# AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

1st Sunday of Advent November 30, 2025 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Paraments – Blue

\*Please stand as you are able.

Please remember to turn off cell phones.

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

Gathering Music (8:25)

(10:30)

Dr. Roland Carter Dr. Mark Malone

#### Invocation

Voluntary (8:30) From Heaven Above to Earth I Come J. Walther

> (10:45) Of the Parent's Heart Begotten arr. C. McMichael Pam Riggs-Gelasco, clarinet; Katie Jo Gelasco, cello

\*Call to Worship (8:30) Dr. Jan McNair (10:45) Mrs. Mimi Italia

Leader: What will set us journeying

in search of the Christ this Advent? How far are we prepared to go out of our way to look for the signs of His coming, and to prepare a path?

How will we travel through this season? will we be burdened by responsibilities and tasks. loaded with others' expectations, overwhelmed by their needs?

Will we be full of joy or weary of grief? What will guide our steps in these weeks? Will we follow a thread of longing, the hint of an alternative pathway, the words and music of the gathered community?

Siblings in Christ, Advent awaits us.

All: Let's place our feet on the road and begin the journey. May we find in familiar words, rituals and customs the birth of the new king, and may we be open to receive what you offer, even that which we do not expect. Amen.

\*Hvmn 209

Blessed Be the God of Israel

## **Lighting the First Advent Candle - Unexpected**

8:30 - Susan Byrd and Shannon Smith 10:45 - Camille and Stephen Rambajue

Prayer: Lord, in this season of Advent, help us set aside our expectations. Surprise us with the wonder of the unexpected. Amen.

**All sing:** Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;

behold the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Anthem** (10:45) Come. Thou Long-Expected Jesus arr. R. Hobby The Chancel Choir

> Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art: dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne. Rule in all; hope of all. Come, expected Jesus. Come.

(Words: Charles Wesley)

#### Ritual of Friendship

Rev. Michelle Hunter

\*Gratitude for Tithes and Offerings Gracious God, as we give our gifts to you, we bring much more than our earthly treasure; we bring our very lives. Transform us through our giving, that we may grow even closer to you. Help us share your peace and love with others as joyfully and generously as you have shared your gifts with us. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

\*Doxology (#95)

**Time for Children** 

**Concerns and Celebrations of the Congregation** The Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (#895)

**Anthem** (8:30) Rise, Shine, for the Light is a'-Coming arr. R. Carter Dr. Roland Carter, piano

> **Text**: Oh, rise, shine for the light is a'coming. My Lord says He's coming by an' by.

Lo. How a Rose E'er Blooming arr. C. McMichael (10:45)Pam Riggs-Gelasco, clarinet; Katie Jo Gelasco, cello

\*Gospel Lesson Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon Wonder-Unexpected Rev. Jason Gattis

\*Hymn 210 All Earth is Waiting

\*Benediction

**Closing Voluntary** Sleepers Wake! M. Sobage

The Call to Worship was written by Ann Siddall, and posted on the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre and Faith Community website. http://stillpointsa.org.au/prayer/prayers-and-liturgies/ The Advent Candle Liturgy was written by First-Centenary member Cindy Stulce. Gratitude for Tithes and Offerings is from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022 Edition. © 2021 by Abingdon Press.

#### **ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICES:**

Acolytes: Oliver Harr, Sellick Wallin, Wills Gates, and Isie Gates

**Pew Volunteers:** 8:30: David Hudson 10:45: Debbie Donohue

**Welcome Desk Volunteers:** 

8:30: Susan Byrd 10:45: Jerry Donohue

### THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

#### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH**

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School 10:45 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship 10:45 a.m. - The Vine Worship 2:00 p.m. - PCS Christmas Chorale

8:30 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship

4:30 p.m. - Sunday Night Youth 5:00 p.m. - Sunday Night Worship 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Night Meal

6:00 p.m. - OSP Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. - Wesley Small Group

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 1ST**

11:30 a.m. - The Centenary Commitee 5:00 p.m. - UWF Meeting 6:00 p.m. - OSP Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. - Wesley Small Group

#### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND**

10:00 a.m. - Church Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m. - ABIDE Respite Ministry 10:00 a.m. - Crafty Capers

10:00 a.m. - PCS Charley's Coffee Talk 1:00 p.m. - ABIDE Holiday Lunch

6:00 p.m. - OSP Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. - Wesley Small Group

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

10:00 a.m. - ABIDE Respite Ministry 12:00 p.m. - Church Charge Conference

4:00 p.m. - Advent Wreath Creation

4:45 p.m. - Youth Program 5:00 p.m. - College Program

5:15 p.m. - Prime Time Meal 6:00 p.m. - OSP Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. - Children's Program

6:30 p.m. - Prime Time Classes 7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir

8:00 p.m. - College Worship

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

10:00 a.m. - ABIDE Respite Ministry 10:00 a.m. - ABIDE Caregivers Support 1:30 p.m. - Aldersgate Vibrations

6:00 p.m. - OSP Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. - Wesley Small Group

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

5:30 p.m. - Kids Christmas Bash 6:00 p.m. - fcCollege Parking Cars 7:30 p.m. - OSP Let Nothing You Dismay

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

7:30 p.m. - OSP Let Nothing You Dismay



#### **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA: @FIRSTCENTENARY**

First-Centenary is a member of the Scenic South District of the Holston Conference P.O. Box 208, Chattanooga, TN 37401 (419 McCallie Avenue)

www.firstcentenary.com

PHONE: (423) 756-2021 FAX: (423) 756-8589



#### **WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!**

Please register your attendance on the Ritual of Friendship pad.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING AVAILABLE - ASK USHERS FOR ASSISTANCE.

# **NURSERY & FIRST KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

Check-in is in the Children's hallway.

## **WORSHIP INFORMATION:**

THE VINE WORSHIP SERVICE (10:45 A.M.): REV. DR. WILL LAUDERBACK SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICE (5:00 P.M.): REV. BARRY KIDWELL

- 10:45 a.m. service telecast on Channel 12, WDEF-TV: 11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays
- Visitors please stop by the Visitor Information Desk in the Narthex.

# WITHIN THE CHURCH FAMILY AS OF NOON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH

**HOME:** Mandy Phillips

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



# **ADVENT WREATH CREATION**

Join us on December 3rd, from 4:00 - 7:30p.m. in the Oak Street Center for our free Advent Wreath Creation! Come any time during the event to decorate your own wreath. There will also be a Prime Time Wednesday meal; register separately. Please fill out the form on our website to RSVP.



## KIDS CHRISTMAS BASH

Get ready for a night full of Christmas fun at our Kids Christmas Bash on **December 5th from 5:30-9:00p.m. in the Student Center!** This event is open to kids of all ages. Enjoy a festive evening filled with games and Christmas cheer – plus dinner is provided! **Please fill out the form on our website to sign up.** 



# **LET NOTHING YOU DISMAY**

Join us in the Flo Summitt Theater from December 5th-14th at 7:30p.m. and 2:00p.m. for a holiday comedy as Kevin and Allie wait to become parents—while their families show up uninvited. With eight actors playing twenty-two roles, this show celebrates the chaos and joy of family during Christmas.



# CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING

The Confirmation Parent Meeting will be held on **December 7th after the 10:45 a.m. worship services in the Pit in the Student Center.** This meeting is for parents of 8th graders who are interested in being confirmed.

#### **NEW MEMBERS COMMENDATION**

**Pastor:** Brothers and sisters, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day receive into the membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

Congregation: We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church, and bid you welcome to the First-Centenary congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

### **2025 CHARGE CONFERENCE**

The Charge Conference this year will be in-person or online on December 3rd at 12:00 p.m. in the Prigmore Room at First-Centenary. If you want to join online, please call the church office at 423-756-2021. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Nathan Malone, will be attending in person.





### POINSETTIA ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN

Christmas poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary and The Vine on Sunday, December 21st. If you would like to order one to honor or remember someone, send your check (made payable to the ALTAR GUILD) for \$16 for EACH poinsettia to Nancy Tolar, P.O. Box 208, Chattanooga, TN 37401. Orders must be received in the church office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 8th.

□ SANCTUARY	☐ THE VINE
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N MEMORY OF	
N HONOR OF	

# **WAYS TO GIVE:**

GIVING KIOSK SUNDAY OFFERING ONLINE MAIL BANK DRAFT





**NOVEMBER 30, 2025** 

8:30 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.



ADVENT