The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 37
NOVEMBER 13TH, 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Nov 15th

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
9:30AM: Confirmation Class
9:45AM: Coffee with the Pastor
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
12:00PM: High School Mission Trip Parent Meeting
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner
4:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at Walnut Street Bridge

MON.
Nov 16th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
12:00PM: Trustees Meeting
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal
6:30PM: Friendsgiving

TUES.
Nov 17th

10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00AM: Crafty Capers
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Charley's Coffee Talk
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal

WED.
Nov 18th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
11:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Bowling
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
4:45PM: Wednesday Night Youth Program
5:15PM: Prime Time Wednesday Dinner
5:30PM: Positive Christian Singles Dinner at Nooga Q
5:45PM: JumpStart Children's Choir
6:00PM: Children's 4yr. - 1st Grade Choir
6:00PM: Chancel Ringers
6:30PM: Prime Time Wednesday Classes
6:30PM: Wednesday Night Children's Program
6:30PM: JumpStart Instrumental Music
7:00PM: Chancel Choir

THURS.
Nov 19th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
1:30PM: Aldersgate Vibrations
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal

FRI.
Nov 20th

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

SAT.
Nov 21st

Youth Fall Retreat



Our 2026 Advent Calendar is here! The holiday season is full of fun opportunities to celebrate the season. Mark your calendars and save the dates for our upcoming Advent events. Scan the QR code to explore the full calendar and find all the details!

Stay Connected

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:
@FIRSTCENTENARY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
FIRSTCENTENARY.COM



Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

CLERGY CORNER

Every year during the month of November we dedicate a few Sundays to talk about generosity and stewardship. This is a time to reflect, not just on the budget and finances, but also on the shared ministry and mission that we have been called to as the people called First-Centenary.

Because of the generosity of each person in this congregation we have stood as a light in the city of Chattanooga for almost two centuries and I know that we will continue to shine light for centuries to come. When I think about the generosity of this congregation in the past and in the present, I think of the thousands of individuals who are impacted by various styles of worship each week that meet people where they are and invite them into an ever deepening relationship with Jesus. I think about the children and youth who have grown up in this church and continue to live out their faith. And the countless individuals who have experienced the love of Jesus through The Centenary afterschool program, ABIDE, and Mustard Tree Ministries.

As we look forward into 2027 and the final years of this decade, I am excited about what God has in store for us as a congregation and faithfully following God's call into whatever is the next transformational ministry that this congregation starts.

I am thankful to be one of your pastors. I am thankful for your generosity. I am thankful that God is at work through the people called First-Centenary.

In Christ,
Will

2026 CHARGE CONFERENCE

The Charge Conference this year will be in-person or online on **November 18th at 12:00 p.m. in the Prigmore Room** at First-Centenary. If you want to join online, please call the church office at 423-756-2021. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Nathan Malone, will be attending in person.



YOUTH FALL RETREAT

Join us for our Youth Fall Retreat at **Camp Lookout, November 20th–22nd!** Students will enjoy a weekend of fun and time together in the great outdoors. **The retreat is $100 per student, and meals will be provided.** Students **meet at the Student Center at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 20th.** We'll return in time for worship on Sunday, November 22nd. **Contact Tori at tcrook@firstcentenary.com for more information.**



Join us for an evening of thanks and giving for our Campus Ministry on **November 16th at 6:30 p.m. at Giardino's Italian Restaurant!** Enjoy a marvelous Italian meal, hear testimony from ministry students, visit with old and new friends of Wesley, and participate in both a raffle and auction during our time together! **Only 70 seats are available for this yearly event and tickets cost $50. To register, visit our website at firstcentenary.com/college-ministry. Contact Kirsten Shipp at kshipp@firstcentenary.com for more information.**



KIDS CHRISTMAS BASH

Celebrate the Christmas season at the Kids Christmas Bash on **December 4th at 5:30 p.m. in the Student Center!** Hosted by Shouting Stones Youth Ministry, this festive night will be filled with games, food, and fun for kids. There is no cost to attend, but a recommended donation of $25 per child or $50 per household is appreciated. All proceeds will support Youth Summer Missions! **For more information, contact Ellen at firstkids@fristcentenary.com.**

First-Centenary United Methodist Church Children's Ministry

FIRST KIDS





Preschool:
Our theme this month is Tiny Parade: There's a lot in this world worth celebrating-and no one is more worth celebrating than God. Throughout the Bible, God's people sang, danced, shouted, and threw parties to celebrate Him. We can do the very same. With loud voices and happy hearts, we can celebrate God! Our verse of the month is: "Shout aloud and sing for joy." Isaiah 12:6 NIV

Elementary:
It's easy to fixate on what we don't have or what isn't going our way. But when we pay attention, we start to notice that every good thing in our lives traces back to God. When gratitude becomes a habit, we can thank Him for His goodness even when life feels hard. Our verse of the month is: "Every good and perfect gift is from God. This kind of gift comes down from the Father who created the heavenly lights. These lights create shadows that move. But the Father does not change like these shadows." James 1:17 NIrV

Sunday School and Worship Opportunities

All Sunday School classes are located in the Children's Wing on the second floor.

- 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.



ABIDE SET TO EXPAND: 2/5/27

Launched on May 16, 2023, through the vision and dedication of congregation members, staff, and community partners, ABIDE is preparing to take another big step. Following our expansion to three days in October 2024 and four days in January 2026, we are excited to announce the launch of a 5th operating day! To turn this milestone into a reality, we need your support. ABIDE is currently looking for dedicated volunteers for Fridays, as well as Monday through Thursday. If you feel called to serve, we invite you to join our team by contacting Brandi Anderson at banderson@firstcentenary.com or by phone/text at 423-203-5046. If you are unable to volunteer but would still like to support the ministry, please consider making a financial contribution to the Al and Chris Bowles Scholarship Fund, which helps families offset program fees.



Join us for a parent meeting on **November 15th at 12:00 p.m. in the Student Center** about our upcoming High School Mission Trip to Xela, Guatemala next year! We'll share important information about the trip, including plans, expectations, and what families need to know as students prepare to serve and experience Guatemala. **For more information, contact Tori at tcrook@firstcentenary.com.**



ADVENT WREATH CREATION

Celebrate the start of Advent with us on **Wednesday, December 2nd, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Oak Street Center** at our free Advent Wreath Creation! Come any time during the event to decorate your own wreath and prepare your home for the season. There will be a Prime Time Wednesday meal at 5:15 p.m. and please remember to register for the meal separately. **To ensure we have enough supplies, please RSVP at firstcentenary.com/advent-2026.** We can't wait to kick off Advent with you!



O NIGHT DIVINE CONCERT & DINNER

Celebrate the joy of the Christmas season with O Night Divine, presented by Music Ministries on **December 6th!** Enjoy a beautiful Christmas **concert beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**, followed by a **dinner at 6:00 p.m. in The Vine.** Both the concert and dinner are free to attend, but registration is requested for the dinner. Come experience an evening of music, fellowship, and Christmas celebration! **To register for dinner, visit firstcentenary.com/advent-2026.**

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Next year will take us to ***action*** and the stewardship theme we have chosen is ***Faithfulness in Action***. It is a theme that is the culmination of our focus from the past two years that will lead us to take the next step and guide us to the action we need to take towards the future vision of the church.

Faithfulness in Action will start on **November 8th** and conclude with a **commitment Sunday the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 22nd.** During those three weeks we will talk about our Faithful Perspective, our Faithful Living, and our Faithful Thanksgiving. Our hope is you will prayerfully consider what commitment you are willing to offer to the operational budget of the church, and come November 22nd ready to offer it before God and your church family.

As always, thank you for all you do for the glory of God at First-Centenary.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

November 15th, 2026

Sanctuary Services:
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
"Faithful Living"
Matthew 25:14-30
Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine Service:
10:45 a.m.
"Faithful Living"
Matthew 25:14-30
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

Mustard Tree Service:
5:00 p.m.
The Vine
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

Lectionary Readings:
Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

WDEF-TV Televised Sermons:
11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays
"Faithful Perspective"
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback