

# The First-Centurian

Volume 16, No. 15

March 22, 2024

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



## **Palm Sunday (March 24)**

*(At the 10:45 services, the children will process down the aisles waving their palm branches.)*

Services in the Sanctuary  
8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

Service in The Vine at 10:45 a.m.

## **Eggstravaganza Easter Bash:**

11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## **Maundy Thursday (March 28)**

Meal in The Vine at 5:15 p.m.

Go to [firstcentenary.com/prime-time-wednesday](http://firstcentenary.com/prime-time-wednesday) for dinner reservations.

**Service in the Sanctuary  
at 6:30 p.m.**

## **Good Friday (March 29)**

Service in The Vine at 6:30 p.m.

## **Easter Sunday (March 31)**

Services in the Sanctuary:

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

Services in The Vine:

10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.

## **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

**Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24 in the Sanctuary** – This is a day of drama in the life of the church. We'll begin with the parade, remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The children, led by JumpStart Choir, (10:45) will lead us, processing down the aisles waving their palm branches high. During the service, our thoughts will pivot from the parade to the Passion story. A new anthem titled "And Can It Be?" (text by Charles Wesley), given to the choir in memory of Bobbie Howell, will be presented following the sermon. We'll take an emotional journey, preparing our hearts and minds for the events to follow through Holy Week.

**Maundy Thursday, March 28 – Dinner by reservation at 5:15 p.m., Service in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.** – The "Maundy" in Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin word for commandment. Jesus' commandment has to do with love that is embodied in service. "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another" (John 13:34 NRSV). The command is to serve in loving ways. It's not an emotion or a feeling toward others; it is an act that we can perform. Our Maundy Thursday service will begin by serving communion to one another around the tables. Following the sacrament, we will transition into remembering the events of the last days of Jesus' life. As the story is read, candles will be extinguished, the sanctuary darkened, and the altar stripped of its paraments and decorations. All will leave in silence.

**Good Friday, March 29 – Worship in The Vine at 6:30 p.m.** – Join us for our annual Good Friday worship service. We will experience a firsthand account from John, the beloved disciple, and reflect on the power and sacrifice of the cross.

# Easter Sunday

*Celebrating the Risen Christ*



**Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!**

**Sanctuary Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.** on Easter Sunday morning will be a glorious celebration of the risen Christ. The Sanctuary will be beautifully decorated with Easter lilies, and the sounds of joyous liturgy and music will inspire as we rejoice in the miracle of Easter. The services will begin with music by brass and organ. The Chancel Ringers will accompany the Christ candle in the opening procession. The candle symbolizes the presence of the risen Christ among us. Abby Cunningham will sing Mozart's *Alleluia* and the choir has prepared a beautiful setting of *Were You There*, and a bold, new selection titled *Begin the Song of Glory Now*. Rev. Jason Gattis will bring the morning message.

Join us for worship on this festival day!

**Worship in The Vine at 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.**

## **Easter Sunday Children's Worship**

Elementary (kindergarten - 5th grade) children will attend Easter Sunday Worship with their families. On Sunday night, all children will attend the service with their families.



## Clergy Corner



Dr. Will Lauderback

Each week in The Vine worship service we end with the same quotation of scripture from John 15:5. "I am the Vine;

you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much Fruit. Without me, you can't do anything." It is a reminder for us to stay connected to Christ, to love others for his name sake, and to be a part of God's transformation of this world through the work of Christ.

As we have been journeying through the Gospel of John during Lent and are preparing for the roller coaster of emotion that is Holy Week, I can't help but reflect on these words that I say each and every week and the need to stay connected to God in all seasons of life. I am reminded of the well known Prayer of Saint Patrick (having just celebrated St. Patrick's Day!) and how this prayer is a reminder of Christ's continued presence in our lives and our need to hold that reality in the forefront of our hearts and minds.

"Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,  
Christ in the eye that sees me,  
Christ in the ear that hears me."

## NO Prime Time Wednesday March 27

### Join us for the Maundy Thursday Service

at 6:30 p.m. Dinner by reservation at 5:15 p.m.

Go to [firstcentenary.com/prime-time-wednesday](http://firstcentenary.com/prime-time-wednesday) for dinner reservations.

MENU: March 28 (Maundy Thursday) Taziki's



## Senior Adult Day

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Join us at Camp Lookout to enjoy great fellowship and food, hymn singing, awesome presentations and devotion, wonderful music, and much more. This year's Senior Adult Day event will feature several special guests: Charles Neal, Jeanne Eller, Charles Maynard, Lon Eldridge, Mark Gooden, and Mike Feely!

Cost for the day: \$10 --includes refreshments and lunch, lots of music, time for fellowship and exploring Camp Lookout, and a history display! Check-in (with refreshments) begins at 9:30 a.m.

You need to sign up to attend Senior Adult Day! Call and let us know you'll be coming.

You can pay your \$10 by card over the phone or bring payment with you the day of the event (card, check, or cash).

For more information or to let us know you're coming, email [info@camplookout.com](mailto:info@camplookout.com) or call 706-820-1163.

## ABIDE Information and Interest Session

Wednesday, April 17

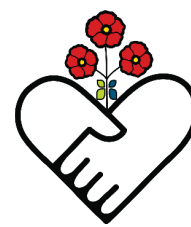
1:00 p.m. – ABIDE room

in the Oak Street Center (101/102)

Are you looking for a meaningful place to serve?

Are you a caregiver for a person with dementia?

Do you have talents that you would like to share?



**ABIDE**

If so, then YOU ARE INVITED to come learn more about ABIDE Respite Ministry.

We are committed to providing joy, hope, dignity, and quality care to persons with dementia, as well as their caregivers. Join us in this important ministry!

## 5 WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE GIVING KIOSK MAIL



SUNDAY OFFERING BANK DRAFT

## CLERGY CORNER (cont'd)

I hope this week as we prepare our hearts for Holy Week we might have eyes to see Christ around us from the smallest words and actions to the biggest meetings and adventures. Know that Christ goes with you, is waiting for you, and wants to help you glorify God in all that you do and all that you are.

In Christ, Will



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.

- 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: 11-11:45 A.M.
- Pre-K Wiggle & Worship: 11-11:45 A.M.
- FirstKids Sunday Night: 5-6 P.M.



## Romanian Villages Highlights

from Pastor Samuel...

*Hello,*

*I hope this finds you safe and sound.*

*I am sending you the first quarter Newsletter from the village ministries in Romania!*

*Thank you for all your support during these years and I want for you to know that you are in our prayers.*

*As you will read in the newsletter we have some exiting news about a first wedding in the Roma Church from Comșești and we are asking for you to stand in prayers with us so that everything will be good and we will be able to support the people who are making a first step in the good direction (it is not a common thing for the Roma people to get married in front of the mayor and in Church).*

*In Christ*

*Pastor Samuel*

Scan the QR

code to see the newsletter.



## 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.



## 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!**



**FIRST-CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

P. O. Box 208

Chattanooga, TN 37401

419 McCallie Avenue  
Chattanooga, TN  
37402  
Rev. Jason Gattis,  
Senior Pastor  
(423) 756-2021  
[www.firstcentenary.com](http://www.firstcentenary.com)



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## **Palm Sunday, March 24 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oak Street Center**

Come CELEBRATE with your Church Family! Jesus IS ALIVE!  
Our EGGstravaganza Easter Bash is directly after our worship services.

There will be \$5 Pizza available for everyone, Easter Crafts, Games, a Bunny Play & 3 Egg Hunts! Baby & Toddler Egg Hunt, 2's-K Egg Hunt, & 1st-5th Egg Hunt.

We will also have allergy friendly baskets available for children in need. So gather your Easter baskets and join us for some Easter Love.



## **Sunday Worship**

**March 24, 2024**

Palm Sunday

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

*The Gospel of John:*

*Everyone Loves a Parade*

John 12:12-16

Rev. Jason Gattis

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

*The Gospel of John:*

*Everyone Loves a Parade*

John 12:12-16

Dr. Will Lauderback

**Reading from the Lectionary**

Palms: Mark 11:1-11, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16,

Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 14:1-15:47

Televised sermon by Rev. Gattis:

*The Gospel of John: Foreshadowing*

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