

# The First-Centurian

Volume 13, No. 40

May 27, 2022

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



## From the Editor Summer Newsletter Schedule

During the months of June, July and August, *The First-Centurian* will be distributed bi-weekly:

June 10    July 8    August 5  
June 24    July 22    August 19

Beginning September 2, *The First-Centurian* will go back to its weekly distribution.



## Reception for Reverend Laura Shearer

Please plan to join us for a reception to celebrate Reverend Laura Shearer and to say thank you for her service & ministry. The reception will be held on Sunday, June 12, immediately following the 10:45 Worship Service in the Cloister (next to the Sanctuary).

You may contribute to a Love Offering by contacting our Business Manager Karen Gates (423) 756-2021 ext. 3114 or [kgates@fcumc.org](mailto:kgates@fcumc.org).

## Congratulations CLASS OF 2022



**Alisha Armstrong**  
Chattanooga High School  
Center for the Creative Arts  
Will attend Chattanooga  
State Community College



**Abdulai Bah**  
Chattanooga High School  
Center for the Creative Arts  
Will attend BlueSky  
Tennessee Institute



**Audra Bell**  
Baylor School  
Will attend Rhodes College,  
majoring in political science



**Ian Brunetz**  
McCallie School  
Will attend the University of  
Alabama this fall, majoring  
in Biology



**Maria Cooper**  
Chattanooga Christian School  
Will attend University of  
Tennessee at Knoxville,  
majoring in Kinesiology with  
Spanish minor



**Aniya Harvey**  
Chattanooga Girls  
Leadership Academy  
Will attend Albany State  
University



**Simon Kitts**  
McCallie School  
Will attend Wake Forest  
University



**Avery Loyd**  
Chattanooga High School  
Center for Creative Arts  
Will attend Middle  
Tennessee State University,  
majoring in Professional Pilot



**Benedicte  
Mutubwa**  
Chattanooga Girls  
Leadership Academy  
Will attend Albany State  
University



**Corshell Peoples**  
Chattanooga Girls  
Leadership Academy  
Will attend Tennessee  
Technological University



**Ethan Tolar**  
McCallie School  
Will attend Missouri  
University, majoring in  
Journalism

Dear Seniors,  
On behalf of your church family we would like to say congratulations! We are so excited to see where this next chapter of life takes you. We rejoice in your accomplishments and pledge our continued prayers and support!

**Troy Hamilton,**  
Former Youth Director/  
Facilities Manager

**Sara Holley,**  
Interim Youth Director

## CLERGY CORNER

I was deeply saddened by the hate motivated killings in Buffalo on May 14. I remember thinking "not again ... when will this madness stop." Hatred only leads to pain, division and death. Jesus came to offer love which leads to relief, healing and life. Hatred leads us to choose sides while love calls us to walk side by side. Hatred leads us to greater darkness but love leads us to greater light.

I want to share a reflection and prayer by Bishop Deborah Wallace-Padgett who addressed this issue of hatred in *The Call* recently

Dear Friends,

Our hearts ache at the news of yet another hate motivated shooting by a person with a racist agenda. When will the killing stop?

We grieve . . . we cry . . . we question . . . we hurt for the families and friends of those who were senselessly killed in Buffalo at a neighborhood supermarket this past weekend. This atrocity reopens fresh wounds from other recent racially motivated hate crimes like last year's murder spree of women in Atlanta, Georgia, six who were Asian, the 2019 mass killing of 23 Latinos in El Paso, Texas and the 2015 massacre of 9 African American people at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. There have been more, too, some targeting groups - while others targeted individuals. In addition to those killed, survivors have suffered deep physical and emotional wounds. Each



Dr. C. Mark Gooden

## Prime Time Wednesday will resume August 17



The Centenary celebrates 2022 high school graduates Alisha and Abdulai. Both students graduated from the Center for Creative Arts high school. Alisha plans to attend Chattanooga State. Abdulai will be a student in the Blue Sky Institute, a partnership between East Tennessee State University and BlueCross BlueShield. He will earn a Bachelor of Science in Computing from ETSU while working and taking his classes on the Chattanooga campus of BCBS.



### The Centenary Summer Camp Program 2022

7 weeks ... Camp Lookout (suggested donation \$480)

Academic Enrichment, Summer Reading, Swimming, Bible Study, Art, Outdoor Adventures, Field Trips, Breakfast and Lunch

**Donate online or designate your check to The Centenary Summer**

## CLERGY CORNER (cont'd)

incident diminishes who we are as a society and people.

It all stems from hate. Hate of persons based on ethnicity and race. Hate of the "other." Hate that focuses on differences, not commonalities. Hate that is the opposite of Jesus' teachings about love. With this in mind, I offer the below prayer.

Blessings,

Debra Wallace-Padgett

Resident Bishop Holston and North Alabama Conferences

**Prayer:** *God, we pray for the families and friends of the persons who have been killed in the grocery store shooting in Buffalo, New York. We lift up to you the Buffalo community in their shock and loss. We stand in solidarity with the Black community as they are reminded once again of the reality that they are hated by some based on the color of their skin.*

*We also search our hearts, asking that you reveal to us any semblance of hate and racism toward other human beings. We know hate and racism do not come from you. We acknowledge hate and racism are sinful. We ask forgiveness for any hateful and racist words we have spoken, attitudes we have displayed, thoughts we have had or actions we have taken. We boldly request that in addition to forgiving us, you change us - as individuals and as a nation.*

*Yes, our hearts ache, God. When will the killing stop? When will the acts of hate and racism cease? When will we love as you love? In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*



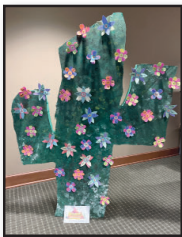
Our focus for May is  
**RESILIENCE!**

You must be able to  
get back up when others  
knock you down.

*But those who trust in  
the Lord will receive new  
strength. They will fly as  
high as eagles. They will  
run and not get tired. They  
will walk and not grow  
weak. Isaiah 40:31 NIV*

**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., for both PreK Worship and Elem Worship. All children attending *First Kids* worship will be picked up from "Big Church" after the Children's Moment.



**REMEMBER TO BRING IN YOUR  
VBS donations before June 1.**

**Thank you for supporting  
First Kids in this monumental  
outreach ministry!**

**VBS 2022**  
**June 27 - July 1**  
**Participants and**  
**Volunteers sign up!**



### **Interested in visiting the Holy Land?**

I am considering a trip to the Holy Land January 24 through February 2, 2023. There is also a possibility of a four day extension to Petra.

If you are interested in this trip and would like more information, please meet me June 1 at 12:30 p.m. in the church parlor or contact me for more information. At this meeting I will distribute a syllabus and discuss cost.

– Dr C Mark Gooden



## **Meet Our New Members and Baptism**



Cameron and Rachael Kapperman joined May 22. Rachael transferred from First UMC of Hendersonville, TN and Cameron joined by Profession of Faith. Their son, Jack Henry, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

**You are invited to**  
**An American Celebration**  
**Sunday, July 3**  
**9:45 - 10:20 a.m.**  
**in the Sanctuary**  
**Uplifting patriotic music Songs**  
**of America by brass quintet,**  
**choir, strings, organ and piano.**

**Check out our website**  
[www.firstcentenary.com](http://www.firstcentenary.com)



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## PREMIER BELL CHOIR COMING TO CHATTANOOGA!

Come and hear and experience the rich history, the power, and the beauty of bells! One of America's premier youth handbell choirs, THE BELLS OF CHRIST CHURCH, hails from historic Christ Church Anglican (1733) in the Historic District of Savannah, Georgia. This exceptional bell choir will perform their summer tour concert at First-Centenary at 7 p.m. Friday, June 10.

Ringling on 15 octaves of handbells and chimes, the group has performed in Washington D.C., Colonial Williamsburg, by invitation at the international music festival Spoleto in Charleston and throughout the eastern and southern United States. The auditioned 12-member bell choir, now in its 22nd year, is made up of college and high school students who have produced three professional recordings to date.

Their 1.5-hour-long concert includes some of the finest bell repertoire in the genre and includes a history of bells and handbells. We guarantee that the program will be joyous and entertaining for the entire family.



## SUNDAY WORSHIP

**May 29, 2022**

7th Sunday of Easter

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

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

*Hard Times*

Acts 16:16-34

Dr. C. Mark Gooden

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

*Lay Down Your Load/All of You*

1 Corinthians 12

Dr. Will Lauderback

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

Rev. Barry Kidwell

**Reading from the Lectionary**

Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

Televised sermon by Rev. Kidwell:

*Working by Faith*

Televised on Channel 12, WDEF-TV  
at 6 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. each Sunday.