

THE CHURCH BELL



2024
APRIL

SURELY THERE IS A FUTURE,
AND YOUR HOPE WILL NOT BE CUT OFF.
PROVERBS 23:18

UNDERSTANDING THE CONNECTION

Rev. Jonathan Jonas

Our United Methodist Church is a connectional church, meaning that all United Methodist congregations are connected with each other by shared theology, history, organization, and structure.

We experience this connection through a variety of organizational levels. You and I are connected with each other as fellow members of this congregation. Our congregation is connected with seventy-two churches in the surrounding counties in the Smoky Mountain District. We are connected with five hundred forty-five churches in east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and north Georgia in the Holston Conference.

Our conference is one of fourteen spread over nine states in the southeastern United States and in the similarly named Southeastern Jurisdiction. We are joined with all United Methodist churches, districts, conferences, and jurisdictions everywhere in the general church - The United Methodist Church.


Every year, our congregation has a charge conference, our district has a district conference, and our Holston Conference has an annual conference. Every four years, the Southeastern Jurisdiction has a jurisdictional conference, and the United Methodist Church has a general conference.

The 2024 General Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet in late April and early May in Charlotte, North Carolina. Eight hundred sixty-two delegates from all around the world, including twelve from our Holston Conference, will meet for eleven days to consider one thousand ninety-nine petitions concerning our organization, structure, and shared values. The general conference's discernments and decisions will constitute *The 2024 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.

I will lead information and conversation sessions about the upcoming general conference on **Sunday, April 14th**, and **Tuesday, April 16th, at 6:30 pm** in Wesley Hall. We'll explore together:

- what the General Conference is
- how the General Conference works
- major topics the General Conference will address in 2024
- how we can keep up with what's happening at General Conference
- how the General Conference might affect our congregation.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or comments, or if you'd simply like to know more. Otherwise, know this—I am glad and grateful to be connected with you in the Body of Christ here at 1st United Methodist Church.



Compassion Counseling added to ministry hub

Submitted by Amy Blackwell, Executive Director

Eight years ago, an inspiring idea blossomed at 1st United Methodist Church, giving rise to the beloved Compassion Counseling. What started as a small dream has now grown into a cherished resource, touching countless lives with care and support.

Recently, Compassion Counseling reached an exciting milestone as it moved into the spacious 1st UMC at Sycamore Tree building. This move isn't just about changing locations; it's a symbol of growth and our deep commitment to helping our community thrive. With our expanded space and team, we're now better equipped than ever to meet the increasing need for mental health support in Blount County.

We're thrilled to introduce new programs and support groups tailored to our community's diverse needs. From classes on parenting with ADHD to sessions on managing anger, we're here to provide the guidance and understanding that our neighbors deserve. And we're especially excited to announce our upcoming summer day camps, designed to give youth struggling with anxiety a safe and supportive place to learn and grow.



The 1st UMC at Sycamore Tree property is also home to Family Promise which continues making progress toward being able to use parts of the facility for its Emergency Housing. Also, the 1st UMC Good Friday worship service will be held in the Sanctuary of the facility on March 29th at 7:00.

Celebrating 20 years of service

March 17th was a bittersweet day for 1st UMC as we gathered to both celebrate Paul Brown's retirement after 20+ years of service as Maintenance Supervisor, and to wish him and his wife Darlene the best as they moved away to North Carolina. Here are the contents of a letter Paul wrote to the congregation that Rev. Jonathan Jonas read during services that morning.



This is the second hardest thing I have ever done. I would first and foremost like to thank God and First United Methodist Church for allowing me to serve as a janitor and then as building maintenance supervisor for the last twenty years.

The time has now come that Darlene and I have decided it is time for me to retire and for us to return to North Carolina to be with our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

This is really hard for me because I have met and made friends with so, so many, and I will miss each and every one. As Darlene says, "Your little ladies you help every Sunday will miss you for sure." She calls them my girlfriends, and she hasn't minded sharing me with you at all. I'm not going to name names, because I would be forever doing that, but I appreciate everyone's kindness and friendship, and we will think of you often.

If Darlene is friends with you on Facebook, I'm sure she will be posting memories we will be making soon with the babies. This is not goodbye. It's just farewell, and I will miss you all.

Love,
Paul Brown

New worship ministry off to a great start

Nearly 40 people gathered for the first of what we hope to be many monthly worship services at Clover Hill Senior Living. 34 residents and staff along with 5 people representing 1st Church attended the first service on March 17th.



Worship services are set to happen at 2:00 pm on the third Sunday of each month.

If you want to help, please contact Rev. Jonathan Jonas at jjonas@1stchurch.org.



Palms a waving!

This edition of *The Church Bell* is coming out during one of the busiest weeks on the church calendar. The activity kicked into high gear on March 24th, Palm Sunday, a time of celebration at the beginning of Holy Week.



Stirring music, shouts of Hosanna and people waving palm branches highlight this special day.



Maundy Thursday worship and Good Friday worship round out the week's special activities with service times at 7:00 pm each of those nights. Good Friday services will be at 1st UMC at Sycamore Tree. Easter Worship times are listed on the back of "The Bell" and at EasterinMaryville.com.

Park Parade

People out enjoying a day at Sandy Springs Park got a special treat on Palm Sunday as 1st Kids Ministries hosted the Walk in the Light event, an afternoon of lantern decorating and parading.



More than a hundred people participated throughout the afternoon making a second parade through the park necessary!

This was a great way to meet people in the community and share with them the joys and promise that Easter brings with it. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped make it happen and to everyone who came out to enjoy this beautiful event on a beautiful Spring day.

Easter Offering 2024

1st Church sends people to Go.Do. in many ways and that includes building homes for Habitat for Humanity. Since 1994, 1st UMC has built 15 homes for families in Blount County through this program.

Whether it is a 1st Church build or a partner build, it takes tens of thousands of dollars and lots of work to get a home built.

This Easter we are asking you to consider a gift above and beyond your regular giving, to *Blount County Habitat for Humanity* as part of the 2024 Easter Offering. The money raised offers hope and new beginnings to families already working to make dreams become a reality.

To give, simply write "Habitat" in the memo line of your check and place it in the offering plate or use the envelopes in the pews/seats.

You can also give online at: 1stchurch.org/giving

or send your check to:
 1st UMC Maryville
 804 Montvale Station Road
 Maryville, TN 27803



MUSIC @ 1st UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MARYVILLE
VOICES OF EPHESIAN GOSPEL CHOIR
 from Ephesian Primitive Baptist Church
 Nashville, TN
 Directed by Maryville College Alum,
 Dr. Joe Fitzgerald III
Friday, April 26th at 6:00 PM

Growing into student ministry

On April 14th at 11:30 Chris & Kristi are hosting an informational lunch meeting for 5th graders moving up to Student Ministry in August 2024. At this meeting we will discuss the mission of First Future and details of all the different ways your child can be involved with Student Ministry as they grow in their faith. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Kristi Alton at kalton@1stchurch.org.



Summer Service & Surprises

Summer Service & Surprises is an amazing way to get 2nd through 5th graders involved in their community and their church! Every week at 9:00 am we will pack meals for children in need, then at 9:30 am we will get on the bus to deliver the meals to their homes. When we return, children will have lunch. Kids will take part in various different activities afterward such as a fish activity, water color painting, campfire safety, sports day, etc. **These activities will be led by different members of our church community.** If you are interested in sharing your hobbies and talents with our children, are willing to prepare lunches for our Tuesday kids, OR participate in this ministry please contact Kristi Alton.



Sunday School focus for April

EXPLORE

Jesus ascended into heaven, promising that a Helper would come. Days later, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples just as Jesus had promised! They were able to speak in other languages and preach.

The Church was born and many people believed. Stephen became the first martyr when he spoke about Jesus without fear of repercussions. Jesus was with the early Church then and He is still with the Church today!



NEWS



An ocean of fun and learning

Summer vacation is now just weeks away for most kids in the area and that means Vacation Bible School is just around the corner. **June 23rd through June 26th** we invite kids to “dive into a friendship with God” as they go on a SCUBA adventure that will have them diving deeper into a friendship with God.

We need a lot of volunteers to help make this event a success and there are dozens of ways you can help. The first chance to do this is coming up on April 7th right after the 10:30 worship services at our “Dive and Decorate” meetup event. Of course we need lots of volunteers during VBS week, too. Sign up to be a part of VBS either/or both ways at 1stchurch.org/VBS. You’ll go there to sign up your kids for VBS too. All registrations should be up and running by March 31st.



Kids Own Worship focus for April

THROWBACK

From retro toys to fashion trends, we all love a good throwback. (Especially for grown-ups because it reminds us of being young again.) There are things that remind us of a moment in time, but other things feel timeless and like they’re always in style.

During the month of April, kids will travel through the decades and see that the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels are always trending. As we hear from Jesus, we’ll see it’s always good to be humble, we can always forgive, Jesus is always fair, and love always needs action.



Sunday School for April



KOW for April



Chris Jacobs - cjacobs@1stchurch.org
1stchurch.org/students



First Future Sunday School meets each Sunday at 9:15 am

Graduate Sendoff

Exciting possibilities await members of the Class of 2024 and we want to start celebrating the achievements of these students.

The Graduate Sendoff is a time for the seniors and their families to have lunch, share about their time here at 1st UMC as students and to share some wisdom. The festivities begin right after the 10:30 Traditional Worship Services on April 21st in Wesley Hall. Lunch is provided and seniors will each get a gift from First Future Student Ministries.

Please sign up to help us better prepare for this event at 1stchurch.org/graduate.

Mark your calendars!
More information at 1stchurch.org/students

April 21st
Graduate Sendoff
From 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in Wesley Hall

June 9th through June 14th
Charleston Mission Trip
Early Bird (by April 1st) \$200
Regular Price \$250

Jr./Sr. High Assembly
June 24th - June 28th
Emory & Henry College

MUSIC @ 1st UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MARYVILLE

EMERALD SAILS
MEN'S VOCAL ENSEMBLE

from Maryville, TN
Saturday, May 11th at 5:00 pm

GO DO
alztn
Alzheimer's Tennessee, Inc.
Foothills Walk
April 6th

1stchurch.org/alzwalk



What a glorious time of year this is. As Christians still glow in celebrating Christ's ascension into heaven for an everlasting life,

homeless families here on earth have reason to hope for a better life. That is what Family Promise is all about.

From a recent report, coordinators learned in Blount County during 2023 that 34 families were served in the Family Promise program, locally. That included 74 children and 136 adults that no longer had to worry about where they would sleep at night and whether they would be fed.

So far in 2024, five families obtained their own housing with the help of Family Promise.

In other exciting news, the Family Promise Board met with coordinators and pastors from the churches who support this vital mission. Although the date for using Sycamore Tree for housing is still a long way off, the plans to rebuild church and volunteer lists are underway. As soon as the details are provided to the coordinators, the people from 1st UMC can expect to dive in to a variety of opportunities to volunteer.

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

Celebrate Recovery

In memory of: Jack Geis
Pat Blankenship
Given by: Bill & Jenny Green
Gary & Sherry Hensley

Family Promise

In memory of: Lila Eby
Lila Eby
Given by: Janet Webber
Don & Corky Cochran

Memorial Fund

In honor of: Doug Jenkins
In memory of: Bill Wells
Len Mink
Bill Wells
Pat Blankenship
Bill Wells
John Thierbach
Bill Wells
Bob McMurray
Tom Click
Tom Click
Given by: Thomas Harrington
Cliff & Carla McCartney
Steve & Martha Shields
Herb & Barbara Sadler
Charlie & Barbara Barton
Scott Ricker
Gary & Sherry Hensley
Janet Webber
Gayle Fox
Phil & Amy Large
Jim & Susie Curtiss

Music Ministry

In honor of: Terry Wilson
Susan Daves
Dwain Pesterfield
Bill Wells
Anne Hand
Anne Hand
Bill Wells
Kyle Wilson
Pat Blankenship
Given by: Cliff & Carla McCartney
Cliff & Carla McCartney
Cliff & Carla McCartney
Emmit & Betty Rawls
Jim & Mary Kay Hamlin
Kathryn King
Kathryn King
Larry & Lynn Ladd
Larry & Lynn Ladd



Howard L. Jones

Entered the Church Triumphant:
March 5, 2024

Tom Click

Joined First Church: June 23, 1968
Entered the Church Triumphant:
March 6, 2024

Anne Hand

Joined First Church: February 21, 1988
Entered the Church Triumphant:
March 7, 2024

Bob Carroll

Joined First Church: February 22, 2015
Entered the Church Triumphant:
March 21, 2024



Welcome Table

In memory of: Jack Geis
Jack Geis
Jack Geis
Jack Geis
Jack Geis
Jack Geis
Jack Geis
Pete Hunt
Anne Hand
Tom Click
Jack Geis
Bill Wells
Jack Geis
Bill Wells
Tom Click
Given by: Don & Jewel Smith
Phil & Amy Large
Friends
Rick & Bonnie Betteridge
Judy Green
Kathryn King
Jerry & Frances Hodge
Jerry & Frances Hodge
Jerry & Frances Hodge
Karl & Sherry Miller
Karl & Sherry Miller
Larry & Lynn Ladd
Larry & Lynn Ladd
Virginia Hardwick

Organ Fund

In honor of: Terry Wilson
Susan Daves
Dwain Pesterfield
Given by: Rocky & Julie Rochelle
Rocky & Julie Rochelle
Rocky & July Rochelle

Christian sympathy extended to:

Dustin Teffeteller in the death of his father, Joe Teffeteller on February 27th.

Dottie Jones and her family in the death of her husband Howard on March 5th.

The family of Tom Click who died on March 6th.

Ernest Hand and his family in the death of Ernest's wife, Anne on March 7th.

Dave Patton and his family in the death of Dave's sister, Judith Killman on March 17th.

The family of Bob Carroll who died on March 21st.

Staff Contacts



You can find staff and ministry contacts under the "Reach" tab on the church website:

1stchurch.org

The church phone number is 865-982-1273

Maryville First United Methodist Church
804 Montvale Station Road
Maryville, Tennessee 37803
Phone: 865-982-1273
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He is risen! **EASTER SUNDAY** March 31st



7:00 am Sunrise Worship
Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School
8:15 & 10:30 am Traditional Worship
Sanctuary (upper level)
10:30 am Contemporary Worship
Asbury Hall (gym, lower level)

EasterinMaryville.com



Learn More