

The First-Centurian

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MAY 23RD, 2025

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



From the Editor

2025 UPCOMING NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

June:	July:	August:
June 13th	July 11th	August 8th
June 27th	July 25th	August 22nd



CHILDREN'S CHOIR IN WORSHIP

This past Sunday, May 18th, our Children's Choir led a joyful time of worship in The Vine's 10:45 a.m. service! They not only sang beautifully but also introduced a few new instruments during a couple of their songs – and did an amazing job!

Congratulations CLASS OF 2025



A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 COLLEGE GRADUATES!

Sarah Harbarger - Bachelor's in Exercise Science
Katibeth Brown - Bachelor's in Environmental Science
Grace Wellman - Bachelor's in Psychology & BA in Spanish
Layne Maddox - Bachelor's in Criminal Justice
Lucie Finley - Bachelor's in Child and Family Studies
Trinity Nelson - Bachelor's in Psychology
Stella Maddox - Bachelor's of Early Childhood Education
Martin Lewis - Bachelor's of Business Administration & Management
Melanie Vasquez - Bachelor's in Interior Architecture & Design
Tes Cherian - Bachelor's in Nursing



VOLUNTEER &
REGISTRATION



ONLINE
SHOPPING



SUPPORT
VBS

VBS 2025!

Mark your calendars for June 23rd - 27th! The this year's Vacation Bible School theme is "True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World."

Ways to Support:

- Register to be a VBS Volunteer
- Visit the Giving Tree outside the Sanctuary
- Shop directly from our Amazon wish list
- Sponsor a crew with a monetary gift



CLERGY CORNER

Church Family,
I never cease to be amazed by your faith and faithfulness! Especially when it comes to

helping those in need, specifically the least and the last. When we put out the call for the Easter offering I knew that whatever was given would have a positive impact on the mission and work of Bridge Refugee Services and I was confident that we would raise an amount that would be on par with previous Easter offerings and similar to what other churches in the area had pledged in support. Your faith-filled generosity, however, almost doubled our normal Easter offering! Pastor Jason and I had the privilege of delivering a check for over \$28,000 to Marina Peshterianu, Interim Executive Director, and when the staff heard her audible gasp there was a sense of excitement and thankfulness that was palpable.

Because of the support of the philanthropic and religious community Bridge has been able to retain all of the current refugee families that they are working with! My prayer is that First-Centenary's leadership in generosity in this effort to care for the refugees in our midst might inspire other churches and individuals to support this great effort.

Thank you again for being who you are and responding to God's call to care for all! I can't wait to see what God has in store next!

In Christ,
Will



YOUTH SUMMER EVENTS

Summer is here and the Youth Ministry has a lot planned. Mark your calendars, bring your friends and get ready for a great season!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION WEEK

June 2nd - 6th at Camp Lookout

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

June 18th in the Student Center

TRIPLE P DAYS

June 9th, July 7th, and July 28th at 10:00 a.m. in the Student Center
June 23rd after VBS in the Student Center

ST. LOUIS MISSION WEEK

June 29th - July 4th in St. Louis, MO

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION WEEK

July 12th - 19th in Xela, Guatemala

THANK YOU TO THE PERMANENT ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE!

Yesterday Fred Gault and I began installing the new Microphones for the Vine that we were able to purchase through the Permanent Endowment Fund Grant that we received this year. You may have also noticed a clearer livestream image due to the upgraded cameras installed in the Vine last month. It's been a while since we've had an equipment upgrade and we've used our old equipment well! Now, we're excited to continue to grow in quality and excellence through these upgrades and replacement equipment. Thank you for your commitment to keeping us up to date with the changing technologies in our world! We're excited to connect with more of our community through these upgrades.

~ Grant Morgan, Contemporary Music Director



The Engage program is an ongoing opportunity to match your interests with ministry opportunities at the church. Scan the QR code for more!



This month in First Kids K-5th Grade, we are discussing taking initiative! Our memory verse is "None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others." ~ Philippians 2:4, NIV

This month in First Kids Preschool we are discussing how God helps us do BIG things! Our Memory verse is "I know that God helps me." ~ Psalm 54:4, 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.



FIRST KIDS SUMMER KICKOFF

June 1st after the 10:45 a.m. services
McCallie Playground

Join us for our annual First Kids Summer Kickoff on June 1st right after the 10:45 a.m. worship service at the McCallie Playground! We're celebrating the start of summer with a fun ice cream social – bring the whole family for sweet treats and fun activities. We can't wait to kick off the season with you!



DONATE TO THE CENTENARY SUMMER PROGRAM

Any Donation is Welcome!

Give a kid eight weeks of: Breakfast & Lunch, Academic Enrichment, Arts and Crafts, Summer Reading, and a week at CAMP LOOKOUT!



FCUNITE SUMMER EVENTS

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

FREE COLLEGE LUNCH

May 25th, June 29th, July 27th, and August 31st
after 10:45 a.m. worship services

COOLIDGE PARK DAY

June 22nd from 11:00 a.m.
Meet at The Student Center

LUNCH AFTER V.B.S.

June 26th at 12:00 p.m.
Meet at The Oak Street Center

RIVER TUBING

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



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ABIDE CELEBRATES YEAR #2

This past Friday, May 16th, ABIDE hosted a special Volunteer Luncheon to celebrate and honor the incredible individuals who make this ministry possible. The event marked a joyful milestone—two years of providing love, care, and support through our respite ministry. We are deeply grateful for each volunteer who has given their time and heart to serve others. Thank you for being part of this journey and helping ABIDE grow into a vibrant, compassionate community!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

May 25th, 2025

Sanctuary Service:

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

"Peace That Takes Away Fear"

John 14:23-29

Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine Service:

10:45 a.m.

"Against the Status Quo"

John 5:1-9

Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

Mustard Tree Service:

5:00 p.m.

The Vine

Rev. Barry Kidwell

Lectionary Reading:

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67 (UMH 791)

Revelation 21:10,22-22:5

John 14:23-29

WDEF-TV Televised Sermon:

11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays

"Love is All We Need"

Rev. Jason Gattis