

# The First-Centurian

Volume 13, No. 16

February 3, 2023

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



Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

Camp Lookout Work Day

February 25, 2023

7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Willing to lend a helping hand to get Camp Lookout ready

for Summer 2023? We'd love to have you! Indoor and outdoor jobs are available for all skill levels, and breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Be sure to dress for the weather! Late February is usually fairly cold on the mountain, with lots of rain and mud, so layers and boots will be a very good idea!

If you have questions or want to share your skills for a specific job, please contact Don Washburn: email don@camplookout.com or call 423-280-5848.

## Brown Academy Support

We have been asked to gather gift cards for our teachers & staff at Brown Academy for support and rewards. They are requesting \$20 gift cards from different places such as Amazon, Walmart, Chick-fil-A, Starbucks, Hobby Lobby, etc. Please leave cards in the church office and mark them for Brown Academy.

## ABIDE...Our new respite ministry

We extend a very special thank you to Daphne Johnston who was with us on Sunday, January 29 to inspire us for our new respite ministry, ABIDE. Some folks from FCUMC and the community participated in balloon volleyball and other fun activities. These are some of the fun games that participants and volunteers in the ABIDE



program will enjoy in our time together.

Please watch the newsletter, website, and bulletins for more information about volunteering and

registering for the program.

If you have any questions, please call Pastor Michelle at 756-2021. Thank you so much for your support!

Samuel Goia, one of our partners in Romania, will be with us here in Chattanooga beginning February 22, and will be with us until February 26. Unfortunately, it is a short visit, but at least we get to spend some time with him.



Rev. Goia

We are planning a reception for him on the evening of Friday, February 24 for all those that have been to Romania or would like to go to Romania.

I hope Samuel will get to share a little with us about the village ministry he is called to and the building that we have been a big part in making become a reality in these villages. — Rev. Barry Kidwell



## Confirmation begins Sunday, February 5

February 5 - May 7 | Youth Sunday School Room | 9:30 a.m. It is open to all students 8th grade above who would like to go through Confirmation in the church. Class will take place during the normal Sunday School hour. If you or your youth are interested, contact Tori at tcrook@firstcentenary.com



## Clergy Corner

I have a group of clergy that I meet with on a weekly basis. We break bread, check-in on each other and our families,



Dr. Will Lauderback

offer support, friendship, and accountability, and we also read books together for spiritual growth. And Coffee, we drink lots of coffee!

The book that we are currently reading is *Lifting the Veil: Imagination and the Kingdom of God* by Malcolm Guite, which has served as an opportunity to reflect on the role of imagination, primarily expression through poetry and other art forms, as a means of participating in the coming of the Kingdom of God. Sometimes I think that we forget that our weekly prayer in worship of "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" is both a prayer and a call to action, to actively participate in the furthering of the Kingdom of Heaven in our world today.

I really appreciated how Guite put it, saying, "Christ is constantly inviting us to imagine, and so to encounter, the Kingdom of God. He proclaims that the Kingdom of God is at hand, and teaches us to pray that it should come. In every word, in every gesture He shows us what the Kingdom is, since He himself bodies it forth. To imagine the Kingdom is always a prophetic act, always a critique of this world, always a call to hope and action."

My challenge for each of us this week is that we might have the mind of Christ and an imagination fueled by the Holy Spirit to see, hope for, and

## Prime Time Wednesday



### *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*

by Henri Nouwen

with Rev. Michelle Hunter

Meeting in the Parlor

Nouwen's classic book is the fruit of important questions shared between Nouwen and his friend, Fred, and it reminds us of God's deep love for each one of us. It is a letter written to all of us who are searching for life, light, and truth.

#### **Scripture Study** with Pastor Will Meeting in The Vine

Get a head start on the upcoming sermon for Sunday! We will read the passage together and do a deep dive on the context and application.

#### **Theology of Missions**

with Pastor Barry

Meeting in Room 101/102

An introduction to missional theology and teaching about our missional partnerships around the world.

## PRIME TIME SCHEDULE

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

**Classes** 6:30 - 7:15-30 p.m.

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

#### Choir and First Kids

Elementary Music (Grades 2-5)

6:15-6:55 p.m., Room 125

After rehearsal, children will go to the gym for activities. Parents pick up kids in the gym at 7:15.

Younger Choir (4 yr - 1st grade)

6:15-6:45 p.m., Room 123

Parents pick up kids in the Elementary wing at 7:15.

**YOUTH** — Meal: 5:45 p.m.

Lesson: 6:30 p.m. Gym: 7:30-8 p.m.

### CHOIRS —

Chancel Ringers: 6 p.m.

Chancel Choir: 7 p.m.

## DINNER INFORMATION

**Adults** – \$10 each (meal) **Children** – \$5; 3 & under free **Family max** – \$30

**Please make dinner reservations by 4 p.m. Monday.**

**Go to [firstcentenary.com/prime-time-wednesday](http://firstcentenary.com/prime-time-wednesday) for dinner reservations.**

**February 8** Dry Rub Chicken, Creamed Spinach, Roasted Potatoes, Roll, Peach Crisp; Greek Salad

## FROM Dan Baker...



**Brown Academy**  
A SCHOOL OF INNOVATION

Briefly, I can report that the Brown Academy literacy project has been very successful. The kids are absolutely great and even better, their teachers report that our efforts have made a big difference in their achievement.

I do have needs this semester. One of the tutors is going to miss six days in parts of March, April and May. I would very much like to have one person to sub for her so that the program keeps its academic continuity and the kids are not confused by multiple subs. The days I need help are March 28 & 30, April 25 & 27, and May 2 & 4.

Are you available for these six days? They are Tuesdays and Thursdays with 1st graders from 9:10-10:06. We usually arrive at school about 15 minutes before we begin tutoring to review information that has been left for us by the teachers. No elementary teaching skills are necessary, the directions given to you will be clear, and you will catch on very quickly.

Please let me know ASAP if you are interested. Email works best [bakerde@epbf.com](mailto:bakerde@epbf.com)

## CLERGY CORNER (cont'd)

engage with the in-breaking of the Kingdom of Heaven all around us. Striving for new ways and new opportunities to reflect the love and grace of Christ to all that we meet. In Christ, Will

## Meet Our New Members – who joined January 29, 2023



Sarah Whitney Anderson transferred from Midtown Fellowship.



Madeline Oleis transferred from St. Philip Catholic Church, Franklin TN



Asa and Katie Shirley joined by Profession of Faith. Their son, Ace, is also pictured.



Mike & Tiffanie Robinson transferred from Calvary Chapel, Chattanooga. Their children are Elijah, Redding and Rhodes.

Pamela Lewis transferred from Brainerd UMC. Megan will be in the Confirmation Class this year.



All people have values because they were created in God's image. God values us and wants a forever relationship with us. God sent Jesus to make that possible. We follow God's example when we show others that they have value, too.

Identity - Community

### **Road Rules - Ride with Respect**

**Week one:** Calling of the Disciples - Luke 5:1-11, 27-32 When have you felt left out?

**Week two:** Love Your Enemies - Matthew 5:43-47 When is it hard to get along with someone?

**Week three:** Mary and Martha - Luke 10:38-42 How has someone shown you you're important?

**Week four:** A Roman Commander Has Faith - Matthew 8:5-13 How do you show respect to God?

*Do to others as you want them to do to you.*  
Luke 6:31, NlrV

**WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT LIVING YOUR LIFE FOR JESUS? THEN JOIN US IN PERSON ON SUNDAYS FOR ONE OR ALL OF THESE TIMES!**

Sanctuary Early Church: 8:30-9:30 A.M.  
Sunday School: 9:45-10:30 A.M.  
Pre-K Worship: 11-11:45 A.M.  
Elem First Kids LIVE Worship: 11-11:45 A.M.



## Forward – Grief Support

Forward, a grief support group for those who have lost a spouse, will meet on Saturdays in the Parlor at First-Centenary, February 11 thru March 11, and meet for lunch on March 18. Contact the church office – 423-756-2021.

## Congregational Care Contact

Weekdays: 423-756-2021 church office  
Weekend/Holiday (emergencies): 423-756-2428

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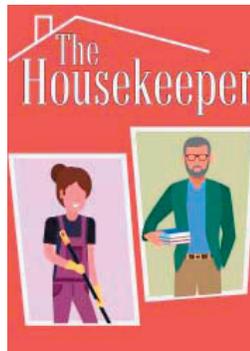


**OAK STREET PLAYHOUSE** presents ...

**February 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**February 5, 12 @ 2 p.m.**

Cast: Beth McClary Wolford and Jerry M. Draper

Foundering a bit after the death of his aged, domineering mother, Manley Carstairs, a self-styled literary artist, engages a housekeeper, Annie Dankworth, to look after his large Victorian house (and himself). When Annie first arrives, wearing sneakers and carrying her belongings in a grocery cart, Manley is taken aback, but she seems so eager to please that he relents. Annie is one of the world's great oddballs. She insults her employer, denigrates his writing, admits she forged her references and, in general, makes his life difficult. Eventually Manley can take no more, and the play, with lively wit and biting humor, builds toward an unexpected and delightful conclusion.



To purchase tickets, scan the QR code or go to [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) and type in *Oak Street Playhouse*.

Visit us on the web at

[www.firstcentenary.com/the-oak-street-playhouse](http://www.firstcentenary.com/the-oak-street-playhouse).



**Sunday Worship**

**February 5, 2023**

5th Sunday After the Epiphany

**Sanctuary at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.**

*Marching Orders*

Matthew 5:13-20

Dr. Will Lauderback

**The Vine at 10:45 a.m.**

*Another One Bites the Dust*

Matthew 13:1-23

Rev. Barry Kidwell

**Reading from the Lectionary**

Isaian 58:1-9a (9b-12) Psalm 112:1-9 (10)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

Televised sermon by Rev. Michelle Hunter:

*The Good Work of Friendship*

Televised on Channel 12, WDEF-TV

at 6 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. each Sunday.

**Mustard Tree Worship at 5 p.m.**

in The Vine – Rev. Barry Kidwell