The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 38
NOVEMBER 20TH, 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Nov 22nd

Youth Fall Retreat
Commitment Sunday
8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
9:30AM: Confirmation Class
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
1:00PM: Chancel Choir
2:00PM: United Women in Faith Parking Cars
4:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at Walnut Street Bridge
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner

MON.
Nov 23rd

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal

TUES.
Nov 24th

10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting
10:00AM: Crafty Capers
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Charley's Coffee Talk
10:30AM: United Women in Faith Chris Bowles Circle
11:00AM: ABIDE Holiday Luncheon
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal

WED.
Nov 25th

No events scheduled

THURS.
Nov 26th

11:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Lunch at Cracker Barrel

FRI.
Nov 27th

No events scheduled

SAT.
Nov 28th

No events scheduled

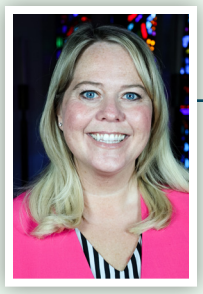


Our 2026 Advent Calendar is here! The holiday season is full of fun opportunities to celebrate the season. Mark your calendars and save the dates for our upcoming Advent events. Scan the QR code to explore the full calendar and find all the details!

Stay Connected

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:
@FIRSTCENTENARY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
FIRSTCENTENARY.COM



Rev. Mary Thompson

CLERGY CORNER

Making Good Investments

During the last few days I have had the opportunity to do two things that were very life-giving for me. The first was to attend a Church Leadership Conference called "Common Table" with a few other First-Centenary staff. The second was to teach the 5th grade Sunday School class on the topic of "Generosity and Gratitude."

During the Sunday School class, I read students the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). You may recall this is the story Jesus tells about the man leaving and trusting 3 of his servants with portions of his money. The students and I reflected on how this is a lesson on making good investments and using our gifts wisely. What if we were all able to view our resources as being gifted and entrusted by God to multiply in the world?

At our conference, Rev. Dr. Kevin Murriel challenged church leaders with similar sentiments telling us, "The church can survive institutionally and still fail prophetically" and "As long as there are people struggling to pay for groceries and medication, there's work to be done." In this season of stewardship, I can feel God challenging me to think critically about my own resources as well as our church's resources. How may God be calling you to steward the resources around you? How can we take the next step in discipleship by trusting God more with the giving of our gifts? I hope you can reflect on how God is calling you next in stewardship and give space for holy discernment. In this month of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks to the One from whom all blessing flow.

~ Pastor Mary



Celebrate the Christmas season by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one. **Poinsettias are $16 each** and will be displayed in The Vine or Sanctuary for the week of Christmas. **Orders must be placed by December 10th. To purchase, please complete the online form by scanning the QR code above OR pick up a printed form located outside each worship space and pay by check or cash.** Following the Christmas Eve services, you are welcome to take your poinsettia home to enjoy!



A CENTENARY CHRISTMAS

Help make Christmas special for Centenary students and families! Choose an Angel Tree ornament outside The Vine or Sanctuary through November 29th, shop for a child, and drop off wrapped gifts by December 2nd. You can also sponsor an entire family by shopping for their needs and wishes or make a donation to support The Centenary throughout the year. **To sponsor a family or learn more, contact Monique at mstrickland@firstcentenary.com.**



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.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CHRISTMAS DINNER

On **December 8th at 6:00pm in Oak Street Center Room 101/102**, we will gather for our annual United Women in Faith Christmas Dinner! This year's theme, The Gift of Love in Action, invites us to celebrate the season by living out our faith through meaningful service. Our speaker will be Rev. Mary Thompson. Enjoy an evening of fellowship, a delicious meal, and meaningful reflections as we celebrate the Advent season together. **Registration deadline is November 30th. Cosit is $20. To register visit firstcentenary.com/advent-2026.**



ADVENT WREATH CREATION

Celebrate with us on **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. 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.**



O NIGHT DIVINE CONCERT & DINNER

Join us for *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 **dinner at 6:00 p.m. in The Vine.** Both are free to attend, but registration is requested for the dinner. **To register for dinner, visit firstcentenary.com/advent-2026.**

FIRST-CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P. O. Box 208
Chattanooga, TN 37401

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419 McCallie Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37402
Senior Pastor:
Rev. Jason Gattis
(423) 756-2021
www.firstcentenary.com





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 22nd, 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 Living"
Rev. Jason Gattis