

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 07
FEBRUARY 20TH 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Feb 22nd

- 8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
- 9:30AM: Sunday School
- 9:30AM: Confirmation Classes
- 10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
- 12:00PM: Free College Lunch
- 12:00PM: Reception for Mary Thompson
- 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 23rd

- 10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry

TUES.
Feb 24th

- 10:00AM: Church Staff Meeting
- 10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
- 10:00AM: ABIDE Caregivers Support Group
- 10:00AM: Crafty Capers
- 10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Coffee Talk at Jacks
- 10:30AM: United Women in Faith Chris Bowles Circle

WED.
Feb 25th

- 10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
- 4:45PM: Youth Program
- 5:00PM: College Program
- 5:15PM: Prime Time Wednesday Meal
- 6:00PM: Children's Program
- 6:30PM: Prime Time Classes
- 7:00PM: Chancel Choir

THURS.
Feb 26th

- 10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
- 1:30PM: Aldersgate Vibrations

FRI.
Feb 27th

No events scheduled

SAT.
Feb 28th

- 10:00AM: Forward Support Group
- 12:00PM: Oak Street Playhouse Reading Day
- 1:00PM: Celebration of Life



Mark your calendars! **Vacation Bible School is June 22nd - 26th**, and it's going to be an exciting week filled with faith, fun, music, and so much more. We can't wait—stay tuned for more details!



*Stay
Connected*

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FIRSTCENTENARY.COM





CLERGY CORNER

This Lenten Season, we will explore the theme, Be Still. The invitation to "be still" is found in Psalm 46, and refers to the hard work of stilling our anxious hearts, our busy minds, and our harsh words so that we can, by knowing God's love, grasp the magnitude of the gift of Jesus Christ. I invite you to pray Psalm 46 as written in Eugene Peterson's version, The Message (2002), and to compare it to your preferred translation. May this Psalm be a tool of transformation and clarity as we journey together:

"God is a safe place to hide,
ready to help when we need him.
We stand fearless at the cliff-edge of doom,
courageous in seastorm and earthquake,
Before the rush and roar of oceans,
the tremors that shift mountains.
Jacob-wrestling God fights for us,
God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.

River fountains splash joy, cooling
God's city,
this sacred haunt of the Most High.
God lives here, the streets are safe,
God at your service from crack of dawn.
Godless nations rant and rave, kings
and kingdoms threaten,
but Earth does anything he says.
Jacob-wrestling God fights for us,
God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.
Attention, all! See the marvels of God!
He plants flowers and trees all over
the earth,
Bans war from pole to pole,
breaks all the weapons across his knee.
"Step out of the traffic! Take a long,
loving look at me, your High God,
above politics, above everything."
Jacob-wrestling God fights for us,
God-of-Angel-Armies protects us."

With grace and peace,
Pastor Michelle

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

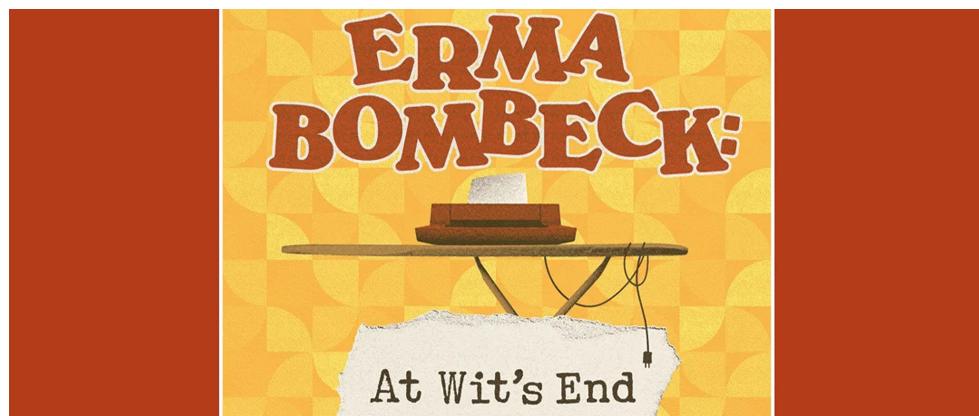
Child's Meal: \$5

Family Meal: \$30

Menu:

February 25th

Comfort Pot Pie, Roasted Carrots, Garden Salad, Rolls, Buffalo Chicken Salad, Vegetarian Protein: Vegan Plant-Based Chik'n Strips, and Banana 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 20th-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)

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.

CELEBRATING RETIREMENT

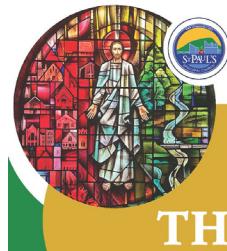


After 18 years of dedicated service, Karen Gates will be retiring. Throughout her tenure, many of you have worked with her or benefited from her support in handling financial transactions related to your giving. Her work has been essential to enabling our ministry.

If you'd like to express your appreciation through a card or gift directly to Karen, you may drop it off at the Welcome Center and we will deliver it to her.

Thank you for all the ways you continue to be faithful to FCUMC.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SUNDAY!



THORNE SPARKMAN

SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Restoration of the Soul: Comfort, 'O Comfort My People'

Thorne Sparkman offers an opportunity to join Christians across time and space in renewing our commitment to growing in knowledge and love of God through learning, study, self-examination, and meditation. Registration for the School includes all five classes. Eucharist begins at 5:15 p.m., dinner will begin at 5:45 p.m. and speakers will begin at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 305 W Seventh St. **To register and learn more about the speakers, visit our website's announcements page: firstcentenary.com/announcements.**

THIS LENT SEASON

This year we are taking an opportunity to experience the season of Lent in a different way. Through the theme of "Be Still" we will explore making space for rest and listening. This year's Lenten book, *A Different Kind of Fast* (Christine Valters Paintner), will offer daily encouragement and instruction to help us allow God to enter into our hearts, and strip 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 that we hope will be used in unison with sermons, bible study, and *A Different Kind of Fast*. Books and journals will be available at a discounted rate of \$10 for both! To purchase, visit our website: firstcentenary.com/lent-2026.

"Be Still"

Week 1: The Gift of Stillness | Scripture: Psalm 46

The rhythm of Lent is a gift if we are open to receiving it. Just like the night seems darkest before the break of dawn, Lent can be a moment of pause before the light 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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YOUTH SUNDAY 2026!



SUNDAY WORSHIP

February 22nd, 2026

Sanctuary Services:
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
"Be Still"
Psalm 46
Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine Service:
10:45 a.m.
"Be Still"
Psalm 46
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

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
"Transfigured on the Mountain"
Kara Lassen Oliver