

# The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 11  
MARCH 20TH 2026

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

**SUN.**  
Mar 22nd

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service  
9:30AM: Sunday School  
9:30AM: Confirmation Classes  
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services  
3:30PM: Costa Rica Mission Trip Meeting  
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group  
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner  
5:00PM: The Candler Singers  
5:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at Northgate Mall

**MON.**  
Mar 23rd

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry  
12:00PM: Trustees Meeting  
6:00PM: Susanna Wesley Circle

**TUES.**  
Mar 24th

10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting  
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry  
10:00AM: Crafty Capers  
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Coffee Talk at Jacks  
10:30AM: United Women in Faith Chris Bowles Circle  
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program  
5:15PM: Thorne Sparkman School of Religion at St. Paul's

**WED.**  
Mar 25th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry  
11:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Bowling  
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program  
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 26th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry  
1:30PM: Aldersgate Vibrations  
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program

**FRI.**  
Mar 27th

Youth Council Retreat  
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program

**SAT.**  
Mar 28th

Youth Council Retreat  
5:30PM: Positive Christian Singles Dinner at Rafael's



## 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.



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**@FIRSTCENTENARY**

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**FIRSTCENTENARY.COM**





## CLERGY CORNER

Rev. Michelle Hunter

One of my favorite professors, Dr. Roy Maize, would repeat over and over, "perception is reality". This was

taught in the context of management, and refers to the fact that no matter what actually happens the customer should always be right because their perception is their reality. Their experience can only be understood through their viewpoint.

Jesus and the disciples struggled with this same concept. The disciples had a particular perception that didn't always align with Jesus' reality. For example, the disciples perceived scarcity when Jesus' reality is always abundance (Matthew 14:13-21). The disciples perceived distress when Jesus's reality is always trust (Mark 4:35-41). The disciples were often unaware when Jesus' reality is always care-full awareness (Luke 8:42b-48). God's perception of grace, given to us through Jesus Christ, is the most clear reality, regardless of our perception.

What reality do you perceive? We get to choose, each moment of each day, how we will perceive God at work all around us and in us. It can be easy to miss God's reality of compassion, kindness, and persistent love when the world rewards us for domination and selfishness. Have no doubt, God's healing and sustaining love for all is alive and well, offering a reality of hope, equality, generosity, and healthy connection. Be aware, friends, of what you choose to perceive. Be careful which reality you live into. As Christ followers, let's work together to perceive God's goodness and create a reality that reflects God's grace through Jesus Christ.

~ Rev. Michelle



## PRIME TIME WEDNESDAY

**Meal:** 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Children's Music:** 6:00 p.m. & 6:15 p.m.

**Classes:** 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 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 25th

Mediterranean Pasta, Garden Salad, Roasted Seasonal Vegetables, Garlic Toast, Cobb Salad, Vegetarian Protein: Vegan Plant-Based Chik'n Strips, and Boston Cream Pie Parfait



## THE CANDLER SINGERS

The Candler Singers, will lead **Mustard Tree Worship in The Vine on March 22nd at 5:00 p.m.** The singers are all students in the Candler School of Theology, preparing for a variety of ministries in the church, the academy, and the world. Members come from different Christian denominations, from several US states, Hong Kong, and South Korea. The Singers lead worship weekly at Candler and represent the seminary at public events. They were a featured choir at General Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2024, and have performed at Exploration06, the Lake Junaluska Peace Conference, The National Cathedral in Washington, DC, and the 2025 Bandy Preaching Conference.



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

**Scan this code to get started.**





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.



**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!



**THE CENTENARY IS HIRING!**

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](http://firstcentenary.com/the-centenary-employment) or contact Mary Grey Moses at [mgmoses@firstcentenary.com](mailto:mgmoses@firstcentenary.com) or Monique Strickland at [mstrickland@firstcentenary.com](mailto:mstrickland@firstcentenary.com).**

**SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICE**

*Volunteers Needed!*

Help us set the table for the community.  
Be a part of the mission.

**SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Our Sunday night service needs your help! We have a need for groups to prepare and serve dinner for our Sunday night attendees. This is a great opportunity to share with others from all walks of life and see what Sunday night service is all about. We are also looking for volunteers to transport our attendees using the church vans. **If interested, contact Lynne Stutts at [lynn513@yahoo.com](mailto:lynn513@yahoo.com).**



**EASTER LILY ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN**

Easter Lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary and The Vine on Sunday, April 5th. If you would like to order one to honor or remember someone, each lily is \$16. You can fill out the order form and pay by scanning the QR code, or sending cash or a check (made payable to the ALTAR GUILD) to:



Nancy Tolar  
P.O. Box 208  
Chattanooga, TN 37401

Orders must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23rd.

**SANCTUARY**       **THE VINE**

Name of Donor \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**"Be Still"**

**Week 5: Meeting Grief in the Stillness | Scripture: John 11:1-45**

Jesus met the grief of Mary and Martha. Jesus also meets us in our grief and weeps with us, and for us. Offer God a piece of grief that you are carrying. Ask Jesus to weep with you about that situation.

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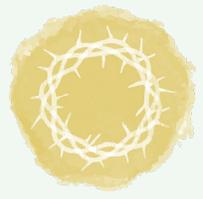
## HOLY WEEK 2026



**PALM SUNDAY**  
March 29th  
10:45AM Services  
  
Eggstravaganza  
12:00PM | Front Lawn



**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
April 2nd  
5:15PM Meal | The Vine  
6:30PM Service | Sanctuary



**GOOD FRIDAY**  
April 3rd  
6:30PM | The Vine



**EASTER SUNDAY**  
April 5th  
8:30AM, 10:45AM, 5:00PM | The Vine  
8:30AM, 10:45AM | Sanctuary

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 22nd, 2026

**Sanctuary Services:**  
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.  
"Meeting Grief in the Stillness"  
John 11:1-45  
Rev. Jason Gattis

**The Vine Service:**  
10:45 a.m.  
"Meeting Grief in the Stillness"  
John 11:1-45  
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  
"The Faith to be Still"  
Rev. Jason Gattis