

THE CHURCH BELL



REACH - CONNECT - EQUIP - SEND



Istchurch.org

JUNE 2025



Istchurch.org



Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise.
Matthew 7:24



23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:23-25

On June 1st, fourteen representatives of our congregation will be among nearly nine hundred United Methodists who will gather at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, for the 2025 Holston Annual Conference. All those pastors and church members will represent 545 churches from about Radford, Virginia, in the north, to the north Georgia communities surrounding Chattanooga in the south.

We will begin the conference by singing the opening lines of Charles Wesley's 1749 hymn, "And are we yet alive and see each others' face? Glory and praise to Jesus give for his redeeming grace!" Over the next few days, we will worship, celebrate, plan, and dream together. We will remember that we are connected in resources, ministry, and mission. Then we will return to our home communities and congregations to carry out our shared mission.

As the Hebrews passage above suggests, the Annual Conference is a time for us to meet together, to encourage one another, and to stir one another to love and good works. It's an opportunity to recharge by remembering that we are not alone. We are in this ministry together.

That's an important reminder for us locally, too. Our lives can so easily become insular or even isolated. We get wrapped up in our own routines, concerns, and responsibilities, and we forget how vitally we are connected to each other. We can forget the importance both of encouraging one another and of stirring each other to love and good works.

The magic and beauty of the early Methodist movement was that the Wesley brothers and their early lieutenants organized people into classes, bands, and societies for just those purposes - to encourage one another and to stir one another to love and good works.

We have maintained that priority at the larger organizational levels by coming together for conferences - charge conferences, district conferences, annual conferences, general conferences, etc. Sadly, though, in our highly individualized culture, we have lost touch with the class, band, small group that allows us at the person-to-person level to stir and encourage.

In the coming months, we will emphasize again the importance of our life together in small groups. As we do, I hope we won't neglect to gather, and I hope we will commit to stirring and encouraging each other.

Celebrating how God is working throughout the Connection

How can we as members of 1st United Methodist Church and the Holston Annual Conference discern the ways to best serve Christ and one another? It's a question asked each year during Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska, NC. This year's theme is "Together in New Beginnings," a theme reflecting our desire to move forward and embrace a new season of ministry and mission.

Please visit 1stchurch.org/holstonac to learn who is representing 1st UMC-Maryville at Annual Conference and explore topics that are expected to be addressed during the sessions.



DayBreak - Growing in Mission by: Jill Pope, director

The end of April and May have been exciting times at DayBreak and the Sycamore Tree campus!

- Our list of participating families has grown at its fastest pace yet. It is exciting to see our mission grow, but we continue to look for and welcome families from the community that will benefit from our program.
- The Alzheimer's TN Foothills Walk was a success, and we enjoyed the day with supporters. We exceeded our fundraising goal thanks to your generosity!
- The Primary Players performances of *Our Town* were wonderful and well attended. We enjoyed hosting them at Sycamore Tree and appreciate their donation to the charities housed here!
- DayBreak's first small fundraiser was a success despite the rainy weather. We sold chili dog lunches and were able to raise over \$300.
- SERVE day with Montgomery Ridge students went well this month. Students participated in a few hours of activities with our friends, helped with decorations, and weeded our landscaping.



Interested in Volunteering?

We are also thrilled that several people have joined us as volunteers over the last couple of months. As the program continues, we will always welcome those who would like to serve with us. I have been asked about training for volunteers. The most important thing anyone needs to understand 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.

We will have training over the summer for current and prospective new volunteers. Please look for dates and times to be announced in the coming weeks.

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.

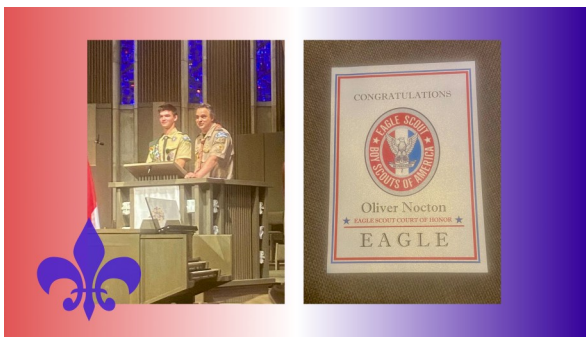
Confirmation Sunday & Pentecost

Sunday mornings when we gather in the Sanctuary or down in Asbury Hall, there are always parts of the service that stand out. On May 18th, there were many such moments. Near the beginning of the 10:30 Traditional Service, our 2025 Confirmands took their vows to faithfully participate in the life and ministries of 1st United Methodist Church through prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness. One of the 8 Confirmands present was baptized during the service and two others will do the same at a later date. We will keep you posted as the congregation plays a vital role in baptism.



Just minutes before the Confirmation part of the service, Trenton and Julia Langston presented their daughter Sutton Elizabeth for Holy Baptism. Infant baptism reminds parents and the congregation of the vow to bring up children in the church, teach them to live Christian lives and for all to love and nurture the child in that process.

On June 8th, we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday. This special Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit as told in Acts 2. With this gift, the disciples were able to tell people around the world about Jesus in ways they could understand. Hope to see you there!



On May 18th, family and friends of Oliver Nocton celebrated his accomplishment of earning the rank of Eagle Scout. CONGRATULATIONS Oliver, we are proud of you!

Our annual All-Church Pool Party is a great way to spend a summer evening. This year, it's about a month earlier, but still at the same place, Springbrook Pool in Alcoa.

Please visit 1stchurch.org/pool to sign up.

This event is free, but we do ask you to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. The church will provide pizza and drinks.



Summer Service and Surprises

Looking for a fun and meaningful way to keep your child engaged this summer? Our Summer Service & Surprises program gives kids the chance to serve others, connect with their church community, and explore new activities.

This year we will meet on some Sundays and some Tuesdays. Please note the different times for each session.

Tuesdays: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm (Kids will ride the bus to deliver meals in the morning, followed by lunch and activities back at church.)

Sundays: 3:30 pm – 7:00 pm (Afternoon/evening version with the same great mix of service and fun.)

Meeting Dates:

Sunday, June 1st
Tuesday, June 10th
Tuesday, June 17th
Sunday, June 22nd
Sunday, June 29th
Tuesday, July 8th
Sunday, July 13th
Sunday, July 20th

Please register your child if they plan to attend on any date this summer at 1stchurch.org/summer-service or contact Kristi Alton if you are a congregant who is willing to share your gifts, hobbies, and talents with our kids!

Summer Sunday School will look a little different. In June and July we will explore the wonders of God in mixed age groups. Children will be divided into groups of all ages, starting the Sunday School hour in either C1 or C2.

June's Biblical Theme Is: God is victorious.



Throughout the Epistles, we encounter stories of the early church facing persecution, trials and uncertainty. In each letter, God's provision and hope shine bright. Yes, we face trials and have an enemy, but God is our living hope. He equips us with His armor, and He will return one day. God is ultimately victorious, regardless of our circumstances!



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

Sign up for VBS at
1stchurch.org/VBS



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Kids Own Worship for June

June 1st

God Helps Me Find
What I Need

June 8th

God Hears
My Voice.

June 15th

God Guides Me When
I'm Scared.

June 22nd

God
Comforts Me.

June 29th

God is Always
With Me.



Start the count down! 1stUMC will host at Sycamore Tree from June 8th - 14th! For those who missed the April 8th training there will be sessions every Thursday at 10:00 am - 11:15 am and 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm from now until September 25th at 1st UMC @ Sycamore Tree (1830 Clydesdale Street, Maryville, TN). Sign up is required at 1stchurch.org/fptraining. Please be reminded, anyone trained before April 2025 must complete the new training. Children are welcome to come along when hosting so getting a baby sitter is not a concern. The experience can be gratifying for all.

Good news for Target Circle members. Family Promise is now a participant in the Community Support Votes program. In your app or online, just go to your "My Target" page and click on your Target Circle Member Account. Scroll down to "Community Support Votes", select Family Promise and cast your votes. Target uses the numbers of votes to determine how much to contribute to a participating organization.

Another way to assist is to check out the Family Promise Amazon Wishlist. You'll find a link to it on our website at 1stchurch.org/family-promise.

Please know however you choose to serve it is very much appreciated along with your prayers.

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



Another school year is over and some of our 1st Youth activities are taking a break for the summer. Sunday School is the only regular activity that will still be happening each week. Other weekly activities will resume in August.

However there are still things youth can get involved in during the break!

June 9th - Youth will be helping with VBS. Afterward, Charles will be taking the youth out for Ice Cream.

June 23rd through June 27th - Holston Conference Youth Assembly at TN Wesleyan

July 9th - Smokies Baseball Game

July 18th - Pool Party for Middle School Youth

August 3rd—Back to School Lake Party

More details coming soon.

Help us improve communications

The Witness Team is working to find ways to strengthen communications from the church to you and to help connect the community with God. To help we are asking everyone to fill out a short survey.

You'll find it online at:

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

A limited number of printed copies are also available outside the Sanctuary and in Asbury Hall. The survey will be open through June 15th.

*Beyond
the
Sermon*



Dive deeper into sermons with discussion guides and devotions on our website.

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

**EVERY
WEDNESDAY**

**CELEBRATE
RECOVERY**

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

Compassion Counseling

In memory of:
Barbara Barton

Given by:
Ralphine Hood

1st Kids Ministries

In memory of:
Dr. Sara Mason

Given by:
Phil & Amy Large

Music Ministry

In memory of:
Elaine Graves Cox
Bill Howell

Given by:
Tim & AnaMaria Lomperis
Karl & Sherry Miller

UMCOR

In memory of:
Barbara Barton
Barbara Barton
Barbara Barton

Given by:
Tim & AnaMaria Lomperis
Karl & Sherry Miller
Scott & Tina Meadows

Welcome Table

In memory of:
Barbara Barton
Elaine Graves Cox
Ray Pack
Gene Lee
Jim Anderson

Given by:
Dean Moss
Dean Moss
Tim & AnaMaria Lomperis
Karl & Sherry Miller
Karl & Sherry Miller

Jimmy Anderson
Entered the Church Triumphant:
April 30, 2025

Rowena B. Huffstetler
Joined First Church
September 9, 1990

Entered the Church Triumphant:
April 26, 2025

Christian sympathy extended to:
Brian and Kim Anderson and Archie Anderson
in the death of their father, Jimmy on April 30th.

The family of Rowena Huffstetler who passed
away on April 26th.

Pam Beard and her family in the death of Pam's
mother who passed away on May 25th.

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.

Welcome to the 1st Church family!

2025 Confirmands



Gracie Brakebill



Andy Brown



Alara Irwin



Sage Jonas



Elizabeth Jordan
(baptism pending)



Makenzie Klebba
(baptism pending)



Paislee
Mendence



Lila
Stephenson



Sutton Elizabeth
Langston
Baptized
May 18, 2025

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

HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations! **2025**
 Class of

from your friends and family at



COLLEGE



Caroline Best

Attending UT-Knoxville
 Majoring in Business Analytics



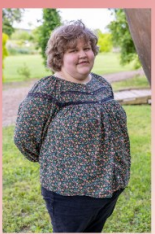
Bella Daugherty

Attending George Washington Univ.
 Studying International Affairs



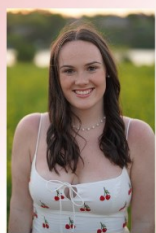
Price Davis

Attending the U.S. Air Force Academy
 Majoring in Management
 and playing on the football team



Maggie Madson

Attending Pellissippi State



Anna Claire Pinkerton

Attending UT - Knoxville
 Majoring in Architecture



Eva-Noelle Weekley-Hatley

Attending UT-Knoxville
 Majoring in Public Affairs

Elizabeth West
 Graduated from the University of South Carolina with a major in Journalism and a minor in dance. She plans on pursuing a career in news media and digital communications.

Creed Werker
 Graduated from Milligan University. Will pursue a Master's Degree at UT-Knoxville this fall.

High School graduates not pictured.

- Benjamin Brown**
- Barrett Roberts**
- Zoe Shankland**
- Audrey Van Norstran**
- Danica Wight**

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