

# The First-Centurian

Volume 13, No. 16 November 26, 2021

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



Starting Sunday, November 28, and continuing through Advent, our

Music Ministry will provide *Sounds of the Season* during the gathering time. This is our gift to the congregation as we prepare in our hearts and in our lives for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Music will begin at 10:30 each Sunday. We ask that you enter the Sanctuary quietly so those around can hear and enjoy the beautiful music that has been prepared and presented by our handbell choirs, instrumentalists, organ and piano.



## Advent Wreath Creation

December 1 3-7 p.m.,

Oak Street Center Lobby

Join your church family for our Annual Advent Wreath Creations Event as we prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate the birth of our incredible Savior! Each family will be provided supplies to create one Advent Wreath for their home table.

Go to [www.firstcentenary.com](http://www.firstcentenary.com) and click on Advent Wreath Creation to reserve your family's wreath.



## Advent and Christmas 2021

November 28, 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.

### Sunday, November 28

8:30 a.m. Music by flautist Laurie Zeigler and soloist James Harr

10:30 a.m. Sanctuary – Gathering music by flute, organ and piano

10:45 a.m. Worship in The Vine and the Sanctuary.

### Wednesday, December 1, 3-7 p.m.

3 - 7 p.m. **Advent Wreath Creation** in The Lobby of the Oak Street Center.

Join your church family for our annual event as we prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate the birth of our Savior! Each family will be provided supplies to create one advent wreath. Go to [www.firstcentenary.com](http://www.firstcentenary.com) and click on Advent Wreath Creation to reserve your family's wreath.

### 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

### 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 Annual Conference.

### 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.

### 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**

## CLERGY CORNER

"I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy." (Philippians 1:3-4)



Dr. Will Lauderback

I know that I speak on behalf of all your clergy and church when I say that we are thankful for each of you and the opportunity to serve alongside you in the work of the Kingdom through First-Centenary UMC.

As we enter into this holiday season and round out 2021, it gives me great joy to see how this church continues to grow as a family and community. You have continued to show up for one another in times of great joy like births and weddings to times to sorrow like hospitalizations and funerals. You have prayed together, studied together, and served together.

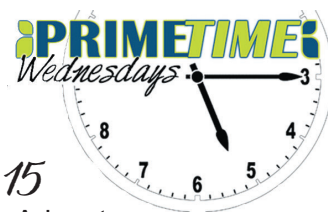
But we haven't just been inwardly focused! The difference you have made in countless lives through The Centenary after school program and Mustard Tree Ministries will continue to ripple across this city for years to come. And I am excited to hear how God is going to continue to work through our partnerships in Costa Rica, Lebanon, Romania, and soon Guatemala.

I am thankful for each of you and I am thankful for a God who continues to do a mighty work through this great church called First-Centenary. I firmly believe that the best is yet to come!

In Christ, Will

## 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 1, 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 1: Baked Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Bread Pudding, Grilled Chicken Salad

In November, the First Kids CM is focusing on CONTENTMENT... learning to be okay with what you have. Then He said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has." ~ Luke 12:15, NIV



What can you do when you find yourself wanting more and more?

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

- Sunday School @9:45-10:30 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.

**There are several ways to make your faith commitment and return your commitment card:**



- Return your card during the worship service.
- Drop off your card at the Welcome Center any time
- Make an on-line commitment at [www.firstcentenary.com](http://www.firstcentenary.com). This will be a secure form going directly to Karen Gates, FCUMC's business manager. • Email Karen Gates at [kgates@fcumc.org](mailto:kgates@fcumc.org) to make your commitment.
- Mail your card to P. O. Box 208, Chattanooga, TN 37401.



### 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.*

## **Mustard Tree Christmas Presents**



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.



## **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.

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



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### 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.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

**November 28, 2021**

First 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: Whispers*

Luke 1:39-56

Dr. C. Mark Gooden

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

*Sounds of the Season: Whispers*

Luke 1:39-56

Dr. Will Lauderback

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

Rev. Barry Kidwell

#### Reading from the Lectionary

Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36

Televised sermon by Dr. Gooden –

*Let's Gather to Celebrate*

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