

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

Vision Statement: Build a healthy and diverse community of disciples of Jesus Christ.

VOLUME 17, NO. 06
FEBRUARY 13TH 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Feb 15th

Guatemala Mission Trip
8:30AM & 10:45AM: United Women in Faith Sunday
8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
9:30AM: Confirmation Classes
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
2:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse: At Wit's End
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner
5:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at Northgate Mall

MON.
Feb 16th

Guatemala Mission Trip
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry

TUES.
Feb 17th

Guatemala Mission Trip
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00AM: Crafty Capers
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Coffee Talk at Jacks

WED.
Feb 18th

7:00AM - 9:00AM: Ashes To-Go at Mean Mug
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
12:05PM: Ash Wednesday Service
6:30PM: Ash Wednesday Service

THURS.
Feb 19th

10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
1:30PM: Aldersgate Vibrations
7:30PM: Oak Street Playhouse: At Wit's End

FRI.
Feb 20th

7:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Dinner at NoogaQ
7:30PM: Oak Street Playhouse: At Wit's End
8:00PM: Youth Lock-In

SAT.
Feb 21st

District Workshop - Age Friendly Congregation Training
10:00AM: Forward Support Group
8:00AM: Youth Lock-In
7:30PM: Oak Street Playhouse: At Wit's End

ASH
Wednesday

Join us on **February 18th** for one of our Ash Wednesday services, with opportunities to receive the imposition of ashes and enter this holy season together. Services will be held at **12:05 p.m. in the Sanctuary and 6:30 p.m. in The Vine**.

For those who are unable to attend a service, **ashes to-go will be available from 7:00-9:00 a.m. at Mean Mug on Main Street**. Wherever you are in your day, we invite you to pause and begin this sacred season with us.



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

FIRSTCENTENARY.COM





CLERGY CORNER

There comes a time for the church to take a stand in the name of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, those times have typically revolved around some sort of political unrest. Consider how

African American churches served as the hub of the civil rights movement, providing organization, funding, and leadership. Think about how Archbishop Desmond Tutu and various church bodies were pivotal in the struggle against apartheid. In response to oppression in Chile, Brazil, and elsewhere from the 60's to the 80's, the Catholic Church used its influence to advocate for human rights. In Chile, the church actively opposed the Pinochet regime, offering sanctuary and aid to victims of state violence. When the word 'sanctuary' itself becomes politicized, who better to continue to proclaim 'sanctuary' in the name of Jesus than the church.

In our United Methodist Book of Discipline our Social Principles affirm that the United Methodist Church believes the following Right of Immigrants:

We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all. We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children, and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families.

On February 25th Pastor Will and I will be traveling to Washington D.C. to participate in an event called "Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice." The day will begin with worship, followed by a prayerful march to the U.S. Capitol. Members of Congress will join in lifting a faithful call for immigrant justice. The day will conclude with congressional visits.

I share this with you so that you may be in prayer for this day and for us as we participate. I also share this with you because anyone is invited to attend. If you would like to do so you can register online at <https://faithful-resistance.squarespace.com> and we can meet up with you at the opening worship service.

Our Discipline reminds us that, "as United Methodists, we acknowledge that love requires responsible political action and engagement aimed at the betterment of society and the promotion of the common good." Social justice is not the main focus of the church, but it is a piece of the puzzle in our mission to transform the world.

Grace & Peace,
Jason



PRIME TIME WEDNESDAY

Meal: 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Classes: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Children's Music: 6:00 p.m. & 6:15 p.m.

Children's, Youth, & College Programs: 6:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir: 7:00 p.m.

THIS SEASON'S CLASSES

January 14th - March 25th

Wesley Trip Course

February 25th - March 25th

led by Pastor Will in the Conference Room

The Other Side of Change: Who We Become When Life Makes Other Plans

January 14th - March 25th

led by Pastor Michelle in the Parlor

Bible Study on the Book of Zechariah

January 14th - March 25th

led by Pastor Barry in the Prigmore Room

A Different Kind of Fast

February 25th - March 25th

led by Pastor Jason in the Oak Street Center Room 101/102

DINNER INFORMATION

Please make dinner reservations by 4 p.m. Monday

Costs:

Adult Meal: \$10

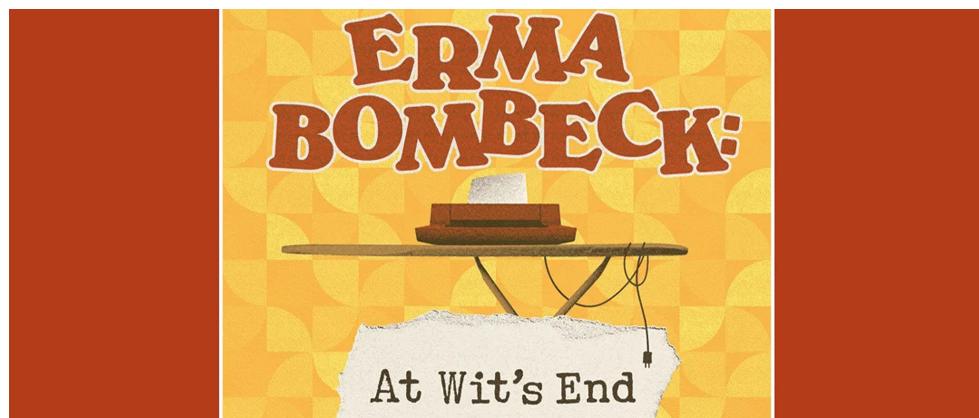
Child's Meal: \$5

Family Meal: \$30

Menu:

February 18th

Mushroom Swiss Chicken Bake, Roasted Potatoes, Creamed Spinach, Rolls, Cobb Salad, Vegetarian Protein: Vegan Plant-Based Chik'n Strips, and Brownie Pudding



OAK STREET PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS: AT WIT'S END

At Wit's End is a witty and heartfelt tribute to beloved humorist Erma Bombeck, whose sharp observations captured the everyday joys and frustrations of family life. Set in the Bombeck home in suburban Dayton, Ohio, and spanning moments from 1962-1996, this comic portrait celebrates the truth behind her humor and the way she championed women's lives with honesty and grace. **At Wit's End** will be performed without intermission at The Flo Summitt Theater on February 13th-15th and 19th-22nd at 7:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. Starring Beth McClary-Wolford and directed by Jerry M. Draper. To purchase tickets, visit firstcentenary.com/announcements.



This month in Preschool our theme is Sweet Treats: Jesus Loves Me! Love is a word used for many things. We love chocolate. We love puppies. We love naps. But the love Jesus gives us is in a category all by itself. It's a love that is greater than any other love. It's a love that Jesus has for everyone, and it will never end. Our memory verse is "Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.'" (Matthew 19:14 NLT)

This month, Elementary's theme is "Like and Subscribe! Share the Love of Jesus". God's Big Story shows how Jesus showed His love to everyone. When we follow Jesus, we can love others just like Jesus. Our memory verse is "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you." (John 13:34, NIV)

Join us in the Children's Wing for our Sunday School and Worship Opportunities!

- Early Service Childcare: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- First Kids Worship: 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
- First Kids Sunday Night: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



YOUTH LOCK-IN

Get ready for an unforgettable night at our Youth Lock-In! Students are invited to join us **February 20th-21st from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the Student Center** for a night full of fun. We'll have games, activities, and plenty of late-night energy. **The Cost is \$20 and registration is required. Sign up by using the link on our website's announcements page. For more information, contact Tori Crook at tcrook@firstcentenary.com.**



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SUNDAY

Worship services in the Sanctuary and The Vine will be led by members of United Women in Faith on February 15th. Their ministry in the church and community will be reported and celebrated. Guest preacher, Kara Lassen Oliver, will deliver the morning message. This is a day to celebrate not only the mission of UWF, but also prepare us for the upcoming season of Lent. Oliver's message will bridge the story of the Transfiguration with this year's Lenten theme, "Be Still."

LENTEN MINI RETREAT

A Journey to the Heart of God

Frederick Buechner reminds us that "true repentance spends less time looking at the past and saying, 'I'm sorry,' than to the future and saying, 'Wow!'" On **Saturday, February 14th, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Oak Street Center**, join us for a two-hour contemplative retreat as we begin the Lenten season. Using the labyrinth as both sacred path and spiritual metaphor, we'll journey together through three movements:

- Release – Letting go of what weighs us down
- Illumination – Resting in the heart of God
- Return – Moving forward with renewed purpose and wonder

In our vulnerable world, this retreat offers space to rest, renew, and reconnect—with yourself, with community, and with the Holy One. To register your spot, please visit our website's announcements page.

THIS LENT SEASON

During the season of Lent we are going to be doing things differently. Our theme for Lent is "Be Still." We are going to be in a season of stillness where we have the space, time, and ability to rest and listen. We will be reading *A Different Kind of Fast* by Christine Paintner who will help us enter our hearts, stripping away old patterns and habits. Paintner offers practical contemplative practices like lectio divina, breath prayer, visio divina, meditation with desert wisdom, contemplative walks, and creative rituals.

As we fast from rushing, planning, being strong, holding it all together, seeking certainty, and control, we can softly reorient ourselves toward that which nourishes and fulfills us, for the reflective Lenten season and beyond. We will also have a journal available to the congregation that we hope will be used in unison with sermons, bible study, and *A Different Kind of Fast*. Books and journals will be available beginning on February 15th at a discounted rate of \$10 for both!

Week 1: Be Still: The Gift of Stillness

Scripture:

The rhythm of Lent is a gift if we will receive it. Just like the night seems darkest before the break of dawn, Lent can be a moment of pause before the gift of Resurrection. Take a few moments each day this week to sit in the quiet. Allow the gift of stillness to enter in and begin to draw you into the presence of God.

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KIDS NIGHT OUT & UMC MOVIE NIGHT!



SUNDAY WORSHIP

February 15th, 2026

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

"United Women in Faith Sunday"
Exodus 24:12-18 and Matthew 17:1-9
Guest: Kara Lassen Oliver

The Vine Service:
10:45 a.m.

"United Women in Faith Sunday"
Exodus 24:12-18 and Matthew 17:1-9
Guest: Kara Lassen Oliver

Mustard Tree Service:
5:00 p.m.
The Vine
Rev. Barry Kidwell

Lectionary Readings:

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalms 2 or 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

WDEF-TV Televised Sermons:
11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays

"Daybreak"
Rev. Michelle Hunter