



THE CHURCH BELL



MARCH

2023



Don't give up on giving up!

My experience is that there can be lots of obstacles to giving up something for Lent. We may not have a good idea of *what* to give up. We may not be convinced that it's even meaningful to give something up. We may feel that it's needlessly ritualistic.

But before we wave aside too quickly the opportunity to participate in the self-discipline of Lent, or at the other end of the spectrum, before we default to giving up a high calorie food in an effort to make Lent a diet plan, let's consider giving up some things we already said we'd give up.

In our baptism and membership vows, we promise to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and to repent of our sin.

It's a lifelong challenge to renounce and reject wickedness and evil and to choose God's love and holiness instead. Where are you struggling to say goodbye to evil to walk more closely with Jesus Christ? What sin do you struggle to turn away from?

Do you need to give up gossip, condescension, or criticism for Lent? Do you need to say goodbye to jealousy, envy, resentment, or contempt? Do I need to give up my need to be right? If I give up chocolates or desserts, might I do that in such a way that I free myself for greater generosity? Could I give the money that I would have spent on self-indulgence toward an effort to feed someone in need?

Our baptism vows continue with our promise to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. Do I unwittingly participate in injustice and oppression because of the societal systems in which I participate? Do I really resist injustice and oppression, or do I too easily accept them as just the way the world works? Might I give up compliance and complacency over these forty days?

There's nothing wrong with giving up chocolate for Lent. There's nothing wrong with giving up *nothing* for Lent. But we might just find deeper meaning in this season if we search ourselves more deeply for opportunities to give up our habits and attitudes that get in the way of our love for God and neighbors.

Peace and blessings to you over these forty days of preparation to experience the miracle of resurrection and the greatest gift of grace.

Sunday Morning Worship Focus at 8:15 & 10:30
SEASONS OF 40 DAYS

March 5th - A Season of Seeking God's Will
March 12th - As Season of Seeking God's Comfort
March 19th - A Season of Repentance
March 26th - A Season of Preparation

Making a good first impression - Rev. Nathan Irwin

They say that you never get a second chance to make a first impression. You might have seen some new faces at church lately. We are currently seeing an increase in visitors due to the decisions that are being made by other United Methodist Churches in the area. If you are unaware, churches like 1st Alcoa, Fairview and St. Mark in Louisville have voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist denomination. Regardless of how they came to their decisions, it will leave some people feeling like they no longer have a church home. We want to be welcoming to those who feel like they have lost their church family.



There are two things that you can do to help us **make a good first impression**:

First, be on the lookout for people who may be visiting. Could you imagine if you visited a church for the first time and nobody welcomed you? You probably wouldn't come back. This is not only the job of greeters and ushers, but of every church member to help people feel like we are welcoming them into our home. If you see someone new, do more than say hello. Introduce yourself and help them find the room in the building where they are going.

Second, you can invite people. We are getting calls almost every day asking if we are staying with the UMC. The people that are calling are our friends and neighbors. If you know someone who feels like they have lost their church home, invite them to join us. Meet them at the door and show them around. We are a church of open hearts, open minds, and open doors, but it can be nerve wracking to visit a new church (especially if you haven't done so in a long time). Now is the time to let our friends know that we have a place for them and that they are welcome to join in ministry with us.

Welcome Chris Jacobs

We are delighted to welcome Chris Jacobs to the 1st Church staff as our new Director of Student Ministries! He is a native of Summerville, South Carolina, but he comes to us from First United Methodist Church in Morristown, Tennessee, where he has served as the director of youth and young adult ministries since 2017. Prior to that, he was the assistant director of the Wesley Foundation at East Tennessee State University, and for two years, he taught English as a second language at an elementary school in South Korea.



Chris earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from East Tennessee State University, and he earned a Master of Divinity from Emmanuel Christian Seminary. He and his wife Lauren are proud parents of one year old Viggo.

Are you willing to serve on Wednesday nights?

Each Wednesday night people come together here at 1st UMC for dinner as part of our Wednesdays at 1st programming. To help make this happen we are asking for at least three more people willing to help serve the meals. You must be 13 or older and wear closed toed shoes. We provide any training needed. If this sounds like something you are willing to do or have questions please contact Nathan Irwin at **865-982-1273 ext. 715** or email him at nirwin@1stchurch.org.

REMINDER!

On Wednesday, March 15th we will not have children or youth programming or Adult Bible Study. There will still be dinner at 5:30 followed by Celebrate Recovery Worship, Share Groups and Chancel Choir Rehearsals.

Seasons of 40 Days

We are now in the season of Lent which lasts 40 days (not counting Sundays). The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind, to fast and prepare to be baptized in a new way of living, During this Lenten Season we will be reflecting on the importance of this time of the year while looking at other seasons of 40 days found in scripture and the lessons we can learn from them.

Here are some of the questions we will be asking from now through Easter.

- How do we embrace Lent as a season of seeking God's will for our lives, both individually and as a congregation?
- How do we embrace Lent as a season of seeking God's comfort and reassurance in our lives?
- Where have we turned away, whether willfully or waywardly?
- How do we embrace Lent as a season of preparation for the mission/ministry before us?



Another part of this year's Lenten experience is the offering of Daily Devotions written by members of the 1st UMC family. Here are the places you can find them.

- Printed Devotional Guides (located throughout the church building)
- Delivered to your email inbox (sign up link at 1stchurch.org/Lent)
- On the church website (1stchurch.org/40-Days-Devotions)
- Facebook (facebook.com/MaryvilleFUMC)
- Twitter (twitter.com/1stMaryville)

One great way for you to minister to others during this season is to share the printed devotion guides or share the emails and posts via social media. You can also share the worship services and other content related to each week's message via social media. Please help us give all these messages a much larger reach by hitting those "like" and "share" buttons.

Small donations help in big ways

When you are asked to bring in items for our monthly Go.Do. Collections, you respond in big ways. In January, our collection boxes overflowed with cleaning and laundry supplies (as well as some extra donations of diapers, bottles and pacifiers) made their way to Susannah's House in Knoxville.

And in February, more than two shopping carts were overfilled with items like soap, deodorant and toilet paper to stock the pantry at Norwood United Methodist Church in Knoxville. Stay tuned for details about a Go.Do. Collection in March.



Church Council exploring new ministries and missions

When Church Council meets again on March 6th (at 6:30 pm), members will come together to share inspirations for new areas of ministry and mission. At the January meeting, Council members broke off into smaller groups to gather ideas from books focused on hospitality, ministry to young people and the digital age of church. The books used are: *Secrets of a Secret Shopper: Reaching and Keeping Church Guests*, *Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*, and *MetaChurch: How to Use Digital Ministry to Reach People and Make Disciples*.



Kristi Alton
 Director of 1st Kids Ministries
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A new journey for Spring

Following Jesus isn't about our perfection, it's about HIS perfection and our PROGRESS. It's a journey and we grow closer to Jesus through small steps of obedience and courage every day that prepare us for the 'big step moments!'



We hope your children can be a part of a new journey in Sunday School called "One Small Step." 1st Kids Sunday School happens each week on the lower level in the 1st Kids area from 9:15 to 10:15. Just be sure and sign your children in at the 1st Kids Desk and encourage them to bring a friend.

An interactive journey for Easter

This year on Palm Sunday, we invite you and your children to take a journey into the heart of God. Our church is hosting an *EASTER in 5 LETTERS* experience for families with elementary aged kids, and we don't want you to miss it. There will be seven interactive stations set up throughout the church where you and your children will be invited to walk with Jesus through His last days and hours before the cross and then celebrate His resurrection.

This is a self-paced and self-guided event. Your family can come at any time while the event is open. The experience will take about 45 minutes to complete. More details coming soon including a place to let us know you're coming. In addition to this journey there will be separate activities for preschool and nursery age children! It all happens on April 2nd from 3:00 -5:00 pm in Asbury and select classrooms.

Time to "Change Gears"

Clank! Beep! Clunk! Kids love robots, especially ones that can transform into something new or have really cool abilities.

In this four-week focus from Jesus' ministry on earth, we'll introduce kids to a different story each week that shows us how God's truths never change, but Jesus changes everything - including us!

We'll see that we change when we know who God is, our past doesn't change God's love for us, and that Jesus changes how we see things because Jesus can change anything!



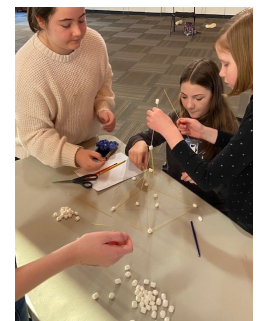
Chris Jacobs
 Director of 1st Student Ministries
 cjacobs@1stchurch.org
 865-982-1273

Weekly Youth Opportunities

Wednesdays at 1st
 5:00 pm - Youth Study & Fellowship, Room 254
 6:00 pm - Youth Choirs, Room 249
 No Youth Activities on Wednesday, March 15th

Sunday Mornings
 9:15 am Youth Sunday School, 153A & 153B

Sunday Evenings
 6:45 pm - 8:00 pm Jr. and Sr. High Youth Fellowship, Wesley Hall
 No Youth on Sunday March 12th





Family Promise continues to impact families in a positive way. Most importantly, Mary Jo and her two grandchildren, Bradlee and Zayden in 3rd and 4th grade respectively have a place to live. One of the stipulations to be in **Family Promise** is to have or to seek employment. Although Mary Jo was employed, she broke her arm and was unable to do her job. Fortunately, with guidance from her Case Manager, Mary Jo had just signed up for insurance in time for it to go into effect.

Meanwhile temporary transportation for Bradlee and Zayden is being provided. One morning on the way to school they were both talking excitedly about how much they loved soccer. Upon arriving back at the office, the Case Manager got permission from Grandma to get them signed up. Thanks to contributions provided throughout the year from generous donors, all their fees and equipment were fully covered. What a blessing it is for these boys to have this opportunity! Even at their young age the boys understand their situation. Being able to participate in soccer no doubt will help create happy memories during this difficult time in their lives. Further, Mary Jo's mental stress is eased because she did not have to tell her grandsons how sorry she was that they could not afford the one thing they so dearly wanted.

Thank you 1stUMC for all you do to house, feed and care for the mental health of our neighbors. The next host opportunity will be April 24th and 26th. Details to follow.

Blessings, Mavis Ziegler & Amy Large: Co-Coordinators of Family Promise at 1st UMC

CELEBRATE RECOVERY **March 2023**

March 1st <i>Grace</i>	March 22nd <i>Recovery Soldiers</i>
March 8th <i>Ashlee Crouse</i> <i>Metro Drug Coalition</i>	March 29th <i>Crossroads</i>
March 15th <i>Worship Night</i>	

Learn more at CRMaryvilleTN.com.

Christian sympathy extended to:

David Smith and his family in the death of his wife, Maria on February 23rd.

The family of Marti Hamilton who passed away on February 15th.

The family of John Kristy who passed away on February 15th.

The family of Joe Campbell who died on January 31st.

The family of Ginger Waters who died on January 27th.

Sara Gregory in the death of her sister Clara Waldron on February 1st.



**Wednesdays at 1st
6:15 pm in Room 202
(Except March 15th)**

A Study for the Lenten Season

“Seven deadly sins” is probably a familiar phrase even if we can’t name the particular vices. Those names escape us because there’s no single passage in scripture that names seven deadly sins. Instead, they’re seven that Pope Gregory I identified about 1,600 years ago as sins that tend to draw us into other sins.

Over the Wednesdays of Lent, we’re considering each of these capital vices and imagining how we might “give up” these deadly sins for Lent. At the same time, we’ll “flip” each deadly sin and consider together what opposite, life-giving virtue we might adopt and embrace as we use these forty days of Lent to grow closer to God through our habits of devotion. No sign up needed.



Maria Smith

*Joined First Church:
June 11, 2000*

*Entered the Church Triumphant:
February 23, 2023*

Marti Hamilton

*Joined First Church:
March 23, 1975*

*Entered the Church Triumphant:
February 15, 2023*

John Kristy

*Entered the Church Triumphant:
February 15, 2023*

Joe Campbell

*Joined First Church:
January 17, 1993*

*Entered the Church Triumphant:
January 31, 2023*

Ginger Waters

*Joined First Church:
May 13, 1979*

*Entered the Church Triumphant:
January 27, 2023*



1st Kids Ministries

*In memory of:
R.T. Ousley
R.T. Ousley*

*Given by:
Brad & Patsy Lunde
Glenn & JoAnn Doig*

Memorial Fund

*In memory of:
Ginger Waters*

*Given by:
Phil & Amy Large*

Music Fund

*In memory of:
Joe Campbell
Joe Campbell
Joe Campbell
Joe Campbell
Joe Campbell
Joe Campbell
Joe Campbell
Joe Campbell
Joe Campbell
R.T. Ousley
Wilma Patterson
Ginger Waters
Cheryl Coleman
Web Slawson
Joe Campbell
Joe Campbell
Joe Campbell*

*Given by:
Sandra Holloway
Sandra Pankey
Sally Mauncy
Barbara Peterson
Darlene Thompson
Mark Quinlivan
Andolyn Mettenberger
Joy Group - Jonesboro FUMC
Bill & Marilyn Johnson
Bill & Marilyn Johnson
Bill & Marilyn Johnson
Bill & Marilyn Johnson
Bill & Marilyn Johnson
Mike & Ann Walker
Pat Collier
Don & Lynn Parker*

Welcome Table

*In honor of:
The Bostick Family*

*Given by:
Phyllis Bostick*

*In memory of:
Don Watson
Ginger Waters
Ginger Waters
Ginger Waters
Ginger Waters
Ginger Waters
Ginger Waters
Ginger Waters
John Kristy*

*Given by:
James & Regina Watson
Bob & Lila Eby
Jerry & Frances Hodge
Ed & Judy Green
Jim & Mary Kay Hamlin
Jim & Susie Curtiss
Brad & Patsy Lunde
Joe Tipton Family
Phyllis Bostick*

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HOLY WEEK & EASTER



Palm Sunday - April 2nd

8:15 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30 am Contemporary Worship in Asbury Hall

Easter in 5 Letters - 1st Kids Interactive Event

3:00 to 5:00 pm in Asbury Hall
and select classrooms.

Maundy Thursday - April 6th

7:00 PM Worship in the Sanctuary (upper level)

Good Friday - April 7th

7:00 pm Worship in Asbury Hall (gym, lower level)

Easter Sunday - April 9th

Sunrise Service

7:00 am at Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School

8:15 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30 am Contemporary Worship in Asbury Hall

1stchurch.org/Easter

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



1stchurch.org