

The First-Centurian

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September 23, 2022

Vision Statement of First-Centenary United Methodist Church: *Build a healthy and diverse community of disciples of Jesus Christ.*



Oak Street

Playhouse presents ...

The Moving of Lilla Barton

by John MacNicholas

**September 23- 24, 29-30,
October 1 at 7:30 p.m.
AND September 25,
and October 2 at 2 p.m.**

To purchase tickets,
scan the QR code or go to
www.brownpapertickets.com
and type in **Oak
Street Playhouse.**



Lilla is an unforgettable Southern woman who defies small-town church politics and rediscovers the strength that's waiting to be found in each of us. Lilla and her late husband single handedly designed and built the church vicarage in this small Alabama town. Now that her husband has passed on, Lilla is being evicted, but she refuses to move out of the church-owned house to make way for the new minister. A gossiping gaggle of Episcopal eccentrics is causing trouble. The group is led by a stubborn Yankee newspaper editor and a crass real estate peddler. The sympathetic bishop and the senior warden, an old Southern gentleman, are trying to help Lilla, but ultimately it is her combination of resilience, vulnerability, and courage that make this heart-warming story soar. This is an endearing and witty dramady that will have you leaving the theater with a smile.

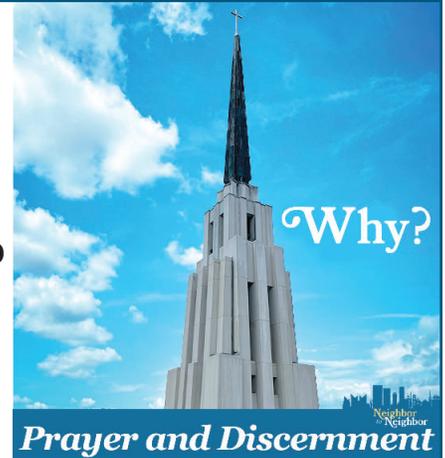
The Vision Statement of First-Centenary UMC is:

“Serving people of the greater Chattanooga area in order to build a healthy and diverse community of disciples of Jesus Christ.”

WHAT WE ARE CALLED TO DO

1. CALLED TO BE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR NEIGHBORS AND THE COMMUNITY AROUND US.

The demographics of downtown Chattanooga have shifted dramatically in recent years and the church must continue to shift our efforts accordingly. To do this, we must not only invite community members to our table, but go to theirs (when welcome). This means developing a real and lasting relationship with our neighbors in order to be in community with them notably with college students (creating a strong collegiate ministry), UTC faculty and administration, Brown Academy, African American churches, the Hispanic population, new-to-town young professionals and the urban homeless population.



To learn more scan the QR code that takes you to our website - firstcentenary.com.



As summer comes to an end, the children of CEC are looking forward to lots of fall fun on the new playscape.

They have had a blast staying cool with the water elements and exploring all the fun new options there are to choose from. Plans are in the works for an official grand opening, with details to follow. For now, you can keep up with their adventures by following our Facebook page at *First Centenary CEC*.

Clergy Corner

“When I was young I was sure of everything; in a few years, having been mistaken a thousand times, I was



Dr. Will Lauderback

not half so sure of most things I was before; at present, I am hardly sure of anything but what God has revealed to me.”— John Wesley

I found myself convicted by this quote recently because of the divided and polarized state of the world in which we live. Change is difficult but acknowledging our mistakes or failures and our need for change is often the thing that prevents us from making it to the point of change to begin with. However, change is a part of our existence and a crucial part of our spiritual lives. How else would we grow into God’s likeness except through change? “Part of Godly wisdom is to know when you’ve been wrong and be willing to change your mind. And when we don’t know the right way, we can always ask God for wisdom. Sometimes, though, we’re slow to ask God for wisdom. And yet, who would not be happy to have their child ask for help in becoming wise? Who doesn’t want a child who values truth above error?”

My hope and prayer for each of us is that we would humble ourselves and turn to God as the true source of wisdom in this world so that we might begin to reflect the oneness of the Kingdom of Heaven rather than the divisions of this world.

In Christ,
Will

Prime Time Wednesday



Methodism 101 with Pastor Will

Are you interested in learning the history and core theological teaching of the Methodist Church? Join Pastor Will for an exploration of the history of John and Charles Wesley, the Methodist Movement, and some of our core theological beliefs as the United Methodist Church.

The Chosen - Season 2

with Dianna Kidwell Continue the journey through the life of Jesus with the hit TV show *The Chosen*!

Immortal Diamond with Pastor Michelle Father Richard Rohr, a contemporary Franciscan priest and scholar, encourages us to explore what he calls our True Self, that unconscious part of us that knows who you are and whose you are. In *Immortal Diamond*, Richard Rohr likens our True Self to a diamond, buried deep within us, formed under the intense pressure of our lives. Join us for a journey of life changing healing and hope.

Scripture Study with Pastor Mark Each week Pastor Mark will do a deep dive into the scripture passage for the upcoming Sunday morning sermon. Bring your Bible and get a head start on worship for the week!

Parenting in Post Pandemic World

First Things First – September 28 Join the incredible teachers from *First Things First* as they offer advice and guidance to parents who are navigating the complex world of a post-pandemic reality. COVID has changed a lot of things in our world and we want parents to be as empowered as possible in raising change in this new reality.

PRIME TIME SCHEDULE

Meal 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Classes 6:30 - 7:15-30 p.m.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Choir and First Kids

Elementary Music (Grades 2-5)

6:15-6:55 p.m., Room 125

After rehearsal, children will go to the gym for activities. Parents pick up kids in the gym at 7:15.

Younger Choir (4 yr - 1st grade)

6:15-6:45 p.m., Room 123

Parents pick up kids in the

Elementary wing at 7:15.

YOUTH — Meal: 5:45 p.m.

Lesson: 6:30 p.m.

Gym: 7:30 - 8 p.m.

CHOIRS —

Chancel Ringers: 6 p.m.

Chancel Choir: 7 p.m.

DINNER INFORMATION

Adults – \$10 each (meal or salad)

Children – \$5; 3 & under free

Family max – \$30

Please make dinner reservations by 4 p.m. Monday.

Go to firstcentenary.com/prime-time-wednesday for dinner reservations.

September 28 Chicken Rice Casserole, Green Beans, Mediterranean Kale Salad, Roll, Honey Bun Cake; Fajita Salad

Kyiv City Ballet to Perform at UTC Fine Arts Center

October 5-7 with performances beginning each night at 7:30 p.m.

The Kyiv City Ballet is touring in 15 cities in the U.S. for the first time. With no knowledge that Russia would invade Ukraine, they took one of the last flights out of the country on February 23 to begin a long-planned European tour, and have not returned home since. All revenue from ticket sales for these shows goes directly to the Kyiv City Ballet. Purchase tickets at the UTC Fine Arts Center box office or through the Fine Arts Center’s online ticket site.



Sometimes in life,
we feel like we are
walking on a HIGH WIRE! We must be bold and
dare to trust God!



TRUST IS
PUTTING YOUR
CONFIDENCE IN
SOMEONE YOU
CAN DEPEND ON.



*Trust in the Lord
with all your heart.
Do not depend
on your own
understanding.*

Proverbs 3:5, NIRV

Trust God even when you have to wait.
Trust God no matter what.
You can trust that God has a plan.
You can trust God even when you're worried.

**WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT LIVING
YOUR LIFE FOR JESUS? THEN JOIN US IN
PERSON ON SUNDAYS FOR ONE OR ALL OF
THESE TIMES!**

Sanctuary Early Church: 8:30-9:30 A.M.
Sunday School: 9:45-10:30 A.M.
Pre-K Worship: 11-11:45 A.M.
Elem First Kids LIVE Worship: 11-11:45 A.M.

**We are looking for some amazing people to join
us in God's Children's Ministry.** We have several
openings in our First Kids department. Most positions
are Sunday (9 a.m. - Noon) with a few available on
Wed nights (6 - 7:45 p.m.).

Sunday School lessons are provided & the
curriculum is turn key ready. This is a super fun
ministry job! Paid classroom positions available from
Birth-5th Grade, as well as volunteer positions!

We'd love for you to join our team! Email
bspears@fcumc.org for more information or apply
online at firstcentenary.com today.



Baptism

Mary Douglas
Thomas,
daughter of
Chasen and
Meredith Manuel
Thomas,
received the
Sacrament of
Holy Baptism on
September 18.



FORWARD is an ecumenical
group which offers mutual support
for those who have lost a spouse.
First-Centenary will host a new
small group, seven sessions in all,
beginning Saturday, October 8, 2022, from 10 a.m.
to 11:30 a.m., in the Church Parlor. These groups
offer space for the newly and sometimes not so
newly bereaved to share experiences and begin
to find ways to step Forward into the future. If you
or someone you know is interested in joining this
group, please contact the Church office at 423-756-
2021. There is no charge to participate.

Congregational Care Contact
Weekdays: 423-756-2021 church office
Weekend/Holiday (emergencies): 423-756-2428

Check out our website
www.firstcentenary.com

**The Scenic South District of United Women
of Faith (UWF)** is collecting hand
sanitizer for the Annual Meeting for
UWF Holston Conference Hands
on Mission Project. Drop off hand
sanitizer in the Welcome Center. The
Hands on Mission Project items will
benefit the Kingsport City Schools that
serve Sullivan and Hawkins Counties.



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Dr. C. Mark Gooden,
Senior Pastor
(423) 756-2021
www.firstcentenary.com



Fall Festival is back and bigger than ever!

We will have our celebration on October 26. We need several volunteers and a lot of candy donations to pull this off!

Drop off candy donations in the Welcome Center. If you'd like more information on volunteering, contact Pastor Will at wlauderback@firstcentenary.com.



3rd Grade Bible Presentation!

This Sunday, September 25, children will be gifted their Bibles during the 10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Services.

Meet us in the Narthex/Lobby during the first song before the Bible ceremony.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

September 25, 2022
16th Sunday After Pentecost

Sanctuary at 8:30 & 10:45
The Way of Wesley:
Do Good
Luke 6:27-38
Dr. C. Mark Gooden

The Vine at 10:45 a.m.
The Way of Wesley:
Do Good
Luke 6:27-38
Dr. Will Lauderback

Reading from the Lectionary
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Televised sermon by Dr. Gooden:
The Way of Wesley: Do No Harm
Televised on Channel 12, WDEF-TV
at 6 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. each Sunday.

Mustard Tree Worship at 5 p.m.
in The Vine – Rev. Barry Kidwell