

CREATED FOR

CONNECTION



August 9th, 2026

Traditional Worship

8:15 am Sanctuary

**Please stand or lift your heart*

WELCOME

Rev. Teanna Black



Please use either this QR code or a card in the pew for attendance and prayer requests that you would like shared with staff. You may place cards in the offering plate.

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

arr. Rachel Chapin

Dr. Jenny Anderson, piano

*HYMN No. 435

O God of Every Nation

LLANGLOFFAN

*UNISON PRAYER

Dr. Dwight Dockery

**Creator God, you are the vine, and we are the branches.
Help us prune away hatred, division, strife, and discord.
Keep us connected to your love and joy that we might
bear much fruit in sharing your Good News with the
world. In Christ's sacred name we pray. Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

Glory Be to the Father

MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-12 (MSG)

Rev. Dr. Greta Smith

1 "I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. **2** He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. **3** You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. **4** Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. **5** I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. **6** Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. **7** But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. **8** This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples. **9** I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love.

10 If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done—kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love. **11** I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. **12** This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love."

LEADER: All scripture is inspired by God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Created for Connection: Connection with God
Rev. Black

ANTHEM

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
arr. Gilbert Martin
Morning Glory Chorus

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge: take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 885**

A Modern Affirmation

**We believe in God the Father,
infinite in wisdom, power, and love,
whose mercy is over all his works,
and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.**
**We believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of man,
the gift of the Father's unfailing grace,
the ground of our hope,
and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.**
**We believe in the Holy Spirit
as the divine presence in our lives,
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance
of the truth of Christ,
and find strength and help in time of need.**
**We believe that this faith should manifest itself
in the service of love
as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord,
to the end that
the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.**

TIME OF PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT

OFFERTORY

It is Well With My Soul
arr. Cindy Berry

***DOXOLOGY No. 94** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts.
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our
 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
 for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 forever. Amen.

***HYMN No. 548** *In Christ There Is No East or West*
McKEE

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Sent Forth By God's Blessing*
arr. Keith Kolander

Traditional Worship

10:30 am Sanctuary

**Please stand or lift your heart*

WELCOME

Rev. Teanna Black



Please use either this QR code or a card in the pew for attendance and prayer requests that you would like shared with staff. You may place cards in the offering plate.

OPENING PRAYER

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Caia Sanford, acolyte
Hartley Cranford, acolyte

PRELUDE

God is My Strong Salvation
Gordon Young
Dr. Jenny Anderson, organ

INTROIT

The Voice of God Is Calling
William Lloyd
Chancel Choir; Dr. Dwight Dockery, conductor

The voice of God is calling its summons in our day;
Isaiah heard in Zion, and we now hear God say:
"Whom shall I send to succor my people in their need?
Whom shall I send to loosen the bonds of shame and greed?"

*HYMN No. 435

O God of Every Nation
LLANGLOFFAN

*UNISON PRAYER

**Creator God, you are the vine, and we are the branches.
Help us prune away hatred, division, strife, and discord.
Keep us connected to your love and joy that we might
bear much fruit in sharing your Good News with the
world. In Christ's sacred name we pray. Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

Glory Be to the Father
MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO KIDS OWN WORSHIP

Children **age 3 through 1st grade** may follow a member of our children's ministry team to Kids Own Worship. For new 1st Kids children, please complete the child information card in the pew and send with your child to KOW to help us better serve your child. Please meet them on the lower level at the end of the worship service.

CENTERING HYMN

There's a Spirit of Love in This Place
Mark

Miller

Chancel Choir

There's a spirit of love in this place,
there's a spirit of love in this place.
You can't see it, but it's there just as precious as the air.
There's a spirit of love in this place.
O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name.
O alleluia, sing alleluia! There's a spirit of love in this place.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-12 (MSG)
Rev. Dr. Greta Smith

1 “I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. **2** He cuts off every branch of me that doesn’t bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. **3** You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. **4** Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me. **5** I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. **6** Separated, you can’t produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. **7** But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. **8** This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples. **9** I’ve loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you’ll remain intimately at home in my love. That’s what I’ve done—kept my Father’s commands and made myself at home in his love. **11** I’ve told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. **12** This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love.

LEADER: All scripture is inspired by God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Created for Connection: Connection with God
Rev. Black

ANTHEM

God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him
Greg Brakebill

God is Love, let heaven adore him. God is love, let heaven rejoice.
Let creation sing before him and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
he who breathes through all creation, he is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love, but we are blinded, sin afflicts the souls of all;
God's eternal loving kindness holds and guides whatever befall.
Sin and death and hell shall never o'er us final triumph gain!
God is Love, so Love forever o'er the universe to reign.
Amen.

TIME OF PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT

OFFERTORY

A Mighty Fortress is Our God
arr. Rachel Chapin

***DOXOLOGY No. 94** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts.
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

***HYMN No. 548** *In Christ There Is No East or West*
McKEE

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *The Voice of God Is Calling*
William Lloyd

We heed, O Lord, your summons, and answer: Here are we!
Send us upon your errand, let us your servants be.
Our strength is dust and ashes, our years a passing hour;
but you can use our weakness to magnify your power.

***POSTLUDE** *Sent Forth By God's Blessing*
arr. Keith Kolander

Contemporary Worship

10:30 am | Asbury Hall

WELCOME MUSIC

Worship Band

The Jesus I Know
Brandon Lake

WELCOME

Ralph Jeffers



Please use either this QR code or a card in the chair for attendance and prayer requests that you would like shared with staff. You may place cards in the offering plate.

WORSHIP

The Lion and the Lamb
Leeland

Firm Foundation (He Won't)
The Worship Initiative

Abide
Dwell Songs

DISMISSAL TO KIDS OWN WORSHIP

Children **age 3 through 1st grade** may follow a member of our children's ministry team to Kids Own Worship. For new 1st Kids children, please complete the child information card and send with them to KOW to help us better serve your child. Please meet them on the lower level following the worship service.

OFFERING

TIME OF PRAYER

Rev. Sarah Slack

SCRIPTURE

John 15: 1-12 (NRSV)

SERMON

Created for Connection: Connection with God
Rev. Slack

Miracle Power
We the Kingdom

BENEDICTION

THIS AFTERNOON
2:00 pm

BARRIER FREE WORSHIP



This special time of worship is designed for people living with dementia, cognitive challenges or various expressions of neurodivergence. During this simple service there will be a special emphasis placed on the atmosphere, the music, and prioritizing how people feel in this time and space.

1stchurch.org/sycamore-tree

Book Study led by Bernice Howard



**Thursdays
beginning
August 13th
10:00 to 11:30 am
Room 202**

Sign up at:

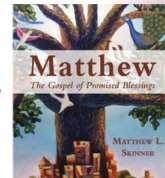
1stchurch.org/themes

SUNDAY EVENING STUDY

Led by Rev. Don Jones

**Starting TONIGHT
6:00 pm in Room 202**

No sign up needed.
More information at:



1stchurch.org/groups

NEW THIS YEAR!

NEXT SUNDAY!

FOAMTASTIC PARTY

August 16th 12:00-2:00 PM

1stchurch.org/foamtastic



**THE
CARING
CONGREGATION**

Have you ever considered how to be helpful to another disciple in need?

If God is calling you to answer this question, you may be ready to participate in a new Caring Congregation program here at 1st UMC.

Join us on **August 17th at 6:30 pm in room 202** to learn how you can serve joyfully in this new ministry.

NAME WITH A FACE



Connect the names and stories to the people you see here at 1st UMC.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17TH @ 5:00 PM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18TH @ 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH @ 10:00 AM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND @ 10:00 AM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD @ 3:00 PM

All events in Wesley Hall (upper level)



[1STCHURCH.ORG](http://1stchurch.org)

804 Montvale Station Road
Maryville, TN 37803
865-982-1273