

# The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 16, NO. 21  
JULY 11TH, 2025

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

From worship services to special events and ministry opportunities, our weekly calendar gives you a snapshot of what's going on across our church campus!

**SUN.**  
Jul 13th

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service  
9:30AM: Sunday School  
10:45AM: Sanctuary & The Vine Worship Service  
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group  
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner  
6:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at Northgate Mall

**MON.**  
Jul 14th

12:00PM: Executive Team Meeting

**TUES.**  
Jul 15th

10:00AM: Crafty Capers  
10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting  
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry  
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Coffee Talk

**WED.**  
Jul 16th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry  
5:30PM: Positive Christian Singles Movie Night

**THURS.**  
Jul 17th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry

**FRI.**  
Jul 18th

No events scheduled

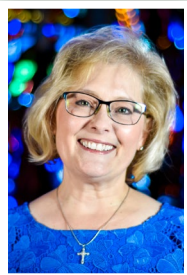
**SAT.**  
Jul 19th

8:30AM: Pack Day at the Food Bank  
11:30AM: Positive Christian Singles Lunch

## VBS 2025







Rev. Michelle Hunter

## CLERGY CORNER

In *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*, Anne Lamott writes that, "laughter is carbonated

holiness." We may not think of laughter as a pathway to holiness, but surely there is laughter in heaven and surely laughter brings us closer to the best parts of our human selves.

When I served as chaplain of a care facility, I offered weekly laughing sessions for the residents. At first people thought it was nuts, and maybe so, but soon word got around that it sure did feel good to gather in a group and laugh. The residents I served were facing fear, grief, and chronic physical and emotional pain. Unexpectedly, our contagious laughter became an act of defiance in the face of great difficulty. We realized that laughing drew us closer to each other and to God, offering a sense of agency.

There is much to be concerned about these days, injustices that are not funny at all. To laugh in times of difficulty is not to make light of anything, instead, it is to engage a God given coping skill that can strengthen and unite us as we do the good work of resisting the corruption of sin. To laugh is to defy evil - allowing resilience, hope, and connection to bubble up, strengthening us as we follow our call to redeem humanity through Christ's love.

PS-check out Psalm 2 where God laughs (scoffs) at the futility of opposing God's reign of love.

~ Pastor Michelle



## FCUNITE SUMMER EVENTS

Calling all college students that are home for the summer! We have some great events coming up and would love to see you there.

### FREE COLLEGE LUNCH

July 27th and August 31st after 10:45 a.m. worship services

### RIVER TUBING

July 26th at 9:00 a.m. meet at The Student Center



## YOUTH SUMMER EVENTS

Youth Ministry has a lot planned, so mark your calendars, bring your friends, and get ready for a great season!

### WEDNESDAY SUMMER NIGHTS

July 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Center

### TRIPLE P

July 28th at 10:00 a.m. in the Student Center

## HIGH SCHOOL MISSION WEEK

July 12th - 19th in Xela, Guatemala



St. Louis Mission Week

## PRIME TIME WEDNESDAY KICK-OFF

Wednesday, August 13th, at 6:30 in the Sanctuary



Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass provide innovative worship for young and old alike through the "best in sacred brass music." By teaming together, these Christian professionals from around the United States perform their original arrangements as heard on their fifteen recordings. For forty years, The King's Brass have performed over one hundred concerts each season with three trumpets, three trombones, a tuba, keyboards, and percussion. Playing a wide variety of music from Gabrieli to hymn classics, from Handel to jazz spirituals, from Christmas carols to patriotic marches, The King's Brass uses all corners of the concert hall to lift hearts and spirits of all ages in praise. For more information, check out their website: [www.kingsbrass.org](http://www.kingsbrass.org).



This month in First Kids K- 5th Grade, we are learning to Live It Out–Discover how to love like Jesus. Our memory verse is "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had," Romans 15:5 (NIV)

This month in First Kids Preschool we are learning that Jesus shows me how to love others. Our memory verse is "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

### 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.



### POPSICLES IN THE PARK

Join us on **July 16th at 4:30 p.m. at Coolidge Park** for a sweet summer afternoon of fun. We'll have games and activities for the kids, and of course, plenty of popsicles!

## NEWS FROM MUSTARD TREE

### LAUNDRY PODS NEEDED

We have been taking laundry pods to people in College Hill Courts and are met with much gratitude. You can't buy laundry pods with food stamps. If you would like to help families keep their clothes clean, donations of laundry pods dropped off in the Welcome Center are appreciated.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We take sack lunches every week into College Hill Courts. It helps provide some food and hope in these tough times. We would like to expand this ministry into the East Lake Courts and are looking for someone to lead this group and volunteers to go with us. If you are interested in, please contact Barry Kidwell at [bkidwell@firstcentenary.com](mailto:bkidwell@firstcentenary.com).

## NEW MEMBERS & BAPTISMS



Charlotte Rachor



Wendy Harris



Stephen, Ellen, Micah, & Owen Ward



### PACK DAY

Join us to pack backpacks on **July 19th at 8:30 a.m. at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank** (2009 Curtain Pole Rd). Lunch provided! Wear closed-toed shoes and comfy clothes. Biggest need: 24-count Crayola Crayons–drop off at the Welcome Center by July 18th.





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

## VBS 2025



## SUNDAY WORSHIP

July 13th, 2025

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

"Ask and Answer"  
Luke 10:25-37  
Rev. Michelle Hunter

**The Vine Services:**  
**10:45 a.m.**

"Where Your Seeds May Fall"  
Acts 8  
Rev. Jason Gattis

**Mustard Tree Services:**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**The Vine**  
Rev. Barry Kidwell

**Lectionary Readings:**

Amos 7:7-17  
Psalm 82  
Colossians 1:1-14  
Luke 10:25-37

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

"Serve Joyfully"  
Rev. Jason Gattis