

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 35
OCTOBER 23RD, 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Oct 25th

Youth Rally Retreat
Costa Rica Mission Trip
8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
12:00PM: Free College Student Lunch
12:00PM: Chancel Choir Lunch and Rehearsal
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner
5:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at Walnut Street Bridge

MON.
Oct 26th

Costa Rica Mission Trip
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program

TUES.
Oct 27th

Costa Rica Mission Trip
10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00AM: ABIDE Caregiver's Support Group
10:00AM: Crafty Capers
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Charley's Coffee Talk
10:30AM: United Women in Faith Chris Bowles Circle
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program

WED.
Oct 28th

Costa Rica Mission Trip
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
5:00PM: Fall Festival

THURS.
Oct 29th

Costa Rica Mission Trip
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program

FRI.
Oct 30th

Costa Rica Mission Trip
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program

SAT.
Oct 31st

Time Change: fall back one hour!
Costa Rica Mission Trip
9:00AM: Altar Guild Meeting
2:00PM: Trunk-Or-Treat with Mustard Tree Ministries

BLESSING OF THE PETS



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@FIRSTCENTENARY

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FIRSTCENTENARY.COM





CLERGY CORNER

We are officially in the height of spooky season in the United States. Halloween decorations like ghosts, bats, and pumpkins are everywhere. I know many who do not care for this time of year, but it is a favorite in my household.

When I was a freshman in college, I attended a short-term Bible Study taught by one of the college's psychology professors called, "Angels, Demons, and the Realm of God." We spent three weeks studying Scripture about angels, then three weeks on Scripture involving demons. Then, we went to the movie theater to see a new release called, *The Exorcism of Emily Rose*. Finally, we concluded with three weeks on the realm of God.

While I had played an angel in countless nativity reenactments growing up, I had not spent much time before this study in college thinking about angels, demons, or the realm of God. It was overall a great experience being challenged to ponder Scripture that involves supernatural things. Of course, there were several weeks I woke up at 3:00 am and out of fear, chose to wait until later in the morning to go to the restroom.

You may love or hate this time of year. I challenge you though to ponder the realm of God and how we may come in contact with the holy during a day. There's an old Celtic tradition called, "a thin place." It is the belief that in any point in time, the space between Heaven and Earth can grow thin and the sacred and secular meet. Where have you experienced a thin place? I encourage you to think of the times and places that felt 'thin' to you. May this season be particularly holy and uplifting for you!

~ Mary



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.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Join Mustard Tree Ministries for their annual Trunk-or-Treat on **October 31st!** Volunteers are invited to help spread some Halloween fun and connect with our neighbors at both locations. We'll be at **College Hill (West Side)** from **2:00-3:00 p.m.** before heading to **East Lake Courts** from **4:00-6:00 p.m.** You're welcome to join us at one or both locations! Help us make this year's events a success as we share joy and fellowship with our community. **To volunteer or for more information, contact Barry Kidwell at cbarrykidwell@gmail.com.**



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.



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!



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 at firstcentenary.com/announcements. Please include "JOYS EVENT" in the memo. Payment is due by November 5th. **For questions, email fcjoys@gmail.com.**



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.**



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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LEGACY LUNCHEON 2026



SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 25th, 2026

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

"Back to Basics"
Philippians 4:1-9
Rev. Michelle Hunter

The Vine Service:
10:45 a.m.

"Wrestling with God"
Genesis 32:22-31
Rev. Dr. Alex Thompson

Mustard Tree Service:
5:00 p.m.

The Vine
Rev. Michelle Hunter

Lectionary Readings:
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Acts 10:44-48
Matthew 22:34-46

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

"The Call to Pray"
Rev. Jason Gattis