

# The First-Centurian

Volume 16, No. 14

March 15, 2024

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

## COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

EVERY THIRD SUNDAY  
9:45 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM



**Are you a first time visitor or have been visiting for a while? Want to know more about First-Centenary? Interested in becoming a member of First-Centenary? Or, do you simply want to get to know the Senior Pastor?** Then join Pastor Jason every third Sunday at 9:45 in the Conference Room (Room 105) for Coffee With the Pastor! **Starting March 17.**

## Volunteer For A Fish Fry

with Mustard Tree Ministries

## Mustard Tree Ministries Fish Fry

March 23  
begins at Noon  
College Hill Courts

Calling all Volunteers! Come join us at our upcoming Fish Fry event on March 23 at College Hill Courts. Whether you're a great cook, a master at serving smiles, or just love being part of community gatherings, we need YOU! The Fish Fry will start at Noon and continue until supplies last. Bring your friends and family and let's serve up some joy together. We hope to see you there!



## VBS Registration Is Open!

First-Centenary invites families to  
**HOMETOWN NAZARETH:  
WHERE JESUS WAS A KID**

A summer family event called *Hometown Nazareth* will be hosted at First-Centenary from June 24th to the 28th. Families step back in time at Hometown Nazareth, exploring what it was like to live in the town where Jesus grew up. Kids and adults participate in a memorable Bible-times marketplace, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into Bible-times snacks, visit Jesus' mom, Mary, and collect Bible Memory Makers to remind them of God's Word. Plus, everyone learns to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes at Celebration—a time of upbeat worship that gets everyone involved.

**Scan the QR code above or go to our website to sign up today!**



## Eggstravaganza Easter Bash Palm Sunday, March 24 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.!

Bring your little ones for a good time filled with fun, laughter, and of course, plenty of egg-citement. We will search for hidden treasures together. Mark your calendars and hop on over to the Elementary (grassy area in front of the steeple) for an egg-citing time!



**We need  
YOUR  
help!**

Help us fill our Easter Eggs this year! Donations of small candies and/or tiny "egg sized" toys would be greatly appreciated!

Also, contact Beth Spears if you would like to help stuff eggs!! Large donation buckets will be outside our worship areas and at the Welcome Center for Candy Drop Zones!

**Thank you for your loving support of our children!**

## Clergy Corner



Rev. Jason Gattis

On my first day back at the church after a nice, relaxing vacation I received a text from Amy containing a picture attachment.

Whatever tension was released the previous week came back all at once. The picture was a piece of mail addressed to Jason N. Gattis, Sr. from AARP welcoming me to the 50+ club. While, technically, I am still considered a middle aged adult, this unwanted welcome is another of many recent indicators that the number of years to becoming an older adult is quickly decreasing.

This awareness has, once again, helped me realize that life is in a constant state of change. It is inevitable that changes are going to happen and the worst thing we can do is fight those changes. I have no more say in my daughter turning twenty-one this year than I do in the sun NOT shining while I was at the beach. There is nothing I can do about my father-in-law turning eighty this year just like there is nothing I can do about the continued thinning of my hair. It is a simple fact: changes happen, transitions happen, and there is nothing we can do about it.

So, why worry? That is what I have to keep reminding myself. Why get worked up over something I have no control over? You know, Jesus actually had some things to say about this. Jesus, not Paul or Isaiah or Moses or Solomon or Ruth. In living a life for Christ I feel we sometimes forget about

## Prime Time Wednesday

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



**The Gospel of John** with Pastor Jason and Pastor Will In this study you'll follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John and understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament.

(The Vine)

**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.

(Prigmore Room)

**For the Beauty of the Earth** led by UWF Creation Care Circle Drawing on the beloved hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth," each week of this 40-day Lenten devotional focuses on a different aspect of the splendor of nature, how God nurtures our spirit through creation, and how we must protect our precious home.

(OSC 101/102)

## 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](http://firstcentenary.com/prime-time-wednesday) for dinner reservations.**

**March 13** BBQ Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, Cookies; Fajita Salad

## Free Meals Campaign for the youth ministry



of charge for students. Meals are an important part of our community and we can't achieve it without your help and generosity. We thank you for your support!

**The Youth need your help!** We are continuing our Free Meals Campaign through the spring so we are able to provide delicious and nutritious meals for our youth Sundays and Wednesdays free



## CLERGY CORNER (cont'd)

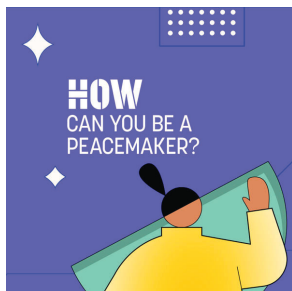
what Jesus actually said and, instead, fret over what others have to say. In the greatest sermon ever preached, the only sermon that should truly matter, Jesus said, as recorded by Matthew, "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today."

**ALERT:** I just got a notification on my phone that Chuck Norris turns 84 next week. What?! How can that be?! Just last year he was in that movie..... Oops. There I go again.

See you Sunday! I hope. Jason



It's March!! All month long we are celebrating; Jesus IS ALIVE! And because of Him, we can bask in the peace only He can bring. We can do our part to spread peace whenever we can. PEACE is proving we care more about each other than winning an argument.



- You can HELP OTHERS make peace.
- Jesus came to BE OUR SAVIOR.
- JESUS IS ALIVE.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16, NIV*

**Join us in the First Kids CM Wing Sunday 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 FirstKids LIVE Worship: 11:00-11:45 A.M.
- Pre-K Wiggle & Worship: 11:00-11:45 A.M.
- FirstKids Sunday Night: 5:00-6:00 P.M.

## FCUMC On-line Directory

If you have not received a REALM email invite, please check your spam/junk folder. It will come from, "**First Centenary United Methodist Church notifications@onrealmmail.org.**" You can 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!

Scan the QR code to get the Realm Connect app.



## Chris Bowles Circle

This Circle meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Morgan Classroom.

Chris Bowles invested her life's energies in her relationship with Christ and in her devotion to discipling others. Our circle bears her name to honor her memory and to be our reminder of her beautiful witness as we seek to deepen our Christian discipleship and to emulate her Christian servanthood through study and service.



**United Women in Faith**  
First-Centenary UMC

## The Footsteps of Saint Paul in Greece: Thessaloniki to Athens

**September 24 - October 4, 2024**

Join Signal Crest UMC friends as we retrace Paul's missionary journey through Greece! This 11-day tour will take us to Thessaloniki, the Meteora Region, Delphi Region, Nafplio, Corinth, & Athens with an optional excursion to the ruins in Philippi. We'll see the Meteora monasteries, the Temple of Apollo, the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Areopagus, and more.

The cost of the trip is \$4,689 (per person, double occupancy) including airfare. There is also an optional 4-day Greek Island Cruise extension which includes a cruise to five different ports: Mykonos, Santorini, Crete, Patmos, & Ephesus. The extension cost is \$1,619 per person.

If you are interested in finding out more about this tour to Greece, please contact Debbie Matthews at 423-463-1131 or dcm3647@gmail.com.

## WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE



GIVING KIOSK



MAIL



SUNDAY OFFERING



BANK DRAFT

**Check out our website**  
[www.firstcentenary.com](http://www.firstcentenary.com)

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## Sunday Worship

**March 17, 2024**

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

*The Gospel of John:*

Foreshadowing

John 12:20-33

Rev. Jason Gattis

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

*The Gospel of John:*

Foreshadowing

John 12:20-33

Dr. Will Lauderback

**Reading from the Lectionary**

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33

Televised sermon by Dr. Lauderback:

*The Gospel of John: Anointing*

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



## Easter Lily Orders Now Being Taken

Easter Lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary and The Vine on Sunday, March 31. If you would like to place one to honor or remember someone, send your check (made payable to the ALTAR GUILD) for \$16 for EACH lily to Nancy Tolar, P. O. Box 208, Chattanooga, TN 37401. ***Orders must be received in the church office by Monday, March 18.***

☐ Sanctuary ☐ The Vine

NAME OF DONOR \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_