

THE CHURCH BELL



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AUGUST 2025



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He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to **do justice** and to **love kindness** and to **walk humbly** with your God?

Micah 6:8

“ WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MY SCHOOL SUPPLIES? ”



“Would you like to see my school supplies?” That’s the first question my eight year old Josie asked me after work yesterday. Of course, the unspoken statement behind the question was, “I want to show you my school supplies.” So, I dutifully and enthusiastically replied that I would *love* to see her newly purchased supplies.

One-by-one, she removed each item from a shopping bag. She told me how much she loves opening a new pack of notebook paper. We opened the canister to smell the lemon-scented cleaning wipes she had chosen. She described her rationale for choosing the particular color of her spiral notebook. She appreciated and commented upon each item, and then, just as carefully as she had removed them, she returned the items to their shopping bags and placed them on the hearth for safekeeping.

Today, Suzanne is taking Josie and her older sister Sage shopping for some back-to-school clothes, and I have no doubt that she will be every bit as meticulous and selective in choosing what she will wear as she carries her new supplies into school that first day. Josie is at a threshold moment. She is about to enter third grade, and she is being very intentional about how she begins. She wants to be well prepared, and she wants to present herself at her very best. Again, though, all of that requires being intentional. So does a life of faith and witness.

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul describes a threshold experience. Encouraging his readers to live a new life in Christ, he writes: “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience . . . Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

Like Josie, you are probably very intentional about what you buy and wear. You probably seek the best price, the best bargain, the best deal, the best fit, the best look, and the greatest comfort. I know I do. In fact, at least to some extent, Josie probably learned by observation.

Are we as intentional about the ways in which we clothe ourselves in the Christlike attitudes and virtues Paul describes to the Colossians? Do you and I choose the ways in which we will act toward others, or do we allow ourselves to behave recklessly?

God, please forgive me when I’m more intentional about the appearance of the clothes I wear than about the attitudes and behaviors of the one who wears them. Please help me to grow so that I am as disciplined in my attitudes as I am in my spending habits. Like Josie, may we ask, “Would you like to see my faith?” Then may we demonstrate it through our carefully selected kindness, patience, and love.

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

Welcoming the new District Superintendent

At Holston's Annual Conference back in June, delegates approved a plan to reduce the number of districts. As a result the Smoky Mountain District grew in size and now has a new leader.

Dozens of people came to 1st Church on July 16th to welcome the Rev. Dr. Angela Hardy Cross as the new Superintendent of the Smoky Mountain District. She had previously been the D.S. in the Mountain View District. Rev. Dr. Hardy Cross has also served as pastor at half a dozen churches throughout the Conference since 1998. Her husband, Walter is a retired minister who is currently serving as a co-pastor at Macedonia UMC in Knoxville.



Making improvements at DayBreak by Jill Pope, Director

At DayBreak we recently installed a permanent sign to mark our entrance on the 1st UMC @ Sycamore Tree campus. We really like the way it looks! And a bonus is that our community is busy caring for our flowers and enjoying the outdoors.



Volunteer Training

We held two training opportunities in July for existing and new volunteers. We are humbled to have such a wonderful group of people join us. We had some new folks and a couple of Maryville High school students join our experienced volunteers!

Interested in Volunteering?

Volunteer training was held in July, but it is never too late to serve. The most important thing anyone needs to know is that it takes no specific skill or knowledge to help at DayBreak. I encourage

anyone who is interested to visit with us, and we will show you anything you need to know. We spend our time relaxing, chatting, and playing games of all description.



Dessert Jam 2025

It's official! Mark your calendars now. We will be holding our first fundraising event for DayBreak on **September 21st from 5:00-7:00 pm**. More details to follow, but you can expect good music with Pistol Creek Catch of the Day, desserts, silent auction, and fun. Come join us for a dessert first kind of evening.

Contact Jill Pope anytime at DayBreak for more information.

Call or text 865-315-2371 or email director@daybreakcare.org.

Visit daybreakcare.org for more information on this ministry and to sign up for email updates.



Wednesdays @ 1st RETURNS ON AUGUST 6th

- Music Ministry for all ages
- Bible Study for all ages
- Dinner
- Celebrate Recovery Worship



1stchurch.org/wednesdays



We know what you did this summer

While Hollywood remembers scary things some young adults did last summer, we want to spotlight ways YOU made a difference in people's lives over the past couple of months!

Feeding families through Summer Service

Over the course of May, June and July, our 1st Kids made 8 delivery runs for 8 different families. Each child in those families received a bag with fruit, veggies, dairy products, grain and protein. As a church we also provided more substantial food bags for the month helping the families in a bigger way. The monthly bags weighed between 15 and 20 pounds. The 1st Kids participating in this Summer Service and Surprises program learned the value of teamwork, serving others and a little bit of math, too!



Go.Do. Collections

Speaking of food, in May you brought in heaping amounts of chips and drink packets to help out Camp in the Community. This program from the Holston Conference helped hundreds of kids throughout the region enjoy the fun at camp without having to leave their community. And in June, your generosity showed in a BIG way as you brought in more macaroni and cheese cups and SpaghettiOs than we could ever imagine. Those items helped supplement our Summer Service program and our Blessing Box.

New folks ready for the mission

Two new people came onto staff in July, Rev. Don Jones and Brayden York. Both are jumping into work in their respective areas of Celebrate Recovery and Youth. Meanwhile there was a focus in worship on the mission of the church to transform the world and the methods we use to achieve those goals. You can watch sermon clips and entire worship services focused on "The Mission and the Method" on our [YouTube channel](#). Up next in worship, we look at our call to "Do Justice, Love Kindness, Be Humble, and Walk with God."



Connecting through Summer fun

Connecting is an important part of how we achieve the mission of the church, to make disciples of Christ. Our All-Church Pool Party in June was a splashing success with more than 120 people coming out to connect with each other and find relief from the summer heat.

Around 200 people came out on July 6th for an evening of BBQ & Bluegrass and that included quite a few visitors which you all helped make feel welcome. And the 1st Youth had their first outing with the new director of Youth Ministries. The trip out to see a Knoxville Smokies game turned out to be a fantastic night for all to connect.

The younger crowd just couldn't get enough of the music at this year's BBQ & Bluegrass event.



Grace
FOR ALL

A PODCAST PRODUCED BY
THE PEOPLE OF 1ST UMC

READY TO LEND YOUR TALENTS TO THIS
GROWING MINISTRY?

LOOK FOR THE "I WANT TO HELP BUTTON" AT:
1STCHURCH.ORG/PODCAST

Grace for All Podcast



God is a promise maker!

On your mark, get set, go! When a shepherd named David became king, it was a whole new ballgame! He had some big wins and some big losses, too, but he also had a great plan for how to overcome his challenges.

In Sunday School throughout August, kids will team up with David and learn that **making peace, following God, showing kindness,** and **forgiveness** are all part of **God's game plan** for us!



News



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT 1ST KIDS

Contact the 1st Kids Director Kristi Alton

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✉ kalton@1stchurch.org

☎ 865-982-1273 ext. 712

August 3rd

Move up Sunday

Blessing of the Backpacks happens during all Worship Services.

Outstanding Organizers 12:00-2:30

August 6th

Trackers of Truth Kid's Bible Study 6:15-7:30 in Room C11

1st Kids Music Ministry from 5:00-5:45, sign up online at

1stchurch.org

Remember, dinner is available for the whole family from 5:30-6:20 in Asbury Hall!

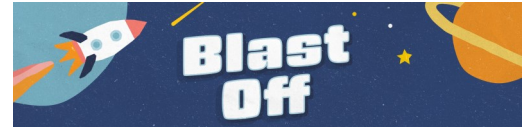
August 17th

Bayou Back to School Party 12:00-2:30 with lunch and water fun!

August 24th

New Acolyte Training at 12:00 in the Sanctuary

IMPORTANT DATES!



Kids Own Worship for August

August 3rd

We can

Spend time with God

August 10th

We can

Spend time with others

August 17th

We can

Use our gifts

August 24th

We can

Share our story

*Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.*

Psalm 119:105



Brayden York
byork@1stchurch.org
865-982-1273 ext. 1280



1st Youth is gearing up for an exciting start to the 2025-2026 school year. 1st Youth's Vision Statement is: "To create a safe, welcoming, and fun space for students to grow closer to Christ and each other." We will accomplish this with our Mission Statement: "We create Christ-centered programs and events that help 6th to 12th grade students grow in faith, build friendships, and feel safe and welcomed in the church."

This fall, we will focus on:

- building/establishing a basic understanding of who God is,
- our relationship to God/others,
- the significance of the Bible & how to read it,
- and the importance of prayer & how to pray.

Each gathering will also include a lot of fun!!

Our Sunday night Youth Group Kickoff happens on August 10th @6:30 pm in the Wesley Hall. Food is provided!

Sundays

9:15 am Youth Sunday School
6:30 pm Youth Fellowship
(Starting August 10th)

Tuesdays

(starting on August 12th)
7:30 am Rise and Shine

Wednesdays

(Starting August 6th)
5:00 pm Youth Gathering
6:00 pm Youth Choirs
6:45 pm Bible Study

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Great strides have been achieved in three areas of the Family Promise Mission thus far this year making it one the biggest yet.



1. With help from 1st Church, the Family Promise space in the 1st UMC @ Sycamore Tree property was renovated and turned into the permanent **Family Promise Emergency Shelter**.
2. The **Eviction Prevention/Shelter Diversion** program was expanded.
3. Families' independence was supported through the **Transitional Housing** program.

Last year 62 families were served across these three programs and 58 families have been served in the first half of this year! All these areas are vital to help families work their way back into their own home or to keep from being evicted from the one they live in.

What is most needed at the moment is for more people to undergo the required training to serve as volunteers directly helping the Family Promise guests. There will be sessions every Thursday from 10:00 am - 11:15 am and 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm from now until September 25th at 1830 Clydesdale Street, Maryville, TN. Sign up is required. You can find the form at: <https://1stchurch.org/family-promise> Please remember, anyone trained before April 2025 must complete the new training. Children are welcome to come along when hosting.

In 2025, 1st UMC will host September 7th - 13th and December 7th -13th. Come be part of this effort to give every child in Blount County a home by hosting and/or providing food. Volunteers like you, help give hope to the families in the program. So please consider helping out when you can.

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



Ready to **GO.D.O.** and put your **FAITH IN ACTION?**

CURRENT WAYS TO SERVE

- Hand out snacks to Maryville Junior High students on August 6th.
- Serve as a greeter or assistant share group leader at Celebrate Recovery.
- Help prepare and serve meals during Wednesdays at 1st
- Prepare and serve meals at Welcome Table on Thursdays.
- Assist Rev. Sarah Slack with the Welcome Tent at the All-Church Tailgate.
- Serve in 1st Kids Ministries as a Sunday School lead, assisting with Kids Own Worship, or working the Check-in desk.

Interested or have questions?
email Rev. Nathan Irwin:
nirwin@1stchurch.org
or call 865-982-1273 ext. 715

Moving forward with Recovery
Throughout the years, our recovery ministry here at 1st Church has undergone several changes. In July, Rev. Don Jones began his role here as the Associate Pastor for Recovery Ministries. He and other leaders at Celebrate Recovery are currently working on ways to revamp and revive this important part of what we do in fulfilling our overall mission to make disciples of Christ.

Keep an eye out for news over the next couple of months about what's happening at CR and how you can help.

- August 6th** - Sanity
- August 13th** - Rev. Ken Abbott
- August 20th** - Turn
- August 27th** - Action

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

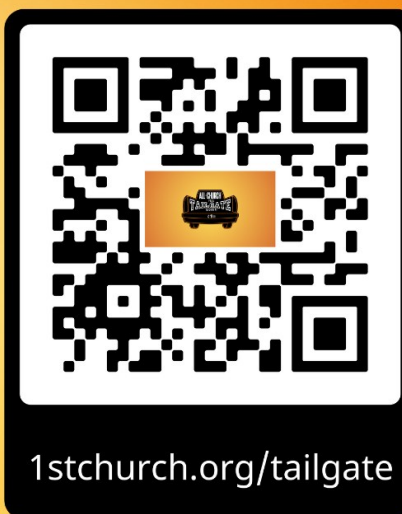
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8:45 AM - TAILGATE SET UP
9:00 AM - TAILGATING BEGINS
10:30 AM - WORSHIP UNDER THE BIG TENT

- Tailgating stations need to bring their own beverages.
- Bring lawn chairs for tailgating, chairs for worship are provided.
- Wear your new 1st UMC t-shirt or one from a previous year.
- Be sure and greet folks at other tailgating stations.
- Take pictures and upload them to the link provided at the event.
- The Tailgate Worship service will NOT be streamed live or recorded.



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