

The FIRST-CENTENARIAN

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

VOLUME 17, NO. 05
FEBRUARY 6TH 2026

THIS WEEK AT FIRST-CENTENARY

SUN.
Feb 8th

8:30AM: Sanctuary Worship Service
9:30AM: Sunday School
9:30AM: Confirmation Classes
10:45AM: Youth Sunday
10:45AM: Sanctuary and The Vine Worship Services
4:30PM: Sunday Night Youth Group
5:00PM: Sunday Night Worship & Dinner
5:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Walk at Northgate Mall

MON.
Feb 9th

Clergy Convocation
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
6:00PM: Positive Christian Singles Pizza Party

TUES.
Feb 10th

Clergy Convocation
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
10:00AM: Crafty Capers
10:00AM: Positive Christian Singles Coffee Talk at Jacks
1:00PM: Guatemala Mission Trip

WED.
Feb 11th

Clergy Convocation
Guatemala Mission Trip
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 12th

Guatemala Mission Trip
10:00AM: ABIDE Respite Ministry
1:30PM: Aldersgate Vibrations

FRI.
Feb 13th

Guatemala Mission Trip
7:00PM: fcCollege Ministry Parking Cars

SAT.
Feb 14th

10:00AM: Forward Support Group
1:00PM: United Women in Faith Mini Retreat



YOUTH LOCK-IN

Get ready for an unforgettable night at our Youth Lock-In! Middle and high school students are invited to join us **February 20-21 from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the Student Center** for a night full of fun and memories. We'll have games, activities, time to hang out with friends, and plenty of late-night energy. Don't miss out on this overnight experience!

Cost: \$20

Registration is required, sign up using the link on our website's announcements page. For more information, contact Tori Crook at tcrook@firstcentenary.com.



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FIRSTCENTENARY.COM





CLERGY CORNER



I am a long-time avid reader. Recently, I've been enjoying

Rev. Caroline Archer Louise Penny's Armand Gamache series. Often to my family's chagrin, when I am invested in a book I find it hard to do much aside from reading. Chief Inspector Gamache is even the source of one of our mantras in the Archer household. When determining what to say in the face of difficult conversations, Gamache, referencing many ancient traditions, tests each comment against three rules:

1. Is it true?
2. Is it kind?
3. Does it need to be said?

At home, we mostly remember to ask these questions when moderating sibling squabbles, but I find they hold up in my own difficult conversations, too. Scripture also encourages us to carefully consider our words. I've been spending time with Psalm 15 this month, a Psalm in which David is considering what it takes to live a life of virtue.

David asks, "Who can live in your tent, Lord?" Among other things, "Someone who despises those who act wickedly, but who honors those who honor the Lord; someone who keeps their promise even when it hurts."

Are my words true, kind, necessary? Do I keep my word even when it costs me? With God's help, I hope we can all say yes more each day.

~ Caroline

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

The Vision of Ephesians

January 14th - February 11th

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

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

Bible Study

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 11th

Baked Pork Chops, Hash Brown Casserole, Roasted Broccoli, Rolls, Nut & Craisin Salad, Vegetarian Protein: Falafel, and Chocolate Trifle



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 in the community will be reported and celebrated. Guest preacher, Kara Lassen Oliver will deliver the morning message which will be broadcast from the Sanctuary into the Vine.

This is a day to celebrate not only the mission of UWF, but also to prepare us for the upcoming season of Lent, which will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 18. Oliver's message will bridge the story of the Transfiguration with this year's Lenten theme, "Be Still".

Kara Lassen Oliver is the Executive Director of St. Mary's Sewanee, a retreat, renewal and learning center in Sewanee, Tennessee. A contemplative at heart and a writer, Oliver brings over 15 years of leadership experience in spiritual formation, hospitality, and organizational growth. As a United Methodist lay person she has served as youth pastor, a Volunteer in Mission for two years in Malawi, and over ten years in publishing, most recently on staff at The Upper Room. She is passionate about cultivating renewal and connection, aligning seamlessly with St. Mary's Sewanee's mission.



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.



Interested in what our youth are learning during confirmation? Missed out on confirmation growing up? Need a refresh? Join Pastor Will in **the Chapel at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays until March 29th** and explore some of our foundational beliefs as Christians and as United Methodists.

- February 8th: The Story of the Church
- February 15th: I Believe (The Creeds)
- February 22nd: The Story of Methodism, p1
- March 1st: The Story of Methodism, p2
- March 8th: The Way of Discipleship
- March 15th: The Way of Salvation
- March 22nd: Wesleyan Quadrilateral
- March 29th: Worship and Sacraments



PREPARING FOR LENT – BE STILL

Amidst everyday life in today's world, many are yearning for spiritual renewal and connection in their lives. This year's Lenten season has been planned with that in mind.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 18th**. First-Centenary will hold two services – one at **12:05 in the Sanctuary**, and a second in **the Vine at 6:30 p.m.** The noon service

will be much like what we have done in the past, but the evening service will be quite different. Designed by Rev. Dr. Amy Steele, the service provides an opportunity for quietness, reflection, response and challenge. Dr. Steele will lead an online session to prepare us for the Lenten journey on Monday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m. You are invited to join us for this 45-minute gathering to prepare not just for Ash Wednesday, but for the season. A Zoom link will be provided, and the session will be recorded for those unable to attend, as well as for use in Sunday School classes, small groups, or personal reflection.

Dr. Steele is a social ethicist, ordained minister, and certified Spiritual Director. She has for over 20 years led conversations and classes on religion and society, prayer, spiritual formation, Black religious history, women's civil rights engagement, the works of Howard Thurman, and more. She deeply values listening, asking well-placed questions, honoring histories, and curating stories for soulful well-being. A graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School, Amy presently serves as Campus Minister at Tennessee State University.



YOUTH SUNDAY

The youth are taking over The Vine 10:45 a.m. worship service on February 8th! Come support and encourage these young leaders as they share their gifts and help guide us in worship. It's a joyful reminder of the ways God is at work through the next generation.

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YOUTH RESURRECTION 2026!



SUNDAY WORSHIP

February 8th, 2026

Sanctuary Services:
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
"Daybreak"
Isaiah 58:112
Rev. Jason Gattis

The Vine Service:
10:45 a.m.
"The Vision of Ephesians, pt. 3"
Ephesians 6:10-20
Rev. Dr. Will Lauderback

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

Lectionary Readings:
Isaiah 58:1-9a
Psalms 112:1-9
1 Corinthians 2:1-12
Matthew 5:13-20

WDEF-TV Televised Sermons:
11:30 a.m. Sundays & 12:35 a.m. Mondays
"Shine Your Light"
Rev. Jason Gattis