

THE CHURCH BELL



REACH - CONNECT - EQUIP - SEND



1stchurch.org

OCTOBER 2025



1stchurch.org



So faith by itself; if it has no works, is dead.
-James 2:17

DO I NEED CELEBRATE RECOVERY?



Do I Need Celebrate Recovery?

I do. You may too.

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program and spiritual path based on the twelve steps and the eight principles defined by the Beatitudes of Jesus. Celebrate Recovery is open to people who want to heal from their hurts, habits, and hang-ups. If you want a spiritual practice but cannot get motivated to do one, then Celebrate Recovery may help you. Why do we procrastinate? Or why are we impatient with people who procrastinate? The answers to these questions are more than mere laziness and intolerance. There are reasons we act in such ways. The answers may be in either our hurts or hang-ups.

We try to cope with the problems of life, but it turns into bitterness and resentment. How do we deal with these issues? We become self-loathing or begin hating other people. We adopt attitudes that do not reflect Jesus Christ. And we need to find our way out of these harmful habits which can lead to drug abuse, alcoholism, eating disorders, abusing people, and other behaviors that keep us from being people we know we should be. Celebrate Recovery is a way of overcoming the resentments and bitterness that cause us to destroy ourselves and other people around us.

On **Wednesday October 15th** we invite you to our kick-off event for a new season of Celebrate Recovery here at 1st UMC Maryville. Join guests from other Christ-centered recovery programs in the area and enjoy the fellowship and worship. Our hope is this will be an exciting evening that is beneficial for everyone attending. If you do not need recovery, volunteers are needed to serve and welcome those who do. Trust me when I say people in recovery need the encouragement and acceptance.

**OCTOBER 15TH
KICKOFF EVENT!**

5:30 - DINNER
6:30 - KICKOFF EVENT
7:40 - SHARE GROUPS

CRat1st.com

October 1st
Inventory

October 8th
Spiritual Inventory Pt. 1

October 15th
Kickoff Event

October 22nd
Spiritual Inventory Pt. 2

October 29th
Confess

Where we SEND



We can change the world for the better when we focus on the good we can do. In October, we'll celebrate the ways we are making a difference in the lives of others through the ways we serve in the church, the community and throughout the world.

Whether it's serving at Welcome Table, Celebrate Recovery or Good Neighbors; volunteering at your kid's school; or going on a mission trip, the numbers of hours you spend giving your time really add up.

This year's stewardship campaign focuses on "The Good We Do" together. To help tell the story of the difference 1st UMC is making, we are asking you to go online and fill out a special survey listing how you are serving now or have served in the past.

You'll find the survey at 1stchurch.org/go-do.

Barrier Free Worship

From the beginning of 1st UMC's efforts to offer day respite for individuals and families living with dementia, we have also planned to offer dementia friendly worship opportunities. We now feel called to offer what many refer to as "barrier free" worship for people living with dementia, cognitive challenges, or various expressions of neurodivergence.

On **Sunday, October 12, at 2:00 pm**, our congregation will host its first barrier free worship service at Sycamore Tree.

This service will be shorter than the typical one hour worship service, using a simpler format. We will emphasize a welcoming atmosphere, sing familiar songs, and prioritize how people feel in this time and space. If a person might tend to speak out or vocalize during worship, that's fine. If someone feels a need to get up and move, that's fine too. The whole idea is to make people feel welcome in God's presence without stigma or rules.

We will need greeters and guides to welcome worshipers. Musicians are welcome to share their gifts leading worship. Even being present as a worshiper helps to make the atmosphere more friendly and welcoming.

Sweet success at Dessert Jam 2025

Dessert, music and a silent auction helped give a boost to the DayBreak Dementia Respite Care Ministry. Jill Pope, the director of DayBreak, said she and others at the dementia respite care ministry are thrilled with the support received during this first ever Dessert Jam fundraiser. "From our sponsors and donors to our attendees and servers, everyone has been generous, kind and supportive. The food was delicious. The band was excellent," said Jill.



Over 75 people attended Dessert Jam, and more than \$7,000 was raised to help fund the DayBreak mission. Jill says she is looking forward to having another Dessert Jam event next year and hopes to see you there!

Memory Café

DayBreak continues building awareness about the Memory Café. If you know of someone who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia and is in the early stages of symptoms, share with them that we have a support group and social time just for them and their family members.

The Memory Café meets every 4th Tuesday at 2:00 pm in the DayBreak center at 1st UMC @ Sycamore Tree.

Be a part of DayBreak's growth

Please contact Jill Pope anytime for more information about Daybreak.

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

To receive DayBreak Morning Light updates, please visit: tinyurl.com/NewsletterDayBreak.

To help with the **Barrier Free Worship** contact Jill Pope or Rev. Jonathan Jonas (jjonas@1stchurch.org).

What happened at District Conference?

Representatives of the sixty-two congregations of the newly realigned Smoky Mountain District of the United Methodist Church met in Sevierville on September 21st. The conference elected district officers and leaders, elected representatives to the 2026 Holston Annual Conference, and adopted a district budget.

In each of these actions, 1st UMC's leadership in the district was clearly recognized. Six members of the congregation will serve on district committees next year; the first seven representatives elected to represent the district at the Holston Conference were members of 1st Church; and the congregation will contribute \$25,347 or 14% of the district's \$180,753 budget.



Members of the 1st UMC congregation representing the district at the Holston Annual Conference are: Julie George, Russell George, Mollianne Hubbs, Kathryn King, Phil Large, Emmitt Rawls, and Mike Swift.

All members of Smoky Mountain District congregations are invited to the District Day with our bishop, Debra Wallace-Padgett, at **6:00 PM on November 18th**, at Seymour UMC.

Building with Purpose: Church Communications Conference



The world of church communications changes rapidly and its important to make sure communication strategies are in place to keep up with all that's happening, from Artificial Intelligence to changing patterns in social media and advancements in website technology.

In mid September, Clayton Hensley (Director of Communications), Kathryn King (Chair of the Witness Team) and Rev. Don Jones (Celebrate Recovery & Nurture) traveled to Chicago to attend Church Communications Group's, CommCon '25. The theme of the three day event was "Built with Purpose." The speakers and breakout sessions were focused on ways to take action in a variety of ways to build more meaningful and effective ways to communicate.

Kathryn King said she learned about several available tools designed specifically to help churches carry out their communications strategy. "I particularly enjoyed Mark MacDonald's keynote and session about being known for something. I look forward to working with the Witness Committee to focus on what 1st should be known for," said Kathryn.

For Clayton Hensley, this is the third conference he's attended, put on by the Church Communications group. It started as a Facebook group years ago and has grown into a multi-faceted network of "companies" focused on church and spiritual growth. One of those is Missional Marketing, a firm that is currently working with 1st UMC to help improve our performance online.

Clayton said he comes back from CommCon '25 with a renewed commitment to expanding 1st Church's communications footprint and getting more people involved in spreading the word on how the church is working to Reach, Connect, Equip and Send. If you are interested in ways you can help, please email communications@1stchurch.org.

God is a king!

Sunday School focus for October

God is King, reigning with absolute authority, justice and love over all creation. As the sovereign Ruler, His power is unmatched, and His wisdom guides the universe with perfect order and purpose.

Unlike the earthly king the Israelites cried out for, God's reign is eternal and unchanging, filled with mercy and grace for His people. He governs with a heart of compassion, inviting all to find refuge under His divine protection and provision. As King, He calls His followers to honor Him with reverence and obedience, promising an everlasting kingdom of peace and joy for those who trust in Him.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory! (Psalm 24:10)*

Fall Festival at 1st - A Night to Belong!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 26th (4:00 to 6:00 pm)** in the church parking lot!



Our Fall Festival is filled with laughter, fun, and fall cheer for the whole family. You'll find decorated trunks brimming with treats, a big inflatable, a silly spider hunt mission, whimsical face painting, and classic games for every age.

Even more than the activities, this night is about connection. It's neighbors meeting neighbors, kids making memories, and families experiencing God's love through a spirit of joy and community.

Be a part of something special by volunteering. Whether you host a trunk, welcome families, or lend a hand with games, there's a place for you to serve and share in the fun.

Sign up to serve at 1stchurch.org/fall-festival.

Feel free to reach out to Kristi (kalton@1stchurch.org) with any questions. Or if you are unable to attend the event, support our efforts by donating candy! The candy donation bin will be by the front office.

Join us for an evening where smiles, friendship, and fellowship shine as bright as the fall colors. We can't wait to see you there!



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



Kids Own Worship for October

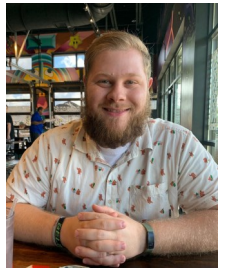
King Solomon is best known for his wisdom and for building God's temple. Thankfully, he passed on his wisdom so others could have a strong foundation for building up their faith. In this 5-week series, kids will hear from Solomon and the wisdom he shared about the kind of life God wants to help us build.

During Kids Own Worship, your kids will see that **God gives them directions to follow, listens to their requests, is worthy of their worship, and gives them true wisdom.**





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



WEEKLY PROGRAMMING!

Sundays

9:15 am Youth Sunday School
6:30 pm Youth Fellowship

Tuesdays

(Except October 7th & 14th)
7:30 am Rise and Shine

Wednesdays

(Except October 8th)
5:00 pm Youth Gathering
6:00 pm Youth Choirs
6:45 pm Youth Bible Study

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Rise and Shine is on a roll with the group reaching more than 100 students on a couple of occasions now. Keep spreading the word about this awesome opportunity to start Tuesday mornings!

1st UMC recently hosted families in the Emergency Shelter phase of Family Promise at the 1st UMC @ Sycamore Tree campus. What an inspiration it was to witness the families in action! Each family is so committed to working their way through the program and getting a home to call their own. The families also help each other with the daily chores of living at the shelter, and get to know each other along the way.



Each of these remarkable families has their own story. One family is made up of a single mother with two daughters (14 and 7), and a son (5). She works hard not only at her job but at being a good mom. The oldest daughter gets up at 5:00 am each morning to help her mom get her younger siblings out of bed and ready for school. Then she heads out for practice for the school's volleyball team before classes start. In the evenings when there are matches it can be a long day. The mother and daughter interact with such respect for one another and determination to do their best. They share the kind of relationship that exemplifies the best one can hope for.

Thank you to everyone who provided yummy dishes to eat, delivered food to the shelter, and served as hosts for the evening or overnight. Your efforts make a positive impact for these homeless families. For those missing out on this rewarding service it is not too late to step forward. Please contact our coordinators at 1stchurch.org/family-promise to plan for the 1 hour 15-minute training which allows volunteers to meet directly with the guests. Hosts are especially needed for 1stUMC's next host week December 7th - 13th.



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



Celebrate Recovery

In honor of:
Gordo Watson

Given by:
Phil & Amy Large

Memorial Fund

In honor of:
Cecil Nelson

Given by:
Steve & Martha Shields



Ralph Webber

Entered the Church Triumphant:
September 3, 2025

Neal Wormsley

Entered the Church Triumphant:
September 7, 2025

REACH others through Sharing



Whether you catch 1st UMCs sermon clips on social media or on the church's YouTube Channel, just seeing them is only the first step. Be sure you are liking the clips, commenting on them and then be sure and SHARE them! It's amazing how powerful these clips can be and how far the messages in them can spread.

Christian sympathy extended to:

Janet Webber and her family.
Janet's husband, Ralph
died on September 3rd.

Jo Wormsley and her family.
Jo's husband, Neal Wormsley passed away
on September 7th.

Dana and Josh Rose and their children,
Elliott and Emerson in the death of Dana's
father, Emerson Caughron on
September 18th.

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.

Wednesday Bible Study Resumes October 22nd!

Just a note to let you know that the Adult Bible Study that meets as part of Wednesdays at 1st, will not be meeting for a few weeks. Rev. Jonathan Jonas plans to resume this study on October 22nd. In the meantime, you are encouraged to attend the Celebrate Recovery at 1st Kickoff Event on October 15th.

Wednesdays
@ 1st

**No Children or
Youth Choirs or
Bible Studies.**

OCTOBER 8TH

Celebrate Recovery and
Chancel Choir WILL
meet on this night.



Maryville First United Methodist Church
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Maryville, Tennessee 37803
Phone: 865-982-1273
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NON-PROFIT ORG

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HAPPENING AT @  **1STCHURCH.ORG**

OCTOBER 12TH - BARRIER FREE WORSHIP
1ST UMC @ SYCAMORE TREE

OCTOBER 15TH - CELEBRATE RECOVERY @ 1ST
KICKOFF EVENT

OCTOBER 26TH - FALL FESTIVAL @ 1ST

OCTOBER 27TH - CHURCH COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2ND - ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

NOVEMBER 9TH - CHURCHWIDE
THANKSGIVING DINNER



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