

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 30
SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Sept 20th

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
9:45AM: Coffee with the Pastor
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
2:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Show
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner
5:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at Northgate Mall

MON.
Sept 21st

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Rehearsal

TUES.
Sept 22nd

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.
Sept 23rd

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
6:15PM: Prime Time Wednesday Movie Night
6:30PM: Wednesday Night Children's Program
6:30PM: JumpStart Instrumental Music
7:00PM: Chancel Choir

THURS.
Sept 24th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
1:30PM: Aldergates Vibrations
3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
6:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Show

FRI.
Sept 25th

3:00PM: The Centenary After-School Program
5:30PM: Positive Christian Singles Dinner at Applebee's
7:30PM: Oak Street Playhouse Farndale Show

SAT.
Sept 26th

8:00AM: Green McAdoo Cultural Center Tour
10:00AM: Forward Grief Group
7:30PM: Oak Street Playhouse Farndale Show

3RD GRADE BIBLES



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FIRSTCENTENARY.COM





CLERGY CORNER

Church Family,

When Barry and I were appointed to First-Centenary in 2015 one of the things that

Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

we said to each other was that we hoped that Sunday Nights and Sunday Mornings would start to look more like each other. That is to say that we would be a church where all people, but especially people on the margin, felt comfortable, always. In 2023 we started to be more intentional about that service. Up to that point it was just a Mustard Tree Service that used our space. With the help of a launching grant from the Endowment we began to pay some of the band members and raise up band members from the community, have facilities staff and security staff present, and one of the final steps was to offer Children's and Youth ministries like we do on Sunday morning (a few weeks ago we had over 15 youth and 25 children!!!). Since Barry's retirement we have been sharing the preaching responsibilities for this service and whoever preaches in The Vine on Sunday morning also preaches in the 5pm service. To me this service is one of the most beautiful expressions of the Kingdom of Heaven that you'll find in any church around.

I remember hearing Barry say often when people asked what they could do to help the service. "Show up," he'd say. "Come sit and have a meal with someone you don't know." Since his retirement, others have asked me similar questions to which I have given similar answers. We are in need of van drivers, folks to serve meals, and countless other ways to serve but what we need most are "relational volunteers" who are coming to simply BE. I hope to see you on a Sunday night sometime soon. I'll save you a seat. I know that you'll be blessed.

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

Saving Grace

led by Pastor Will in the Oak Street Center Room 101/102

**A Most Tolerant Little Town:
The Explosive Beginning of School Desegregation
by Rachel Martin**

led by Pastor Michelle in the Parlor

DINNER INFORMATION

Please make dinner reservations by 4 p.m. Monday



Costs:

Adult Meal: \$10

Child's Meal: \$5

Family Meal: \$30

Menu:

September 23rd

Family Style Pizza Night, Tomato Cucumber Salad, Fruit, Garlic Toast, Greek Salad, Vegetarian Option: and Chocolate Oreo Pudding



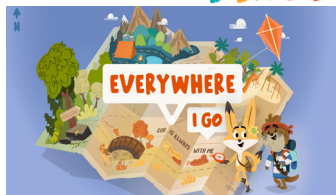
LEGACY LUNCHEON

If you are at least 70 years young, you are invited to be our guest for lunch. Join us on **October 9th at 12:00 p.m. in The Vine** for a delicious meal and entertainment by Conner Lorre, a Neil Diamond tribute artist. There is no cost to attend. Don't miss this fun fellowship time! **RSVP by 12:00 p.m. on October 2nd** by either calling the church office at 423-756-2021 or emailing Rev. Michelle Hunter at mhunter@firstcentenary.com.



IT'S CANDY TIME!

Our Fall Festival is coming up on **October 28th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** and we need your help collecting candy! **Donations can be placed in the Welcome Center or in the donation buckets located outside each worship space.** Thank you for helping us make this a sweet and fun evening for everyone!



The grocery store, doctor's office, playground, school, church... preschoolers go to a lot of places! This month's memory verse is perfect for our busy preschoolers: "God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9 ESV). Preschoolers cannot see God, but they need to know He is always with them which is why our bottom line this month is: God is always with me.



This month, we're starting a series called 'Frequency-Learning to Hear from God.' Have you ever tried to hear someone, but there was just too much noise? Or you were trying to focus, but everything just felt loud? It's not that the voice wasn't there-it was just hard to hear it. This month, we're going to discover something really important: God is speaking, and you can actually hear from Him! Our verse this month is: "My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27 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.



KIDS NIGHT OUT

Kids deserve a fun night too! Join us on **October 2nd at 5:30 pm. in the Student Center** for Kids Night Out. Drop the kids off, enjoy your evening, and know they're having a blast while supporting a great cause! Dinner will be provided. Suggested donation of \$10 per child with \$30 cap per family. To sign up visit our website's announcements page.



Join us **September 29th at 7:00 p.m. in Oak Street Center Rooms 101/102** for a watch party featuring environmentalist and 350.org co-founder Bill McKibben. Explore climate change as a moral and spiritual issue and discover how faith communities can respond with collective action. All are welcome, and registration is free! Visit our website's announcements page for more information.

PRAISING GOD IN SONG

The Chancel Choir will share the joy of singing on **September 20th during the 10:45 a.m. service in the Sanctuary**. Joined by the Brass Quintet and Timpani, the choir will present Allen Pote's "Jubilate Deo," an anthem that celebrates the importance and purpose of singing in worship. You'll also get to join the choir singing, "The Beauty of This Sacred Place," a beautiful anthem that recognizes the things we do together that make us a "church." It will be a day of celebration. The Brass Quintet for this service is made possible by a generous donation to the Music Ministry.



2ND GRADE FAITH STEPS

As part of our new First Kids Faith Steps events, second graders will take a special look at one of the most meaningful parts of worship: Communion! On **October 4th during Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. in the Oak Street Theater**, kids will discover what Communion means, and hear from clergy why its an important part of our worship. It's a fun, interactive opportunity for our second graders to go behind the scenes and experience this part of their faith!



Oak Street Playhouse Presents: THE FARNDAL AVENUE HOUSING ESTATE TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD DRAMATIC SOCIETY MURDER MYSTERY

Get ready to laugh as everything goes wrong during a hilarious murder mystery performance by the Oak Street Playhouse! With missed cues, forgotten lines, collapsing scenery, and plenty of surprises, this comedy is sure to entertain! **Showtimes are September 18th-20th and September 24th-27th at 7:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Sundays in the Flo Summitt Theater.** Cast: Lydia Hamilton as Thelma, Ford Knox as Gordon, Claire Mitchell as Felicity, Kimberly Tyner Jones as Mrs. Reece, and Emma Veys as Audrey. **To purchase tickets, visit firstcentenary.com/announcements!**



FIRST-CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Who is My Neighbor?



DINNER & MOVIE NIGHT

Come out on **Wednesday, September 23rd**, for an evening of fellowship and an inspiring documentary. **Dinner will be served at 5:15 p.m., followed by the film at 6:15 p.m. in The Vine.** The movie is a compelling documentary about a nearby courageous community that took a stand against racism and oppression.

GREEN MCADOO CULTURAL CENTER TOUR

Join us for a visit to the Green McAdoo Cultural Center on **September 26th**, where we'll learn about the historic story of the Clinton 12 and the desegregation of Clinton High School. **We'll meet at Ooltewah United Methodist Church at 8:00 a.m.** and carpool together to the center. There is no fee for the museum; however, please bring your own spending money. Sponsored by: FCUMC Faith and Justice Committee

Visit firstcentenary.com/announcements#who-is-my-neighbor to reserve your spot!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

September 20th, 2026

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

"Grace ain't fair, its free"
Matthew 20:1-16
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

The Vine Service:
10:45 a.m.

"Stand Firm"
Philippians 1:21-30
Rev. Jason Gattis

Mustard Tree Service:
5:00 p.m.

The Vine
Rev. Jason Gattis

Lectionary Readings:

Exodus 16:2-25
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Acts 1:14-21, 33-35
Matthew 20:1-16

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

"Christian Forgiveness"
Rev. Jason Gattis