

# THE CHURCH BELL



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JULY 2025



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**Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.**  
1 Corinthians:12:27



**J**uly will be an exciting month of new beginnings as we welcome two new ministry partners to our church staff.

Rev. Dr. Don Jones (pictured on the right at the top of the page) has been appointed to serve as our new associate pastor for recovery and nurture ministries. Don is a native of Blount County and a graduate of Alcoa High School who has been in ministry in some form or other since 1991.

He is a prolific writer whose works include two books, articles in different publications, and a blog. Don says of himself, “My ministry expanded when I embraced the recovery community as a way of helping myself. My main joy in ministry is to help people thrive.”

Beyond his leadership of Celebrate Recovery, Don will give leadership to our prayer and congregational care ministries, and he will join our pastoral staff in sharing other responsibilities, including preaching, teaching, and leading worship.

**D**on has been married to Kathryn King, a member of our congregation, for five years, and he calls her “the most loving supporter of my work.”

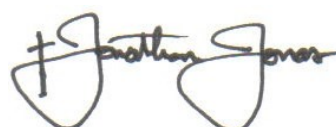
Our staff-parish relations committee is also delighted to announce that Brayden York (pictured on the left at the top of the page) will join our staff this month as our student ministry director.

Brayden is a native of Greenville, Ohio, and graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in youth ministries. His first work in student ministry was at Camp Wesley, in Bellefontaine, Ohio, where he worked over several summers and began to discern a call to ministry. During his time at Indiana Wesleyan, he worked with a youth group in a Wesleyan congregation, and most recently, he has lived among and supervised students as a resident director at Indiana Wesleyan.

**B**rayden and his wife Katie have been married for six years, and they have two children, Miles, who is four years old, and Ivy, who is two years old. Brayden says, “My passion is for youth and helping them move closer in relationship to Christ.” We are grateful that Brayden will live out that passion here among us.

Don Jones begins his ministry here among us on July 1st , and Brayden will begin the following Monday, July 7th.

Please plan to meet them at BBQ and Bluegrass on **July 6th.**

 Jonathan Jonas  
Senior Pastor

## What happened at Annual Conference?

More than 750 clergy and lay members (and guests) made their way to Lake Junaluska, NC at the beginning of June. Holston Annual Conference convened from June 1st through June 4th with a focus on new beginnings. About 15 people from 1st UMC-Maryville were part of the official proceedings.

## During the four days special emphasis was placed on:

- Standing for diversity.
- Prioritizing young people.
- Celebrating the work of local churches in the hands-on mission project. (1st church sent food buckets.)
- Voting on four proposed constitutional amendments (results will be released after ALL annual conferences have met).
- Voting to reduce the number of districts in the Holston Conference from 9 to 6.
- Licensing 15 local pastors including Owen and Leslie Ragland who will both serve at Tuckaleechee UMC.
- Hearing an apology statement from the United Methodist Church to victims and survivors of sexual misconduct. (Rev. Sarah Slack read the statement.)
- Voting to have Annual Conference on May 31st - June 3rd, 2026 at Lake Junaluska.



More updates from Holston Annual Conference can be found at:

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



## Trekking to the True North

Summer just wouldn't be the same without taking a trip, and for about 75 kids, the journey took them to the wilds of Alaska (without ever leaving Maryville.) From June 8th through June 11th, Vacation Bible School at 1st Church transported everyone to the Great White North to learn how to find their way in a world gone wild!

Each night, everyone got an energetic introduction to fun songs, the Bible lesson for the evening and some interesting characters that included a bear, an Alaskan King Crab, an otter and a moose named

Bruce. Trips to the Compass Craft room, the Imagination Station and playing Glacier Games kept everyone super busy. On one night kids got a chance to make it "snow."

Vacation Bible School is a big undertaking and we couldn't carry out this important part of ministry without volunteers and our participants. On behalf of 1st Kids Ministries, we want to say THANK YOU for helping kids find their "True North" this summer!

Take a look back at this fun week by visiting the photo gallery at [1stchurch.org/VBS](http://1stchurch.org/VBS) .



## Celebrating the Good Things at Daybreak

by Jill Pope, DayBreak Director

At the end of May, we celebrated the beginning of summer, May birthdays, and a big Thank You for our families and volunteers that make DayBreak what it is. It was a wonderful day filled with fun, food, and fellowship.

Several organizations and foundations announced grant recipients in May and the beginning of June, and DayBreak received several. We would like to thank the Holston Foundation, the Walmart Spark Good Program, the Akima Club of Knoxville, and the Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee. We are grateful to these groups for supporting our work and recognizing the need. The majority of the funds will go a long way to make improvements to the building and outdoor spaces.

### Interested in Volunteering?

Volunteer training will be held on two occasions in July. **On July 9th and again on July 16th from noon to 3:00 p.m.** Lunch and training will be provided for current and prospective volunteers. We will cover policies and procedures so that everyone is well cared for under all circumstances. **Please email me by July 5th if you are interested so that I know how many will be eating lunch with us each day.**

The most important thing anyone needs to know is that it takes no specific skill or knowledge to help. I encourage anyone who is interested to visit with us, and we will show you anything you need to know. I also encourage you to speak with me or current volunteers about what it is like. 99% of our time is spent relaxing, chatting, and playing games.

Contact Jill Pope anytime at Daybreak for more information.

Call or text 865-315-2371 or email [director@daybreakcare.org](mailto:director@daybreakcare.org) .

To receive DayBreak Morning Light updates, please go to [daybreakcare.org](http://daybreakcare.org) or follow DayBreak on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/daybreakcare) .



*Summer, Birthday, and Thank You's!*



*Trinity Health Foundation Awards Luncheon*



**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY**

5:30 Dinner  
6:30 Worship & Message  
7:40 Share Groups

CRMaryvilleTN.com

The Rev. Don Jones starts on July 1st as the associate pastor for recovery and nurture ministries.



**BBQ & BLUEGRASS**  
July 6th @ 5:00 PM

Please bring side dishes and/or desserts to share and let us know you are coming by [signing up at 1stchurch.org/BBQ](http://1stchurch.org/BBQ) .

## Summer Service and Surprises

You just never know what kind of surprises you'll get when helping out with our Summer Service program. On Sunday, June 22nd, the 1st Kids crew made a surprise stop at Mr. John's farm on their way to make food deliveries.



We still have a few more Summer Service and Surprise activities planned.

**Sunday, June 29th**  
**Tuesday, July 8th**  
**Sunday, July 13th**  
**Sunday, July 20th**

If your child plans to attend on any of these dates (and hasn't already registered) please visit the website below and sign them up.

**[1stchurch.org/summer-service](http://1stchurch.org/summer-service)**



## News

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT  
1ST KIDS



Contact the 1st Kids Director  
Kristi Alton

•••••

✉ [kalton@1stchurch.org](mailto:kalton@1stchurch.org)

☎ 865-982-1273 ext. 712



### Topics for July

**July 6th**  
God asks us to  
*Help Each Other.*

**July 13th**  
God Can Do  
*Impossible Things.*

**July 20th**  
God helps us solve  
*Big Problems.*

**July 27th**  
God gives us more than  
*We Can Imagine.*



Throughout July we continue to explore the wonders of God during Sunday School as we go "into the wild." Children will be divided into groups of all ages, starting the Sunday School hour in either C1 or C2.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!





1stUMC volunteers were the first to host the two families presently at 1st UMC @ Sycamore Tree. They got to play with 6-year-old Sean who is to become a big brother at the end of June. Parents Nick and Desiree are ready to make that happen. Meanwhile Noah and Harley welcomed baby Thomas into the world and he is thriving. Thank you to everyone who provided food and hosted. This interaction between hosts and guests is something that has certainly been missed the past few years. Do not miss out on this wonderful

opportunity to help give families the help and love they deserve as they work their way into a home of their own.

If you are interested in volunteering, training sessions happen every Thursday at 10:00 am - 11:15 am and 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm from now until September 25 at Family Promise (1830 Clydesdale Street, Maryville, TN). Sign up is required at: [1stchurch.org/fptraining](http://1stchurch.org/fptraining). Please be reminded, anyone trained before April 2025 must complete the new training. Children are welcome to come along when hosting. The experience can be gratifying for all.

Another way to help out is ordering items from the Family Promise Amazon Wishlist (link on the church website at [1stchurch.org/family-promise](http://1stchurch.org/family-promise)) or “voting” for Family Promise through the Target Community Support Votes program in your Target Circle account. The Family Promise mission would not be the success it is in making life saving differences without those of you who generously give your time, talents, and support. Thank you.

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



Our new student and youth ministry director, Brayden York starts work on July 7th. Once he’s settled in, we’re sure he’ll be planning some activities. Once those are set, we’ll post them on the 1st Youth page of the website. Meanwhile here are a few things Charles West has planned for the next few weeks.

- July 9th** - Smokies Game in Knoxville
- July 18th** - Pool Party for Middle School Youth
- August 3rd** - Back to School Lake Party



*Several 1st Youth students gave their time to help make Vacation Bible School a success. As a “reward” they all got to go out for ice cream after one of the sessions.*

### Another season of making music

Do you enjoy music? Do you like to spend time with fun people? Do you want to explore your faith through music and help continue making our Sunday morning worship services special?

If you said yes, please come join the music ministry at 1st Church! No matter your age or previous experience, there is a place for you in the music ministry.

**Morning Glory Chorus** - sings during the 8:15 traditional worship service. Rehearsals at 7:30 am, prior to worship.

**Chancel Choir** - sings during the 10:30 traditional worship service. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm and start back August 6th. Childcare is available during the rehearsal.

**Evensong Handbells** - rings intermittently through the year. Rehearsals are Sunday afternoons from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm and start back August 10th.

**Youth Choir and Bells** (grades 6-12) and **Children’s Choirs** (grades K-5) rehearse on Wednesday evenings, starting back August 6th. If your child is interested in being a part of the music ministry please visit [1stchurch.org/music](http://1stchurch.org/music), look for the music interest button, click it and fill out the form.

If you would like more information contact Dwight Dockery ([ddockery@1stchurch.org](mailto:ddockery@1stchurch.org)) or Jenny Anderson ([janderson@1stchurch.org](mailto:janderson@1stchurch.org)) at 865-982-1273.

**Daybreak Dementia Respite Care Ministry**

*In memory of:*  
 Barbara Barton  
 Jim Scruggs  
 Jim Scruggs  
 Jim Scruggs  
 Jim Scruggs  
 Jim Scruggs  
 Jim Scruggs  
 Jim Scruggs  
 Jim Scruggs  
 Jim Scruggs  
 Jim Scruggs  
 Jim Scruggs  
 Jim Scruggs  
 Jim Scruggs

*Given by:*  
 Albert & Jill Pope  
 Karl & Sherry Miller  
 Brad & Patsy Lunde  
 Kristi Boruff  
 Rocky & Julie Rochelle  
 Sharron Kull  
 Margaret Murrin  
 Jere & Joy Ingram  
 Jim & Sally Stovall  
 Albert & jill Pope  
 Susan Daves  
 Virginia Hardwick  
 Jim & Linda Williams

**UMCOR**

*In memory of:*  
 Barbara Barton

*Given by:*  
 Brad & Patsy Lunde

**Welcome Table**

*In honor of:*  
 Rocky & Julie Rochelle  
*In memory of:*  
 Dr. Sara Mason  
 Ray Pack

*Given by:*  
 Leland & Lisa Blackwood  
*Given by:*  
 Harry & Paula Daves  
 Brad & Patsy Lunde

*Jim Scruggs*

**Joined First Church**

August 9, 2015

**Entered the Church Triumphant:**

June 6, 2025

*Wayne Smith*

**Joined First Church**

January 5, 2025

**Entered the Church Triumphant:**

June 7, 2025

**Christian sympathy extended to:**

Laney Lambert in the death of her brother.

JoAnn Smith and her family in the death of her husband, Wayne on June 7th.

Pat Scruggs and her family in the death of her husband, Jim on June 6th.

**Staff Contacts**



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

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

The church phone number is 865-982-1273.

**Welcome to the 1st Church family!**



**Cindy Nelson**



**Cassie Sylvester**



**Elizabeth Brenneise**

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

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## BBQ & BLUEGRASS July 6th @ 5:00 PM



Please sign up and  
bring side dishes and/or desserts to share!  
We'll provide the BBQ and Drinks.



[1stchurch.org/bbq](https://1stchurch.org/bbq)



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