



# THE CHURCH BELL



OCTOBER

2023

# WHO ARE YOU GOING TO BE ?

REV. JONATHAN JONAS

## “Who are you going to be for Halloween?”

In my earlier years, that was a common question among friends at the cafeteria table, on the school bus, or on the playground. Some would have the costumes from K-Mart or Roses - complete with plastic mask - of a favorite superhero or of the latest television or movie characters. Some would wear elaborate homemade costumes of mummies, historical figures, or athletes. A highlight of the school year was the Halloween party, when we all wore our costumes for the day and shared treats and snacks at school. For that one day, each of us could *be* someone else, and we not only *looked* different, but we *felt* different.

## In my more mature years, a similar question comes to mind. “Who are you going to be as a follower of Jesus Christ?”

As we acknowledged together in August, there is a real temptation as a follower of Jesus to put on a figurative costume and mask, to give the impression that we are fine, that our lives are together, that we are virtuous and in need of very little grace. That’s why we benefit from the gift of a small group. It is liberating to have a group of trusted people among whom we can remove our masks, reveal our vulnerabilities, pray for each other, and grow in faith. We are set free to *be* who we really are, without a facade or costume.

In October, as we explore what it means to be *More Wholly Holy*, we will read Paul’s counsel to the early church in Colossians 3:12, “Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” Paul enjoins us to be as intentional about choosing our daily behaviors as we are about choosing the clothes (or costumes) that we wear. He encourages us to have as great a concern for the ways our Christian virtues shape others’ perceptions of us as for the perceptions people will form of us because of our wardrobe.

## So, again, **who are you going to be as a follower of Jesus?**

May we all put aside the costumes and appearances that might get in the way of genuine growth and wear those values and virtues that reveal to the people around us our desire to *be* Christlike and holy.



**REAFFIRMING THE MISSION - 1ST UMC AT SYCAMORE TREE**

On Friday, September 22nd, the conveyance of the Sycamore Tree property was finalized. This completed a process that started in late May when the Church Council approved the terms of the conveyance. In the days and months in between, people worked on painting, cleaning and other projects to prepare the building and property for its next chapter.

We still anticipate that *Family Promise of Blount County* will soon occupy parts of the facility for office space and for housing families. 1st UMC is also talking to other non-profits that might also be able to use the building for missions and ministry. Plans are also in the works

for existing 1st UMC ministries to use the facilities and grounds at Sycamore Tree.

On October 29th, EVERYONE is invited to join us at 1st UMC at Sycamore Tree (1830 Clydesdale Street, Maryville) for an Open House and Reaffirmation ceremony. Holston Conference Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett will lead the service.

Details are still being worked out regarding specific times, but this will be an evening event.

Please check upcoming worship bulletins, social media posts and [1stchurch.org/Sycamore-Tree](http://1stchurch.org/Sycamore-Tree)



*The parking lots at Sycamore Tree have been restriped and now include markings for four square and pickleball.*

**DISTRICT DAY WITH THE BISHOP**



Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett has set aside a day to spend with the clergy and lay members for each district of the Holston Conference.

Our Smoky Mountain District's day with the bishop is set for **Tuesday, October 17th**, when all church

members and pastors are invited to a time of worship and conversation.

The event begins at 7:00 pm at First Farragut United Methodist Church at 12733 Kingston Pike in Farragut.

If you're interested in attending and would like to ride the church van, please contact the church office at (865) 982-1273.

**PREPARING FOR CHARGE CONFERENCE**

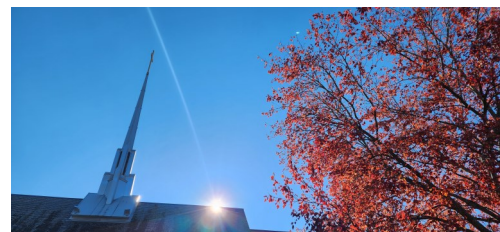
Our yearly Charge Conference is coming up on **Sunday, October 29, at 1:30 pm**, at the Holston Conference Center at 217 S. Rankin Road in Alcoa. During this time, our Church Council will meet with our new district superintendent, Rev. Ann Robins, to:

- elect our officers and leaders for 2024,
- to celebrate the past year's ministries
- to establish priorities for the year ahead,
- and to adopt reports and resolutions related to the administrative/temporal life of the church.

Anyone is welcome to attend. Voting members are the Church Council and all appointed and retired pastors connected with our congregation.

*Prior to the Charge Conference, the 1st UMC Church Council will meet to approve items needed for Charge Conference.*

*This will happen on **October 16th at 7:00 pm.***



## MORE WHOLLY HOLY: SERMON FOCUS FOR OCTOBER

*Holy* is one of the very churchiest of words. So, we feel comfortable using it to describe God, the Church, or perhaps even people we consider especially Christlike, but we're often less comfortable using it to describe ourselves.

Recognizing our imperfections, we are hesitant about holiness, yet we are called to be holy people. On Sundays in October, we will strive to be *More Wholly Holy*, considering together how to live our best lives in response to God's extravagant grace.

On October 1st we will also participate in World Communion Sunday as part of learning how to be *More Wholly Holy*. Check out the focus of each week in the listing on the right side of the page and visit [1stchurch.org/worship](http://1stchurch.org/worship) for more details.

### GRACE FOR ALL PODCAST

When the Church Council was working months ago to set ministry priorities for 2023, one of the "white hot missions" we focused on was digital ministry. Not long after those meetings, Dr. Jim Stovall and Dr. Greta Smith both approached Rev. Jonathan Jonas with the idea of creating a podcast ministry! Now, after months of preparation, the podcast has become a reality.

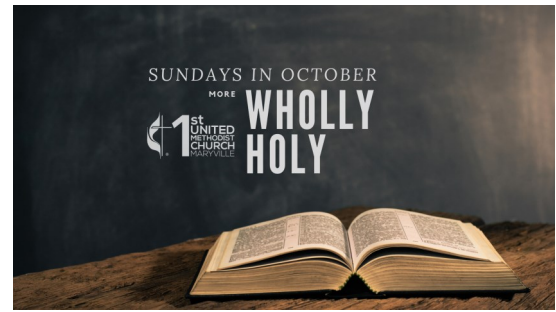
In September, Jim & Greta, with the help of several others wrote and recorded the first episodes of *Grace for All*. During the Advent Season, a few more episodes are planned with hopes of making *Grace for All* a daily devotional podcast in January 2024.

Currently, the podcast is available by going to [1stchurch.org/podcast](http://1stchurch.org/podcast) or searching for it wherever you get your podcasts. It is also available on the church YouTube Channel.



#### Help us out by:

- Listening to each episode and sharing them with friends
- Write a daily devotion for future episodes of the podcast. [\(More details on the website.\)](#)
- Pray that God will use this ministry to bless others and enable 1st Church to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, far and wide!



**October 1st** - World Communion Sunday

**October 8th** - Go and sin no more

**October 15th** - New life in Christ

**October 22nd** - Clothed in holiness

**October 29th** - All Saints' Day

[1stchurch.org/worship](http://1stchurch.org/worship)

## All-Church Tailgate 2023





The nursery is growing and as a result we are planning on opening up another classroom for 2-year-olds and non-potty trained 3-year-olds during the 10:30 worship services. Would you be able to serve as an assistant to the lead teacher twice a month? If so let Kristi know at [kalton@1stchurch.org](mailto:kalton@1stchurch.org) or 865-982-1273.

**NEWS**

Due to Fall Break, 1st Kids will look a little different on October 1st, 4th & 8th. On these Sundays we will combine Kindergartners through 5th graders into one class. There will be an inclusive lesson about a spiritual discipline on those days. And on Wednesday, October 4th there will be no Children's Choir or Bible Study.

The Sunday School theme for October is *Sugar Rush*, lessons on a Promised Land, Judges & Kings. The Kids Own Worship theme for October is *Hear Me Roar*, a focus on the Old Testament stories of Daniel. You can find more details on each week's lessons in the 1st Kids section of the church website.



**STEP UP TO SERVE AT THE FALL FESTIVAL!**

Jesus calls us to engage in our community, to be a light on a hill for all to see! Unfortunately, the church can sometimes be an intimidating or scary place for people. The Fall Festival at 1st (October 22nd from 2:00 to 4:00 pm) gives our community a chance to see our church heart with a much less stressful entry point than a Sunday morning. Through this event we REACH & CONNECT through fun! And here are ways you can serve to make it a big success!

- Decorate trunks & hand out candy
- Greet people & explain the Spider Hunt Mission
- Lead games
- Help with Inflatables
- Set Up and Clean Up
- Help prepare candy bags (October 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm in Wesley Hall)
- Provide cupcakes for the cupcake walk
- DONATE CANDY! (Drop off is outside of the Church Office)



For this event to go well we need the entire church community to be a part in one way or another! Visit [1stchurch.org/fall-festival](http://1stchurch.org/fall-festival) to sign up to serve and learn more about this event. Also, be sure and share the information with your friends and family so they can be a part of it too!



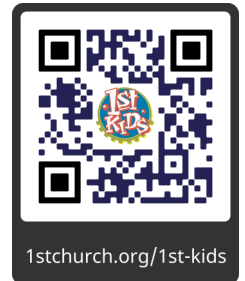
**POSITIVE PARENTING**

Parenting has always been a difficult task, but nowadays there are so many differing opinions on the best way to raise your children. On October 25th we invite you to a special Zoom session led by Suzanne Tucker from Generation Mindful. This online event is meant to expose 1<sup>st</sup> Kids families to a more positive approach to parenting.

Suzanne's vision from Generation Mindful: "We believe the most impactful thing we can do to bring about a more just and peaceful world is to evolve the way children are raised, replacing fear and shame-based practices of old with skill-building solutions that nurture social-emotional learning, and a sense of safety and connection between the generations."

Check out Suzanne's website at <https://genmindful.com>.

Go to the 1st Kids page on the church website and sign up for the 1<sup>st</sup> Kids e-mail to receive more information about this important Zoom event.





Text "Info" to 865-999-0099 for updates from First Future

Whether it was Neon Church, Close Encounter or one of the Rise & Shine events, the First Future Student Ministry is going strong! From October 1st through the 8th we'll be taking a break from regular programming to allow students to enjoy their Fall Break. (Sunday School will continue at its normal time.) When programming resumes on October 11th, we hope your students will be ready for more fun and time to grow in their faith.



Each Sunday - 9:15 am  
Sunday School - Wesley Hall  
Each Sunday - 6:30 to 8:00 pm  
Close Encounter Gathering  
(Not meeting on October 1st & 8th)  
Tuesdays at 7:30 am  
Rise & Shine - Wesley Hall  
(Not meeting on October 3rd)  
Wednesdays - 5:00 to 6:00 pm  
Deep Space Bible Study  
(Not meeting on October 4th)



October 4th



We must take a look at the priorities in our life and our relationship with other.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

5:30 Meal  
6:30 Worship  
7:40 Share Groups

Join us in-person or online!



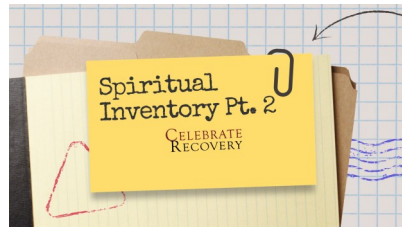
CRMaryvilleTN.com

Cancer Survivor Dolphin Riggs turned to hiking in an effort to heal.

October 11th



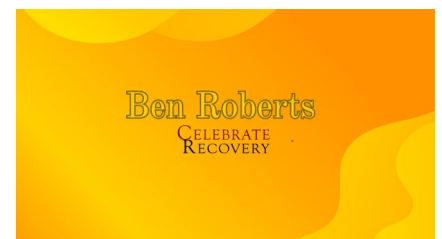
October 18th



Our shortcomings can prevent God from working effectively in our lives. Learn how this step can help remedy the situation.

October 25th

Ben Roberts brings the message at Celebrate Recovery.



## Memorials & Honorariums

### Music Memorial and Ministry

*In memory of:*

Kyle Wilson

Kyle Wilson

Kyle Wilson

*Given by:*

Mark & Nelda Blodgett

Barry & Pam Beard

Steve & Martha Shields



### Linda West

Joined First Church: February 27, 1980

Entered the Church Triumphant: September 6, 2023

### Kenny Hodson

Joined First Church: December 28, 1975

Entered the Church Triumphant: September 13, 2023

### Christian sympathy extended to:

Terry Wilson in the death of his brother, Kyle on August 20th.

Vickie Turner in the death of her sister on September 3rd

The family of Linda West who passed away on September 6th.

Melanie Cherry and family in the death of Melanie's mother, Clara Frazier on September 12th.

Sandy Hodson and her family in the death of her husband, Kenny on September 13th.

### Staff Contacts



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

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

The church phone number is 865-982-1273



Family Promise staff and board continue to make plans for the full utilization of their designated spaces in the Sycamore Tree building. At this time, the two 'sheltered' families are still housed in the transitional apartments and most likely will be for several more months.

**Our host week is coming up the week of October 22.** Please contact Amy Large or Mavis Ziegler if you are interested in helping.

### Small Groups @ 1<sup>st</sup>

For more information contact  
Rev. Nathan Irwin at:  
[nirwin@1stchurch.org](mailto:nirwin@1stchurch.org) or call 865-982-1273.

Maryville First United Methodist Church  
804 Montvale Station Road  
Maryville, Tennessee 37803  
Phone: 865-982-1273  
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**Sunday Worship**  
8:15 Traditional  
10:30 Traditional  
10:30 Contemporary



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

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

**Fall Festival at 1st**  
October 22nd  
2:00 to 4:00 pm