

The First-Centurian

Volume 13, No. 15

January 27, 2023

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



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.

Examples of Jobs:

*** Disclaimer: This is our wish list – it will depend on how many people are present. Some jobs will be top priority***

- Cleaning out the pool
- Splitting firewood
- Clearing the zipline
- Picking up deadfall
- Trimming rose bushes and crepe myrtle
- Caulking sinks at bath house
- Cutting/burning bamboo
- Cleaning windows and tables in Lodge
- Pressure washing office porch
- Clearing fence line

More to come!

Abide Respite Ministry

January 29, First-Centenary will host Daphne Johnston, founder of Respite For All, in both The Vine and Sanctuary worship services. RFA is a ministry that brings healing and hope for those with dementia and their caregivers. She and Pastor Michelle will bring the message in The Vine and Sanctuary at 10:45. In the spring of this year, First-Centenary will begin ABIDE Respite Ministry to care for those with dementia and their caregivers.

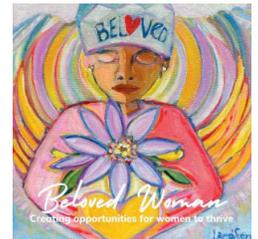
YOU ARE INVITED to learn more at a FREE luncheon after worship where we will ask questions, connect, and pray this ministry forward.

Scan the QR code or CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE by January 26 TO RESERVE YOUR LUNCH.



United
Women
in Faith

Rev. Sherry Cothran spoke to our *Share A Cup* group on Saturday, January 21, about her nonprofit, BELOVED WOMAN, an initiative which is training and mentoring women who are financially disadvantaged to become self-employed and/or find a pathway to a living wage. If you would like to know more or would like to have Sherry present to a group you can contact her in one of the following ways: 423 402 0276 | www.belovedwoman.org | belovedwomanchattanooga@gmail.com



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.



Brown Academy
A SCHOOL OF INNOVATION

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.

Clergy Corner

I have been leading a class on “missions” on Wednesday evenings. And quite honestly I believe that you cannot be a disciple without being “missional”.

Maybe it sounds crazy to say or even offensive to say; but if I am going to be a disciple of Jesus, I have to take Him with the utmost seriousness.

When I say “Jesus is Lord,” it means that every single aspect of the way I live out my life will need to be aligned around Jesus and His lordship.

Debra and Alan Hirsh wrote, “A dynamic, vital, living reality and response to Jesus in every moment of our lives is *our most fundamental truth*, and we have forgotten it to our great peril.” (italics theirs, I guess you are supposed to say that).

Anyway, we have a God-given responsibility to the world around us. Mike Slaughter (retired UMC pastor), I think puts it best when he says that we have three Biblical mandates: The Great Requirement (Micah 6:8: do justice, love mercy, walk humbly). Second, The Great Commandment (John 15:12-13: greater love has no one than this...). And third: The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20: go into all the world and make disciples). He states after The Great Commission: “Mission evangelism serves without expectation, honoring all people as people created in the image of God. We work outside the walls, structures, barriers, and limitations of the institution to promote God’s justice through the demonstration of generous



Rev. Barry Kidwell

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 for dinner reservations.

February 1 Vegetable Beef Soup, Grilled Cheese, Roll, Caramel Cake; Cobb Salad

The children at CEC have been enjoying the unseasonably warm weather lately; pictured are two of our preschoolers playing the “fungiphone” in the Theater in the Park. Hand-crafted by Jim Doble of Elemental Designs in Union, Maine, the fungiphone is made of repurposed propane tanks. With a deep booming sound that resonates through the ground, it has quickly become a favorite as the children can physically feel the music as they play it. We look forward to adding more instruments and many years of performances onstage.



CLERGY CORNER (cont'd)

and practical services of mercy. WE promote Christlike lifestyles of sacrifice and simplicity that demonstrates the love of God revealed in the cross. Yet this is all to no avail if we are not actively committed to building authentic Christ follower-disciples.”

So Slaughter tells the church to “get over the cruise ship mentality of being a program provider and reconnect with the true mission of Jesus, to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed. A mission outpost living out God’s three basic Biblical mandates.” — Geaux Tigers, Barry

January



Core Insights: Truth and Transformation

We may never know all there is to know about God, but there are lots of ways we can get to know God. We can know God best through Jesus, who showed us how much God loves us. When we know more about God, we can live for God.

The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth. Proverbs 2:6 NIV

Week Five: John the Baptist in Prison – Matthew 11:1-6

What questions do you have?

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.



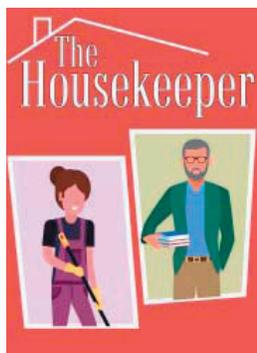
OAK STREET PLAYHOUSE presents ...

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 and type in *Oak Street Playhouse*.

Visit us on the web at

www.firstcentenary.com/the-oak-street-playhouse.



Baptism

Kathryn Lynlee Clarkson daughter of Kyle and Jennifer Clarkson, was baptized on January 22 in The Vine. Also pictured is Kylee Clarkson.

Hey everyone, we have some very good missions opportunities that people can get involved in.

Whether you are looking for something locally, or outside the US, we have opportunities for you. You can always talk to Mary Grey Moses about how to get involved in The Centenary program, Dan Baker about reading at Brown Academy, Matt or Tiffany Phillips for Family Promise, myself about Mustard Tree and Sunday evening worship

Talk with Jeff Culbertson or me about Guatemala, Romania, Costa Rica or Lebanon. We will hopefully be offering trips to each of these places this year and are looking at a week the last of May for Guatemala, the middle of July for Romania, October for Lebanon and are still working a date for Costa Rica. If you would like to go on one of these trips or lead one of these trips, see Barry Kidwell or Jeff Culbertson. We want to be putting together these teams now. So if you are interested you can actually come and learn more about these missions on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m, in 101 and 102 in the Vine building. I will be talking about these ministries over the next 4 weeks. Come follow Jesus and as He told us "all authority has been given to Him; so go into all the world and make disciples for Jesus Christ."

— Rev. Barry Kidwell



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The youth group had an awesome time at Resurrection this past weekend! Resurrection is an annual youth conference that is put on by the Holston Conference. It is our biggest trip of the year! We had a great time filled with lots of worship and fellowship! Can't wait for next year!

– Sara Holley



Sunday Worship

January 29, 2023

4th Sunday After the Epiphany

Sanctuary at 8:30

*So, What Does It Mean
To Love God?*

Mark 12:29-31

Rev. Barry Kidwell

Sanctuary and

The Vine at 10:45 a.m.

The Good Work of Friendship
Micah 6:8

Rev. Michelle Hunter

Reading from the Lectionary

Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12

Televised sermon by Dr. C. Mark Gooden:

Blessed are those who lean on God

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