

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 26
AUGUST 21ST, 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Aug 23rd

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
12:00PM: fcCollege Hiwassee Tubing
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

MON.
Aug 24th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
1:00PM: fcCollege Ice Cream Social
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal

TUES.
Aug 25th

10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00AM: ABIDE Caregivers Support Group
10:00AM: Crafty Capers
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Charley's Coffee Talk
10:30AM: United Women in Faith Chris Bowles Circle
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal

WED.
Aug 26th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
12:00PM: Church Council Meeting
4:45PM: Wednesday Night Youth Program
5:15PM: Prime Time Wednesday Meal
5:45PM: JumpStart Children's Choir
6:00PM: Children's 4yr. - 1st Grade Choir
6:00PM: Chancel Ringers
6:30PM: Prime Time Wednesday Classes
6:30PM: Wednesday Night Children's Program
6:35PM: Children's Instrumental Music
7:00PM: Chancel Choir

THURS.
Aug 27th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
1:30PM: Aldergates Vibrations
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal

FRI.
Aug 28th

No events scheduled

SAT.
Aug 29th

8:30AM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



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@FIRSTCENTENARY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
FIRSTCENTENARY.COM





CLERGY CORNER

A few weeks ago I preached on Moses' birth story. It's one that we all know well. It has even been retold multiple

times in Hollywood and TV shows (shout out to the Prince of Egypt!). But as often happens when we are familiar with a certain passage, it is easy to overlook and completely miss important details in the story. That happened to me as I was preparing for the message that week!

I knew the story well. Or at least I thought. Pharaoh ordered the Israelite midwives to kill the baby boys but they refused to do it, let the children live and lied to Pharaoh about it. Moses' mother hid him to protect him from death. Pharaoh's daughter found him in the reeds and had mercy on him. The part of the story that I glossed over and almost missed was Moses' sister watching to see what happened to him and then speaking up once he was discovered.

This young girl was watching and waiting. Ready to do what she could to care for her younger brother. When the time came she had the courage to speak, even to the daughter of Pharaoh! The result of her attentiveness AND her action was safety for Moses, reunion with his mother, and eventually position and power for Moses in the court of Pharaoh.

My hope is that we all might have the strength, courage, and faith of this young girl. That we might be attentive to those around us who are in need and be brave enough to speak AND act when necessary. I hope that God continues to show you those hidden gems in scripture, like Moses' sister, that each and every one of us might follow Jesus a little closer every day of our lives.

In Christ,
Will

Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

PRIME TIME WEDNESDAY

Meal: 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. **Chancel Ringers:** 6:00 p.m.
Classes: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Chancel Choir:** 7:00 p.m.
Children's, Youth, & College Programs: 6:30 p.m.



THIS SEASON'S CLASSES

**Salvation on Sand Mountain:
Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia
by Dennis Covington**

led by Pastor Jason in the Prigmore Room

Saving Grace

led by Pastor Will in the Oak Street Center Room 101/102

**A Most Tolerant Little Town:
The Explosive Beginning of School Desegregation
by Rachel Martin**

led by Pastor Michelle in the Parlor

DINNER INFORMATION

Please make dinner reservations by 4 p.m. Monday

Costs:

Adult Meal: \$10
Child's Meal: \$5
Family Meal: \$30

Menu:

August 26th

Fajita Fiesta Casserole, Tortilla chips, Black Bean & Corn Salsa, Watermelon, Chicken Salad Salad, Vegetarian Option: Vegan Plant-Based Chik'n Strips, and Churro Bars



FREE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

fcCollege Ministry is kicking off the semester with a sweet afternoon! Join us **August 24th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. outside The Vine**. Bring a friend and come enjoy some ice cream from Brusters while connecting with the fcCollege Ministry! We can't wait to see you there!



AMPLIFY MEDIA

First-Centenary UMC has an account with Amplify Media where anyone who is a church member or active participant can set up a personal account to have access to this service. Think of this as like "Netflix" for bible studies, book studies, and even worship reflections. This would be a great resource for sunday schools, bible studies, small groups, or individuals. Please use the follow code to set up your free account:

Congregation Access Code: WMNPZV





Preschoolers are little artists. They experience so much joy when they create something and say, "Look at what I made!" But we want preschoolers to know that **THEY** are made by God and that they are important to God. So this month, our bottom line for preschoolers is God made me wonderful. Monthly Verse: "How you made me is amazing and wonderful." Psalm 139:14

Our Elementary series this month is 'Masterpiece—Made by God,' and we're talking about what God made and how what God made has a purpose. This isn't about the stars or the mountains or the oceans, but **you!** You are a masterpiece. Designed by God. Built with a purpose. That means you're not random, and you're not just one of many—you are one of a kind! It's going to be a great month! Monthly Verse: "How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well." Psalm 139:14

All Sunday School classes are located in the Children's Wing on the second floor.

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.

5TH-6TH GRADE LOCK-IN



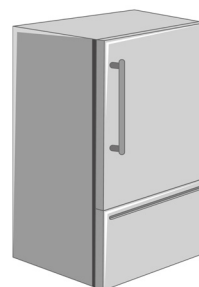
FCCOLLEGE HIWASSEE TUBING

fcCollege is bringing the summer to a close! Join us on **August 23rd at 12:00 p.m.** as we head out for tubing on the Hiwassee River. We'll **meet at the church and carpool down together.** Lunch is included, and the cost is \$10 for the trip. Don't forget to bring a little extra spending money if you'd like! RSVP and pay by contacting Kirsten Shipp at kshipp@firstcentenary.com.



Donation Drive

United Women in Faith is collecting feminine hygiene products to support Love, Period. of Chattanooga's Back to School drive. Donations of unscented, individually wrapped tampons, thin pads, liners, and small, clean cosmetic bags can be dropped off in the Welcome Center through August 31st. If preferred, you can use the Amazon Wish List found on the "Donate" section of the Love, Period. webpage to shop for your items. This mission is supported by St. Timothy's Episcopal Church.



COMMUNITY FRIDGE

The College Ministry/Wesley Center is opening a Community Free Fridge and Pantry to combat student food insecurity on UTC campus. They are looking for a donation of standard sized fridge in good condition to help with this project. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kirsten: kshipp@firstcentenary.com.

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HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP 2026



SUNDAY WORSHIP

August 23rd, 2026

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

"The Book of James"
James 5:13-15
Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine Service:
10:45 a.m.

"Lessons from Moses: Be Thankful"
Exodus 16:2-15; 17:1-7
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

Mustard Tree Service:
5:00 p.m.

The Vine
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

Lectionary Readings:

Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

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

"The Book of James"
Rev. Jason Gattis