

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 16, NO. 25
SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2025

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Sept 7th

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
10:45AM: Sanctuary & The Vine Worship Services
3:00PM: District Conference at Tyner UMC
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner
5:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at Northgate Mall
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal
7:00PM: College Small Group at The Wesley

MON.
Sept 8th

12:00PM: Executive Meeting
5:30PM: United Women in Faith Committee Meeting
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal
7:00PM: College Small Group at The Wesley

TUES.
Sept 9th

10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00AM: Crafty Capers
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Coffee Talk at Jacks
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal
7:00PM: College Small Group at The Wesley

WED.
Sept 10th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
4:45PM: Youth Group
5:15PM: Prime Time Wednesday Meal
6:30PM: Prime Time Wednesday Classes
7:00PM: Chancel Choir
8:00PM: College Wednesday Night Worship

THURS.
Sept 11th

9:00AM: Garden Mission
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
1:30PM: Aldersgate Vibrations
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal
7:00PM: College Small Group at The Wesley

FRI.
Sept 12th

9:30AM: Friday Morning Study Club
5:30PM: Positive Christian Singles Dinner at Outback

SAT.
Sept 13th

8:00AM: Oak Street Playhouse Practice/ Set Reset



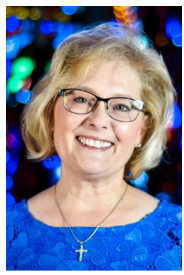
THANK YOU PERMANENT ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE!

Because of the generosity of many in this congregation over the years, through estates and second mile giving, our Endowment was able to fund a record number of requests this year! One of those requests was replacing the chairs in the Oak Street Center. The original chairs were over 15 years old and were beyond showing their age!

We now have 400 beautiful chairs for The Vine worship service (an increase of 75 chairs from what we were able to set up because so many chairs had broken over the years) and 100 chairs for 101/102 with armrests that will be used by ABIDE, Mustard Tree, the Nell Mohny Sunday School Class, and countless other groups! Thank you Permanent Endowment!



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CLERGY CORNER

In April 1986, the worst nuclear disaster in human history happened at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine.

The disaster left a 30+ mile radius of unlivable environment. The cause was one employee's choice to continue a standard test under inappropriate conditions. The disaster was made worse by other poor choices in construction and communication. Recently, though, according to a November 2024 article in Forbes magazine, a fungus has been found in the reactor that exploded. This fungus has figured out a way to multiply and thrive by extracting energy from the radiation. Scientists wonder if this tiny fungus might be a tool to heal areas affected by toxic levels of radiation.

As Christians, we know that small things make a big difference. Even small things like fungus can and do create beautiful things even in the midst of terrible circumstances. Yeast, for example, is a friendly fungus that creates soft and fluffy bread. Mushrooms are fungus, and penicillin is created from fungus.

There can be life-giving, transformative power in small things. The small choices we make are impactful. How we choose to think about, pray for, and perceive others is a small act that has a profound result in the world. How we choose to address or ignore injustices has a profound result in the world. How we choose to nurture our relationship with Christ and courageously live into His teachings has a profound result in our ability to be transformed into the image of Christ for the service of others. It all comes down to conscious and intentional choices. Together our small choices make a big difference. May all our choices bring healing for the hurts of our world.

Thanks be to God,
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

Special Event

October 1st in The Vine

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:

September 10th

Alfredo Chicken Parmesan with Kale Salad, Pasta Salad, Rolls, Cobb Salad (Vegetarian Protein Option: Falafel), and Brownies



The Engage program is an opportunity to match your interests with ministry opportunities at the church.



NEW MEMBERS



Brandon Puckett



William and Alyssa
Gottschalg



Kirsten Shipp



Tori Crook



Gay McMichael



This month in First Kids K- 5th Grade, we are learning that it's hard to be brave, but when we look at God's Big Story, we can reflect on how He can help us be brave even when things are scary or hard. Our memory verse for the month is "When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." ~ Psalm 56:3, NIV



This month in First Kids Preschool our theme is "Construct and Create". God had plans when He made the sun, moon, and stars. God had plans when He made rain fall and plants grow. God had plans when He filled the ocean and land with animals. So I know that God has plans for me! Our monthly verse is "'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord." ~ Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

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.



ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Scouting America Cub Scout troop will have its first meeting on **September 12th, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at The Centenary**. We are looking for adult volunteers to work with the troop's leader and help with meetings on Fridays. **For more information, contact Mary Grey Moses at mgmoses@firstcentenary.com.**



WESLEY HERITAGE TOUR

Travel to **England** with Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback **April 22- April 30, 2026** to explore the historical sites of the Methodist movement, learn about our history as a denomination, and experience the beauty of the English countryside and London. Optional five day excursion to Ireland to explore the roots of celtic Christianity available based on interest. **For more information or to sign up, email Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback at wlauderback@firstcentenary.com.**



3RD GRADE BIBLES

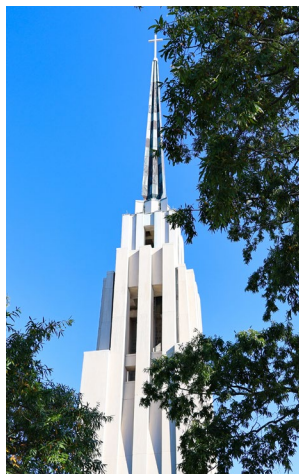
On Sunday, **September 14th** during the **10:45 a.m. worship service in The Vine**, we will celebrate a special milestone as we present Bibles to our 3rd graders! This meaningful tradition helps mark the beginning of their faith journey as they grow in God's Word. A reception for 3rd graders and their families will follow the service. We hope you'll join us in supporting and encouraging these children as they take this important step in their walk with Christ! **For more information, contact Ellen Ward at firstkids@firstcentenary.com.**



NEW SCHOLARSHIP SINGERS

Join us in welcoming our newest Chancel Choir Scholarship Singers! On the left is Jane Chambers, a sophomore Music Therapy major from Nashville. On the right is Abbie Dallmann, a sophomore in Music Therapy from Knoxville. In addition to singing, Jane is assisting with JumpStart Children's Choir, and Abbie is ringing handbells with The Chancel Ringers. What a joy to have them as participants in our Music Ministry!

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AUGUST'S MINISTRY OF THE MONTH: FCCOLLEGE MINISTRY



"I participate in college ministry because I want to share my experiences in Christ with others. I want to share, relate, and talk about challenges in my faith and grow as a Christian with an uplifting group - such as FCUMC!" ~ Chris Spitzer

"College ministry allows me to foster my faith in a place where it can be so easy to lose sight of it. Ministry also provides me with a family at my home away from home that supports me through finding who I am in Christ." ~ Sylvia Castellanos

First Centenary's College Ministry connects with all young adults ages 18-25. We love bringing young people in to learn more about Christ as they find their new identities away from home. Even better - we recently partnered with the Wesley Center on UTC Campus, hosting several small groups, evening worship twice per month, and have a residency program on the top floors. Fun Fact: We have nine student leaders that run our programming and events!

To get involved in the awesome ministry or learn more about it, email our director, Kirsten Shipp at kshippp@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

September 7th, 2025

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

"Do You Really Want To Follow Jesus?"
Luke 14:25-33
Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine Services:
10:45 a.m.

"The Gospel All Around Us:
Moana 2- Better Together"
Ecclesiastes 4:7-12
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

Mustard Tree Services:
5:00 p.m.
The Vine
Rev. Barry Kidwell

Lectionary Readings:
Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1:17-27
Luke 14:25-33

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

"Focus on What Really Matters"
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback