

The First-Centurian

Volume 16, No. 07 January 26, 2024

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



On February 2, the Oak Street Playhouse will open its first musical in around 15 years. "Always, Patsy Cline" is inspired by letters the legendary country singer wrote to a longtime fan, Louise Seger. It contains many of Cline's biggest hits, humor and emotion and has not been performed in Chattanooga in more than 20 years.

The playhouse is pleased to be able to present the musical because of a grant from the Permanent Endowment Fund, which helped pay for the extra royalties, a musical director and musicians.

The grant also purchased upgrades for the theater's sound system — two new speakers, a new receiver and a new Chromebook to play the sound cues during shows. The sound system upgrades also benefit the children's ministry, which meets in the Flo Summit Theatre.

Oak Street Playhouse, which is always looking for new volunteers for set construction, costumes, actors, and host duties, appreciates the grant for this nearly 45-year-old church outreach.

"Always, Patsy Cline" runs through February 11. See Page 4 for details.

*Always...
Patsy Cline*



FCUMC On-line Directory

We are looking forward to making a long-awaited electronic church directory available to our congregation! Everyone we have an email address for will receive invites and will need to log in and set their privacy to one of the following options:

- Anyone in the church (anyone who is invited and logs in to our directory)
- Leaders & group team members (anyone designated as a leader as well as members of groups you are a part of)
- Leaders (anyone designated as a leader or teacher in the church)
- Users with permission only (staff members with administrative clearance, which is who currently has access to the information you've shared with the church)

If people log in and do not change their privacy setting, it will default to the "leaders" level which includes staff members with administrative clearance and anyone designated in Realm as a leader. We want to note that changing your personal information will change the information the church has for you, which gives you the ability to update your current information. It also means if you delete it, it will affect our ability to continue sending things like the newsletter, financial statements, etc.

Please watch for an email from "First Centenary United Methodist Church notifications@onrealmmail.org" so that you can be a part of our on-line directory. We will have staff available on Sunday mornings, February 11th and 18th, to help anyone having difficulties doing this on their own. You can also call the church at 423-756-2021 and tell us you want to be part of the directory and we can select your preferences for you. Thank you for your participation!

Mission Trip to Romania

If you have wanted to go on a mission trip to Romania and have not yet had a chance to go, a trip is being planned around April 15. We will be building some bunk beds and preparing space for our youth going this summer. There will be other things we do while there, like plant a few trees, work on a soccer field for the community, and visit some of the homes of the people that live in the village. As always we will be able to interact with a lot of kids that live in the village. If you are interested in going, please let Barry Kidwell know. Email is cbarrykidwell@gmail.com, phone numbers are (423)713-6379 and (423)756-2021. Come join us for this wonderful trip.



Forward Grief Group Starts February 17 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. in the Church Parlor

Forward is an ecumenical group which offers mutual support for those who have lost a spouse. This group offer space for the newly and sometimes not so newly bereaved to share experiences and begin to find ways to step Forward into the future. If you or someone you know is interested in joining this group, please contact the Church office at 423/756-2021. There is no charge to participate.

Clergy Corner



Rev. Michelle Hunter

[God] has made everything beautiful in its time [God] has also set eternity on the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God

has done from beginning to end.
Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)

Watching a garden grow and transform through the seasons is a powerful way to remember that God, in God's own way, makes everything beautiful. Through seasons of growth and flowering, receding and resting, we are reminded that there is a larger purpose in the seasons of our lives, too.

First-Centenary has the beautiful gift of a Memorial Garden. It is located off the Parlor, and is a courtyard where ashes of members are interred. It is also a place of prayer and contemplation, a place to be reminded of God's eternal goodness. Over the years, this garden has held space for families to grieve and cry, for children to quietly play, for people to ponder life and eternity, and for nature to flourish through the seasons.

January 2024 is a new season for our beloved Memorial Garden. We are in the process of replacing overgrown plants and freshening the space. Rest assured, all of the work will be completed with the utmost respect to those buried there, always ensuring their dignity.

This project will cost \$30,000, and you are invited to contribute. Please consider being a part of refreshing this space that reminds us of the beauty of the seasons of our own lives, and how we are all connected to God's larger plan of growth and purpose.

Contributions may be made at the kiosks, by a check or cash in the tithing boxes

Prime Time Wednesday

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



CLASSES thru February 7, 2024

Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life with Pastor Will – How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred? In the overlooked moments and routines of our day, we can become aware of God's presence in surprising ways. Framed around one typical day, this book explores life through the lens of liturgy — small practices and habits that form us. Books available for \$10.

1 John – Bible Study Join Pastor Barry in exploring and learning from the first of the Johannine letters and be challenged to let this book of the Bible impact how you love God and neighbor.

Grief Study – Join Pastor Jason for a 5-week study on grief where he will draw from resources that have been helpful to him, and personal experience to help participants journeys with grief in a healthy and faithful manner. *It's OK That You're Not OK*, by Megan Devine, available for \$10. The book is free on Kindle Unlimited.

Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks with Pastor Michelle – If gratitude is good, why is it so hard to do? In Grateful, Diana Butler Bass untangles our conflicting understandings of gratitude and sets the table for a renewed practice of giving thanks. Books available for \$10.

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.

Join our Remind App for Wednesday Night Parent Info! Text @bethspea to the number 81010 to sign up!

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.

DINNER INFORMATION

Adults – \$10 each (meal) **Children** – \$5; 3 & under free **Family max** – \$30

Please make dinner reservations by 4 p.m. Monday.

Go to firstcentenary.com/prime-time-wednesday for dinner reservations.

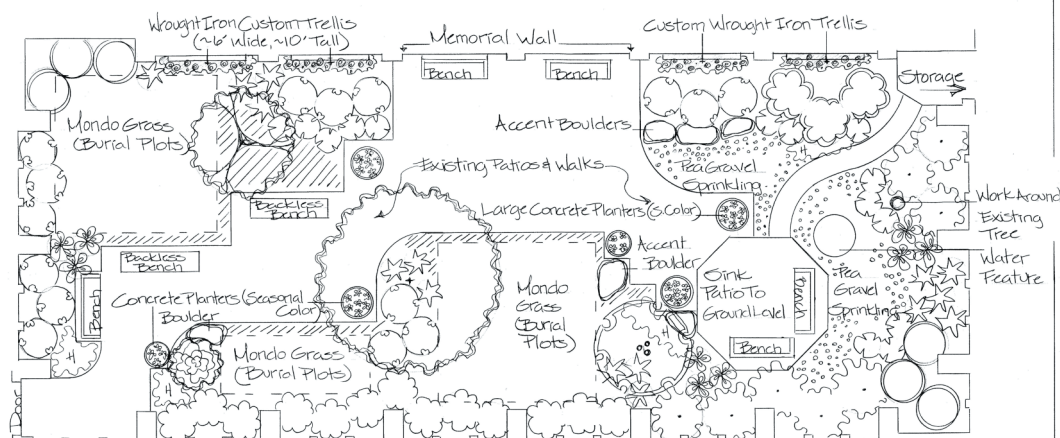
January 31 Menu: Chicken & Stuffing, Glazed Carrots, Green Peas, Roll; Peach Crisp, Chef Salad

CLERGY CORNER (cont'd)

(note: Memorial Garden), on-line, or through bank draft. We welcome contributions in memory or honor of one you cherish.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

With grace and peace, Pastor Michelle



We are diving into RESPONSIBILITY, because it's our job to see it through. Responsibility is showing we can be trusted with what is expected of us. God is counting on us!

- Work hard.
- Use your words wisely.

Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much. - Luke 16:10a, NIV

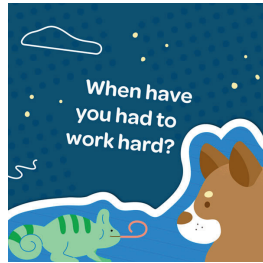
Join us in the First Kids Children's Wing for one or all of these times!

Early Service Childcare: 8:30-9:30 A.M.

Sunday School: 9:45-10:30 A.M.

Elem First Kids LIVE Worship: 11 - 11:45 A.M.

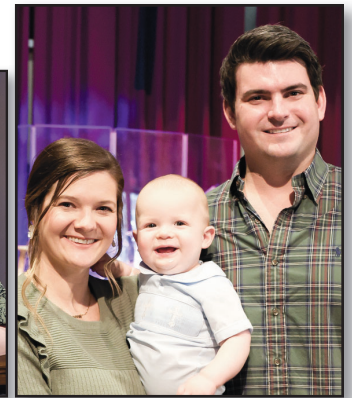
Pre-K Wiggle & Worship: 11 - 11:45 A.M.



Baptisms



Ford Henderson Sims, son of Wyatt and Caroline Sims, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on December 31, 2023. Also pictured is Bo Sims.



Harris Lee Hicks, son of Emily & Hudson Hicks, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on January 14, 2024.

"O King" — Thursday, January 25 at 7 p.m.

This year's holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. was a few days ago - but the celebration continues here in Chattanooga. "O King" is a tribute to the legacy and work of the civil rights leader, featuring music and spoken word reflections.



You are invited to this free concert on Thursday, January 25, 7 p.m. at the Bessie Smith Cultural Center. Musical performances will include the UTC Singing Mocs, UTC Music faculty; vocalists from Chattanooga High School Center for Creative Arts, including Jeron Burney; and local professional musicians. Additionally, spoken word artist Erika Roberts will perform a newly created work.

Speakers include John Edwards, publisher of the Chattanooga News Chronicle; Dr. Ernest Reid, pastor of Second Missionary Baptist Church; Eric Atkins, president of the Unity Group; Dr. Eleanor McCallie Cooper; and Stacy Lightfoot, Vice Chancellor for Access and Engagement at UTC. The program was initiated by Dr. Jonathan McNair, the Ruth S. Holmberg Professor of American Music at UTC.



ABIDE

ABIDE Respite Ministry extends our warmest THANK YOU to Rev. Laura Shearer. Since August 2023, Laura has served as Interim Director for ABIDE. Her compassion, organization, and natural leadership skills have been a real gift during an important time of transition. Laura has trained our new director, Brandi Anderson, and now is ready to move on to other adventures. She will continue to serve as an ABIDE volunteer and on the leadership team for the monthly Caregiver Support Group.

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presents . . .



Starring

Beth McClary-Wolford
as Patsy Cline
Hayley Graham Duncan
as Louise Seger

Jerry M. Draper – Director
Andrew Chauncey –
Musical Director

Always...Patsy Cline

The musical play, complete with down home country humor, true emotion and even some audience participation, includes many of Patsy's unforgettable hits such as *Crazy*, *I Fall to Pieces*, *Sweet Dreams* and *Walking After Midnight* ... 27 songs in all. The show's title was inspired by Cline's letters to Seger, which were consistently signed "Love ALWAYS ... Patsy Cline."

February 2, 3, 8-10 at 7:30 p.m.

February 4 and 11 at 2 p.m.

To purchase tickets, scan the QR
code or go to [https://
www.onthestage.tickets/show/
oak-street-playhouse](https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/oak-street-playhouse).

Visit us on the web at

www.firstcentenary.com/the-oak-street-playhouse.



Sunday Worship

January 28, 2024

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Sanctuary at 10:45 a.m.

A New Teaching – With Authority!

Mark 1:21-28

Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine at 10:45 a.m.

Unity Rather Than Division

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Dr. Will Lauderback

Reading from the Lectionary

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Televised sermon by Rev. Gattis:

Unconventional Gifts

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