



THE CHURCH BELL



NOVEMBER

2023



As November approaches, I look forward to Thanksgiving, one of my favorite days and celebrations of the year. Certainly, I love other days - Christmas, Easter, birthdays, etc. - but I especially love that there is one day of the year set aside to be grateful. Perhaps that says something unflattering about me. Maybe I'm grateful for a day devoted to gratitude precisely because it is a challenge to make time for gratitude in the everyday busyness of life.

Just in case I'm not intentional enough about everyday thanksgiving, I'm going to take on a new habit this November. I'm going to *practice* thanksgiving. In every other part of my life, I must practice the skills I want to improve, so I suppose that's true about gratitude also.

I'm looking to Jesus as not only a reason and source for thanksgiving, but also as an example of giving thanks. In each account of Jesus' last supper with his disciples, the gospel or epistle writer describes Jesus as "giving thanks" before sharing the bread and/or cup with his friends.

In one regard, that makes perfect sense. Why wouldn't Jesus give thanks before sharing a meal? We often - or even *always* - give thanks to God before eating our meals in 2023, right?

Consider, however, the *particular* meal that Jesus hosts in this instance. We often describe it as the Last Supper, because not only was it the last supper Jesus would share with his disciples, it was also the last supper Jesus would eat during his earthly life.

No matter how grateful he was for that Passover meal of unleavened bread and wine, it must have been a challenge for Jesus to offer thanks, knowing that both his earthly life and his cherished time with his friends would come to an end in mere hours.

We also describe it as the Lord's Supper, because Jesus commanded his disciples to remember him, his broken body, and his outpoured blood anytime they shared that meal in the years ahead. It must have been difficult to offer thanks in anticipation of that great suffering.

Yet Jesus practiced thanksgiving So should we.

So, as November approaches, I challenge us to:

- begin each day determined to look out for reasons for gratitude;
- begin each prayer with expressions of thanksgiving;
- begin each meal with a prayer of gratitude;
- begin each complaint or criticism with an expression of gratitude and appreciation;
- end each day by making a list of a few things about that day for which we're grateful.

Let's practice thanksgiving together. It will make us more appreciative, more empathetic, more pleasant, and more Christlike. Beyond setting aside a day for thanksgiving, let's set aside time every day to give thanks.



At-Large delegates selected for 2024 Annual Conference

Our congregation hosted the *Smoky Mountain District Conference* on Sunday, September 10, with our new district superintendent, Rev. Ann Robins, presiding. One agenda item was to elect at-large members to represent the district in the 2024 Holston Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina in June.

We are delighted that five members of our congregation were elected in the At-Large roles. We offer our congratulations and thanks to

Russell George, Kathryn King, Phil Large, Brad Lunde, and Emmitt Rawls.

The Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church consists of just over 117,000 members of 578 congregations in east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and northwest Georgia.



What's been going on with the pipe organ?

Dr. Dwight Dockery

We have received a few questions lately about why we have not gotten to worship with our beautiful pipe organ in the 10:30 traditional services. I thought I would provide a bit of information here for anyone who is interested.

Last year, Dwain noticed a few issues with ciphers (notes that continue to play after you have stopped playing them) on the organ, so we called in the organ repair people. Initially, they patched what was causing the issue, but when it happened again, they realized it was part of a bigger problem.

Without getting too technical, each pipe in certain parts of the organ has a leather membrane that keeps an air-tight seal around a mechanism that controls when the air flows into the pipe, causing it to sound. That leather is very thin and thus fragile. Furthermore, if dust and dirt get in the mix, the combination of grit from the dirt and pressure from the air can cause the leather to tear, and tears create ciphers. Barger and Nix Organs is working to repair the leathers and clean out the chamber so that this won't be an issue any longer. Following this work, we hopefully should be in good shape for another 40 to 50 years or so.



I'm sure many of you are thinking, "Wasn't the organ renovated just a few years ago, though?" And you'd be correct to think that. However, when Barger and Nix did that work, it was in other portions of the instrument; the section being worked on now appeared to be in great shape at the time and didn't need to be touched, so doing the type of repair they are doing presently would have been unnecessarily disruptive. However, as time has continued over the past seven years, it became apparent that this work was needed.

Unfortunately, we didn't have a chance to let everyone know what was going on ahead of the repairs because the scheduling of these repairs was originally at a much later date, and it was moved up fairly quickly. The good news, however, is that it is a relatively quick repair, and the organ is scheduled to be fully operational again in November.

We are so very grateful to Barger and Nix Organs for their good and thorough work and to Dwain Pesterfield for his flexibility as this was scheduled.

If you have any additional questions about the organ, please feel free to let me know at ddockery@1stchurch.org.

Dwain Pesterfield stepping down after nearly half a century at the 1st Church Organ

by Dr. Dwight Dockery

Monday, October 1st, I accepted the resignation letter of Dwain Pesterfield, our beloved organist. After almost 47 years with 1st Church and 60 as a church organist, Dwain has decided it is the right time to pass the torch. Leaving immense shoes for his successor to fill, Dwain has been a stalwart worship leader here through numerous pastors, building renovations, and an organ rebuild. Incredibly, though, he is only the third organist at 1st Church, succeeding Josephine Shelton, who served for 45 years, and her mother, Mrs. DePew, who was the initial organist following the first organ installation in 1928.

To say we are grateful for Dwain's service would be an immense understatement. He is a talented and capable person who has done so, so much for the worship services at this church.

Fortunately for us all, he and Jane plan to remain part of 1st Church, and I feel certain that Dwain

will be called upon as a substitute organist in the future.

We plan to celebrate Dwain's time here during a reception in early 2024 where we will also celebrate the service of Terry Wilson and Susan Daves. Keep watching for details.



On a personal note, I will say that I have been so very grateful to inherit this amazing music ministry, and it has been such a stroke of fortune to have Dwain not only as a colleague, but as a friend. It is reassuring for me to know that I will be able to look out in the congregation and still see him and Jane.

Grateful, Glad, & Generous: A focus on generosity

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts."

- Acts 2:46

In November, we will share our annual emphasis on generosity by remembering together the ways in which we are grateful and glad to be followers of Jesus and participants in the ministries of 1st Church. Then, with this renewed sense of gratitude and gladness, we will prayerfully consider how God might be calling us to express generosity by giving to God through the church.

Watch your email, mail, and social media for some great stories about the lifegiving, lifechanging ministries we share here at 1st United Methodist Church.

SHOP THE WORLD and give gifts that give twice! November 5th 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Includes a QR code and a gift icon.

Reaffirmation Service & Open House with Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett. Sunday, October 29th 6:30 pm. 1830 Clydesdale Street.



Assistant Director of 1st Kids stepping down

Carmen Faircloth has been an important part of children's ministries here at 1st for many years. Recently she handed in a resignation letter. Her last day is October 26th.



We are sad to have her stepping away from 1st Kids but are deeply thankful for all the work she has done for the Lord over the years. She has had a lasting impact on countless children and their families' lives.

All the things' Carmen has done for 1st Kid's Ministries, both behind the scenes. and on Sunday mornings are essential. With her departure **we need people to step up to fill these essential roles:**

- To occasionally serve during the week doing administrative tasks
- Cutting out crafts
- Copying
- Preparing the children's coloring carts for Sundays
- Keep the ministry organized

To serve on Sunday mornings:

- Be a Sunday School Assistant for our 3rd-5th graders every other month
- Serve in Kid's Own Worship during 10:30 service at least once or more a month

Not your average get together
Nuggets & Nonsense
 PARENTS NIGHT OUT
 November 10th
 Children 6 months-5th grade
 \$5 per child
 1stchurch.org/nuggets





DECEMBER 3RD
5:00 TO 7:30 PM
1st Kids Christmas Celebration
 Kids program, dinner & Christmas crafts

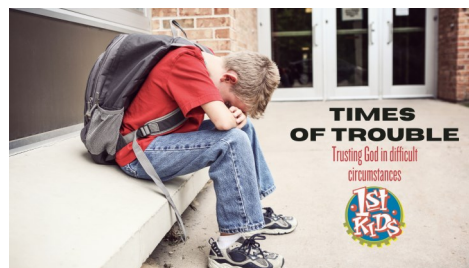
This year's event will feature 12 craft stations. We need at least two people assisting at each station. If you are willing to serve at this event please contact Kristi Alton at:
kalton@1stchurch.org
 or call **865-982-1273**.



In November, Kids Own Worship goes "Behind the Scenes" for a closer look at the story of Esther.



During Sunday School in November we'll take a look at "Times of Trouble" and how God worked to help his people overcome difficult situations.





EVERY WEDNESDAY

5:30 Meal

6:30 Worship

7:40 Share Groups

Join us in-person or online!



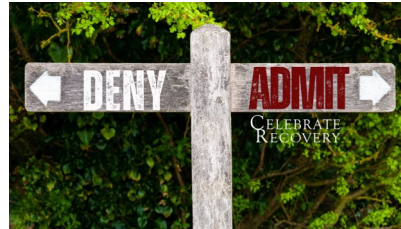
CRMaryvilleTN.com

November 1st



**November 8th
David Crocker**

November 15th



November 22nd



November 29th



Recently I (Mavis) attended the ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the Shults Pediatric center in Blount County. During the celebratory mixer, a young man picked me out of the crowd and came over to say, "My name is Craig and I was in Family Promise. You took us to the Knoxville Zoo." After recovering from my shock, I replied, "It was the generosity of the members at 1st Church that made the trip possible."

Craig was in 8th grade when he and his mom were guests of the mission. Fast forward through his high school graduation and two years of college. He is currently working full-time. His mom, Amy, joined in later to share her remembrances. She is working full-time too and is another success of the mission where the goal is for no child to be without a home.

This encounter was such a reaffirming confirmation to the difference Family Promise makes in the lives of those embroiled in homelessness. The face-to-face interactions are so positively powerful in the lives of the guests and church members alike. When overcoming unthinkable obstacles, it is truly life-changing to have affirmation from church members who believe in the guests. What a difference it makes to receive respect for the courage it takes to ask for help and have the means to work ones way into a home of their own.

The opening of the Sycamore Tree Family Promise center will come none too soon. Until then, know what a difference your efforts make in the lives of those who need a hand up. Enjoy your own family as you gather to give thanks for all of God's blessings.

Yours In Christ,
Mavis Ziegler and Amy Large
Co-Coordinators of Family Promise at 1stUMC

Memorials & Honorariums

Choir

In memory of:
Kenny Hodson

Given by:
Janie Haley

Memorial Fund

In memory of:
Kathleen Stewart
Kathleen Stewart
Kathleen Stewart
Vickie Flynn
Vickie Flynn

Given by:
Mike & Nancy Allee
Brenda Sellers
Jake & Nancy Cantrell
Brenda Sellers
Bill & Marilyn Johnson

Music Memorial and Ministry

In memory of:
Kenny Hodson
Kyle Wilson
Kenny Hodson
Kenny Hodson
Kyle Wilson
Kathleen Stewart
Kenny Hodson

Given by:
Steve & Martha Shields
Susan Daves
Rick & Carolyn Glardon
Jim & Susie Curtiss
Jim & Susie Curtiss
Brad & Patsy Lunde
Brad & Patsy Lunde

Welcome Table

In memory of:
Karen Malone's Mother
Roger Scott
John Kristy
Linda West
Vickie Flynn
Kathleen Stewart

Given by:
Rocky & Julie Rochelle
Rocky & Julie Rochelle
Susan Daves
Herb Dixon
Brad & Patsy Lunde
A Friend



Kathleen Stewart

Joined First Church: July 11, 1982
Entered the Church Triumphant: September 24, 2023

Vickie Flynn

Joined First Church: April 20, 1997
Entered the Church Triumphant: October 4, 2023

Christian sympathy extended to:

The family of Kathleen Stewart who died on September 24th.
Mike Flynn and his family in the death of Mike's wife Vickie on October 4th.
The family of Rev. Kenneth Gates who died on October 16th.

Grief and the Holidays - Rev. Bill Green

If you are journeying through grief right now, our hearts are with you. Grief is a normal and natural response to loss. Whenever there has been a major disruption in our lives the loss changes, in one way or another, all that you do during the holidays. Getting through the first holiday season, or even many seasons, can become much like walking through a wilderness. If the approaching holiday season seems like a wilderness, perhaps a compass will help us find our way.

Here are FOUR DIRECTIONS that may help us get through the holiday season without our loved one.

1. Remembering.

A first step in the grieving process is acknowledging and honoring your loss.
Ways to remember:
Light a special candle in your home
Set up a special table with pictures

2. Reorienting.

Think about what is coming up for Thanksgiving and Christmas and make a plan. Recognize where your loss will affect specific traditions and honor them in a new, meaningful way.

Ways to reorient:

- Change the time, location, or menu of the traditional meal,
- Create new special times with family or friends throughout the holidays.

3. Relying.

You do need to rely on others. This is a life-giving choice! Stay connected. Share feelings about the holidays and what you have lost with others. Think about who you can talk to. Don't give up if one person you expected would be a good listener disappoints you.

4. Relaxing.

Pace yourself and take care of your needs. Plan ahead so you can balance the many holiday demands on your time and energy with periods of rest. Give yourself time to grieve. Say no. You don't have to do something because you have always done it. Relax your expectations, too.

Know that God is in every moment of this difficult time. If you are experiencing loss of any kind we encourage you to come to the church's **Blue Christmas Service on Wednesday, December 20th at 6:30 pm.** This is the Celebrate Recovery worship service, a time of worship focused on how the good news of the birth of Jesus brings comfort and hope to those experiencing hurt and loss.

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

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Sunday Worship

8:15 Traditional
10:30 Traditional
10:30 Contemporary



Check out the details on the Church Website and our social media channels.

October 29th

Reaffirmation Service and Open House
1st UMC @ Sycamore Tree

November 5th

Alternative Gift Fair
Wesley Hall & Room 202

November 12th

Churchwide Thanksgiving Dinner
Asbury Hall (lower level)

November 23rd & 24th

Church Offices Closed



1STCHURCH.ORG

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

December 3rd

Morning Glory Chorus Cantata
Sanctuary

1st Kids Christmas Celebration
Sanctuary & Asbury Hall

December 10th

Chancel Choir Cantata
Sanctuary

December 17th

Contemporary Worship
Christmas Special
Asbury Hall

December 24th

*One Morning Worship Service
Christmas Eve Worship 4, 7 & 10 pm