulness has brought light to our home, and we will always remember your kindness.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful season,  
A Centenary Student and Their Family

*Stay  
Connected*

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:**

**@FIRSTCENTENARY**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

**FIRSTCENTENARY.COM**





## CLERGY CORNER



Rev. Michelle Hunter

When I moved into my current home, there were bushes and a small conifer tree planted in the front bed. Over the last few years I have faithfully tended these plants, watering and trimming when needed. One day last fall I noticed spider webs in the little conifer tree. I made a mental note and carried on with life. The next time I took the trash out I noticed some browning of the tree, but I was busy with other things to do. Weeks later when I remembered to check on it, my little plant was a goner. As dry and brown and brittle as possible.

I thought I was caring for it in a responsible way, but when it needed special attention I didn't make time. I thought leaving it alone to mostly take care of itself would continue to work, but I did not factor in the lethality of tiny spider mites. I did not stop long enough to consider the profound effect of a small and seemingly insignificant clue.

As followers of Christ, we are called to keep our eyes open, to pay attention to the small clues all around us that give information about what is actually happening. When we do, we can respond as one whose life depends on God's love through Christ Jesus. We will always be called to notice and act in persistent love as we choose what is important and what to overlook. A lot is happening these days, so "keep your eyes open, hold tight to your convictions, give it all you've got, be resolute, and love without stopping." (1 Corinthians 16:13-14, MSG)

With grace and peace,  
Pastor Michelle

## PRIME TIME WEDNESDAY

**Meal:** 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Classes:** 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Children's Music:** 6:00 p.m. & 6:15 p.m.

**Children's, Youth, & College Programs:** 6:30 p.m.

**Chancel Choir:** 7:00 p.m.

## THIS SEASON'S CLASSES

January 14th - March 25th

### The Vision of Ephesians

January 14th - February 11th

led by Pastor Will in the Oak Street Center Room 101/102

### The Other Side of Change: Who We Become When Life Makes Other Plans

January 14th - March 25th

led by Pastor Michelle in the Parlor

### Bible Study on the Book of Zechariah

January 14th - March 25th

led by Pastor Barry in the Prigmore Room

### Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess

February 25th - March 25th

led by Pastor Jason in the Oak Street Center Room 101/102

## DINNER INFORMATION

Please make dinner reservations by 4 p.m. Monday

### Costs:

**Adult Meal:** \$10

**Child's Meal:** \$5

**Family Meal:** \$30

### Menu:

**January 21st**

Savory Chicken Corn Chowder, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Broccoli Salad, Nut & Craisin Salad, Vegetarian Protein: Falafel, and Snickerdoodle Pound Cake



Join other UMC churches from around the area for a special Movie Night on **February 6th at 6:00 p.m. in The Vine** featuring the "1946" documentary. The film explores the history of when the term "homosexual" was added to the Bible. This evening is an opportunity for learning and thoughtful conversation.

- Food will be available in Room 101/102, with the film screening in The Vine.
- A Q&A discussion will follow the screening to process and discuss the film together.

**Free to attend, please visit our website to RSVP.** There will also be an optional donation opportunity to help cover the cost of the screening license. All are welcome to join!



This month our Preschool theme is Book Fair: The Bible Teaches Me the Best Things! There are a lot of books that teach a lot of things. But there is only one book that teaches the best things – things like how to live for God, hear from God, pray to God, and talk about God to others. We can find all of those best things in the Bible! Our monthly verse is John 17:17.

This month's elementary theme is Gameplan: Growing Stronger in Faith Every Day! Practicing something every day helps you learn how to do it better. When we follow Jesus and actually live out the things we hear and learn, the Holy Spirit helps our faith grow. Our monthly verse is 1 Timothy 4:8.

### 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.



### ABIDE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are the heart and soul of our ministry. Their dedication, compassion and kindness provide a safe haven of fun, inclusion and companionship each day at ABIDE. As ABIDE continues to grow, we are excited to expand our program to four days a week – and we need more amazing volunteers to make it possible!

**If you feel called to serve and would like more information or to get involved, please contact Brandi Anderson at [abide@firstcentenary.com](mailto:abide@firstcentenary.com).** Your presence can make a difference.



The Engage program is an ongoing opportunity to match your interests with ministry opportunities at the church. **Scan this code to get started.**



### RESURRECTION 2026

Resurrection is happening January 23rd-25th in Pigeon Forge! Join us for an unforgettable weekend of worship and fun as we head to Pigeon Forge for Resurrection 2026. This retreat is a highlight of the year and a great opportunity for students to grow in faith and community. **The cost is \$150 for the first child and \$75 for each additional sibling. Please be sure to fill out a separate form online for each sibling when registering.** We can't wait to experience this weekend together!

Contact Tori Crook at [tcrook@firstcentenary.com](mailto:tcrook@firstcentenary.com) for more information.

### 2026 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARGE CONFERENCE OFFICERS & LEADERS

To read the full annual report of our 2026 officers and leaders visit our website at [firstcentenary.com/2026-leadership](http://firstcentenary.com/2026-leadership) or scan the QR code.



### WESLEY WORSHIP

Join us for Wesley Worship every Monday night at the Wesley Center! **Doors open at 7:00 p.m.** for coffee and fellowship, with **worship beginning at 7:30 p.m.** Come connect, worship together, and hear powerful testimonies. We're always looking for speakers to share their story—if you're interested, we'd love to hear from you! **Contact Kirsten at [kshipp@firstcentenary.com](mailto:kshipp@firstcentenary.com) for more information.**

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## KIDS NIGHT OUT 2026!



Kids deserve a fun night out too! While parents enjoy the screening of 1946 or a dinner out, kids can have an exciting evening of their own from 5:30-8:30 p.m. filled with games and activities. This special event isn't just a great time for the kids—it's also a fundraiser for youth missions, supporting meaningful service opportunities.

Drop kids off on **February 6th at 5:30 p.m. in the Student Center**, enjoy your evening, and know they're having a blast while supporting a great cause!

**Suggested donation of \$25 per child with \$50 cap per family.**  
Register now by filling out a form on our website's announcements page!

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

January 18th, 2026

**Sanctuary Services:**

**8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.**

"The Vision of Ephesians, pt 1"

Ephesians 2:1-10

Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

**The Vine Services:**

**10:45 a.m.**

"The Pit and the Peak"

Psalm 40:1-17

Rev. Michelle Hunter

**Mustard Tree Services:**

**5:00 p.m.**

**The Vine**

Rev. Barry Kidwell

**Lectionary Readings:**

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

**WDEF-TV Televised Sermons:**

**11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays**

"True Happiness"

Rev. Jason Gattis