The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 10
MARCH 13TH 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Mar 15th

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
9:30AM: Coffee with the Pastor
9:30AM: Confirmation Classes
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner
5:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at Northgate Mall

MON.
Mar 16th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry

TUES.
Mar 17th

10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00AM: Crafty Capers
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Coffee Talk at Jacks
5:15PM: Thorne Sparkman School of Religion at St. Paul's

WED.
Mar 18th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
4:45PM: Youth Program
5:00PM: College Program
5:15PM: Prime Time Wednesday Meal
6:00PM: Children's Program
6:30PM: Prime Time Classes
7:00PM: Chancel Choir

THURS.
Mar 19th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
1:30PM: Aldersgate Vibrations

FRI.
Mar 20th

5:30PM: Positive Christian Singles Dinner at El Agave
7:00PM: United Women in Faith Parking Cars

SAT.
Mar 21st

1:00PM: United Women in Faith Parking Cars

THE CENTENARY IS HIRING FOR SUMMER!

Interested in working with kids this summer? The Centenary is hiring group leaders for their program which will be **June 1st to July 24th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at $14-$16 an hour**. Lead a group of 10 to 13 amazing students as they explore the outdoors, great books, sports, dance, art, swim time and much more!

To apply, submit a form at firstcentenary.com/the-centenary-employment or contact Mary Grey Moses at mgmoses@firstcentenary.com or Monique Strickland at mstrickland@firstcentenary.com.

Stay Connected

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:
@FIRSTCENTENARY
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
FIRSTCENTENARY.COM

Rev. Jason Gattis

CLERGY CORNER

As I write this article I am waiting on my flight out of Dallas Ft. Worth to Chattanooga and it provides me the opportunity to reflect on my 'out of the ordinary' travels over the past few weeks. This time has helped me think about discipleship. Specifically, what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. I have found that discipleship is not just saying I am a follower of Christ, but backing that up through new endeavors that help me become a new person in Christ.

In the ninth chapter of Luke's gospel we find a shift that takes place from Jesus being recognized as a teacher and rabbi and prophet, to an awakening that he is indeed the Messiah. After Jesus asked his disciples who the crowds say he is, he proceeds to ask his disciples, "And what about you? Who do you say I am?" Peter speaks up and proclaims, "The Christ sent from God." I invite you to read that entire chapter and consider these points as you do:

1. Discipleship calls us to set a new priority and that new priority is to follow Jesus. Not just to proclaim him and worship him and learn from him, but actually FOLLOW him. To follow him means to do something new. Every trip was a first time experience that allowed me to witness and follow Christ in a new way. What I found was that truly following Jesus was quite uncomfortable but so worth the growth, experience and insight gained. In following, I have seen Christ in a new light!

2. Discipleship calls us to a new identity. This doesn't mean I'm no longer your Senior Pastor, Amy's husband or Nick and Mary's father, but my following has called me to rethink some priorities and practices needed for my life. New identities come in two ways, external and internal. For life long Christians sometimes what is needed is a new internal identity.

3. Discipleship calls us to living a new mercy. Society and culture has hardened me in recent years to think there is a lack of mercy and compassion. My travels and opening of myself to following Jesus helped me see that mercy and compassion are still there. The question now is, what can I do each day to allow that evidence of mercy to grow around me?

Lent is the perfect season to reflect on our discipleship and I hope that as you work your way through "A Different Kind of Fast" and experience our emphasis to "Be Still," you can also commit for the first time or recommit to truly following Christ.

See you Sunday!
Pastor Jason

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

January 14th - March 25th

Wesley Trip Course

February 25th - March 25th
led by Pastor Will in the Conference Room

Bible Study on the Book of Zechariah

January 14th - March 25th
led by Pastor Barry in the Prigmore Room

A Different Kind of Fast

February 25th - March 25th
led by Pastor Jason in the Oak Street Center Room 101/102

DINNER INFORMATION

Please make dinner reservations by 4 p.m. Monday

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

Menu:
March 18th
Cheesesteak Stuffed Peppers, Roasted Potatoes, Tomato Pie, Rolls, Classic Chicken Salad, Vegetarian Protein: Vegan Plant-Based Chik'n Strips, and Strawberry Pound Cake

CLERGY JOIN IMMIGRANT JUSTICE GATHERING

"CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. – When the Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback learned of a United Methodist-hosted opportunity to witness for immigrant justice in Washington, D.C., "there was something in my soul that told me I needed to be there."

Lauderback and his senior pastor, the Rev. Jason Gattis, were among 2,000 people of faith who gathered Feb. 25 to worship and then march to the U.S. Capitol to advocate for fair and ethical treatment of immigrants in the United States. The gathering was titled Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice.

Gattis is senior minister and Lauderback is senior associate pastor at First-Centenary United Methodist Church, a congregation with more than 700 in average worship attendance in Chattanooga.

Gattis said he received a text message from Lauderback a few weeks ago about attending the "Faithful Resistance" gathering. "I didn't hesitate in asking him to sign us both up," Gattis said."

Scan the QR code above to read the full Holston Conference article.

First-Centenary United Methodist Church Children's Ministry

FIRST KIDS

This month's Preschool theme is "All Star: Jesus is Amazing!" When you see something that you have never seen before, and you cannot explain how it happened, that falls into the "amazing" category. That's what people experienced when Jesus began teaching and doing miracles. They had never seen or heard anyone like Him. Jesus was amazing then, and Jesus is amazing now! Our monthly verse is "We have seen amazing things today!" (Luke 5:26 NLT)

This month our Elementary theme is "Upside Down! Treat Others the Way You Want to Be Treated." Jesus showed compassion by becoming one of us. He gave up a lot to make that happen. Jesus showed us that sometimes you have to give things up to show others just how much you care. Our monthly verse is "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." Phillipians 2:3

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.

PALM SUNDAY

Join us for Palm Sunday on **March 29th during the 10:45 a.m. worship services in The Vine and the Sanctuary** as we begin Holy Week together. Children are invited to gather outside the Sanctuary before the service to receive palm branches. Come and experience the joy of this special day as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry.

JUMPSTART SINGS!

Our awesome JumpStart Children's Choir participated in the March 1st Sanctuary service and in the March 8th Vine service. They are an integral part of our church's music ministry!

IT'S CANDY TIME!

We're getting ready for our upcoming Eggstravaganza, and we need your help to make it extra sweet! **We're collecting individually wrapped candy, small toys, stickers, and trinkets that fit inside Easter eggs. Donations can be dropped off in the bins outside the worship spaces or in the Welcome Center.** Thank you for helping us create a joy-filled celebration for our kids and families!

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION WEEK

Calling all high school students! Join us for an incredible mission experience in **Romania from June 27th to July 5th**. This trip is open to high school students only and is limited to ten participants! **The cost of the trip is $2,500**, and all students will be required to participate in mandatory fundraising to help support the mission. Come be part of a life-changing experience of service, faith, and cultural immersion! **Contact Tori Crook at tcrook@firstcentenary.com for more information.**

"Be Still"

Week 4: The Faith to be Still | Scripture: Psalm 23

Our modern world is defined, and in many ways controlled, by the 24-hour news cycle. Pause. Try to start a pattern this week. Start with 5 minutes. Put your phone away, turn off technology. Step outside or shut the door. Just be with God for a moment. See if you can increase that time each day. Another minute each day? Another five? Make a change and be still.

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SUPPORT A COLLEGE STUDENT ON THEIR MISSION TRIP!

Support one of our college students as they prepare to serve on a mission trip in Guatemala! By purchasing a stock (suggested donation of $50), you are investing directly in the life-changing work God is doing through our students. Those who purchase a stock will be invited to a special luncheon where you'll hear testimonies and stories from the students about their experience and the impact of the trip. You may choose to support a specific student, the GUA Mission, and The Global Young People's Convocation trip. **To donate, visit our website at firstcentenary.com/college-ministry.** Thank you for partnering with our college ministry and helping send these students out to serve with faith, compassion, and purpose!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 15th, 2026

Sanctuary Services:
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
"The Faith to be Still"
Psalm 23
Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine Service:
10:45 a.m.
"The Faith to be Still"
Psalm 23
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

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

Lectionary Readings:
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

WDEF-TV Televised Sermons:
11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays
"Silence the Outside Noise"
Rev. Jason Gattis