

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 18
MAY 15, 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
May 17th

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
12:00PM: First Kids Volunteer Lemonade Bar
3:30PM: Costa Rica Mission Trip Meeting
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner
5:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at the Greenway

MON.
May 18th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
3:00PM: The Centenary Committee Meeting

TUES.
May 19th

10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00AM: Crafty Capers
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Coffee Talk at Jacks

WED.
May 20th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:30AM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at Soddy Gulf
4:45PM: Youth Program
5:15PM: Prime Time Wednesday Meal
6:00PM: Children's Program
6:30PM: Prime Time Classes
7:00PM: Chancel Choir

THURS.
May 21

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

FRI.
May 22nd

5:00PM: Church Camp at Camp Lookout
5:30PM: Positive Christian Singles Dinner at Olive Garden

SAT.
May 23rd

Church Camp at Camp Lookout



From the Editor

Dear Church Family,
I hope you have a wonderful summer this year! The First-Centenary publication dates for the season will be...

May 15th and 29th
June 12th and 26th
July 10th and 24th

Weekly publications will resume on August 7th.



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FIRSTCENTENARY.COM





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.



CLERGY CORNER

One of my favorite children's stories is *Old Turtle* written by Douglas Wood

and beautifully illustrated by Cheng-Khee Chee. This award winning picture book is a fable about a time when the animals and the earth got into a terrible argument about the nature of God. The fish were sure that God was only a swimmer, and the mountains declared that God was only as high as the clouds. The waterfall was convinced that God flowed through everything like a river, and the antelope said that God was a swift, free runner as fast as the wind. Finally, Old Turtle spoke for the first time to say, "Stop!" The wise Old Turtle explained that God contains all these attributes and more. Old Turtle told them that soon a message would arrive, "from God to the earth, and a prayer from the earth back to God." Sadly, the people forgot their calling. They argued and hurt each other and the earth to the point of death. They could not remember who they were or why they were. Witnessing the destruction the people's choices caused, the stones spoke and said they could feel the breath of God in the breeze. The mountains said they could see God swimming in the ocean. As the animals and earth spoke to each other, the people chose to listen, see God in all things, and heal Creation.

Where do you see God around you? Trust that God is actively loving through all Creation. Thanks be to God!

~Pastor Michelle

LAST CLASS OF THE SEASON:

May 20th:
End of Year Celebration

DINNER INFORMATION

Please make dinner reservations by 4 p.m. Monday

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

Menu:
May 20th
Hand-Breaded Chicken Tenders, Green Beans, Creamy Mac & Cheese, Rolls, Cobb Salad, Vegan Plant-Based Chik'n Strips, and Banana Pudding



SENIOR RECOGNITION DAY

We are excited to celebrate our graduating high school seniors! Join us for Senior Recognition Day on **May 31st during the 10:45 a.m. worship services in The Vine and Sanctuary.** This special time in worship will honor our seniors as they mark this meaningful chapter and look ahead to the next one. Come celebrate, support, and pray over these students as they step into what's next! **SENIORS: Please email Tori Crook at tcrook@firstcentenary.com your senior picture, where you're graduating from, and next steps beforehand!**



FCCOLLEGE SUMMER EVENTS

Calling all college students! We have some great events coming up and would love to see you there.

SUMMER KICKOFF

May 30th at 6:00 p.m. meet at the Student Center

OCOE RAFTING

June 27th at 12:00 p.m. meet at the Student Center

MARKET & MOVIE

July 26th at 12:00 p.m. meet at the Student Center

HIWASSEE TUBING

August 16th at 12:00 p.m. meet at the Student Center



Our Preschool theme this month is Hats Off: Jesus Cares About Everyone. There are many different people in this world, and Jesus cares about every one of them! Our monthly verse is "How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." (Ephesians 3:18 NIV)



Our Elementary theme this month is Trek: Don't Stop, Don't Give Up, God's With You! After the church was formed, being a follower of Jesus wasn't easy. But we can see in God's Big Story that we can persevere because God is with us. Our monthly verse is: "Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up." (Galatians 6:9, NIV)

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.



YOUTH SENIOR RETREAT

The Youth Senior Retreat will be **May 25th - 27th at St. Simons Island, GA!** This retreat is open to graduating high school seniors and is to mark an exciting milestone with time to relax and look ahead. We'll enjoy Bible study, conversations about the transition from high school to college, and plenty of time to have fun at the beach. **The cost is \$100 per person and includes all meals. Be sure to bring extra money for shopping or any additional activities.** Visit firstcentenary.com/youth-ministry to register today!



FIRST KIDS SUMMER KICKOFF

Kick off the summer with First Kids! Join us on **May 31st at 12:00 p.m. on the McCallie Playground** for an afternoon full of fun and celebration. We'll have a sweet ice cream social and plenty of activities for the kids. Bring the whole family and get ready to start the summer!



Join us as we celebrate and thank our incredible First Kids volunteers! Your time and energy make such a difference and we are so grateful for all you do. To show our appreciation, we're hosting a Lemonade Bar on **May 17th right after the 10:45 a.m. worship service in the Oak Street Theater.** Stop by, enjoy a refreshing treat, and let us celebrate you! Interested in getting involved? Stop by to learn more about how to be a part of the First Kids team!



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



CHURCH CAMP

Church Camp is happening **May 22nd-24th at Camp Lookout!** Come spend a weekend of rest and community with us in the great outdoors. We'll enjoy classic camp activities for all ages including archery, crafts, zip-line, hiking, and swimming, along with times of worship and spiritual renewal. Whether you're looking to slow down or spend quality time with family, this weekend is for you. **Cost is \$50 per person or \$150 for families of three or more (meals are included).** Visit firstcentenary.com/announcements to register. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up soon!

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**DONATE TO
 THE CENTENARY
 SUMMER PROGRAM**

The Centenary Summer Program is just around the corner and we need your help to make it possible! Each donation goes directly toward funding a life-changing summer and gives a child eight full weeks of breakfast and lunch, academic enrichment, arts and crafts, summer reading, and a week at Camp Lookout (a \$625 value!) Your generosity helps create a fun and enriching environment where kids can learn and grow all summer long. Be part of something meaningful, give today and make a lasting impact by visiting:
firstcentenary.com/announcements#ways-to-serve!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

May 17th, 2026

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

"Here and Now"
 Acts 1:6-14
 Rev. Michelle Hunter

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

"A Strangely Warmed Faith: Rules to Live by"
 John 17:1-11
 Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

**Mustard Tree Service:
 5:00 p.m.
 The Vine**

Rev. Barry Kidwell

Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 45:1-7
 Psalms 21:1-7
 1 Peter 4:12-14 & 5:6-11
 John 17:1-11

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

"Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled"
 Rev. Jason Gattis

May 24th, 2026

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

"The Power of the Spirit"
 Acts 2:1-21
 Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

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

"A Strangely Warmed Faith:
 Sanctifying Grace"
 Acts 2:1-21
 Rev. Jason Gattis

**Mustard Tree Service:
 5:00 p.m.
 The Vine**

Rev. Barry Kidwell

Lectionary Readings:

Numbers 11:24-30;
 Psalms 104:24-34, 35b
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
 John 7:37-39

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

"Here and Now"
 Rev. Michelle Hunter