

# 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!



**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:**  
**@FIRSTCENTENARY**  
**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**  
**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

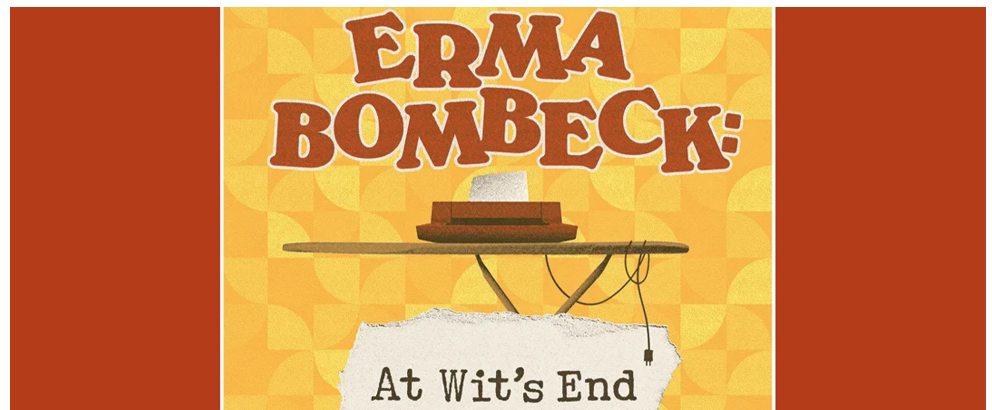
**Child's Meal:** \$5

**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



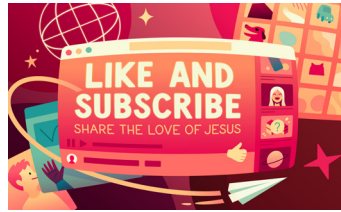
## OAK STREET PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS: AT WIT'S END

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](http://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.

## 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](http://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](http://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.

419 McCallie Avenue  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
Senior Pastor:  
Rev. Jason Gattis  
(423) 756-2021  
[www.firstcentenary.com](http://www.firstcentenary.com)



Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Chattanooga, TN  
Permit No. 428

## 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