

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 33
OCTOBER 9TH, 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Oct 11th

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
12:00PM: Confirmation Parent Meeting
2:00PM: Blessing of the Pets
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner
5:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at Walnut Street Bridge

MON.
Oct 12th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
2:00PM: Executive Team Meeting
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
3:30PM: Staff-Parish Relations Committee Meeting
6:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Bingo Night

TUES.
Oct 13th

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 14th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
11:30AM: Positive Christian Singles Lunch
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
4:45PM: Wednesday Night Youth Program
5:00PM: Laity Meeting
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.
Oct 15th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
1:30PM: Aldergates Vibrations
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program

FRI.
Oct 16th

Advent Devotional Submissions Due
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program

SAT.
Oct 17th

No events scheduled



BLESSING OF THE PETS

Bring your furry friends to our Blessing of the Pets on **October 11th**! Join us **outside the Welcome Center from 2:00-4:00p.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.



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FIRSTCENTENARY.COM





CLERGY CORNER

Rev. Michelle Hunter

Mark 4:35-41 is often referred to as the story of Jesus calming the storm. But before he calmed the storm, Jesus slept

soundly through it. The storm was so bad that the boat was overcome with waves and almost sank, but Jesus slept through it all before the disciples woke him. Jesus rebuked the waves and then rebuked the disciples, questioning their faith in his choice to rest. How do we understand that Jesus could and would sleep through a storm that threatened the lives of his disciples? It's a complicated question. Maybe you have been in your own storm and felt that Jesus was sound asleep, seemingly unaware that your boat could capsize at any moment.

There are many ways to understand this story and one way is to consider the spiritual work of resting and sleeping, even when you believe that your boat is in danger. Throughout scripture we learn of the necessity of rest. Rest restores us. Rest helps us relate to ourselves and others in more calm and helpful ways. Rest is an opportunity to separate from the distractions of the world and reconnect with our most basic physical needs, including our need for God. Rest connects us to our dreams which give us information that we can't hear while we are awake and rushing through the day. Rest is absolutely necessary for the wellbeing of our bodies, minds, and souls.

Friends, I invite you to listen to the wisdom of your body and soul and rest when you need to. May we trust that in resting well we will be restored and strengthened for the good work of living lives for God's glory.

Pastor Michelle

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 14th

Baked Pasta Classic, Caesar Salad, Roasted Brussels Sprouts, Garlic Toast, Buffalo Chicken Salad, Vegetarian Option: Vegan Plant-Based Chik'n Strips, and Strawberry Cake



ABIDE RESPITE MINISTRY "GALLOPS" INTO FALL!

Filled with joy, laughter, and deep compassion, ABIDE Respite Ministry brings every day to life with engaging themed activities. During our recent Country Western theme, we lassoed wooden horses, enjoyed an exciting game of horseshoes, sang along to all our favorite country tunes, and were even treated to a live performance by the Bandana Babe's Washboard Band! If you would like to get involved in the fun or support our work, please visit our website or reach out directly to Director Brandi Anderson or Assistant Director Addie Nix. To support our ministry through a financial contribution, simply scan the QR code above.



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. Chili contestants enter for free.** Contact Kirsten at kshippp@firstcentenary.com for more information.



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 NIV



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 NIV

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.



Join JOYs (Just Older Youth) on **October 16th at 6:00 p.m. for a campfire concert at Reflection Riding featuring Donna the Buffalo!** Bring your own lawn chair and a snack. Food trucks will be onsite. **Tickets can be purchased through Reflection Riding's website: reflectionriding.org/events.** For questions, contact Harriett Rosebrough at 704-942-8218.

Confirmation Parent Meeting

Parents of students interested in Confirmation are invited to a parent meeting on **October 11th at 12:00 p.m. in the Student Center.** We'll share important information about the Confirmation, which will begin November 1st, and answer any questions you may have. We look forward to helping your student begin this meaningful journey of faith! **For more information, contact Tori at tcrook@firstcentenary.com.**



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.**



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.



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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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

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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 11th, 2026

Sanctuary Services:

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

"Hope in a Hopeless World"

Isaiah 25:1-9

Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine Service:

10:45 a.m.

"The Means of Grace: Works of Piety and Works of Mercy"

James 2:14-26 and Ephesians 2:8-9

Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

Mustard Tree Service:

5:00 p.m.

The Vine

Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

Lectionary Readings:

Exodus 32:1-14

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Acts 8:14-25

Matthew 22:1-4

WDEF-TV Televised Sermons:

11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays

"What We Bring to Worship"

Rev. Jason Gattis