



POSITIVE CHRISTIAN SINGLES

First-Centenary United Methodist Church
419 McCallie Avenue | Chattanooga, TN | 37402

December 2020



In my folder of illustrations, I recently found a story that seemed like a parable of Advent and Christmas. It was a news article about a 12-year old boy who had been thrown from a horse. He was so traumatized by the frightening experience that he had become a victim of emotional paralysis. His eyes were open, but he had no recognition of anyone and seemed unable to move or speak.

Doctors said there was nothing wrong physically — no cuts, broken bones or concussion. The diagnosis was that he had literally been “scared stiff,” frightened into a kind of psychosomatic paralysis. Day after day, the boy stayed in a semiconscious state of mind, totally unresponsive. Nothing reached him.

One day, in a moment of inspiration, a nurse brought her 6 month old baby and placed him on the boy’s stomach. The baby started cooing and crawled up and began touching the boy’s face. Suddenly, he began to smile. He patted and hugged the baby.

Amazingly, the boy had come back to life. In a few days, he was released to go home.

When I think of God’s gift to the world in a baby, it emphasizes for me the fact love is stronger than fear or hatred. God’s love is the power that really can change our world. Advent, for Christians, is the time when we

remember we are not self-sufficient. We need to be released and given new life. We need a savior. Christmas reminds us we have one.

In my own family this year, we have seen the power of love through a baby. His name is Jackson David Gray, and he is called Jackson. His parents, Ryan and Ellen Gray, said the name means “gift from God.” He truly is that to all our family and I’m sure to Ryan’s family as well. When Jackson comes to town, everybody’s schedule revolves around him. For example, Thanksgiving dinner was served on Jackson’s schedule, and no one minded. He drew us like a magnet. When he was awake, he was the entertainment, and there was a warm feeling of love and excitement throughout the holiday.

Tomorrow, three generations will celebrate one of the most sacred ceremonies in Jackson’s life. He will be baptized as a part of the family of God and initiated into the Christian church, the body of Christ. His parents will promise to rear him in the faith. Later in life, Jackson will accept for himself the Christ who came into the world as a baby and changed the world forever.

I will take seriously my promise to “so order my life after the example of Christ that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.” I’m sure I will hear the still, small voice saying, “Take off the shoes from off your feet for the ground on which you stand is holy ground.”

This article, written by the late Dr. Nell Mohnhey, first appeared in the Chattanooga Times Free Press.

EPB Christmas Window Displays

December 14, Monday, 6:00 p.m.

Please join Gail Montieth and Charley Stilz as we walk downtown to view the windows.

Meet at the corner of Broad and MLK next to the EPB building. Dress warmly, masks and social distancing required.



Prayer List

Larry Haik
Lorie Lewis
Martha Wise
Toni Edwards
Leo Brown
Sue St. James
Marilee Mitchell
Barbara Nelson
Randy Hales
Steve Kennedy
Gail Montieth

December Birthdays

Suzette Hunt	2
Nancy Alton	5
Ralph Smith	9
Gene Rounsaville	14
Ruth Anne Bell	23

Christmas Eve Services

Choose from two in-person Christmas Eve services:

5:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary

(Traditional Christmas Eve Service)

Join us for a Christmas Eve service filled with all of your favorite Christmas Eve traditions. We will celebrate the birth of our Lord with singing, heart-stirring liturgy, the lighting of candles (electronic), a Christmas message from Senior Pastor, Dr. Mark Gooden, and more.

5:00 P.M. in the Oak Street Center Parking Lot

(Outdoor Socially Distanced Christmas Eve Service)

Join us in the Oak Street Center parking lot for a special Christmas Eve service filled with all of your favorite Christmas Eve traditions. We will celebrate the birth of our Lord with singing, communion, the lighting of candles, a Christmas message from Rev. Will Lauderback. The service will last between 30-45 minutes. You are welcome to stand or bring your own chair.

Reservations are not required but will help us plan for additional services if necessary.

Make your reservation at www.firstcentenary.com

This is subject to change due to COVID 19

Positive Christian Singles

December 2020

First-Centenary United Methodist Church • 419 McCallie Avenue • Chattanooga, TN 37402 • 423-756-2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
No Christmas Dinner this year due to pandemic						
6 Worship In - Person & Virtually The Vine/Sanctuary 10:45 a.m. Walk/Northgate Mall 4 p.m. meet @ Applebee's (RSVP Gail 423 874-0014 Mask is required up to 10)	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship In - Person & Virtually The Vine/Sanctuary 10:45 a.m. Walk/Northgate Mall meet @ Applebee's (RSVP Gail 423 874-0014 Mask is required up to 10)	14 EPB Window Exhibits 6 p.m. see article on front	15	16	17	18	19
20 Worship In - Person & Virtually The Vine/Sanctuary 10:45 a.m. Walk/Northgate Mall 4 p.m. meet @ Applebee's (RSVP Gail 423 874-0014 Mask is required up to 10)	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve see article on front	25 Christmas Day 	26
27 Worship In - Person & Virtually The Vine/Sanctuary 10:45 a.m. Walk/Northgate Mall 4 p.m. meet @ Applebee's (RSVP Gail 423 874-0014 Mask is required up to 10)	28	29	30	31		

No alcohol is served/consumed at Positive Christian Singles activities.



“LIKE” us on Facebook @ Positive Christian Singles

New Perspectives Sunday School Class

Meets each Sunday at 10:45 a.m. via Zoom with Barbara Kay as the teacher. Anyone wanting to participate send me an email, I will send them a Zoom link. Please contact Barbara at bkay2011@att.net to join the group.

Nell Mohney Sunday School Class

Receives a lesson each Sunday from Jim and Rhonda Catanzaro. They are studying John. If you are not receiving the lessons please contact Rhonda at nmsinglessundayschool@gmail.com



Re-Opening Guidelines for First-Centenary UMC

If you are interested in reading the guidelines for re-opening of the church please go to:
www.firstcentenary.com/re-opening

In - Person Worship Returns

Go to our website www.fcumc.org

Sign up to attend the service of your choice.

We have The Vine and The Nave at 10:45 a.m.

Positive Christian Singles Creed

Members are single, committed Christians seeking others who are learning to live as Christ would have us do in a contemporary world. We support, encourage, and share our triumphs and tragedies with one another. We pray, play, and minister to one another and the community.

Sunday Worship Services online at www.firstcentenary.com

10:45 a.m. – Sanctuary

10:45 a.m. – The Vine, also on Facebook

POSITIVE CHRISTIAN SINGLES
is a ministry of

First-Centenary United Methodist Church
419 McCallie Avenue • Chattanooga, TN 37402



Contact us at (423) 756-2021

Newsletter Online:

www.firstcentenary.com/singles

www.positivechristiansingles.com