



THE CHURCH BELL



SEPTEMBER

2023



Last Friday evening, Brett, Micah, and I went to our first football game of the new season! Here's the point in the story at which I should say, "Hello. My name is Jonathan, and I'm a lifelong lover of football!" I especially love watching my Emory & Henry Wasps and America's Team, *your* Atlanta Falcons!

As we sat in the stadium on Friday evening, I realized how much the pregame excitement builds. The teams warm up, more and more spectators fill the seats, the band performs, the national anthem is sung, the coin is tossed, and then - finally- the awaited, anticipated kickoff! At Friday night's kickoff, I was out of my seat, I was yelling, my heartrate was probably up – in sum, I was thrilled and excited!

In our lives of faith, there are sometimes those kickoff moments. To the people of Israel, God spoke these words of pregame excitement through the prophet Isaiah, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Just before his ascent into heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon them, Jesus says to his disciples in Acts 1:8, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." In each case, God was about to kickoff something new among the faithful.

My pulse quickens and my adrenaline surges a little as I write this part. For several years, our congregation has celebrated the All Church Tailgate on the first Sunday of September. Since tailgate parties are often part of the buildup to that exciting moment of kickoff, this year we're capitalizing by launching some new ministry efforts in tandem with the tailgate.

I can't tell you how excited I am about the new small group effort we're launching in September! As another church proclaimed several years ago, "small groups are huge!" Through these small groups, we'll watch over each other in love as we grow in faith, grace, and service together. Learn more about them on the next page, or contact Rev. Nathan Irwin (nirwin@1stchurch.org).

I'm so glad and grateful for the leadership of Rev. Dr. Greta Smith and Dr. Jim Stovall, who are launching the *Grace for All* podcast in September. They will produce sample episodes to give us an idea of how far and effectively this ministry can reach beyond our congregation and community, and they'd love to involve *you* in next year's daily podcast. It will be written and produced by the lay members of our congregation. What a gift to the world!

I'm thrilled that our committee on nominations and lay leadership will name members of leadership groups for our congregation's nurture, outreach, and witness ministry groups to facilitate even more opportunities for our congregation to reach out in Jesus' name.

The bottom line is this - I believe God's about to do some exciting new things among us, and I believe the Holy Spirit is calling and equipping us to be witnesses in new ways. Now, I can't wait for kickoff!

Small groups, ready for kickoff – Rev. Nathan Irwin

All through the month of August we have been talking about small group discipleship. Hopefully you have heard of the life changing power of small groups and how we can help to support each other in our lives as followers of Christ. As we turn the calendar to September, it is time to begin this new journey.

Your first opportunity to sign up for Small Groups @1st will be in person at our All-Church Fall Tailgate Kickoff, on Sunday September 3rd.

If you are unable to be there, we will have online signups available after Labor Day. There will be

information about each group including meeting times, locations, and group leaders. We are looking forward to having you join us as we “start small”. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at nirwin@1stchurch.org.



What does it mean to be an apostle?

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare . . .” These are the opening words of the Modern Affirmation in our *United Methodist Hymnal*. They nearly echo the words of the ancient Nicene Creed: “We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church.” And, of course, perhaps our best-known most beloved creed is called The Apostles’ Creed.

But what exactly does it mean to be an apostolic church or an apostle, for that matter?

To be an apostle is to be **sent** in the name of or on behalf of another. Jesus understood himself to be sent by God the Father, and he intended his followers to be sent into the world in his name. In fact, our congregation’s familiar words, “Go. Do.” come from a well known scripture passage in which Jesus sent his followers to share love in his name.

Our September worship focus is entitled *Sent*, and throughout the month, we’ll explore why and how the church—and particularly *our* church—is sent into our community, region, and world to live as Jesus lived, to serve as Jesus served, and to love as Christ loved.



1st Student Ministries Director, Chris Jacobs joined Rev. Jonathan Jonas and Dr. Dwight Dockery at the Maryville College Faith Community Fair. The three talked to incoming students and handed out 1st UMC swag.



Dr. Jennifer Anderson leads one of the music programs that are part of the Wednesdays at 1st programming. It all starts at 5:00 pm. Check out the schedule and dinner menu at: 1stchurch.org/Wednesdays

How your support is helping ministry in Latvia.

1st UMC's mission to support our sister church in Latvia is helping that church do some wonderful things. In July, the minister and congregation of Kuldiga UMC sent a letter to Ron & Carol Werker, 1st Church members who have been leading mission work in Latvia for many years.

Here are highlights from that letter on what's happening in Latvia. Scan the QR Code or visit the website to read the whole letter.

- Thanks to prayers and financial support Kuldiga's shower, meal and laundry ministry continues.
- Using donations from our church, Kuldiga UMC has been able to proceed with roof repair.
- Support from 1st UMC has allowed the congregation to take children from the Ukraine and their Sunday School to an amusement park
- A children's evangelization event is planned for fall.



Let's Go.Do. this September!

Each September we call on EVERYONE to Go.Do. and help make a difference in the lives of others. Through hands-on projects, donation drives and more we hope you will be a part of it all.

Check out the details on the Go.Do. Events we have planned at: 1stchurch.org/GoDo.

Each Week (Sunday - Saturday)

Bless the Blessing Box

Help us help the people using the Blessing Box have basic items to create a meal. The items will change each Sunday. Visit the website or check out the bulletin for the list of items each week.

Saturday, September 9th from 8:00 am to 11:30 am

Habitat for Humanity Work Day

Saturday, September 16th from 9:00 am to Noon

Sycamore Tree Campus Work Day

Saturday, September 23rd from 10:00 am to Noon

UMCOR Hygiene Kit Packing





For all the families with students, we hope you are settled in to the new school year. The All-Church Tailgate is coming up on September 3rd and there will be plenty of fun for “kids” of all ages as well as worship under the big tent. **A reminder there is NO Sunday School or KOW on September 3rd.** Hope to see you at the tailgate! Here’s a look at other things happening with 1st Kids over the next few weeks.



Sunday School

Out of Control - A focus on how God helps us keep things “in control”.

Kids Own Worship

Animated - A closer look at prophets in the Old Testament

1st Kids Bible Study - Wednesdays at 1st

Trackers of Truth (Each Wednesday at 6:15 pm)

Bible Presentations

During worship on September 10th we’ll hand out Bibles to 3rd graders and new this year, we’ll give Story Bibles to Kindergartners. Please let Kristi know if your child wants one, kalton@1stchurch.org or 865-982-1273.



S’more Prayer Event

2:00 pm on Sunday, September 10th at Sycamore Tree

Camp Not a Lot of Woods (an overnight stay at the church)

September 15th - 8:00 pm until 9:00 am - Register at 1stchurch.org/camp



1stchurch.org/1st-kids



The new school year is in full swing and our new First Future programming for students in 6th - 12th grade have us balancing a lot of things. Rise & Shine, Deep Space, Close Encounter and Sunday School all provide opportunities for the youth to prepare for a faith based future. Check out the website for more of what’s happening or sign up for text updates.

Each Sunday - 9:15 am

Sunday School - Wesley Hall

Each Sunday - 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Close Encounter Gathering - Wesley Hall

On **September 17th** we’ll have *Neon Church*, a worship experience with black lights, glow sticks and neon colors. Students should wear neon colors and invite friends!



Tuesdays at 7:30 am

Rise & Shine for 9th—12th graders - Wesley Hall

Wednesdays - 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Deep Space Bible Study - Wesley Hall

Thursdays at 7:30 am

Rise & Shine for 9th - 12th graders at Chick-fil-A in Alcoa.



1stchurch.org/students

Text “Info” to 865-999-0099 for updates from First Future



As work continues on the Sycamore Tree location, Family Promise of Blount County continues doing what they've been doing... providing hope and help for homeless families in Blount County. Although there is not yet a firm date for moving their offices and guest families to Sycamore Tree, progress is being made daily.

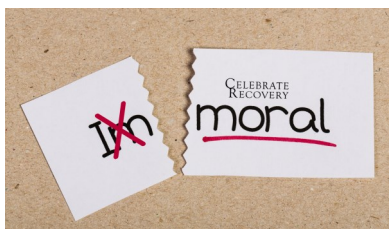
In the meantime, our church's next host week begins **October 22nd**. What we know at this point is that we will be providing some evening meals. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date. Also, be sure and mark your calendars for **October 21st** when Family Promise hosts its "Night Without a Bed" fundraiser.

Thank you 1st UMC for your dedication and your service.

Yours In Christ,
Mavis Ziegler and Amy Large, Co-coordinators of Family Promise at 1st UMC



September 6th



In recovery we must openly examine and confess our faults.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

5:30 Meal
6:30 Worship
7:40 Share Groups

Join us in-person or online!



CRMaryvilleTN.com

Retired Colonel U.S. Air Force, Paula Penson joins us with her recovery story.

September 13th



At this step in recovery learn why you need to start writing your inventory and what to put in it.

September 20th



September 27th
 Alex Walker joins us to talk about doing "the next right thing."



Memorials & Honorariums

Welcome Table

In honor of:
Wanda Teffeteller
(for her 90th birthday)

Given by:
Sojourners
Sunday School Class

In memory of:
Ed Green
Missy Adams

Given by:
Glenda Hawkins
Phil & Amy Large



Melissa (Missy) Adams

Joined First Church: March 23, 1975
Entered the Church Triumphant: August 10, 2023

Christian sympathy extended to:

Gabriel Adams in the death of his mother,
Missy Adams who died on August 10th.

Karen Malone in the death of her mother,
Patricia Amos on August 19th.

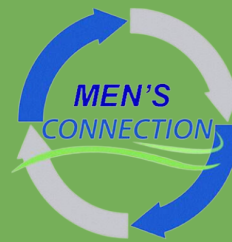
Staff Contacts



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

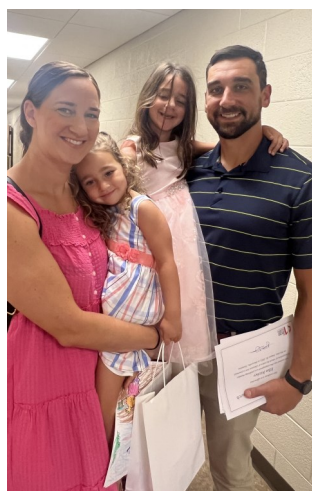


The next meeting of Men's
Connection is September
11th at 11:30 am
at the Asbury Place Bistro.
Contact Ron Werker with
any questions at
rwerker@bellsouth.net.

Welcome to 



The Ferrell Family
Ryan, Katie,
Abigail & Charlotte



The Ritchey Family
Chris, Ellen,
Caroline & Savannah



Emmet & Betty Rawls



Bill Woods

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

8:15 AM - COMMUNION ONLY SERVICE
(IN THE SANCTUARY)

8:45 AM - TAILGATE SET UP

9:00 AM - TAILGATING BEGINS

10:30 AM - WORSHIP UNDER
THE BIG TENT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

MESSAGE FROM PHIL WILKS
(FORMER MARYVILLE COLLEGE COACH)



- TAILGATING STATIONS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THEIR OWN BEVERAGES
- BRING LAWN CHAIRS FOR TAILGATING (WORSHIP CHAIRS ARE PROVIDED)
- 1ST UMC MERCHANDISE FOR SALE (CASH OR CHECK ONLY)



1stchurch.org/tailgate



1STCHURCH.ORG

804 Montvale Station Road
Maryville, TN 37803
865-982-1273