

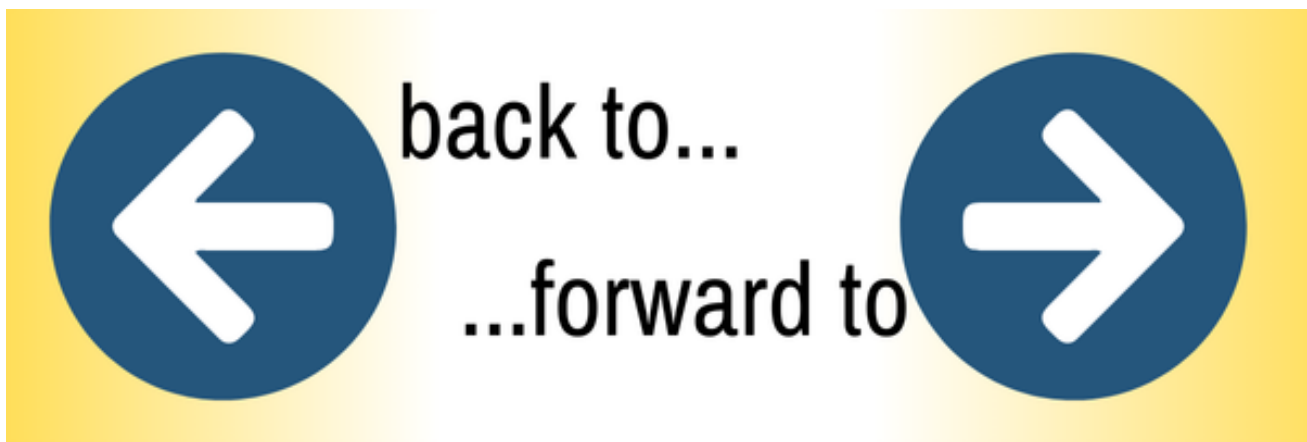
# THE CHURCH BELL



AUGUST  
2024



HE RESPONDED, "YOU MUST LOVE THE LORD  
YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL  
YOUR BEING, WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND  
WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."  
LUKE 10:27 (CEB)



“Back to school.” It’s a popular phrase this time of year, often seen or heard in stores, on television ads, and in many homes.

I understand that we say “back to” because a time of year has arrived again, a rhythm and routine is starting over again, and many students are returning to the same school. But wouldn’t it be better to say “forward to” school? We don’t want our students regressing; we want them progressing. We don’t want them to return to what they were; we want them to learn and even to become something new.

There is something comfortably appealing about the idea of “back to,” isn’t there?

As we became young adults, I remember my grandmother lamenting that we grandkids were no longer children. As I watch my third prepare to go away to college this fall, I feel a little nostalgia and subtle longing for more moments, days, and years to nurture.

I imagine that longing for “back to” has almost always been part of human experience. The first humans probably longed to go back to Eden. The occupants of the ark longed to get back to dry land. We know the Israelites of the exodus even longed to get back to Egypt.

Even after arriving in the promised land, the prophets had to call the Israelites back to God and the covenant they had forgotten. When they were exiled to Babylon, they longed to get back to Israel. By Jesus’ time, the Pharisees wouldn’t hear his good news because they were trying to go back to a commandment-driven way of relating with God that seemed more familiar to them.

The “back to” mentality is familiar to us two thousand years later. In politics, in church, and almost everywhere in between, we can find a variety of ways in which we long to go back to sometime or some circumstance that we remember to be better than the present.

I can’t count, for example, the number of times I’ve said or heard someone say, “I wish we could get back to where we were before Covid.” That’s a common refrain in the church world.

But we can’t, can we? We can’t get “back to” any time that has passed. Life—and more importantly *faith*—always calls us forward.

So, I hope we send our kids and students “forward to” school! May they learn new things, develop new skills, cultivate new thoughts, and grow new relationships!

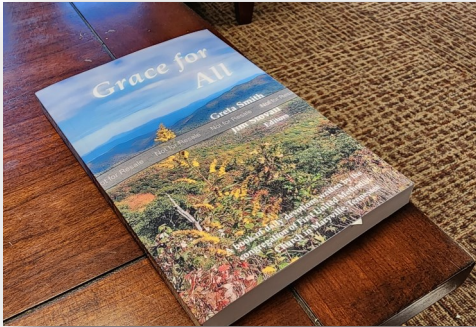
And may the church go “forward to” the future into which God calls us! May we make new disciples, find new ways to share the good news, learn new avenues for ministry, and move the mission forward.

If we believe, as we say we believe, that God makes all things new, there’s a lot to look . . . **forward to.**

Rev. Jonathan Jonas  
Senior Pastor

## Grace for All: A new chapter

Every day people tune in to hear a new episode of our ongoing podcast, "Grace for All." These daily devotionals are written and recorded by the people of 1st United Methodist Church. Soon you will be able to read a collection of the devotionals in a new book, "Grace for All, Volume 1."



The editors are working on proofing this collection of the first six months of devotionals that have been produced. We'll keep you updated on when and where you can buy a copy. The book not only features the inspirational writings from the people of 1st Church, but also photography from them too!

Meanwhile, keep tuning in to hear "Grace for All" each day at: [1stchurch.org/podcast](https://1stchurch.org/podcast) or most anywhere you get your podcasts.

## Time to Tailgate

Break out the sausage balls, muffins and fresh fruit when the All-Church Tailgate returns to 1st United Methodist Church on September 1st. This Labor Day weekend tradition has been going strong since 2017.

This event features a morning filled with fun, fellowship, music and worship. It's a great way to celebrate the "unofficial" end of summer and welcome the fall season.

Sunday School classes and other church groups are encouraged to set up tailgating stations stocked full with breakfast foods and welcoming smiles. There's also a "Welcome Tent" for people

who aren't part of a group and a table with new 1st UMC swag and merchandise.

After our time tailgating, everyone will gather under the big tent for worship. It's going to be a great day so be sure invite friends and family to make this the best All-Church Tailgate EVER!



Get more details at [1stchurch.org/tailgate](https://1stchurch.org/tailgate).

## Blessings for another school year

Another school year is about to get into full swing for most students and teachers in East Tennessee. Each year we take time out during worship to offer up a special blessing for the new school year which we did on July 28th. On that day the younger kids also got a little wet during our Back to School Bayou Party and youth spent time soaking up the fun at the lake.

Late summer also brought us the All-Church Pool Party at Springbrook Pool in Alcoa. Dozens of people came out to swim, talk and eat. It was a wonderful evening.

As the new school year gets underway we plan on offering students at Maryville Junior High School some snacks as they get out of the first full day of classes for everyone (August 7th). We also bring back Rise & Shine on the morning of August 13th.



To all our students, teachers and school staff, we hope the 2024-2025 School year is off to a great start and is one of the best ever.

## Daybreak Update from Executive Director, Jill Pope

Our start-up of the new DayBreak dementia respite program is well underway. We have finalized work to become a nonprofit corporation and are applying for our tax exempt status. We are approved to run a day program as a religious organization until we meet full licensure requirements with DHS. We continue to meet with families that might utilize our program, people who are interested in volunteering, organizations that offer similar programs, and support agencies in the East Tennessee area.



Now we are ready to start purchasing furniture and materials for the program as well as start spreading the word to other churches, the medical community, online, and the media.

There is a long list of things that need to be completed, but we are pleased with our progress in the first month. Our goal is to open the program in the first half of September, and we think we are on track to meet the goal.

If you are interested in volunteering or helping support the program but have not signed up yet, please email, call, or text to add your name to the list (contact information below). We will be holding volunteer orientation and training in August as well as seeking people with skills in art, music, and more that would like to drop in and share your talents with us. If you would like to help, contact us.

Thank you for the overwhelming support and enthusiasm so far. It is a rare day that I interact with people that I do not have multiple people tell me of past or current needs for this very type of program.

**Contact:** Jill Pope at [director@daybreakcare.org](mailto:director@daybreakcare.org) or call at 865-315-237.  
Keep up with the progress at DayBreak at [1stchurch.org/daybreak](http://1stchurch.org/daybreak).



If you are looking for a way to get involved and support the ministries here at 1st UMC, then we have a place for you to serve. We currently need folks in two different areas.

We need people who are willing to help in the kitchen on Wednesday afternoons and evenings (food prep is at 2:00 pm and food service is at 5:15 pm).

We also have a need for people to greet on Sunday mornings for both of the 10:30 services. Each of these roles can be fulfilled on a rotating basis so that you only serve once every few weeks. If you are available to fill these needs, please email Rev. Nathan Irwin at [nirwin@1stchurch.org](mailto:nirwin@1stchurch.org).

## Bishop's new assignment

Last month delegates from our Holston Conference joined representatives of thirteen other conferences in Lake Junaluska, NC for the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. This group would normally elect new bishops to serve in the southeast, but General Conference actions back in May reduced the total number of bishops serving in the denomination. No new bishops were elected.

Because fewer bishops are needed in the southeast and more are needed elsewhere, one bishop will serve across jurisdictional boundaries in both the Southeastern and Northeastern Jurisdictions. Our Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett has been selected to fill that unusual role. She will now preside over our Holston Conference in the southeast and the West Virginia Conference in the Northeastern Jurisdiction. This will be effective in September.

**August 11th**  
**3rd Grade Bibles &**  
**Kindergarten Story Book Bibles**

**GIVEN OUT AT BOTH**  
**10:30 SERVICES**

[email kalton@1stchurch.org if your child would like to receive one!]





FOR MORE  
 INFORMATION  
 ABOUT  
 1ST KIDS

Contact the 1st Kids Director  
 Kristi Alton

.....

✉ kalton@1stchurch.org

☎ 865-982-1273 ext. 712



**CAMP**

**NOT A LOT OF WOODS!**  
**IT'S GOING TO BE FUN!**

**Calling all Adventurers!**

Are you ready for an EPIC night of fun, faith and friendship? Camp Not-a-lot-of-Woods is THE place for you. This overnight event for 3rd through 5th graders starts at 6:30 pm on September 20th and ends at 8 am on the 21st. This kid focused "camp" experience will be unforgettable.

Kids will be given the chance to grow deeper in their faith; bond together in community; and have tons of fun!

- We will serve dinner, snacks, and breakfast to the kids.
- The cost of this event is \$15 per child.
- You will need to register your child by September 15th to attend, as space is limited.
- Registration opens soon at [1stchurch.org/camp](http://1stchurch.org/camp).

If you would be interested in serving as an adult chaperone with this overnight experience, please contact Kristi Alton at [kalton@1stchurch.org](mailto:kalton@1stchurch.org).



**OUTSTANDING ORGANIZERS**

**MEETUP 8/18/24**  
 Room C12 - Lunch provided 12-2  
 All ages encouraged to serve!

**Dates to Remember**

**September 1st**  
**All-Church Tailgate**

**September 20th**  
**Camp Not-a-Lot-of-Woods**

**October 27th**  
**Fall Festival at 1st**

**Each Wednesday**  
**1st Kids Music Ministry**  
**Trackers of Truth Bible Study**  
**Tots of Truth Bible Study**

**Every Sunday**  
**Sunday School (except 9/1)**



*The Bayou Back to School Party and the Blessing of the Backpacks happened on July 28th.*



## New Youth Room

After months of meeting in Wesley Hall, our youth have a new place for Sunday School. 6th & 7th graders are meeting in room 147, while 8th - 12th graders are meeting across the hall in room 151. Wednesdays at 1st Youth Bible Study will also be in room 151.



[1stchurch.org/students](http://1stchurch.org/students)  
[info@1stchurch.org](mailto:info@1stchurch.org)

Our Rise and Shine event (starting August 13th) and our Sunday Night youth Fellowship will be in Wesley Hall.

We want to give a special thanks to all the volunteers stepping in to teach and lead youth activities.



The Blessing of the Backpacks (which happened on July 28th) is such an inspiring jump start to the school year. It helps students move in a positive direction as they move ahead with their educational journey.

Filling a backpack for a child can be a costly endeavor. The school supply list for just one child can cost as much as \$87.00, in addition to the backpack. That is a sizeable sum for a family who is working to get a roof over their heads. Enter Family Promise.



During the Christmas in July event held at 1st UMC @Sycamore Tree, children in the Family Promise program and those on the wait list (20 in all) were blessed to get a backpack filled with the necessary supplies. Additionally, the families hunted Easter eggs and dinosaur eggs (watermelons) after enjoying hot dogs cooked on the grill.

On another positive note, a single working mom finally located housing but lacked the funds to move in. Family Promise assisted her and now she and her children will start the school year in stable housing.

None of these milestones could be achieved without the assistance of good people. You can help by sharing your favorite recipe for a book being compiled. Sales of the book will be used in a future fund-raising project. Families who stayed in churches loved the food and asked for the recipes. Mail your recipe to **Family Promise, P.O. Box 4457, Maryville, TN 37802.**

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



Ruth B. Porter

**Joined First Church:** March 26, 2017

**Entered the Church Triumphant:** July 23, 2024

Pat Collier

**Joined First Church:** June 19, 2015

**Entered the Church Triumphant:** July 27, 2024

Jama Mandrell

**Joined First Church:** December 1, 1973

**Entered the Church Triumphant:** July 29, 2024

George Faulkner

**Joined First Church:** February 2, 2020

**Entered the Church Triumphant:** July 26, 2024



**1st Kids Ministries**

*In memory of:* R.T. Ousley  
*Given by:* Clara, Karen, Ted & Samantha  
R.T. Ousley  
Clara, Karen, Ted & Samantha  
(in honor of R.T.'s service to the church)

**1st Youth Ministries**

*In honor of:* Charles West  
*Given by:* Brent & Whitney Roberts

**Celebrate Recovery**

*In honor of:* Phil Wilks  
*Given by:* Gordo & Rhonda Watson  
*In memory of:* Matt Wilks  
*Given by:* Gordo & Rhonda Watson

**Memorial Fund**

*In memory of:* Matt Wilks  
*Given by:* Steve & Martha Shields  
Dan Pilkington  
Steve & Martha Shields

**Music Ministry & Choir**

*In memory of:* Taylor Sykes  
*Given by:* Sandy Hodson  
Taylor Sykes  
Mike & Ibbey Davis

**Welcome Table**

*In memory of:* Judy Ballard  
*Given by:* Mike & Ibbey Davis

**Christian sympathy extended to:**

Phil and Lisa Wilks in the death of Phil's son Matt on July 7th.

The family of Ruth Porter who died on July 23rd.

Kitty Faulkner in the death of her husband, George on July 26th.

Suzanne Stratton, her husband Jondale and daughter Sydney in the death of Suzanne's mother, Pat Collier on July 27th.

The family of Jama Mandrell who passed away on July 29th.

A Christ-centered recovery program  
**CELEBRATE RECOVERY**  
Each Wednesday  
5:30 pm - Dinner  
6:30 pm - Music & Message  
7:40 pm - Share Groups  
CRMaryvilleTN.com

The Church Office will be closed on September 2nd in observance of Labor Day.

**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  
Change Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG

US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MARYVILLE TN  
PERMIT NO. 113



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

- FUN
- FELLOWSHIP
- MUSIC
- WORSHIP
- NEW MERCHANDISE & SWAG

[1STCHURCH.ORG/TAILGATE](https://1stchurch.org/tailgate)



MARYVILLEFUMC



1STMARYVILLE



MARYVILLE1STUMC



[1STCHURCH.ORG](https://1stchurch.org)