

# The First-Centurian

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## Resumes August 11

**Leadership NOW**, with Dr. Dwight Kilbourne, is our kick-off session for Prime Time. Hear from Dwight, as well as church leaders, who will give updates on ministries.



### Being United Methodist in the Bible Belt

led by Rev. Brian Davis  
August 18, 25, September 1, 8

Want to know more about what it means to be United Methodist and how to talk about who we are, what we believe, and what we value in clear, straightforward, and compelling ways? We'll discuss Wesleyan theology and practice while respecting other traditions. As John Wesley himself might have said, this is "plain truth for plain people." This study helps us understand the basic tenets of United Methodist doctrine and theology and to be formed as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

### Living the Questions

led by Rev. Charles Neal

"Living the Questions" (Part II) invites you to make your faith relevant to the hard realities that characterize our world. During a 20 minute video, a diverse group of theologians will help us see the relationship between our faith and some of the most pressing issues of the day. Charles Neal will lead a discussion during the balance of the hour as we search together for ways God would have us respond to these issues. Topics:  
Aug. 18 Restoring Relationships  
Aug. 25 Evil, Suffering, and a God of Love  
Sept. 1 The Myth of Redemptive Violence  
Sept. 8 Reclaiming the World (a call to eco-justice)

### Eight-week

### Disciple Bible Study

Invitation to the Old Testament  
Frank Rabold, Facilitator  
Books: \$12

Explore the Old Testament's story of God and God's calling of the people of Israel through the many "voices" of the biblical text. Gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Old Testament as an integral part of the Christian Bible.

Includes video segments. Books available. To see session one online, go to [cokesbury.com](http://cokesbury.com). Search for study name.

Sessions:

August 18 – September 8;  
September 29 – October 20

1. The Making of the Hebrew Bible
2. The Creation Story of Israel
3. Out of Bondage
4. Promise and Problem in the Land
5. Israel Has a King
6. Division and the Rise of Prophecy
7. Exile and Response
8. Restoration and Renewal

## Dinner on Wednesday evenings:

Standing reservations for dinner need to be made anew! This keeps our list up to date. [foodsvp@fcumc.org](mailto:foodsvp@fcumc.org) or 756-2021, Ext. 3123.

**AUGUST 11 MENU:** Teriyaki Pork, Stir Fried Rice, Homemade Vegetable Egg Rolls, Asian Style Raman Noodle Tossed Salad, White Almond Cake  
Kids: Chicken Nuggets, Rice

## We're Going BIG with SMALL Groups!

Life Groups (small groups) will be forming this fall for any person who would like to meet with 6 – 12 people to pray, talk, study, grow, worship, and serve. Perhaps you do not have a

**LIFE  
Groups**



Sunday School class, and a Life Group sounds like the right fit. Or perhaps you do have a Sunday School class, but you are wanting to add a small group experience.

The leader of a Life Group is the Point Person and will receive training. Also needed in each group is a Care Person.

Life Groups are not therapeutic support groups or in-depth Bible studies. They are designed to

apply God's Word to daily life.

Children's and Youth programs are offered on Wednesday evenings, which is the only childcare provided. Groups can meet any day or evening, at any time. Groups will choose their discussion topic from a variety of studies.

For information or to enroll, contact – [barbarab@fcumc.org](mailto:barbarab@fcumc.org), 756-2021, or 619-7997.

## From Our Pastor



Rev. Linda Bird Wright

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time...to kill and heal, ...weep and laugh, mourn and dance, etc...” Eccl. 3:1-8

Those of us who have lived past our twenties know that sometimes “that time” is not in our planned schedule. Sometimes life throws things our way over which we have no control, that just knowing that God is there to walk beside us is what carries us on.

It appears that one of those times has come into my life. As much as I enjoy serving the Lord and following my calling, I realize that my energy level can not match my desire to serve. It seems that the very thing which is keeping me alive, my chemotherapy, is also the thing that currently is causing so much fatigue that I can't do my job as I think it should be done. Because of this I have requested of the Bishop, Cabinet and the General Board that I be put on incapacity leave until such time that I can be that energizer bunny (or at least half-way energizer bunny) so that I could serve in the capacity of pastor full time.

If my fatigue were predictable, then at least I could work part time, but the unpredictability of it is what is causing the problem. I thank each of you for welcoming me home. Please know that I love this church, love all of you, and hope to see you in worship as I will continue to worship here and sometimes serve in worship.

## Check out our Online Spiritual Gifts Assessment

Visit our Website: [firstcentenary.com](http://firstcentenary.com), then click on “Ministries,” then click on “EMIM.”



This online Spiritual Gifts Assessment, through a link to the United Methodist Church website, helps individuals identify their God-given gifts for living faithfully as Christian disciples day by day and find meaningful ways to use their gifts in connection with others through the community of faith. The process helps people understand the nature of spiritual gifts and ways to enhance the effectiveness of their gifts by linking together with others.

If you have questions, or need spiritual gifts resources, contact [barbarab@fcumc.org](mailto:barbarab@fcumc.org).

## Where is Your Journey Taking You?

*Your Faith Geography:  
Mapping Your Journey*  
Saturday, August 21,  
10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Cokesbury UMC

(North Campus), Knoxville  
A fast-paced Adult Ministry event for adults of all ages. Contact David Harr or Barbara Berwanger if you can attend. We want a van load! Brochures available or check out the website: [www.holstonadultministries.com](http://www.holstonadultministries.com).

## Children's "Sundae" School Party

**Sunday, August 8, 2 to 4 p.m.**  
First Cumberland Presbyterian Church Pool  
1505 N. Moore Road  
Come swim and enjoy ice cream sundaes.  
RSVP to [children@fcumc.org](mailto:children@fcumc.org)



Oak Street Playhouse Puppet Theatre presents  
*The Little Mermaid*

September 24, 25, 26 and  
October 1, 2, 3  
All seats \$6 (Group rate \$5 each for 10 or more)  
Call 756-2428 for reservations.

## Chattanooga District Church Picnic August 29

A time of fellowship and worship for all clergy and laity in the Chattanooga District. Christ UMC from 4-7 p.m. Food and fellowship between 4 and 6 p.m., with games and activities for both children and youth. Worship will follow from 6-7 p.m., with Willie Kitchens and his band leading us in praise and Dr. Fred Dearing blessing us with the Word.

## From Our Pastor

As my strength allows, I will be volunteering in some capacity. Please pray for me as I continue to hold each of you in my prayers. God's grace, Joy and Peace abound within each of you.  
Linda

## Meet Our New Members who joined July 25



**Robin and John Campbell** by transfer from Roswell United Methodist Church in Roswell (Atlanta).



**Marti Miller** joined by transfer from Hixson UMC. Marti and her late husband, Karl, were former members of First-Centenary.



Members and guests of First-Centenary enjoyed a vocal recital by James Harr, on Sunday afternoon July 18. James, son of David and Annabell Harr, is working on the degree Doctor of Musical Arts at Memphis State.

Have you included the church's  
Permanent Endowment Fund in your will?

## Within the Church Family

### Music in Worship

Twenty-one harpists from the Jan Pennington Grey Harp Camp participated in the sanctuary worship services July 25. Sincere

thanks to Jo and Jim Pennington for making this possible.

The ensemble music was a beautiful way to praise God!



