

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 32
OCTOBER 2ND, 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Oct 4th

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
9:45AM: 2nd Grade Faith Steps: Communion
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 Northgate Mall

MON.
Oct 5th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
5:00PM: United Women in Faith Meeting

TUES.
Oct 6th

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 7th

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
7:00PM: Chancel Choir

THURS.
Oct 8th

9:00AM: Garden Mission
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
1:30PM: Aldergates Vibrations
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
6:00PM: Costa Rice Mission Team Parking Cars

FRI.
Oct 9th

12:00PM: Legacy Luncheon
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
6:00PM: United Women in Faith Parking Cars

SAT.
Oct 10th

10:00AM: Devotional Hike at McCoy Farm and Gardens



RIVER RESCUE!

Join us for the annual Tennessee River Rescue on **October 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at Renaissance Park! This family-friendly cleanup is a great opportunity to care for our community and the Tennessee River. No registration is required to participate. We hope to see you there! **Email Caroline Archer at carcher@firstcentenary.com for more information.**



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CLERGY CORNER

A few weeks ago I preached a sermon on forgiveness using the passage from Matthew where the disciples ask Jesus how often they are

to forgive if a brother or sister sins against them. You will remember that Jesus' response is seventy times seven times (or seventy seven times depending on the translation) essentially saying that there is no limit in offering forgiveness. In those days it had been taught by the religious leaders that one is to forgive up to two times but no more than that. In illustrating the struggle between what they had always been taught and what Jesus was saying I used an illustration centered around an abusive marriage and the predicament the spouse was under whether to leave or to stay in the marriage.

I inadvertently left the illustration open ended and realize now that in doing so I was insensitive to those who may be facing a similar situation in their life. For that, I apologize and want to offer what I feel God would call for us to do.

Nobody should have to face abuse (whether physical, mental, or emotional) in a relationship they have promised to uphold through love and service to one another. Abuse in marriage breaks the covenant that was made with one another and God and one should not have to remain in a union where love is not at the center. Divorce is thus warranted and encouraged in order for the victim to have the opportunity to find a healthy and loving relationship.

All that to say, a decision to divorce and the act of forgiveness are two very different things. One can divorce while also forgiving. In fact, it's safe to say that one would have a hard time moving forward into a new relationship if true forgiveness has not happened. For one who has been victimized, freedom only happens through faithful and wholehearted forgiveness.

If you find yourself in a relationship of abuse I want to urge you to contact one of our clergy at the church. There are resources available that can help you find the true happiness you deserve as a child of God and we want to do all we can to help.

See you Sunday.
Pastor Jason

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 7th

Smoky Sweet Chicken, Green Beans, Potato Casserole, Cornbread, Greek Salad, Vegetarian Option: Falafel, and Chocolate Cake



DEVOTIONAL HIKE

Join us for a Devotional Hike on Saturday, **October 10th, at 10:00 a.m.!** We'll gather in the **McCoy Farm and Gardens parking lot off the Taft Highway entrance** for a morning of fellowship and time spent enjoying God's creation. All are welcome! **For more information, contact Caroline Archer at carcher@firstcentenary.com.**



BLESSING OF THE PETS

Bring your furry friends to our Blessing of the Pets on **October 11th!** Join us **outside the Welcome Center from 2:00-4:00 p.m.** for a special drive-thru blessing for your beloved pets. All pets are welcome—except snakes! We look forward to celebrating the special animals who bring so much joy and companionship into our lives.



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.

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.



THANK YOU from the Wesley Center!

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Wesley Center Food Pantry and Fridge this past month! The Wesley Free Fridge and Food Pantry is located outside the Wesley building and it will be open 24/7 to provide for students experiencing

food insecurity on the UTC campus. Thank you for helping us make this ministry possible and donations are always welcome!



2026 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

It may still feel like summer, but Advent is just around the corner! We are looking for congregants of all ages and stages of life to share their wisdom, experience, enthusiasm, and inspiration in our 2026 Advent devotional. Participants can share a piece of art or music, a story, and/or their experiences or reflections for our Advent theme – **The Greatest Gift Ever Given**. You're invited to share stories about how God has led you from the darkness into a place of hope. Or you could write about your journey towards peace or becoming a peacemaker. You may have something to say about the joy God has offered you in unexpected ways. Finally, how have you experienced and shared the gift of God's love through and to those around you? **If you would be willing to contribute a 150-word text to this special project, or would like more information, please contact Maria Crawford at mbcraw4d@gmail.com. Submissions are due no later than October 16th.**



WORLD COMMUNION DAY

It's hard to believe it will soon be the first Sunday of October, the day The United Methodist Church celebrates World Communion. The sights, sounds and tastes in the Sanctuary will include a beautifully decorated altar with breads of the world baked by our communion baking team. A variety of musical styles will bring to life songs from around the globe. In the 10:45 service, the Chancel Choir will present "Shalom" by Kyle Pederson, a beautiful prayer for peace. There's a part of the song where the different sections of the choir literally "pass the peace" as we do in the communion liturgy. Listen for it! I hope you find it to be a very meaningful part of the service. ~ Jan McNair

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FALL FESTIVAL IS COMING UP!

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

To volunteer, fill out one of the forms outside each worship space or contact Will Lauderback at wlauderback@firstcentenary.com.

CANDY IS ALSO NEEDED! Donations can be dropped off at the Welcome Center or in the buckets outside each worship space during the months of September and October.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 4th, 2026

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

"What We Bring to Worship"
Matthew 22:1-14
Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine Service:
10:45 a.m.

"The Means of Grace: Communion"
Luke 24:13-35
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

Mustard Tree Service:
5:00 p.m.

The Vine
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

Lectionary Readings:

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Acts 4:5-12
Matthew 21:33-46

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

"Is the LORD Among Us Or Not?"
Rev. Dr. Alex Thompson