

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 34
OCTOBER 16TH, 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Oct 18th

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

MON.
Oct 19th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
11:00AM: The Centenary Committee Meeting

TUES.
Oct 20th

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

WED.
Oct 21st

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
12:00PM: Church Council Meeting
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: Wednesday Night College Program
6:30PM: JumpStart Instrumental Music
7:00PM: Chancel Choir

THURS.
Oct 22nd

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
1:30PM: Aldergates Vibrations
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
6:30PM: United Women in Faith Parking Cars
7:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Concert at Reflection Riding

FRI.
Oct 23rd

3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program

SAT.
Oct 24th

Costa Rica Mission Trip
8:00AM: Youth Rally Retreat at Camp Lookout

CONFIRMATION



Confirmation begins **November 1st** during **Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. in the Student Center!** This class is for students in 8th grade and older who are ready to deepen their faith, explore what it means to be United Methodist, and learn more about what it means to be part of the church. Confirmation also gives students the opportunity to make the commitment to join the church, should they choose to do so. We're excited to walk alongside our students as they grow in their faith and take this next step! **Visit our website firstcentenary.com/announcements to sign up. For more information, contact Tori Crook at tcrook@firstcentenary.com.**



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@FIRSTCENTENARY

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FIRSTCENTENARY.COM





CLERGY CORNER

Church Family,

When I sat down to write this article I was intending to write about the family mission

Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

trip that is in Guatemala this week or a reflection on the present state of the sociopolitical world. Then I looked at a post-it note on the side of my desk that has hung there for over eleven years now. I don't know where I first heard or read these words but I read them a few times a week and they have continually been a source of peace and strength for me:

"What you are saved FOR is more important that what you are saved FROM."

I love this saying because it reminds me that God is not finished with me and that no matter how much I have messed up or how far I have strayed, the future that I have through Christ is more important. On Sunday I shared from Ephesians 2, verses 8-10, "You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed. It's not something you did that you can be proud of. Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives."

Our worth, our salvation, the gift of God's love and grace to us, is not dependent on what we have or haven't done. It is a free gift embodied for us through the incarnation and poured out for us on the cross. My hope and prayer for each of us is that no matter where we are on our spiritual journey or if we find ourselves in a valley or on a mountaintop of life, that we might remember that God's love for us is unwavering. Our future in and through and with Christ will be more than we could ever ask or imagine.

In Christ,
Will

PRIME TIME WEDNESDAY

Meal: 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. **Chancel Ringers:** 6:00 p.m.
Classes: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Chancel Choir:** 7:00 p.m.
Children's, Youth, & College Programs: 6:30 p.m.



THIS SEASON'S CLASSES

**Salvation on Sand Mountain:
Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia
by Dennis Covington**

led by Pastor Jason in the Prigmore Room

Unpacking the UMC Social Principles
led by United Women in Faith in The Vine

Eat-Pray-Art
led by Pastor Michelle in Oak Street Center Room 101/102

DINNER INFORMATION

Please make dinner reservations by 4 p.m. Monday



Costs:

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

Menu: October 21st

Chicken Pot Pie, Roasted Carrots, Garden Salad,
Rolls, Chicken Salad Salad, Vegetarian Option:
Falafel, and Hummingbird Cake



FALL FESTIVAL IS OCTOBER 28TH!

Our annual Fall Festival is officially set for **October 28th!** Join us from **5:00-7:30 p.m.** for an evening full of games, inflatables, trunk-or-treat, free dinner, and lots of fun activities for the whole family!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help make the evening a success!

You can help by:

- Running a game or activity booth
- Decorating a trunk for Trunk-or-Treat
- Helping run an inflatable
- Cooking and serving dinner

Scan the QR code to fill out a form or contact Will Lauderback at wlauderback@firstcentenary.com to sign up to be volunteer.



CANDY IS ALSO NEEDED! Donations can be dropped off at the Welcome Center or in the buckets outside each worship space.



Preschool:
 Our theme this month is "Game Time." Some days feel like a lot to handle. The problems feel big, and we wonder how it's all going to work out. Here's the good news: we don't have to have it all figured out, because God does. Whatever we're facing, we can trust God. God's got it! Our verse this month is: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." ~ Proverbs 3:5 Nlrv



Elementary:
 Our theme is "God is Our Safe Place." Sometimes the world feels scary, and being brave is hard. But when we remember that God is strong and always with us, and that Jesus has already won, we can find that God is our safe place and trust God no matter what comes our way! Our monthly verse is: "God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble." ~ Psalm 46:1 Nlrv

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.



VAN DRIVERS NEEDED!

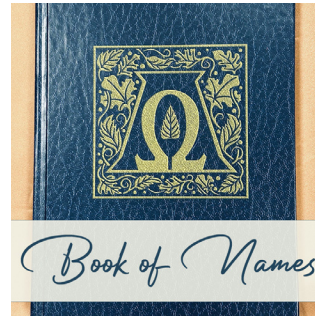
We're looking for volunteers to serve as van drivers on Sunday nights, helping provide transportation before and after the service. **If you're interested or would like more information, please contact Will Lauderback at wlauderback@firstcentenary.com.**

PENNY WARS

Children's Missions Fundraiser
 During October on the Bridge

Get ready for a little friendly competition! Penny Wars is a fundraiser supporting Children's Missions and where you can vote for your favorite football team with your donations. **Coins add positive points, while bills subtract points**, so you can vote for your favorite school or against another! **Contribution boxes will be located on the bridge throughout the month of October.** Every penny makes a difference, so help your team climb to the top! The school with the most points will be announced on October 25th.

BOOK OF NAMES



All Saints' Sunday is November 1st. As we prepare for the service you are invited to record the names of loved ones who have died in the Book of Names. The book will be in the Narthex throughout October. Those "named" may be church members, family, friends, heroes, or heroines.

The Book will be on the altar on November 1st as a reminder of our communion with these precious saints.



CHILI COOK-OFF

The 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off is **November 1st at 12:00 p.m. in the Oak Street Center Room 101/102!** Whether you're competing for a title or coming to enjoy some delicious chili, it's sure to be a fun evening. **Admission is \$10 per person and chili contestants enter for free.** Visit our website at firstcentenary.com/announcements to register. Contact Kirsten at kshipp@firstcentenary.com for more information.



YOUTH RALLY RETREAT

Get ready for a weekend of adventure at Youth Rally on **October 24th-25th starting at 8:00 a.m. at Camp Lookout!** This conference-wide retreat is led by youth for youth, bringing students from across the Holston Conference together to connect with God and build friendships. Enjoy youth-led worship, small groups, activities, and more! **Cost is \$70.** Scholarships are available. Youth are also invited to help lead worship, small groups, activities, and sermons! **For more information, contact Tori at tcrook@firstcentenary.com. Visit our website firstcentenary.com/announcements to register.**

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KIDS NIGHT OUT 2026



SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 18th, 2026

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

"The Call to Pray"
Luke 18:1-9
Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine Service:
10:45 a.m.

"Wake Up Calls & Thin Places"
Daniel 5: 1-12
Rev. Mary Thompson

Mustard Tree Service:
5:00 p.m.

The Vine
Rev. Jason Gattis

Lectionary Readings:

Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 22:15-22

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

"Hope in a Hopeless World"
Rev. Jason Gattis