

18th Sunday after Pentecost September 27, 2026 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Paraments – Green

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ruth Idol Money, by John and Carol Money.

Invocation

***Call to Worship** (8:30) Ms. Shannon Smith (10:45) Mrs. Annabell Harr

**All: Alleluia! Come, Spirit of Love,
and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!**

Prayer

God of now and then and in and in between,
we give you our deepest thanks
that you are the God of our hearts
and the God of our history.

You promised to be with us always,
even to the end of time.

Remind us that your “always”
is past, present, and future.

But, Lord, even knowing that,
we confess that “in the meantime” living
is not easy for us.

Some of us are remembering moments
that changed the paths of our lives.

Some of us are sorting out feelings,
trying to make sense of a bigger picture.

Some of us are longing for the past
or wishing that the future would come quickly.

O God, we knew your faithfulness yesterday.

Assure us of your presence today.

Sustain us through the living of these days.

In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(words by children of Princeton UMC, Princeton, NJ)

(The children are invited to come forward for the blessing.)

Michelle: Scripture reminds us that we are the Body of Christ, and each one of us is a necessary and irreplaceable part of that Body. We have different gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same God whose purposes are achieved through them all.

People: We stand as witnesses to a living and loving God who has blessed us richly and called us to service and love. We willingly share our gifts in our homes, our communities, and around the world as living expressions of God's love and grace.

Michelle: Today we celebrate a new blessing as we welcome Sarah Clegg, who is completing her field education for Duke Divinity School. We have been called as a congregation to be for Sarah a teaching and learning community.

Sarah: I am grateful to be here to serve and learn with this church family. With God's help, I seek to learn about ministry within this congregation, as I seek to live out my relationship to God and God's people in new ways. I'm grateful for your support as I explore my call to ministry.

**People: Though your destination is not yet clear,
you can trust the promise of this opening; unfurl yourself
into the grace of continuing to clarify God's call on your life.
We the congregation bless you and support you in this endeavor
and pledge to uphold you with our prayers, presence, gifts,
service and witness.**

***Gratitude for Tithes and Offerings**
God of love, you provide all that we need.
As first you gave the gift of life and love to us,
so now we bring our tithes and offerings to you.
May our offerings reflect the love and concern
we have for our neighbors and all of creation
and represent our commitment to work
to build your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Voluntary	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	Bach/arr. Fox
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The Call to Worship was written by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes and posted on his website *Unfolding Light*. **The Prayer** is from *Prayers & Litanies for the Christian Seasons* by Sharlande Sledge. © 1999 by Smyth & Helwys Publishing, Inc. **Gratitude for Tithes and Offerings** is from *The Abingdon Worship Annual*, 2017 Edition © 2016 by Abingdon Press.

10:45: Melinda and Bill Thompson

Please register your attendance on the Ritual of Friendship pad.

 ASSISTIVE LISTENING AVAILABLE - ASK USHERS FOR ASSISTANCE.

Check-in is in the Children's hallway.

- **10:45 a.m. service telecast on Channel 12, WDEF-TV:** 11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays
- Visitors please stop by the Visitor Information Desk in the Narthex.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH
8:30 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
10:45 a.m. - The Vine & Sanctuary Worship
12:00 p.m. - Free College Lunch
2:00 p.m. - OSP Show
5:00 p.m. - PCS Walk at Northgate Mall
5:00 p.m. - Sunday Night Worship
6:00 p.m. - Sunday Night Meal

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH
10:00 a.m. - ABIDE Respite Ministry
12:00 p.m. - Trustee's Meeting
3:00 p.m. - The Centenary Program
4:30 p.m. - Children's Sabbath Meeting
7:00 p.m. - Death Penalty Action

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH
10:00 a.m. - Church Staff Meeting
10:00 a.m. - ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00 a.m. - Crafty Capers
10:00 a.m. - PCS Charley's Coffee Talk
3:00 p.m. - The Centenary Program
7:00 p.m. - Creation Care Watch Party

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH
10:00 a.m. - ABIDE Respite Ministry
3:00 p.m. - The Centenary Program
4:45 p.m. - Youth Program
5:15 p.m. - Prime Time Meal
5:45 p.m. - Children's JumpStart Choir
6:00 p.m. - 4yr-1st Grade Choir
6:00 p.m. - Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m. - Prime Time Classes
6:30 p.m. - JumpStart Instruments
6:30 p.m. - Children's Program
7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST
10:00 a.m. - ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00 a.m. - ABIDE Caregiver's Support
1:30 p.m. - Aldersgate Vibrations
3:00 p.m. - The Centenary Program

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND
3:00 p.m. - The Centenary Program
5:30 p.m. - Kids Night Out

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
9:00 a.m. - TN River Rescue
11:30 a.m. - PCS Lunch at McAlister's
6:30 p.m. - First Kids Parking Cars



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: FIRSTCENTENARY.COM
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA: @FIRSTCENTENARY

PRIME TIME WEDNESDAYS
MEAL STARTS AT 5:15PM
CLASSES START AT 6:30PM

First-Centenary is a member of the Scenic South District of the Holston Conference
P. O. Box 208, Chattanooga, TN 37401
(419 McCallie Avenue)
PHONE: (423) 756-2021

2026 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Advent is just around the corner! We're looking for congregants to contribute to our 2026 Advent devotional, The Greatest Gift Ever Given. Participants can share a 150-word reflection, story, artwork, or music about hope, peace, joy or God's love. **To contribute, email Maria Crawford at mbcraw4d@gmail.com. Submissions are due October 16th.**

DEATH PENALTY ACTION PRESENTATION

On **September 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Oak Street Center** we will be joining Death Penalty Action for an evening of sharing and testimony in protest of the pending execution of Christa Pike. Please see the website, deathpenaltyaction.org, for more information.

The Engage program is an ongoing opportunity to match your interests with ministry opportunities at the church.
Scan this code to get started.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WESLEY FOOD PANTRY

We are asking for all types of foods to help support the first month of our new food pantry being open. Please leave any donations in the bins in the Welcome Center or outside each worship space. If it needs to stay frozen or refrigerated please email Kirsten Shipp at kshipp@firstcentenary.com. Financial donations are also welcome, please note "Wesley Pantry" in your donation note.



KIDS NIGHT OUT

Kids deserve a fun night too! Join us for a Kids Night Out on **October 2nd at 5:30p.m. in the Student Center**. 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. Donations support Children's Ministry missions. To register visit our website!



RIVER RESCUE

Join us for the 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; however, If you'd like a free T-shirt, email your name and T-shirt size ahead of time to Caroline Archer at carcher@firstcentenary.com.**

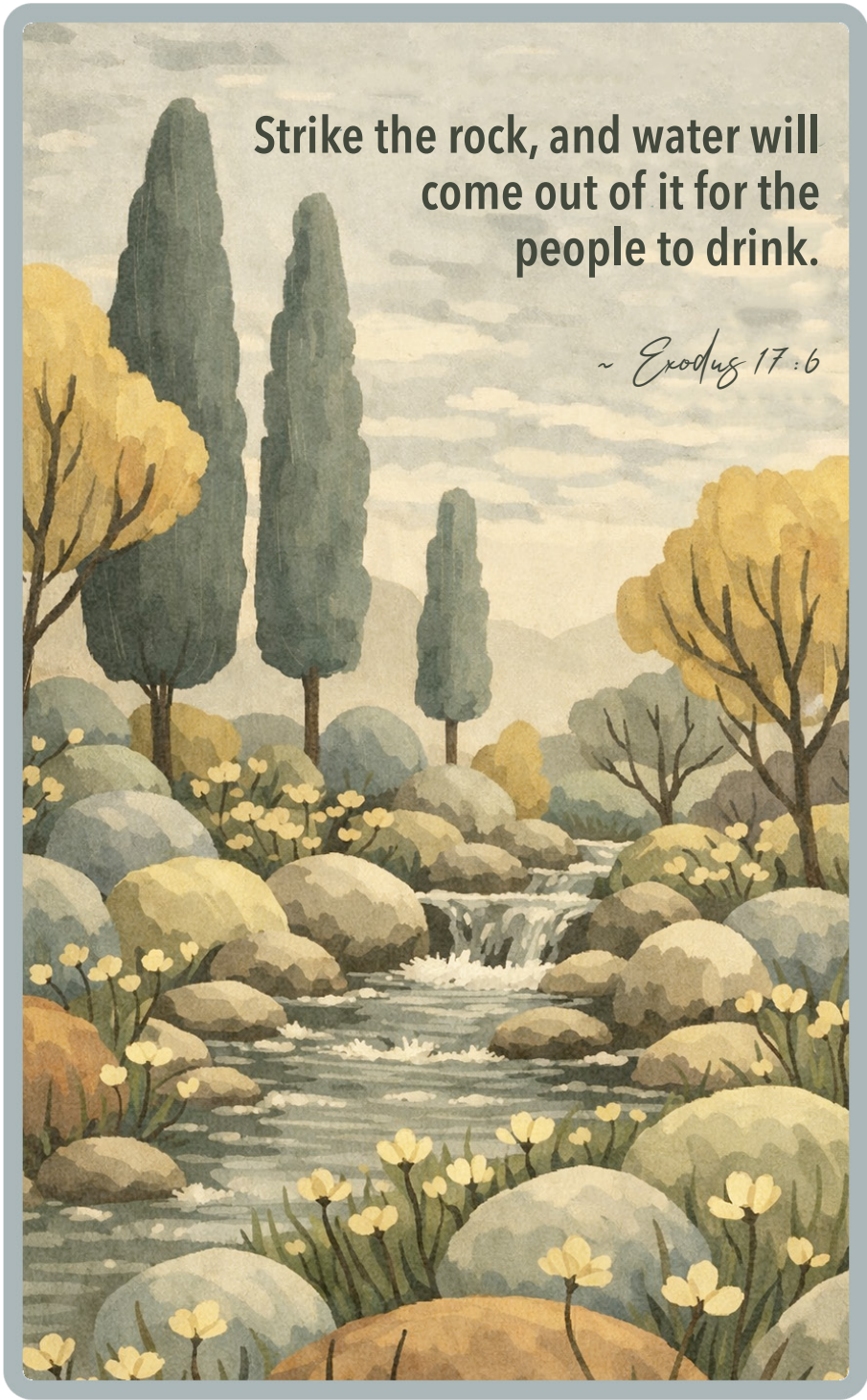


LEGACY LUNCHEON

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.** for a delicious meal and entertainment by Conner Lorre, a Neil Diamond tribute artist. There is no cost to attend. **RSVP by 12:00 p.m. on October 2nd by calling 423-756-2021 or emailing Michelle at mhunter@firstcentenary.com.**

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

8:30 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.



WAYS TO GIVE:

GIVING KIOSK MAIL

SUNDAY OFFERING BANK DRAFT

ONLINE