

# The First-Centurian

Volume 13, No. 17

December 3, 2021

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



## Sanctuary Sounds of the Season for Advent – Week 2

This week in the Sanctuary you will be welcomed with the sounds of strings in the 10:30 Gathering time. Music by Telemann, Handel, and carol arrangements will be played by Melinda Jubea, Danielle Jubea, and Amy Klutho, violins, and Ben Van Winkle, cello. The Chancel Ringers are preparing to play a beautiful arrangement of *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (by Cynthia Dobrinski) and the Chancel Choir will proclaim the message of the prophets as they sing Joel Raney's exuberant anthem, *O, Jeremiah!* We look forward to seeing you in worship on December 5!



Thanks to Chris and Tricia Schobert and their family for decorating the Crismon Tree which is set up in the cloister. You'll find a sheet explaining the symbols on the tree nesting in the branches. Make a visit to the tree and enjoy this meaningful addition to our Advent season of preparation.



## Advent and Christmas 2021

December 5, 12 and 19

Morning Worship the four Sundays of Advent will prepare us for the coming of Christ.  
8:30 & 10:45 in the Sanctuary and 10:45 in The Vine.

**December 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 at 7:30 p.m. and December 5 &**

**12 at 2 p.m. Oak Street Playhouse presents:**

*You Better Watch Out.* To purchase tickets, go to [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) and type in *Oak Street Playhouse*.

### Sunday, December 5

- 8:30 a.m. Music by strings
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary – Gathering music by strings, piano and organ
- 10:45 a.m. Worship in The Vine and the Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Sunday Night Worship

### Monday, December 6

Last day to bring your wrapped and labeled Angel Tree gift to the Welcome Center.

### Sunday, December 12

- 8:30 a.m. Music by violin, piano and organ
- 10:30 a.m. Gathering music by handbells and organ
- 10:45 a.m. Worship in The Vine and the Sanctuary
- The Children's Christmas Pageant.** Guest preacher is the Reverend Dr. Debra Wallace-Padgett, the new Bishop of the Holston Conference.
- 5:00 p.m. Sunday Night Worship

### Sunday, December 19

- 8:30 a.m. Music by brass and organ.
- 10:30 a.m. Gathering music by brass, handbells and organ
- 10:45 a.m. Worship in The Vine
- Worship in the Sanctuary - A Festival of Lessons and Carols**
- In this festive worship service all will participate in the story of Jesus' birth as told in scripture, anthems and carols accompanied by brass, timpani and organ.
- 5:00 p.m. Sunday Night Worship

### Friday, December 24

- Noon In the Sanctuary - A Service of Hope and Healing – a quiet and meditative service for those who are in the midst of grief, or have experienced loss.
- 3:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service in the Sanctuary and The Vine .  
(childcare available Birth - K)
- 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Services in the Sanctuary and The Vine  
(childcare available Birth– K)
- 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service in the Sanctuary  
Music will begin at 10:45 p.m.

### Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day

- Sunday, December 26 – 10:45 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary and The Vine**
- 5:00 p.m. Sunday Night Worship

## CLERGY CORNER

On the first Sunday of Advent, the words of the pastoral prayer carried a certainty of the Lord's return and



Rev. Laura Shearer

asked that we might live each day in the assurance of that certainty. Even as I spoke those words, I thought, ... and what does that look like, to live with such conviction?

To live with conviction of course is to live looking to the future, with that future influencing our daily life. We who are parents, live with the conviction that our children will need to be responsible for their lives as adults. So, in of our love for them, we teach them, as best we can, how to do this by our words and actions. This was the pattern of the early Christian teachers...they lived as disciples before those with whom they shared the good news of Christ (1 Thess. 5,6) and Jesus' teaching.

During Advent we remember that we live into the conviction that one day Jesus will return to reign over his kingdom of love and justice, and so we wait in that truth. The kingdom will bring life on earth as it is in heaven. New Testament scriptures teach that there will be no more death, no more sorrow. Illness and disease will not prevail. To live with the conviction of this future means to live with hope, not with fear.

We are to live in that assurance, caring for one another, listening for the heartbeat of God's Holy Spirit in the scriptures and in our prayers. Let us follow the

## Prime Time Wednesday

Dinner at 5:15 and Classes at 6 p.m.  
Youth & Children's programs start at 6 p.m.



### Advent Series -- December 8 & 15

Join Pastors Mark, Laura, Barry and Will for an Advent study and conversation! Each night your pastors will be sharing some of their favorite stories and scriptures to help prepare our hearts for Christmas!

### 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](http://firstcentenary.com/prime-time-wednesday) for dinner reservations.**

**December 8** - Salisbury Steak, Mac & Cheese, 7 Layer Salad, Roll, Banana Pudding, Greek Salad

December is here! Jesus' birthday is coming! The First Kids CM is focusing on CHRISTMAS ... God's GREATEST gift!!



*God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life.* - John 3:16, NIV

1. Celebrate because God can do anything.
2. Celebrate because God has a plan.
3. Celebrate because God sent a Savior.
4. Never stop CELEBRATING Jesus!

### TO HEAR ALL ABOUT THIS IN PERSON JOIN US ON SUNDAYS!

- Sunday School @9:30-10:30 a.m.
- First Kids Virtual Sunday Lesson Video links will be posted on Sunday morning, beginning @ 9 a.m. for you to show your children when it fits best in your family's schedule. (Pick your own family God time!)
- Children's Worship begins at 11 a.m, Elementary kiddos will be picked up from "Big Church" after the Children's Moment

## CLERGY CORNER (cont'd)

example of Jesus in our relationships with all people and keep ready for the fullness of Christ's reign. As we watch and wait, may this be a blessed Advent season as we share the truth of our conviction.

~ Pastor Laura



## Poinsettia Orders Now Being Taken

Christmas poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary and The Vine on Sunday, December 19. If you would like to place one to honor or remember someone, send your check (made payable to the ALTAR GUILD) for \$15 for EACH poinsettia to Nancy Tolar, P. O. Box 208, Chattanooga, TN 37401. **Orders must be received in the church office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 6.**

☐ Sanctuary

☐ The Vine

NAME OF DONOR \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_



## Oak Street Playhouse presents...



**December 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**December 5 and 12 at 2 p.m.**

It's Christmas Eve at the Willow Inn. The hosts Jenny and Tom are having Art (Jenny's father who's still mourning the passing of his wife) see their bed and breakfast for the first time. There's a snowstorm raging outside, and three travelers are forced to lodge at the inn and wait it out. And just who is this Mr. Smith?

### **THERE WILL BE NO DINNER SERVED THIS YEAR.**

To purchase tickets, scan the QR code or go to [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) and type in Oak Street Playhouse.

Visit us on the web at [www.firstcentenary.com/the-oak-street-playhouse](http://www.firstcentenary.com/the-oak-street-playhouse).



### **It's Cold Outside In Chattanooga!! Let's Cover The Homeless With Warmth.**

#### **Mustard Tree Ministries Needs Cold Weather Supplies**

##### **Emergency Blankets**

- These blankets come in packets of 12 and cost just over \$1 per blanket.



United  
Methodist  
Women

- If you will donate to UMW we will place one order and avoid multiple shipping costs.
- Send checks to Sally Richardson, 9112 Edgewater Rd, 37416-1305
- Make checks to UMW with a designation for MTM winter supplies.
- Or, leave donation in UMW mailbox in the church office workroom.

*Warm Socks, outerwear and underwear are always needed. You may leave those in collection barrels in the Welcome Center and Oak Street Center lobby.*

### **Want to Share your Christmas with The Centenary Students?**

- Select a pine cone topiary and follow the attached instructions to purchase a gift for a student. Decorated pine cone trees are located in the Lobby of The Vine, the Narthex and the Level 1 lobby at the base of the stairs. Please keep the decorated pine cone tree as your Christmas keepsake.



- Contact Monique Strickland ([mstrickland@fcumc.org](mailto:mstrickland@fcumc.org) or 423-266-3345) and receive the information to provide a student in need with clothes and shoes, along with gifts they are wishing for, and gift cards for groceries and household items needed by the family.

- Donate to The Centenary and we will do the shopping for you.

This Christmas many of our families are challenged by the rising price of food. We will be using donations to purchase grocery gift cards for 16 families.

### **Check out our website**

[www.firstcentenary.com](http://www.firstcentenary.com)

#### **Congregational Care Contact**

**Weekdays:** Call the church office at 423-756-2021 or (865) 805-8929 for pastoral care.

**Weekend/Holiday Pastor on Call:** If you have an emergency during the weekends, call 423-756-2428. This number will be in effect after 4:30 p.m. on Fridays until 8 a.m. on Mondays, and will connect you to the pastor on call.

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37402  
Dr. C. Mark Gooden,  
Senior Pastor  
(423) 756-2021  
[www.firstcentenary.com](http://www.firstcentenary.com)



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## Mustard Tree Toy Drive



We've been asked by several families if we can help out with Christmas presents for their children this year. This is a common request this time of year but as we get to know more and more families each week, the need is greater. We are aware that there are other organizations that give out toys, however, from our experiences a lot of the families we help have been forgotten or there are not quite enough toys to go around. We want all of the kids to have a gift for them under the tree, so we are accepting donations of toys, new or gently used (no guns or weaponry of any kind). If you would like to donate a toy, please drop off at the First-Centenary Welcome Center. – Thank you.



## SUNDAY WORSHIP



**December 5, 2021**

Second Sunday of Advent

*Services also available online  
at [www.firstcentenary.com](http://www.firstcentenary.com)*

**Sanctuary at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.**

*Sounds of the Season: Bells*  
Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Luke 21:25-36  
Dr. C. Mark Gooden

**The Vine at 10:45 a.m.**

*Sounds of the Season: Bells*  
Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Luke 21:25-36  
Dr. Will Lauderback

**Sunday Night Worship at 5 p.m.**

Rev. Barry Kidwell

**Reading from the Lectionary**

Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79

Philemon 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

Televised sermon by Dr. Gooden –  
*Sounds of the Seasons: Whispers*  
Televised on Channel 12, WDEF-TV  
at 6 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. each Sunday.