

The First-Centurian

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March 29, 2024

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



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!

He is Risen



Worship in The Vine at 8:30 & 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.

First-Centenary United Methodist Church Children's Ministry

FIRST KIDS



- Pizza • Easter Crafts
- New Friends • Easter Skit
- Thousands of Eggs •
- Special Church Memories



Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!

Clergy Corner



Rev. Barry Kidwell

As we approach Easter, I think about the great love that God has for us by going to the cross in our place. I remember

when I first finally surrendered my life to Jesus, a lot of my new Christian friends told me that I could no longer go to the pool hall and other places I used to hang out, because now I was a Christian and God didn't want me hanging out with sinners.

Now I had read the Bible, and I knew Jesus hung out with the woman at the well and the religious people said stuff like, "he eats and hangs out with sinners." So, I began to wonder, when did God change. If Jesus didn't turn away from sinners in disgust, but moved toward us by becoming Incarnate in this sinful fallen world, why do we abandon those still broken by sin? And by the way, somewhere I read once that "all of us have sinned and fallen short." It's a pretty good and a pretty profound book that I read that in, I think.

Somehow that "for God so loved the world" thing gets lost, and we can forget that "those people" can experience God's love too. Easter - the idea that God loves us even as sinners - is radical. When you look at other religions, the Buddhist's have an eight-fold path to follow, Hindu's have the doctrine of karma, the Jews have to follow every letter of the law, and Muslims have a strict code of law - each of these offering a way to earn approval from God or the Universe.

But the God Christians

Prime Time Wednesday

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



April 3, 10, 17

Pre-General Conference Update

May 8, 15

Post-General Conference Update

April 3, 10, 17, 24

Enneagram/Marriage Study

April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1

"Context: Putting Scripture in its Place"

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.

April 3 - Lemon Pepper Chicken, Scalloped Corn, Roasted Veggies, Roll, Honey Bun Cake; Mediterranean Salad

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.



Camp Lookout 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 or call 706-820-1163.

CLERGY CORNER (cont'd)

worship loves sinners, redeems failures, delights in second chances and fresh starts, and never tires of pursuing lost sheep, waiting for prodigal children to return or rescuing people that are damaged by life and left on the side of the road for the religious to walk by and a good Samaritan to come along and help. If you really study it, only our God, as revealed in Jesus, is a God who unconditionally loves and has forgiven us all our offenses and wants us to forgive ourselves.

Easter reveals the good news and goodness of God that we probably would have never discovered if Jesus had not come and showed us what our God is like. Easter is why I know that I am "better than I deserve," because God came along side of me through Jesus and loved me while I was yet a sinner. Thank God for Easter.

Geaux Tigers, Barry



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.



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!

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.



Meet Our New Member who joined March 24



Addie Arnold transferred from Burks UMC.



Traci Nelson transferred from Mission Red Bank.

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?

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!



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Addressing a Public Health Crisis:

*Firearms are the number one
cause of death for children
in Tennessee.*

Thursday, April 4, 2024
5:30 p.m., First-Centenary



First-Centenary and **Voices for a Safer Tennessee** are hosting
a community conversation on pragmatic firearm safety policy that is
proven to save lives.

Panelists: Dr. Dave Bhattacharya, Chair of Pediatric Trauma
Surgery, Children's Hospital at Erlanger

Lucy White, Counselor, UT Health Science Center

Erin Rogus, Policy Director, *Voices for a Safer TN*

Moderator: Cornelia Nicholson, Anchor and Reporter, News 3



Scan the QR code
to register for the
conversation!

Sunday Worship

March 31, 2024
Easter Sunday

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

The Gospel of John:
Unexpected Hope
John 20:1-20
Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

The Gospel of John:
Unexpected Hope
John 20:1-20
Dr. Will Lauderback

Reading from the Lectionary

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18

Televised sermon by Rev. Gattis:
The Gospel of John: Everyone Loves a Parade
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