

The First-Centenary

Volume 13, No. 22

January 21, 2022

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



Bishop's Read Together 2022

Join Bishop Wallace-Padgett's
Read Together initiative.

This initiative challenges us to read through the Bible in one year. We began on January 2, 2022, and it is our hope and prayer that individuals and congregations across the conference will read the Bible together and be transformed into *kainos* new in Christ.

We have created a new Read Together Resource page on [holston.org](https://www.holston.org) – <https://www.holston.org/read-together-resources> to help you stay on track with the daily readings. This page has calendars, lists, and bookmarks you can download to see the texts to be read each day. In addition to the resource page, we will send a daily email with all of that day's texts. We will use the Common English Bible (CEB) and the Reina-Valera 1960 (RVR1960) translations in the email. You will receive these emails if you are subscribed to the Daily Devotions/Read Together list. Go to <http://holston-email.brapp.com/subscribe>.

Tim Jones, Director of
Communications, Holston Conference

**Holston Home
for Children
Fifth Sunday**



Sunday School Offering

January 30, 2022

Please give generously!

Dear friends,

I know you share my grief and sense of loss over the death of Cindy Ruff, my Administrative Assistant. Cindy had been on medical leave since the first week of November. She will be greatly missed. Judy, my wife, has been filling in as best she could and will continue to do so for the immediate future. Therefore, please use the following email address for any correspondence to the church; jgooden@fcumc.org

Please know that Marsha Vander Meulen has also been on medical leave since November 1st. I ask that you pray for her. I want to thank Dianne, Gail, Elaine and Renee for covering for Marsha while she is out.

I am also grateful for Mimi, Lynn and others who have stepped up to cover Cindy's responsibilities on Sunday afternoons with the Mustard Tree Ministry.

I know you will continue to pray for:

- the Administrative Staff as they pick up extra responsibilities and workloads
- Jim Schwartz our Facilities Manager, as he deals with serious health issues
- the CEC staff and children - some have the Covid virus and the CEC has been closed since January 10th. They hope to reopen in the coming week.
- three of our Children's staff who are recovering from Covid,
- the youth, youth staff and counselors as they head to Resurrection
- the program staff, who are still engaged in sharing the love of Christ through enriching worship, congregational development, and ministries like the Centenary
- Will, Barry, Laura and Clark as they continue to help you live out your calling
- those in the hospital, homebound, and in rehab centers
- those grieving and hurting
- our church, that we will continue to be witnesses to God's great mercy and love at work in our world today

And lastly, please continue to remember all who are hurting. Pray and wait for the Lord.

Lamentations 3:21-26

*But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

*"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."*

*The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.*

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

– Dr. Mark Gooden

CLERGY CORNER

Psalm 63

*God! My God!
it's you — I
search for you!*

*My whole
being thirsts
for you!*

*My body
desires you in a dry and tired
land, no water anywhere.*

*Yes, I've seen you in the
sanctuary; I've seen your
power and glory.*

*My lips praise you because
your faithful love is better than
life itself!*

*So I will bless you as long as
I'm alive; I will lift up my hands
in your name.*



Rev. Laura Shearer

Just yesterday, I failed to keep a commitment. I was to be a member of a Holston Conference support team on whom the other team members depended. But I forgot.

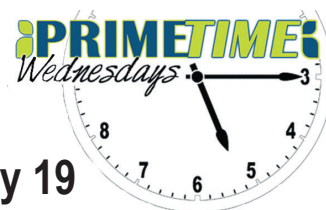
It is the outcome, I believe, of needing rest. I took a nap. A text message arrived asking if I was okay. I wasn't okay. I was embarrassed and felt I had let others down but had to admit the reality. I had forgotten the meeting.

That reality is hard to reconcile with the person I want to be. I felt terrible. I needed to find God's love and forgiveness. The Psalm above gave words to my need! When I feel like a failure, only God's love can make things okay!

We all have times in our lives when we do not live up to the high expectations we create for ourselves. It takes reminding that God's loving kindness is constant and is replenished as we let the flow of God's kindness pour over to others. It spills forth and our well is refilled. (Romans 11:22)

Prime Time Wednesday

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



Prime Time Wednesday – January 19

Grief Recovery Group

with Diana Kidwell

The Grief Recovery Method is an evidence-based program that helps griever process the emotional pain caused by any loss or relationship. Taught by a Grief Recovery Method Specialist, this 8-week (6-7:30) class will teach you the actions and tools needed to recover from a loss that you wish had ended differently or better and will give you a chance to address your hopes and dreams for the future.

For more information please contact Diana at 1dianakidwell@gmail.com

Scripture Study with Pastor Mark

Join Sr. Pastor, Dr. C. Mark Gooden, for an in-depth discussion of the upcoming Sunday's scripture passage.

The Gospel of Mark

with Pastor Will

Join Pastor Will Lauderback for an in-depth study of the Gospel of Mark. See the schedule below and read ahead of time so you can be in conversation about the text with thoughts and questions.

January 26 – Mark 5-6

February 2 – Mark 7-8

February 9 – Mark 9-10

February 16 – Mark 11-13

February 23 – Mark 14-16

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.

January 26 – Meatballs, Gravy & Onions, Roasted Potatoes, Collard Greens, Roll, Banana Pudding, Grilled Chicken Salad

In January the First Kids CM is focusing on SELF-CONTROL...

Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to.

God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. – 2 Peter 1:3A, NIV

Be ready to do the right thing, for when we lose control, it can cause trouble. Don't be controlled by anger. We must think before we speak and know when to stop.

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)

This is the pattern of our life in God's redeeming grace and love. God forgives and receives our words of blessing expressing the need, especially the days we struggle with our shortcomings. God's blessings and grace are merciful. Lord, help us extend your mercy and grace and so ever be joined in your flow of love. Amen.

~ Pastor Laura



Spiritual Formation in Today's World

A One-Year Online Offering from
The Academy for Spiritual Formation

Featuring Four, Three-day Sessions in 2022 with:



Chava Bahle



Hy Xuan Le



Valerie
Bridgeman



Cláudio
Carvalhaes

Apply by February 11, 2022

Spiritual Formation in Today's World: A One-Year Online Community – 2022

Spiritual Formation in Today's World: A One-Year Online Offering from The Academy for Spiritual Formation (Upper Room Ministries) will be offered completely online using the Zoom platform. This experience will consist of four, three-day sessions with one faculty person each session. Dr. Jan McNair is serving as the Worship and Music coordinator for this event.

Session 1: Meeting God in Our Longing

February 24-26, 2022 (Thurs – Sat)

Faculty: Rabbi Chava Bahle

Session 2: Meeting God in Our Healing

May 12-14, 2022 (Thurs – Sat)

Faculty: Hy Xuan Le

Session 3: Meeting God in Our Reconciling

August 11-13, 2022 (Thurs – Sat)

Faculty: Valerie Bridgeman

Session 4: Meeting God in Our Justice-Seeking

October 27-29, 2022 (Thurs – Sat)

Faculty: Cláudio Carvalhaes

For more information, please contact Jan McNair by phone (423-756-2021) or email (jmcnair@fcumc.org)

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.



Volunteers Needed in The Vine

We need volunteers to help on Sunday mornings in The Vine! Are you interested in being a greeter or helping with altar design? Email Jeff Blake at jblake@fcumc.org

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Senior Pastor
(423) 756-2021
www.firstcentenary.com



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DO NO HARM: Understanding and Challenging the School-to-Prison Pipeline

A virtual and
interactive event
led by Emily Jones,
UMW National
Executive for Racial



United
Methodist
Women

Justice Co-sponsored by Scenic
South District and hosted
by First-Centenary UMW
Saturday, January 22
10 a.m. to Noon

Oak Street Center – The Vine
We are inviting women from
District churches to join us for
viewing. Please plan to attend
and welcome our visitors.

*COVID safety precautions will be in
place, and we encourage mask-wearing.*

Confirmation 2022

After a two-year hold, due
to COVID19, Confirmation will
resume on February, 6, 2022.
Our church has traditionally
held Confirmation for 6th
grade students. However, we
are starting a new tradition of
Confirmation. From now on,
Confirmation classes will be
held for 8th grade students.
Although, these classes are
intended for 8th grade students
all youth interested are welcome
to attend.

Contact Troy Hamilton for more
information - troy@fcumc.org.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

January 23, 2022

3rd Sunday After the Epiphany
*Services also available online
at www.firstcentenary.com*

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

Jesus Called on A Mission

Luke 4:14-21

Dr. C. Mark Gooden

The Vine at 10:45 a.m.

It's Tough To Hear Sometimes

Luke 4:14-21

Dr. Will Lauderback

Sunday Night Worship at 5 p.m.

Rev. Barry Kidwell

Reading from the Lectionary

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21

Televised sermon by Dr. Lauderback:
The First of Many
Televised on Channel 12, WDEF-TV
at 6 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. each Sunday.