

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

Vision Statement: Build a healthy and diverse community of disciples of Jesus Christ.

VOLUME 16, NO. 29
OCTOBER 3RD, 2025

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Oct 5th

World Communion Sunday
8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
10:45AM: Sanctuary and Vine Worship Services
2:00PM: Blessing of the Pets Drive-Thru
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner
5:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at The Greenway
7:00PM: College Small Group at The Wesley

MON.
Oct 6th

5:00PM: United Women in Faith Meeting
7:00PM: College Small Group at The Wesley

TUES.
Oct 7th

10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00AM: Crafty Capers
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Coffee Talk at Jacks
7:00PM: College Small Group at The Wesley

WED.
Oct 8th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
4:45PM: Youth Program
5:15PM: Prime Time Wednesday Meal
6:00PM: College and Children's Programs
6:30PM: Prime Time Wednesday Classes
6:30PM: Creation Care Meeting
7:00PM: Chancel Choir
8:00PM: College Wednesday Night Worship

THURS.
Oct 9th

9:00AM: Garden Mission
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
1:30PM: Aldersgate Vibrations
7:00PM: College Small Group at The Wesley

FRI.
Oct 10th

No events scheduled

SAT.
Oct 11th

10:00AM: Forward Grief Group



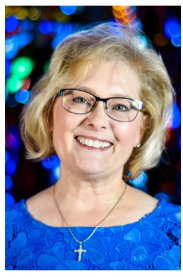
BLESSING OF THE PETS

Bring your furry (or feathered!) friends to our Blessing of the Pets on **October 5th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the drive-thru outside the Welcome Center.** This special event is open to all pets, big or small, paws or claws, except snakes. Each pet will receive a blessing as we give thanks for the joy and companionship they bring to our lives.



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FIRSTCENTENARY.COM





CLERGY CORNER

Rev. Michelle Hunter

There is the story of a rabbi who asked his students, "How will you know when night has

ended and the day has begun?" One student raised his hand and wondered, "Is it when you can tell a dog from a sheep in the dim light?" Another student said, "Is it when you can distinguish a fig tree from a grapevine?" The rabbi shook his head. "No, it is when you can look at the face of another person, stranger or enemy, and recognize them as your sister or brother. That is when a new day has begun."

This story might sound like pie in the sky preacher talk, but it's not. Isaiah 58:6-12 explains what God's vision of a new day will look like. The people will choose freedom instead of oppression, hunger, poverty, and housing issues will be eliminated, and strangers will be welcomed with open arms. The gift of language will be used with reverence - no more slander and hurtful words. Walls will be built to comfort not separate, and streets between communities will be restored for the sake of connection. In other words, the people's response to their love for God will be respect and dignity for all.

Friends, what are you doing today to work with God to bring about a new day that will bring unity for all? Please do not give up. There is too much to lose and so much to gain. May we have the courage to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength as we seek to bring about a new day for God's glory.

~ Pastor Michelle

PRIME TIME WEDNESDAY

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

Classes: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Children's Music: 6:00 p.m. & 6:15 p.m.

Children's, Youth, & College Programs: 6:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir: 7:00 p.m.



THIS SEASON'S CLASSES

August 20th - October 22nd

The Parables of Jesus

August 20th - October 22nd (except October 1st & 15th)
led by Pastor Jason in the Prigmore Room

Methodism Deep Dive

August 20th - October 22nd (except October 1st & 15th)
led by Pastor Will in The Vine

The Tears of Things by Richard Rhor

August 20th - October 22nd (except October 1st & 15th)
led by Pastor Michelle in the Parlor

Eat - Pray - Move

August 20th - October 22nd (except October 1st & 15th)
led by Brittany Eastridge in the Oak Street Center Room 101/102

First Things First Parenting Class

September 17th - October 8th (except October 1st)
led by Gena Ellis in the Conference Room

Life Must Go On by Bea Lurie & Dr. Steven Jacobs

October 15th
led by Bea Lurie & Dr. Steven Jacobs in The Vine

DINNER INFORMATION

Please make dinner reservations by 4 p.m. Monday

Costs:

Adult Meal: \$10

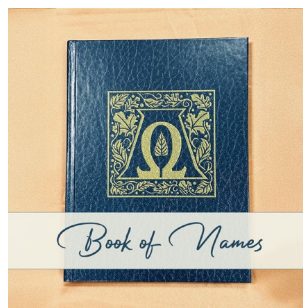
Child's Meal: \$5

Family Meal: \$30

Menu:

October 8th

Mediterranean Platter, Crisp Tomato Cucumber Salad, Seasonal Fresh Fruit, Toasted Pita Wedges, House-Made Hummus, Greek Salad (Vegetarian Protein Option: Falafel), and Rice Crispy Treats



BOOK OF NAMES

November 2nd is the day our church will celebrate All Saints' Sunday in the Sanctuary worship services. This communion service is one of the most meaningful of the year as we remember the lives and Christian witness of those members of our church who died in the past year, along with the saints of all ages.

In preparation for this year's service, the Book of Names will be available on a podium in the Narthex outside the Sanctuary

beginning Sunday, October 5th. You are invited, and encouraged, to stop by the church to record the names of the loved ones you would like to remember. Those "named" may be church members, family, friends, heroes or heroines from other places and times. If you cannot get to the church, please call 423-756-2021 or email Michelle Hunter at mhunter@firstcentenary.com or Dr. Jan McNair at jmcnair@firstcentenary.com, and we will record the names you wish to include.

The Book of Names will be on the altar on November 2nd as a reminder of our communion with these precious saints.

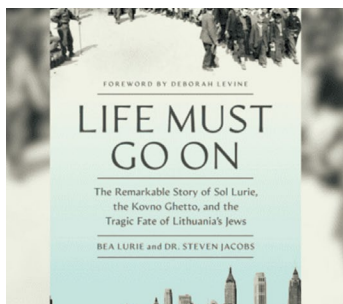


This month in First Kids Preschool our theme is "Super Kids!" Brave is not the first word most people think of when they think of themselves. But when we think of God, the powerful God who is always with us and can help us be brave, and even the most fearful of us can be strong and courageous with God! Our Memory Verse is "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid . . . for the Lord your God goes with you." (Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV)

This month in First Kids K- 5th Grade, our theme is Wisdomland- God can help us make the wise choice! We may not know the answer to every question or problem, but God does. When we look at God's Big Story, we can see that we can turn to Him for wisdom whenever we need help. Our memory verse is "It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver." (Proverbs 16:16, 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.



Come meet the authors of Life Must Go On on **October 15th** and hear the incredible story of Sol Lurie, a child survivor of six concentration camps during the Holocaust. Books will be available for purchase at the event. **Dinner will be served at 5:15 p.m. and the program will be from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in The Vine**



LEGACY LUNCHEON

If you are at least 70 years young, you are invited to be our guest for lunch. Join us on **October 13th at 12:00 p.m. in The Vine** for a delicious meal and entertainment. There is no cost to attend. **RSVP by 12:00 p.m. on October 6th by either calling 423-756-2021 or emailing Rev. Michelle Hunter at mhunter@firstcentenary.com.**



JOIN ABIDE'S WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S TEAM!

Help ABIDE Respite Ministry keep the momentum going in our church community! We're forming an ABIDE Respite Walk to End Alzheimer's Team, and we'd love for you to join us on **October 25th at Heritage Park**. **Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., and the walk will start at 9:00 a.m.** The Walk to End Alzheimer's raises funds to support the Alzheimer's Association's vital work in care, support, and research. **For more information, contact Brandi Anderson at abide@firstcentenary.com.**

THANK YOU TO THE PERMANENT ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE!

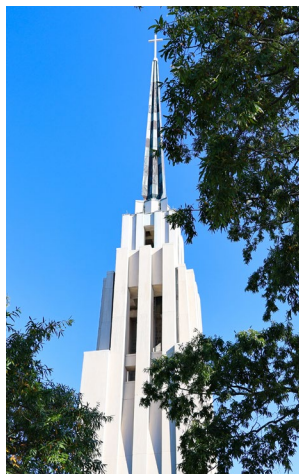
Thank you so much for your generous approval of the request for new cabinets in our Children's Ministry work room. What may seem like a simple addition has truly transformed the space! The cabinets have brought organization, efficiency, and a new sense of order that allows our team to focus more on what matters most—pouring into the lives of children and families via First Kids!

Because of this improvement, our ministry can run more smoothly, resources are easier to access, and creativity flows more freely. In short, these cabinets are more than storage—they are tools that help us maximize the impact of our programming and create an environment where ministry can thrive.

We are also immensely grateful to those who have prayerfully given to the Permanent Endowment Fund, through which investments into our vital ministries ensure lasting impact for generations to come.

Thank you for your ongoing support and investment in the work God is doing through our Children's Ministry and collective ministries at First-Centenary UMC!

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SEPTEMBER'S MINISTRY OF THE MONTH IS... MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY

Two years ago, we launched our Marriage Ministry with a simple but powerful goal: to help couples dive deeper into their relationships and strengthen their connection through Christ-centered community and intentional time together. Since then, we've been blessed to host seasonal events that bring couples closer—Fall and Spring Date Nights at the church featuring inspiring speakers, Date Nights Out with childcare provided, and our annual Marriage Retreat, which continues to be a highlight for many.

Now, we're excited to announce the next chapter: expanding to include family-focused events! We believe strong marriages build strong families, and we want to create opportunities for families to grow together in faith and fun. Our first family event will be a Movie Night Under the Stars this October—a chance to relax, connect, and enjoy a beautiful evening with loved ones.

Whether you've been with us from the beginning or are just joining in, we invite you to be part of this growing community. To get involved in the wonderful ministry or learn more about it, **email Michael and Emily Laymon at marriageministry@firstcentenary.com**. You can also visit our web page called ENGAGE! ENGAGE is an easy way to match your interests to ministry opportunities in the church.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 5th, 2025

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

"The Voices Around Us"
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine Services:
10:45 a.m.

"The Gospel All Around Us: Hamilton -
Write Your Story"
James 2:14-26
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

Mustard Tree Services:
5:00 p.m.

The Vine
Rev. Barry Kidwell

Lectionary Readings:

Lamentations 1:1-6
Psalm 137
1 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

WDEF-TV Televised Sermons:
11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays

"Conversations with God"
Rev. Jason Gattis