

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 17
MAY 1, 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
May 3rd

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
12:00PM: fcCollege Appreciation Lunch
12:00PM: Emergency Equipment Training
2:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse presents "Nunsense"
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner
5:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at the Greenway

MON.
May 4th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
5:30PM: United Women in Faith Leadership Meeting
7:00PM: College Worship at the Wesley Center

TUES.
May 5th

10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00AM: Crafty Capers
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Coffee Talk at Jacks
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
7:00PM: College Small Group at the Wesley Center

WED.
May 6th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
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.
May 7th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00AM: ABIDE Caregiver's Support Group
11:00AM: Wesley's Table: Free College Lunch at the Wesley
1:30PM: Aldersgate Vibrations
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
7:00PM: College Small Group at the Wesley Center

FRI.
May 8th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program

SAT.
May 9th

11:30AM: ABIDE Volunteer Luncheon

SCRIPTURE SPOTLIGHT

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

~ Acts 2:42-47



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FIRSTCENTENARY.COM





CLERGY CORNER

Church Family,

I got back yesterday from leading a group of church members on a

Wesleyan Heritage Tour in the UK. During the trip we were able to see some of the important sites in John Wesley's life and the Methodist movement. From the house that he grew up in and the church that he was baptized in, to the halls of Oxford where he was educated, and the streets of Bristol and London where the movement grew, we were able to reflect on our history and begin to ask how it might influence our mission and ministry today.

On the 24th of this month 288 years ago, May 24, 1738, John Wesley had his Aldersgate experience. He had an assurance of faith that allowed the Holy Spirit to propel the Methodist movement. This is what he wrote in his journal that day, "About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death." There is a plaque marking this spot and the occasion that I am sure that many people walk by every day without paying it any attention. However that experience helped Methodism become the spiritual revival that it was and is.

I want to encourage you to think about how Methodism focused on spiritual accountability, intentional community, active participation in worship, and acts of social good that Wesley called "acts of mercy." What might these emphases look like in our church and our individual lives today? How might we allow the movement of the Spirit to propel us towards revival in our personal lives, as a congregation, and as a denomination?

In Christ,
Will



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

April 22nd - May 20th

May 6th:

White Fragility Discussion -
Chapters 7 - 9

May 13th:

White Fragility Discussion -
Chapters 10 - 12

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 6th

Creamy Enchilada Fiesta, Creamed Corn, Broccoli Salad, Buffalo Chicken Salad, Vegetarian Protein: Vegan Plant-Based Chik'n Strips, and Oreo Cheesecake Parfait

NUNSENSE

Oak Street Playhouse is excited to present **Nonsense in the Flo Summit Theater on April 24th-26th, May 1st - May 3rd at 7:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Sundays!** This hilarious musical comedy follows the Little Sisters of Hoboken as they scramble to raise money for burials after their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, accidentally poisons 52 of the sisters. Their solution? Put on a wildly entertaining variety show in the school auditorium—currently set for the eighth grade production of Grease. Join us for an evening of laughter and fun as these spirited sisters take the stage!

To purchase tickets visit: firstcentenary.com/the-oak-street-playhouse



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 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 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.**

52 Ways to Care for Creation



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, NIRV)

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.

Week 19: May 3-9

Where Does Your Drinking Water Come From?

Are you able to drink your tap water? Where does it come from? How is it processed? Does it rain where you live? Are there often droughts? Does everyone in your community have access to clean drinking water? Consider where your water comes from and what is being done to protect your local water source.

Week 20: May 10-16

Endangered Species Day

Happy endangered species day! Attacks on the Endangered Species Act have placed precious plants and animals more at risk than ever before. Check out CJM's resource to learn about and celebrate endangered plants and animals. Visit creationjustice.org/resourcehub to access the information.

Week 21: May 17-23

Thrift Shop

The clothing industry has a large carbon footprint. When looking for a new outfit, head to the thrift store instead of buying new. Thrift shopping keeps clothes out of the landfill, reduces water waste (a byproduct of clothing production), and reduces chemical pollutants. Check if your town has a local benefit shop/thrift shop where the proceeds support the community (some donate proceeds to the local food pantry or animal shelter!)

Week 22: May 24-30

Rest and Reflect

There are no unsacred places. There are only sacred places and desecrated places." - Wendell Berry

Week 23: May 31- June 6

Learn About Your Local Food Systems

Where does your food come from? How is your community affected by food insecurity? Does your town have a farmers market? Meet your farmers and support the local economy! If you have time, commit to growing/taking care of 1 plant?

CreationJustice.org



@CreationJustice



YOUTH SENIOR RETREAT

We are celebrating the Class of 2026! Join us for special Youth Senior Retreat, **May 25th - 27th at St. Simons Island, Georgia!** This retreat is open to all graduating high school seniors and is to mark an exciting milestone with time to relax and look ahead. Throughout the weekend, we'll enjoy Bible study, conversations about the transition from high school to college, and plenty of time to unwind and have fun together 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!**

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE CHARGE CONFERENCE OFFICERS & LEADERS

To read the full annual report of our 2026 officers and leaders visit our website at firstcentenary.com/2026-leadership or scan the QR code.



United Women in Faith is collecting feminine hygiene products to support Love, Period. of Chattanooga. Their mission is to provide period products in the Chattanooga area so that activities of daily living never have to be compromised due to inaccessibility to these products. Donations of unscented, individually wrapped tampons, thin pads, liners, or small, clean cosmetic bags can be dropped off in the collection bins in the Welcome Center through May 3rd. On May 3rd, UWF members are invited to go out to lunch for a time of fellowship. Meet in the Vine lobby after the 10:45 service if you'd like to join!



Join Creation Care Ministry for Farm Volunteer Day on **May 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at The Bethlehem Center!** We'll be helping replace the framing on the community garden beds. This hands-on project will support the ongoing work of providing fresh food right here in Chattanooga. Whether you're handy with tools or just willing to lend a helping hand, all are welcome! **Contact Caroline Archer at carcher@firstcentenary.com for more information.**

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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 our website's announcements page at firstcentenary.com/announcements to register. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up soon! For more information, contact Grant Morgan at gmorgan@firstcentenary.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

May 3rd, 2026

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

"Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled"
John 14:1-14
Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine Service:
10:45 a.m.

"A Strangely Warmed Faith:
Both/And- Personal and Social Holiness"
Acts 2:42-47
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

Mustard Tree Service:
5:00 p.m.

The Vine
Rev. Barry Kidwell

Lectionary Readings:

Prov 4:10-18
Psalms 119:9-32
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

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