



THE CHURCH BELL



JUNE
2023



I feel blessed to have grown up within an hour of dozens of relatives. On nearly every branch of my family tree, there were aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, and all sorts of other relatives who were once or twice removed. Because of that network of relationships, I feel that I don't merely have a hometown, but a home region.

One ritual associated with all those relationships was the family reunion, sometimes less formally referred to as a "get together." Whether at a church, park, lake, house, or homeplace, this kind of gathering was an opportunity to remember that I was part of a family much larger than the kind that fits inside a house. I had a place to belong - beyond town limits, county lines, years, and even generations.

Over the first couple of decades of my life, I annually reunited or got together with dozens - probably over one hundred and fifty - members of my family. We didn't live in the same communities, go to the same schools, worship in the same denominations, vote for the same parties, or even have the same last names. Something much stronger than any of those loyalties held us together. We were family, or as some said, we were kin.

Through my adulthood, some of those family reunions have discontinued, usually because the primary organizers have "gone on" to be reunited with our ancestors. I don't often attend the others—generally because of distance and busyness. Another annual reunion, however, has become an important part of my sense of identity.

Each June, pastors and lay members of all the United Methodist congregations from Radford, Virginia, to Chattanooga, Tennessee, between the Blue Ridge and the Cumberland Plateau, gather for the Holston Annual Conference.

Like those old family reunions, the conference becomes the one time a year that I see some of the people who are very dear to me. It's a time to catch up on our lives and families, but even more importantly, in an age of so much potential division, it's a time to remember that what unites us is so much stronger than other loyalties.

We Methodists have always been people who loved to get together. From Oxford University's Holy Club in the 1729, through the early Methodist classes, bands, and societies, to the annual conferences of the last two and a half centuries, we have gathered to remember that we are part of a church much larger than the kind that fits inside a building.

The Holston Conference will meet June 4th - 7th, and hundreds of United Methodists will remember together that though we live in different states and communities, though we have lots of different schools and last names, and though we almost certainly have plenty of political differences, we are still related. We are kin. We are the sons and daughters of God. May that be our primary sense of identity.

Amen.



Celebrating the shared ministries of Holston

Soon, representatives of the 576 congregations of the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church will gather for our annual conference at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. The conference will celebrate our shared mission and ministry and anticipate the year ahead by:

- electing officers and leaders
- adopting a conference budget
- and ordaining new clergy leaders.



2023 HOLSTON
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**WORSHIP
TOGETHER**
June 4-7, 2023
Lake Junaluska Conference Center

Representatives of our congregation include: clergy members Jonathan Jonas, Sarah Slack, Matt Hall, and Nathan Irwin; lay members Julie George, Pat Scruggs, Owen Ragland, and Sylvia Waters; and Smoky Mountain District representatives Russell George, Kathryn King, Phil Large, Brad Lunde, and Emmitt Rawls. The retired pastors associated with our congregation are also voting members of the annual conference.

Our congregation will have a special role in several moments of this year’s annual conference. As usual, our associate pastor, Rev. Sarah Slack, will create all the worship settings and backdrops for every session. In the Sunday evening worship service, Greta Smith will be commissioned as a provisional deacon and Bry Rop will have her deacon’s orders recognized. Then, on Monday, Sarah Slack will be the teacher for the morning Bible study, and Greta will join her in leading the liturgy for the celebration of Holy Communion in that service. On Tuesday, Matt Hall presents a report on the conference’s Appalachian Trail Ministry.

Look Out ... to REACH others

When we hear “look out” as a verb or imperative, it calls us to attention - to be aware that something is happening around us - and potentially *to us* - that we need to notice. When we use “lookout” as a noun, it usually means a person who’s designated to watch over others or a place from which we can notice what’s going on around us.

Our upcoming worship theme is “Look Out,” and on Sunday mornings throughout June, we’ll remember how important it is for us to notice what’s going on in the world around us. Ironically, the same stained glass windows that inspire us keep us from seeing outside. That may be more than coincidental. Maybe it’s just that easy to get wrapped up on what’s going on *in* the church to the extent that we forget that the church’s mission is *out* there.



Throughout June we’ll look out for opportunities to share care and compassion in Jesus’ name, to speak up for the voiceless in Jesus’ name, to extend welcome in Jesus’ name, and to share our faith and witness. Help us to **Look Out . . .** and **REACH** others in Jesus’ name.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023



COLLEGE GRADUATES



Gena Lewis
Carson-Newman
University



Arianna Ray
UT Knoxville



Roxanne Ray
Wake Forest



Liam Walker
UT Knoxville



Betty Asha
Maryville College

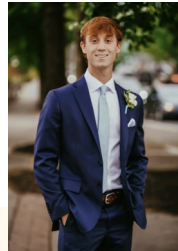
Rev. Matt Hall - King University

Adam Kremplewski - University of Tennessee

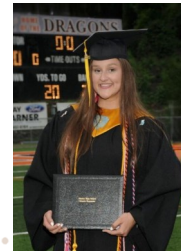
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Drew Barton
Graduated from
Maryville High
School with plans
on attending UT
Martin in the fall,
majoring in Wildlife
Management.



Ty Elder
Graduated from
Maryville High School
with plans to attend
ETSU in the fall with a
major in Health
Sciences/Biochemistry.



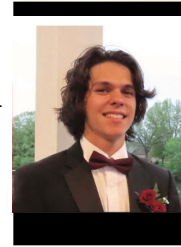
Hazel Hensley
Graduated from
Clinton High School
with plans to attend
Emory & Henry College
majoring in
Communications and
Political Science.



Brett Jonas
Graduated from
Maryville High
School with plans to
attend Pellissippi
State.



Lane Pinkerton
Graduated from
Maryville High School
with plans to attend UT
Knoxville to pursue a
degree in Mechanical
Engineering.



Anthony Ray
Graduated from
Maryville High School
with plans to study
engineering at Boston
College in the fall.



Sophie Shepherd
Graduated from
Maryville High
School and will be
attending ETSU in
the fall planning to
major in
Communications.



Maggie West
Graduated from
Maryville High School
with plans to attend UT
Knoxville in the fall.

Abram Abbott
Frankie Diaz
Nick Gattis

Anna Henneke
Jada Hillman

Will Madson
Haden McKinnis

Houston Ratledge
Jacob Richmond
Brook Sanderson



Sunday School change

Sunday School for the Summer will look a little different. We are closing out the Pre-K class until we can find a new teacher. Four to Five year-olds will move in with the K-2nd Grade Class and 3-year-olds will move back into the Nursery ONLY during the Sunday School time.

NEWS

Taking a look at the Church Letters in the Bible

Paul made several journeys, starting new churches and telling people about Jesus. He wrote many letters to churches, church leaders, and believers that now make up a large part of the New Testament. Paul sought to teach truth, correct wrong beliefs, and instruct leaders how to best lead God's people.



THIS JUNE in Sunday School we hope your children are ready to learn S'More about Paul and what he tried to do with his letters to the Early Church.



Learning about creation and early humanity Kids Own Worship for June

Whether it's with LEGO bricks, Minecraft, or Roblox, kids (and adults!) love to make things - and sometimes break them. In this four-week series from the very beginning of the Bible, we'll compare God's ability to make good things with our tendency to break them.

Through the stories of creation, the fall, Cain and Abel, and the Tower of Babel, we'll see that God:

- **makes good things**
- **unbreaks what's been broken,**
- and **made us different on purpose,**
- so we should **honor God with the things we make!**



With this newsletter we are introducing you to First Future, the new name for 1st Youth. The name demonstrates that youth are the future of 1st UMC, helping drive the hope for this next generation of Christ's disciples.

Here are a few things happening with First Future.

Weekly Youth Opportunities
Sunday Mornings
 9:15 am Youth Sunday School, Wesley Hall

We now have a texting service to keep you informed of what's happening at 1st regarding our student program. Just text "INFO" to **(865) 999-0099** to begin receiving our texts and to see how you can get plugged in or serve in this ministry.

Summer is here and over the next few weeks we plan to dive into God's Word ... and a few pools. We're having several Pool Party Bible Studies with each one happening at a different family's pool. We will swim and have fun and then end time together with a Bible Study and prayer.

Mark your calendars for the Pool Parties. Check your text messages and 1stchurch.org/1st-Youth for updates.

**Pool Party Bible Studies are on the following Sundays from 2:00pm - 4:00pm:
June 4th, June 25th, July 9th, and July 16th.**

The youth section of the church website is currently undergoing a revamp with a goal of making it the hub for everything happening with First Future.



May is a time when graduates and families gather to celebrate all the hard work it took to accomplish one's goal. What a momentous occasion it is. One of the families from the Transitional Phase of **Family Promise** has graduated and moved into their very own home! Congratulations to Amber and Ricardo along with their three children, Emberlea, Wyatt, and Nadalynn.

It is indeed a major accomplishment for anyone to have their own housing, especially during these unparalleled times of high cost in the market. For those who have not kept up with the statistics, here is a story that hits close to home. Tom and his daughter Adamina were guests of **Family Promise** in 2017 after a fire struck and they lost everything. Tom worked his way into an apartment. In his free hours he established *The Longer Table* with the aid of Alcoa Baptist Church. It is that church's own version of *Welcome Table*. Things were going well for Tom and Adamina until his rent was raised 55% from \$900.00/month to \$1,400.00/month! Meanwhile, he did not receive an increase in his salary. Thank God Tom and Adamina will be all right. An opening at **Family Promise** occurred, and he is the perfect fit.

Unaffordable housing in Blount County is the reality for so many families and seniors. Thanks to you, families can work their way out of homelessness. As a reminder of a way to help, the NO PLACE LIKE HOME gala happens on June 4, 2023 from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Showroom at Five Points, 1529 E. Broadway, Maryville, TN. The \$75.00 ticket offers an evening of fun, music, dancing, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and more. Any attire is acceptable but red shoes are encouraged!

For tickets, you will find a link at 1stchurch.org/Family-Promise or you can use the QR code below. 1stUMC's next host dates are August 14th and 16th.

Blessings,
Mavis Ziegler and Amy Large
Co-Coordinator of Family Promise at 1stUMC



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

JUNE 2022
Each Wednesday Night



CRMaryvilleTN.com

June 7th
Bernice Howard

June 14th
Denial

June 21st
Tom Moorman

June 28th
Powerlessness



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Family Promise

In memory of: Dave Griffin
Given by: Kathryn King & Don Jones

Welcome Table

In memory of: Lorene Kimbrough
Roger Scott
Given by: Janice Kimbrough
Kathryn King & Don Jones



James "Jim" Allen Werndli

Joined First Church:
April 16, 2000

Entered the Church Triumphant:
May 13, 2023

Christian sympathy extended to:

The family of Jim Werndli who passed away on May 13th.
Alisha Stanley and her family in the death of her mother, Carol Ann Waldroop on May 14th.

Carry the Church Directory with you wherever you go!

For many years now, we have used a service called Instant Church Directory. This web & app based program allows church members to find other church members easily.

To have access to Instant Church Directory you either need the App on your mobile device or go to instantchurchdirectory.com on your PC. **The email address you use to create your login MUST be the one we are using in your profile.** This allows us to help make the directory only accessible to the people listed in it.

Once created you not only have access to the information, you can also submit updates to your own profile, something we highly encourage you to do from time to time.



1stchurch.org/directory



The next meeting of Men's Connection is June 12th at 11:30 at the Asbury Place Bistro.

Contact Ron Werker with any questions at rwerker@bellsouth.net.

Staff Contacts



You can find staff and ministry contacts under the "Inside at 1st" tab on the church website:

1stchurch.org

The church phone number is 865-982-1273

EACH THURSDAY 5:00 TO 6:00 PM

WELCOME

TABLE

SHARING MEALS...SHARING COMMUNITY



SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!
[1STCHURCH.ORG/WELCOME-TABLE](http://1stchurch.org/welcome-table)

Maryville First United Methodist Church
804 Montvale Station Road
Maryville, Tennessee 37803
Phone: 865-982-1273
Change Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG

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The poster features a central image of a pulled pork sandwich on a bun, surrounded by white stars. Below the image, there is a red banner with white text and icons of a guitar and a fiddle. To the right of the banner is a QR code. At the bottom, there is a line of text with a star icon.

BBQ & BLUEGRASS
JULY 2nd @ 5:00 PM
1stchurch.org/BBQ

Please sign up by June 26th and bring a side dish or two to share!

1stchurch.org/BBQ



1stchurch.org