The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 36
NOVEMBER 6TH, 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN. Nov 8th
- **8:30AM:** Sanctuary Worship Service
- **9:30AM:** Sunday School
- **9:30AM:** Confirmation Class
- **9:45AM:** 5th Grade Faith Steps: Gratitude and Generosity
- **10:45AM:** Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
- **10:45AM:** Centenary Sunday
- **2:00PM:** JOYs Baseball Game at Erlange Park
- **4:30PM:** Sunday Night Youth Group
- **5:00PM:** Sunday Night Worship & Dinner
- **5:00PM:** Positive Christian Singles Walk at Walnut Street Bridge

MON. Nov 9th
- **10:00AM:** ABIDE Respite Ministry
- **2:00PM:** Executive Team Meet
- **3:00PM:** The Centenary After-School Program
- **6:00PM:** Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal
- **6:00PM:** Positive Christian Singles Covered Dish Dinner

TUES. Nov 10th
- **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 11th
- **10:00AM:** ABIDE Respite Ministry
- **3:00PM:** The Centenary After-School Program
- **4:45PM:** Wednesday Night Youth Program
- **5:15PM:** Prime Time Wednesday Dinner
- **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
- **6:30PM:** Creation Care Meeting
- **7:00PM:** Chancel Choir

THURS. Nov 12th
- **10:00AM:** ABIDE Respite Ministry
- **1:30PM:** Aldersgate Vibrations
- **3:00PM:** The Centenary After-School Program
- **6:00PM:** Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal

FRI. Nov 13th
- **3:00PM:** The Centenary After-School Program

SAT. Nov 14th
- **8:30AM:** Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal

CHILI COOK-OFF 2026









Stay Connected

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@FIRSTCENTENARY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
FIRSTCENTENARY.COM



Rev. Michelle Hunter

CLERGY CORNER

If you don't know Joan Chittister, OSB, I encourage you to seek her out. She is an American Benedictine nun, theologian, writer, and speaker. She is also a prophet and a modern mystic. Her books are widely available and you can subscribe to her monthly digital newsletter. She is a voice of hope.

Sister Joan insists that hope requires remembering. In hindsight we are able to see the goodness of God and, with faith, rest assured that God's goodness will be with us both now and in the future. Chittister never denies the struggles in life, but insists that God is with us in the struggle. In the December 2024 newsletter she reminds us that hope "digs in the rubble of the heart for memory of God's promise to bring good out of evil and joy out of sadness and, on the basis of those memories of the past, takes new hope for the future."

The upcoming holidays will evoke memories, and that can make the holidays complicated because all our memories aren't pleasant or easy. Sister Joan encourages us to consider that hope is not about the memory itself, but about God's presence with us in the memory, a presence that doesn't shrink or fail in the face of hardship. May the upcoming holidays be filled with hope and the assurance of God's never failing love for you and all God's people.

With grace and peace,
Michelle



5TH GRADE FAITH STEPS: GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY

What do gratitude and generosity actually look like in everyday life? Pastor Mary will help our 5th graders dig into how gratitude and generosity go hand-in-hand on **November 8th during Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. in the Children's Wing.** Expect a fun hands-on tool for putting gratitude into practice and a fresh look at how our faith shapes the way we treat others. Parents are welcome to join!

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.



CENTENARY SUNDAY

Centenary Sunday is on November 8th during our 10:45 a.m. worship services! The Centenary team will share a special presentation, the services they provide, and the impact they make in our community. We hope to see you there!

First Centenary United Methodist Church
JOYS
JUST OLDER YOUTH
ACTIVE SENIORS

BASEBALL GAME

Join your JOYs friends at **2:00 p.m. on November 8th** for an exhibition game between the UT Vols and Georgia Tech at **Erlanger Park.** Tickets are $22 and can be paid by check or through our website at firstcentenary.com/announcements. Please include "JOYS EVENT" in the memo. **For questions, email fcjoys@gmail.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.



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. Enclosed with this letter is a commitment card. 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.



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.**

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FALL FESTIVAL 2026















SUNDAY WORSHIP

November 8th, 2026

Sanctuary Services:
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
"Faithful Perspective"
Ephesians 1:15-23
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

The Vine Service:
10:45 a.m.
"Faithful Perspective"
Ephesians 1:15-23
Rev. Jason Gattis

Mustard Tree Service:
5:00 p.m.
The Vine
Rev. Jason Gattis

Lectionary Readings:
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

WDEF-TV Televised Sermons:
11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays
"The Blessing of the Saints"
Rev. Jason Gattis