



THE  
CHURCH  
BELL

**NOVEMBER 2022**





I only met two of my great grandparents, one great grandmother from each side of my family tree. One died when I was only five years old, but the other lived until I was ten, so I have some clear and cherished memories of her.

Dixie Dale Henderson Tuggle was a small woman who made a big impact. She was married at age twenty-one and widowed at age forty-five, just sixteen days before her twenty-fourth wedding anniversary. She would live another thirty-seven years as a widow.

In the nearly two dozen years of her marriage, she gave birth to eight children, three of whom she would outlive. I remember her shaking her head and saying, "It's not natural" to outlive one's child. Another of her children spent months in a German prison camp during World War II as she wondered whether he were alive.

Through the lean years of the Great Depression, she had raised her children in a small, modest home on a lower slope of Clinch Mountain in a community called Poor Valley. A regular daily chore was the half-mile trip to the spring to fill buckets of water for the family's drinking, bathing, and washing. It's safe to say that she lived in poverty there in Poor Valley.

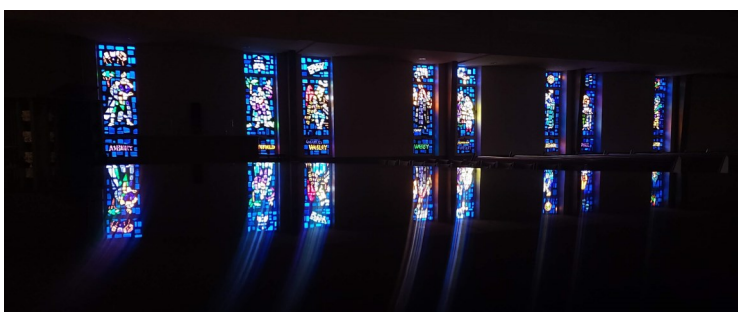
From my vantage point, it's tempting to pity my great grandmother. It's easy to feel sorry for her because of the grief, poverty, and hardship through which she lived. From her vantage point, however, she didn't see it that way. She believed that she lived an abundant life because of her faith in God through Jesus Christ.

She instilled that faith in her children, taught that faith to her grandchildren, and modeled that faith before her great grandchildren, one of whom I am proud to be.

On November 1st, we celebrate All Saints Day, an occasion not only to remember the martyrs of the church who faithfully lived and died as followers of Jesus Christ, but also to remember those holy people who have perpetuated the Kingdom of God on earth by teaching others to follow Jesus.

On All Saints Day, I will remember and thank God for Grandma Tuggle. I will smile as I recall the fried apple pies she made for me on my birthdays. I will giggle as I remember the very worst expletive she ever uttered, "Psht!" I may shed a tear and wrap myself in the quilt she made, recalling that I spent the first ten years of my life wrapped in her love and prayers.

Most of all, I will be grateful that I am wrapped in the eternal love of God because that small woman's monumental impact is that she showed us all how to love and follow Jesus.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Jonas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

## Busy Season ahead

When the leaves start falling, the flurry of activity here at 1st Church picks up and stays that way through the end of the year. Starting with the Fall Festival at 1st (Sunday, October 30th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm) and going through Christmas Day, there are so many ways for you, your family and your friends to get involved.

In addition to inviting others to church events and to worship, we encourage you to share the information about the things “Happening at 1st” using social media and email. When you see events listed on Facebook or Twitter, be sure and hit that “like” button and share the posts. You can also share the information from the church website, by copying and



pastoring the URL information at the top of your browser. This will work on social media or in an email you’re sending. Doing all of this helps increase the reach of our message and is an easy way for you to be a witness to others.

When you’re at the church, use the Facebook “Check-in” feature to let others know you’re here or share the worship services and sermon clips that are posted each week.

Worship services are also posted on Youtube and Facebook Watch where you can share them via those channels and leave comments, too. And if you want a hard copy of *The Church Bell* to give to someone, pick it up here at the church or we can print some for you.

Check out the events happening here at 1st Church at:  
[1stchurch.org/happening-at-1st](https://1stchurch.org/happening-at-1st)

## Let the giving begin

For more than a decade, the Alternative Gift Fair has given hundreds of people a chance to shop for gifts that “give twice.” Instead of heading to a department or discount store, or shopping on Amazon this year, why not take time on November 6th to buy some of the thousands of items on display that benefit non-profit, ministry and fair trade groups.

In 2022, we have 11 vendors setting up in Wesley Hall and Room 202 on the upper level. At each booth you will find gifts for the people on your list while helping out people in need here at home and around the world.

Learn more about who you will be helping while shopping the AGF 2022 at: [1stchurch.org/gift-fair](https://1stchurch.org/gift-fair).

- Compassion Counseling
- Family Promise
- The Gate
- Good Neighbors Blount Co.
- Humane Society of East TN
- Kenya Partners
- Kuldiga Partnership
- Lions Club International
- Olive Branch Olive Oil
- Shop the World
- Welcome Table



### Putting our faith into action - Rev. Nathan Irwin

I am so proud of the volunteer spirit evident here at 1st! In my new role, I have been working to fill many new service opportunities and have been blown away by how many of you are stepping up to help make our church more hospitable and welcoming.

You have so far volunteered an additional 50 hours per month working in our kitchen and greeting on Sunday mornings! This is above all of the hours each month that we serve as ushers, office workers, CR greeters, helping with children and youth ministries and supporting organizations like Habitat, Family Promise, and Welcome Table. Even with all of this, there is still room for you to get involved.

We currently have a need for 4 people to serve quarterly as greeters at the 10:30 Traditional Worship Service, and we have several spots available in the kitchen on Wednesdays. If you feel like this could be your opportunity to serve, let me know and I will get you plugged in by emailing me at:

[nirwin@1stchurch.org](mailto:nirwin@1stchurch.org).

### What's happening Wednesdays at 1st

We have several new opportunities for you to grow in your faith during *Wednesdays at 1st* in November. Rev. Sarah Slack leads our 5:00 pm Conversations with an Advent Study looking at *Christmas in the 4 Gospels*. This happens from 5:00 to 5:40 pm in Room 202.

Rev. Jonathan Jonas wraps up his *Discipleship: Becoming, Being, and Making* study for Adults on November 2nd (Each lesson stands alone, so even if you've missed the others, come for this one). On November 9th, Rev. Bill Green offers tips for preparing for the holidays after major life changes. In your time together at 6:30 pm in Room 202, Bill shares some of the challenges we face with the holidays approaching and explores ways to handle them in life giving ways. Studies for November 16th and 30th are still in the works.

Check out what's happening on *Wednesdays at 1st* and sign up for dinner at: [1stchurch.org/Wednesdays](http://1stchurch.org/Wednesdays). (You can also sign up for dinner using the QR code in the Sunday bulletin).



### SPECIAL NOTE

On **November 23rd**, our *Wednesdays at 1st* programming will only include Dinner, Celebrate Recovery Worship & Share Groups. Chancel Choir Rehearsal will be on **November 22nd** at 7:00 pm



### The church (and the Bishop) coming together to say THANKS

Remember the times we came together for the Churchwide Thanksgiving Dinner each November? Well, the event is coming back on **November 13th**. In year's past we've welcomed our youth choirs, special speakers and a few musicians. This year we are happy to announce that Holston's Resident Bishop, Debra Wallace-Padgett will be joining us in this special celebration.

The church will furnish the main course and beverages. We just ask that you sign up at [1stchurch.org/Thanksgiving](http://1stchurch.org/Thanksgiving) and bring a side dish or dessert to share. Can't wait to get together!



At Thanksgiving families celebrate reasons they are thankful. Those who are fortunate enough to be housed because Family Promise exists are so very thankful all the time. Currently there are two adults and two children in Static Shelter and four more adults and eight children in transitional housing working their way into their own home.

Thank you to all at 1stUMC who provided goodies and/or your time to make the children feel joyful at the Halloween party. Further thanks to those who bought evergreens from Family Promise. With Christmas approaching there is an opportunity to help bring even more joy to these families. Starting November 1st, the Second Chance Thrift Store located at 705 E. Lincoln Rd. in Alcoa will have "ornaments" with gift items requested by the families. Feel free to stop by and select an "ornament(s)" and return the gift(s) to the store before Christmas.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Hopefully your family will be able to gather and share a feast. Many of the families in Family Promise have been taking advantage of cooking classes offered by the University of Tennessee. Thanks to you, they will be able to try some of the recipes for their dinner as they give their thanks.

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

**Welcome Table Needs You!** - Justin Small, Welcome Table Volunteer Coordinator  
Fall is here and hungry people are coming out weekly to enjoy our 1st Church hospitality on Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 6:00! Welcome Table needs help to make sure everyone is fed promptly. We are a bit short of volunteers. Here are spots we need to fill.

- Servers to take drinks and plates of food to the tables.
- We need a volunteer each week to bus tables/clear away the dishes as people finish eating.
- We need volunteers to help put the food on the plates in the kitchen.
- We need volunteers to help in the dishwasher room, loading the dishwasher.
- We need more volunteers to donate homemade or store bought desserts.
- And we need volunteers to work on Thursday helping put all those lovely desserts on serving plates.



Bottom Line - we need volunteers to be the hands and feet of Jesus, making our guests glad they came to the House of the Lord for dinner! Please join us if you have two hours on any Thursday from 4:30-6:30! Sign up at [1stchurch.org/welcome-table](http://1stchurch.org/welcome-table)

**P.S.** You will make new friends and get to know many great people within our church, who are already regularly or occasionally helping! God bless you for helping in any way you can!

# CELEBRATE RECOVERY

**November 2022**

**November 2nd**

*Spiritual Inventory Part 2*  
\*Holy Communion will be offered during this service.

**November 9th**

*A Lifetime Struggle with Mental Health*  
Al North

**November 16th**

*Worship Night at CR*

**November 23rd**

*Thanksgiving at CR*

**November 30th**

*Confess*



Learn more at [CRMaryvilleTN.com](http://CRMaryvilleTN.com)



## NEWS

**Kristi Alton**  
 Director of 1st Kids Ministries  
[kalton@1stchurch.org](mailto:kalton@1stchurch.org)  
 865-982-1273 ext. 113


Not your average get together

## Nuggets & Nonsense

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT**  
 FRIDAY, November 18th - 5:30-8:30

Children 6 months-5th grade  
 \$5 per child  
 for a fun evening of shenanigans,  
 silly games, and nuggets.

Register at [1stchurch.org/nuggets](http://1stchurch.org/nuggets) by November 11th

### Serving up Sunday School in November

Kids love to be in the kitchen. They may even love helping prepare something delicious! Having a plan or a recipe usually helps, too. Just like having a plan in the kitchen helps the meal we hope to enjoy, the stories of the Old Testament prophets are like a cookbook that helped people prepare for the Savior that God would send one day.



Even though there's no exact recipe, kids will find that they can prepare themselves for a loving relationship with God when they:

- 1. Trust God.**
- 2. Talk to God.**
- 3. Listen to God.**
- 4. And leave the results to God.**

1st Kids Sunday School happens each Sunday at 9:15 in the 1st Kids Area on the lower level.

Check out what's happening with 1st Kids at:  
[1stchurch.org/1st-Kids](http://1stchurch.org/1st-Kids)

### Wednesdays at 1st

We hope your child has been able to come here on Wednesday nights to enjoy time with the children's choirs and 1st Kids Bible Study (at 6:30 pm). Throughout November we'll be taking a look at Moses, the Chosen Tracker of Truth.

### 1st Kids Christmas Celebration

This December kids will have a special chance to celebrate the season of Christmas together as we present the 1st Kids Christmas Celebration. On **December 4th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm**, the children's choirs will sing and afterward we will all come together to eat pizza and work on some Christmas crafting. This is a family event. All are encouraged to participate. More details coming soon!



### RESURRECTION 2023 is coming up January 20th - 22nd.

This is one of the most anticipated events for youth each year and we want to take a big group to Pigeon Forge to experience it. Be on the lookout for more details at [1stchurch.org/1st-youth](http://1stchurch.org/1st-youth) and other church channels and publications.



Youth Fellowship will NOT be meeting on November 23rd and November 27th.

Sunday School classes meet each week at 9:15 am. The classes are divided with 6th through 8th Graders in one class and 9th through 12th graders in the other. Youth Sunday school classes meet in rooms 153 A & B.

Youth gather in Wesley Hall at 6:45 on Sunday nights then break out into smaller groups.

On Wednesday evenings, Youth Choirs meet at 6:00 pm with a Youth Study happening at 6:30 pm then all youth come together at 7:00 pm for some fun time together.

If you have questions about youth please send them to [info@1stchurch.org](mailto:info@1stchurch.org).



**Memorial Fund**

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Bud Waters	Libby Lewis
Cheryl Coleman	Phil & Amy Large
Cheryl Coleman	Libby Lewis
Cheryl Coleman	Paula Bullah
Cheryl Coleman	Bill & Elizabeth Pedersen
Cheryl Coleman	Surgical Specialists of TN
Cheryl Coleman	Rather & Kittrell
Cheryl Coleman	Virginia Hardwick
Cheryl Coleman	Bernice Howard
Cheryl Coleman	Grant & Laura Burchfield
Eileen Jennings	Kathryn King
Jim Dula	Libby Lewis
Nell Moore	Charlie & Barbara Barton
Web Slawson	Barbara Hammond
Wilma Patterson	Bob Haresnape

**Missions Fund**

*In memory of:*  
JoAnn Stanfield Threlkeld

*Given by:*  
Christian Living Sunday School Class

**Music Fund**

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Bud Waters	Herb Dixon



**Eileen Jennings**

*Joined First Church: November 13, 2022*  
*Entered the Church Triumphant: September 30, 2022*

**Jane Butterworth**

*Joined First Church: April 10, 1960*  
*Entered the Church Triumphant: September 1, 2022*

**Welcome Table**

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Cheryl Coleman	Karl & Sherry Miller
Cheryl Coleman	Rocky & Julie Rochelle
Cheryl Coleman	Mark & Marietta Mason
Cheryl Coleman	Jim & Mary Kay Hamlin
Cheryl Coleman	Leland & Lisa Blackwood
Eileen Jennings	Bertha Franks
Eileen Jennings	Cathy Kresica
Ken Flowers	Karen Flowers
Margaret (Peggy) Taylor	Leland & Lisa Blackwood
Roger Scott	Doug & Emily Smith
Roger Scott	Rick & Bonnie Betteridge
Roger Scott	Leland & Lisa Blackwood
Roger Scott	Phyllis Bostick
Roger Scott	Dan & Jan McCoy
Roger Scott	Rocky & Julie Rochelle
Roger Scott	Mark & Marietta Mason
Roger Scott	Bernice Howard
Roger Scott	Cathy Kresica
Roger Scott	Sojourners Sunday School Class
Roger Scott	Bookie Reynolds
Roger Scott	Wally & Nan Werner
Roger Scott	Janie Haley
Roger Scott	Don & Karen Feather
Roger Scott	Doug & Joan Jenkins
Roger Scott	Pat Collier
Roger Scott	Peter & Karen Gale
Roger Scott	Karl & Sherry Miller
Wilma Patterson	Rocky & Julie Rochelle

**Christian sympathy extended to:**

George Jennings and his family in the death of his wife, Eileen on September 30th.

The family of Jane Butterworth who passed away on September 1st.

**Staff Contacts**



You can find staff and ministry contacts under the "Inside at 1st" 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  
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Generosity 2023

As we emphasize generosity in November, will you please consider and pray about how God is calling you to give through 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church? Please watch for a special edition of *The Church Bell* describing the ways in which our gifts make a difference in the congregation, community, and world.

Watch your mail for a card inviting you to estimate how much you will give to God through 1<sup>st</sup> Church in 2023. Your estimate helps our finance committee and church council to budget more faithfully and accurately, so that we have a firmer idea of the extent to which we can reach out in love and service in the year ahead.

There's a new incentive this year. For every estimate of giving card received, our congregation will donate \$100 to a community ministry partner in honor of the person or family completing the card. Help us to gather 250 estimate cards so that we can reach the goal of sharing \$25,000 in honor of our donors with difference-making missions and ministries in our community.

**3D** DEVOTION  
DISCIPLINE  
DIFFERENCE

For the first three Sunday mornings in November, our worship theme focuses upon generosity both as a means of imitating God and sharing blessing. Over these three weeks, we will consider generosity as an act of *devotion*, a spiritual *discipline*, and a means of making a *difference* in the world around us.

Whether in-person or online, please worship with 1<sup>st</sup> Church on Sunday mornings in November as we explore together these three *Ds* of generosity.



1stchurch.org