

THE CHURCH BELL



OCTOBER
2024



HE SAID TO HIM, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' THIS IS THE GREATEST AND FIRST COMMANDMENT. AND A SECOND IS LIKE IT: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'" MATTHEW 22:37-39



A NOTE FROM REV. JONATHAN JONAS

We are delighted to welcome Rebecca Jordan to our church staff as our administrative assistant and receptionist!

Though we welcome her as a new employee, Rebecca's connection with 1st United Methodist Church is lifelong and multigenerational. In fact, her grandfather was a member of the building committee that facilitated the planning and construction of our church building in the late 1960s.



Rebecca is the youngest of Dale & Pat Ross' seven children, and she was baptized and professed her faith in Jesus Christ here at 1st Church. She says that her father was known to some as "the mission man" because he encouraged people to get involved in mission work and to participate in mission trips.

During her young adult years, Rebecca was an active volunteer in the congregation's youth and young adult ministries led by Rev. Carl Blackburn. A little later, she sang in the praise band for our contemporary worship service, and most recently, she has found blessing through helping with Celebrate Recovery.

When asked what excites her most about this new role in work and ministry, Rebecca says she's excited for "my church to be my employer" and for the opportunity to help people. In her interview, I was impressed when she said that there have been many times during her professional life when she would have loved to be able to pray with someone, but it might not have been looked upon favorably. She went on to say how grateful she would be to work in the church, where prayer is not only acceptable, but even expected.


Rebecca is a lifelong resident of Maryville and an alumna of Hiwassee College and Tusculum University, where she earned her bachelor's degree. Her children, Jeremiah and Elizabeth, are students at Maryville High School and Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School.

She enjoys crafting and says she often finds herself saying, "I can make that," and enjoying the challenge of making something rather than buying it. Her other hobbies include hiking, kayaking, and enjoying the Great Smoky Mountains.

Please welcome Rebecca to the 1st United Methodist Church staff! You can call her or meet her in the church's front office Monday through Friday or send a welcome message to rjordan@1stchurch.org.

Peace to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Jonas".

<p>Staff Contacts</p> 	<p>You can find staff and ministry contacts under the "Reach" tab on the church website: 1stchurch.org</p> <p>The church phone number is 865-982-1273.</p>
--	---



On Saturday, September 28th, the people of 1st UMC - Maryville gathered in Wesley Hall to put together hygiene kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This was an event planned long before a natural disaster unfolded in the hours and days before. These kits are needed year round.

While the 125 kits assembled on that morning were intended to help replenish supplies at UMCOR, a more immediate need for them became evident as the morning progressed. Flooding related to Hurricane Helene and another storm system, inundated communities throughout the Holston Conference as well as the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida.

The weeks, months and years ahead will be long ones as people work to recover and rebuild. In response to this need, 1st UMC along with the Holston Conference are asking you to Go.Do. in several ways to help respond to this natural disaster.

- **Bring bottled water (cases and gallon jugs) to the church office.**
- **Make UMCOR hygiene kits.**
- **Make UMCOR cleaning kits (flood buckets).**
- **Give money by marking your check "Holston Flooding."**
- **Pray**



Lists of items needed for the kits can be found online at: 1stchurch.org/Go-Do.

We have some printed lists available here at the church as well. Please bring the items to the area in front of the church office by Sunday, October 6th. After that we will take another look at the needs in the disaster areas and may extend or alter collections.

What a month to Go.Do.

A lot can happen when we put our faith in action. It's at the heart of what happens here at 1st United Methodist Church. In the weeks before the urgent call for flood and hygiene kits and bottled water, dozens of you were finding ways to help those in need in other ways.

On the first Saturday of September, "Rise Against Hunger" returned to 1st Church. With Asbury Hall packed with people and supplies (as well as some great music), volunteers managed to pack 10,000 meals, one small step in a BIG fight to end hunger around the world.

On the last two Tuesdays of September, we asked for people to bring in new sweatshirts and hoodies to help area high school students who need them, stay warm when the temperatures start to drop. The month of course ended with people assembling Hygiene Kits for UMCOR.

Thanks as always for heeding the call to **Go.Do.**

Fall Festival at 1st

Throughout the year there are many ways 1st Church works to REACH & CONNECT with the community and one of the biggest is the Fall Festival at 1st which comes your way on October 27th. This year the event will be a bit later in the afternoon, running from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Hundreds of people attend the festival which features:

- Trunk-or-Treating
- Inflatables
- Spider Hunt Mission
- Hot Dogs
- and Games.



To make this event a success we need your help in these ways:

- Sign up to serve as a volunteer at 1stchurch.org/fall-festival.
- Grab a yard sign to help us spread the word about the event. (available in the church office)
- Bring bags of individually wrapped candy to the collection can (in front of the church office).

We hope you're getting excited about this event and will participate!

Show your LOVE!

For the next few Sundays you'll be hearing a lot more about our call to "Love First." And while this is going to be a focus of the sermons, we hope you'll help spread this message for months afterward.

Many of you placed your order for our "Love First" t-shirts. They have arrived and we'll be distributing them soon. Just watch your email inbox, social media and the bulletin for details.

We also have 50 "Love First" yard signs to show your "Love First" message from your front yard. Just come by the church office to pick one up, while supplies last!



A note about Wednesdays at 1st

While several area school systems let out for Fall Break we've made a few changes to programming on Wednesday night. On October 9th, there will be no Youth or Children's Music and no Youth, Children's or Adult Bible studies.

Celebrate Recovery will still meet and dinner will be served at 5:30 pm.



“Roughing it”



Thanks to all the people who participated in Camp Not-a-Lot-of-Woods. Once again we had a night filled with fun, camping under the “stars” in Wesley Hall and lessons to help us all grow deeper in our faith.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT 1ST KIDS

Contact the 1st Kids Director Kristi Alton

.....

✉ kalton@1stchurch.org

☎ 865-982-1273 ext. 712

Sunday School Focus for October

After many hard-fought battles, God allowed His people to enter the promised land, though they did not remain faithful to him. The Israelites would cry out to God when they needed help and He would raise up a judge to rescue them. This cycle continued over and over again until the Israelites demanded a king. Throughout all of the hardship they created for themselves, God showed them repeatedly that He was the one true God, worthy of their worship.



An ages old question: Are we there yet?

Can you imagine needing to walk through the desert? You’d be surrounded by cacti, sand, snakes, and more sand. With the heat of the sun, we’d wind up so thirsty and wondering “Are we there yet?” That’s probably how the Israelites felt as they wandered around the desert, waiting to enter the Promised Land.



But no matter how tired our feet get, we can focus on what’s happening in our lives right now rather than just on where we’re going. For five weeks in Kids Own Worship we’ll hear stories from Exodus; explore how we can choose to be thankful, love God and others; turn to God when we’re lost; go to God when we need rest; and remember God’s promises.

The Fall Festival is happening October 27th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Here are some reminders:

- Sign up to volunteer
- Bring Candy to the Donation Bin
- Bring a dozen cookies the day of the event for the Cookie Walk.
- Invite your friends

1stchurch.org/fall-festival



Mark your calendars. VBS coming your way June 8 - 11, 2025!

Taking a break

Over the past few weeks the numbers of students starting their Tuesdays with Rise & Shine have grown. This has become an important part of the weekly routine. As students get ready for their Fall Break, Rise & Shine will too with no gatherings on October 8th & 15th.

Our Wednesdays at 1st Programming takes a break on October 9th with no Youth Music program or Youth Bible Study. Those will resume the following week on October 16th. Hope to see you there.



1stchurch.org/students
info@1stchurch.org



There is great news to report for September regarding **Family Promise**.

First, as a 2024 Senior Homecoming Court representative at Maryville High School, Trenli Tallent chose to raise money and awareness for **Family Promise**. In her own words, her reasoning is this, "I chose this organization because of its life-changing mission to help families who face homelessness. Unlike many other organizations that focus primarily on short-term housing, Family Promise provides people with on-the-job training, financial aid, and long-term housing solutions. As a Christian, I am fully aware of what being given a second chance can mean in someone's life". Trenli raised **\$13,500!**



Secondly, the total for the *Night Without a Bed* is **\$27,650** thus far! All of this is so encouraging. It is indeed a lot of money but even more is needed. It is costly to fund the new program phase to prevent evictions in addition to the work needed to assist those families in the shelter phase of the program.

For that reason, *Night Without a Bed* will continue through *Family Promise Week* October 21 - 25. To get a sense of what homelessness may feel like sleep anywhere (floor, sofa, car, etc.) except in a bed. Send a donation of \$10.00 (or more) per person to 1830 Clydesdale St., Maryville, TN 37801 or just drop it at the office at 1st UMC.

Thank you for caring and looking out for the neighbors in Blount County.

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





Betty Bowman

Joined First Church: April 7, 1991

Entered the Church Triumphant: August 31, 2024

Larry Ladd

Joined First Church: February 4, 1973

Entered the Church Triumphant: September 2, 2024

John Cochran

Joined First Church: April 24, 1977

Entered the Church Triumphant: September 15, 2024

Randy Flynn

Entered the Church Triumphant: September 6, 2024



Christian sympathy extended to:

The family of Betty Bowman (her husband Harold and their son Bob). Betty passed away on August 31st. She served as one of the "Bell Ladies" for many years.

Lynn Ladd and her family in the death of Lynn's husband Larry on September 2nd.

The family of John Cochran who died on September 15th.

Former 1st UMC pastor Rev. Dr. Darris Doyal in the death of his wife Erma on September 21st

Jennifer Brigati and David Flynn in the death of their son, Randy Flynn, on September 6th. Also pray for Randy's brother Kory.

Celebrate Recovery

<i>In honor of:</i> Phil Wilks	<i>Given by:</i> Tim & AnaMaria Lomperis
<i>In memory of:</i> Jama Mandrell Matt Wilks Jama Mandrell Jama Mandrell Matt Wilks	<i>Given by:</i> Brad & Patsy Lunde Tim & AnaMaria Lomperis The Grigsby Family Kathryn King Glenn & Joann Doig

Community Food Connection

<i>In memory of:</i> Larry Ladd Larry Ladd Larry Ladd Larry Ladd Larry Ladd Larry Ladd Larry Ladd	<i>Given by:</i> Steve & Shirley Stinnett Trout Valley Farm A Friend Jim & Susie Curtiss Dan & Chris Johnson Glenn & Joann Doig Ron & Mary Rimer
--	---

DayBreak Dementia Ministry

<i>In memory of:</i> John Cochran	<i>Given by:</i> Charlie & Barbara Barton
--------------------------------------	--

Memorial Fund

<i>In memory of:</i> Ed Harmon Ed Harmon Betty Bowman Betty Bowman	<i>Given by:</i> Jim & Susie Curtiss A Friend Her Family Mary K. Wakefield
--	--

Music Ministry

<i>In honor of:</i> Terry Wilson	<i>Given by:</i> Bonny Kate Sugg
-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Welcome Table

<i>In honor of:</i> Phil Wilks	<i>Given by:</i> Brad & Patsy Lunde
<i>In memory of:</i> Matt Wilks Jama Mandrell Jama Mandrell Jama Mandrell Jama Mandrell Jama Mandrell Jama Mandrell Jama Mandrell Larry Ladd Larry Ladd Larry Ladd	<i>Given by:</i> Brad & Patsy Lunde Tim & AnaMaria Lomperis The Grigsby Family A Friend Dan & Chris Johnson Janey Haley Glenn & Joann Doig Susan Daves Charlie & Barbara Barton Jim & Jaylene Myers

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



FALL *estival* **OCTOBER 27TH**
4:00-6:00 PM

DONATE BAGS OF
Individually Packaged!
CANDY Bin located outside of the church office



1stchurch.org/fall-festival

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP TO SERVE



MARYVILLEFUMC



1STMARYVILLE



MARYVILLE1STUMC



1STCHURCH.ORG