



THE CHURCH BELL

TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST WE WILL:
TELL, TEACH, TOUCH THE WORLD

ISSUE 4
MARCH 25, 2019

How welcoming are we?

Pastors get a flurry of emails and posts this time of year about how to welcome visitors at Easter. We are bombarded with statistics verifying that a visitor will drive through the parking lot once and then leave if there is not a spot open. A visitor makes an assessment in the first three minutes if this is a welcoming church or not. Visitors will come back if you do this and won't come back if you don't do that.

By the way – regular church members who are able-bodied, please park at the farthest parking spaces on Easter Sunday OR park behind the Maryville Junior High School and our church van will drop you off right at the door and take you back to your car. The shuttle runs from 6:45 am to 12:15 pm.

At 1st United Methodist Church, we say we are a welcoming and friendly church. But are we, really? Welcoming is more than just nodding and smiling at someone.

We say we are a welcoming church, but do we *really* make room for folks? **Literally** make room – as in scooting down the pew and offering our aisle seat to a latecomer?

We say we are a welcoming church, but do we really include the new members who are not from around here? It is easy to welcome the ones who transferred from another UMC – they know our lingo. But what about the folks new to church and who are not familiar with all of the traditions and assumptions?

We say we want younger families, but are we really welcoming? We scoff when they are not here every week but do not take time to ask how their week has been.

We say we want folks to visit our Sunday School class, but are we really welcoming to those who don't know our inside jokes and our history? Do we put aside our usual conversations to make folks feel included?

We say we are welcoming, but do we really want the folks who enter the church on Wednesday night who may have tattoos and piercings sitting next to us on a Sunday morning?

It is my hope and prayer that we are a welcoming congregation – not just at Easter for visitors – but for everyone all of the time! Thank you for your efforts to go a little outside your own comfort zone to make someone else feel comfortable here!

Looking forward to seeing you each Sunday!

Catherine



APRIL 14TH

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
8:15 AM & 10:30 AM

KIDS' PALM FUNDAY AT 9:15 AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
10:30 AM



APRIL 18TH

WORSHIP SERVICE
7:00 PM



APRIL 19TH

WORSHIP SERVICE
7:00 PM

EASTER

APRIL 21ST

SUNRISE SERVICE
7:00 AM ON THE FRONT LAWN

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
8:15 & 10:30 AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
10:30 AM

Our Church Family

Congratulations!

Jim and Rita Warner recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were married in Lafayette, IN on March 1st, 1969 by the Rev. P.B. Smith.

The couple has two daughters and three grandsons.

Jim is retired from the U.S. Air Force and United Airlines. Rita is a retired physician's assistant. In addition to being members of 1st UMC, the Warners belong to the Alcoa Kiwanis Club, the American Legion and the VFW.



It's that time of year again, time to start collecting items for the Holston Conference Hands-On Mission Project. This year we are once again sending food buckets to Zimbabwe.

Here's what we are collecting on **April 21st** and **28th**.

- **1 bottle of cooking oil (48 oz.)**
- **1 bag of dried beans (2 lbs.)**
- **1 bag of rice (2 lbs.)**

Please bring your items to the area in front of the church office on those two Sundays.



Welcome Table is in need of someone to work in the dish room on the third Thursday of each month. Usually these workers come at 4:45 pm and leave around 6:45 pm.

This doesn't involve scraping dirty dishes, just loading and unloading the dishwasher, putting away the dishes and utensils, scrubbing a pot or two.

If anyone is interested or needs more information please call Susie Curtiss at **865-984-2712**.



Sign ups for the May trip to the Tennessee Theater begin on April 3rd and end on May 2nd.



Learning about God's Covenant with his people

During this Lenten season our Noonday Worship services on Wednesdays have focused on God's Covenant with his people. There are two more of these services left where we will hear more about God's Covenant with David (April 3rd with Adam Hood) and the New Covenant of Jesus (April 10th with Rev. Amanda Bell Madson).

These worship services are designed with the Lunch Hour in mind as they are no longer than 30 minutes and a light meal is served in Wesley Hall immediately following worship. We hope you'll be able to join us for the remaining Noonday Lenten Services.



Donn King delivers a message on Moses during the Noonday Lenten Worship service on March 20th.

Observing Holy Week

From jubilant celebrations marking Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to the somber setting of the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Holy Week helps us walk with Jesus in his final days. Along the way we are reminded of his focus on a "new commandment" and the meaning behind "The Last Supper."



On Monday, April 15th, we will have the first of our Holy Week Noonday Worship Services. Like the ones held on Wednesdays throughout the Lenten Season (see above story), these services will be brief and followed by a light lunch. There will be a Noonday service on Monday through Thursday of Holy Week (April 15th - April 18th).

On Good Friday there will NOT be a Noonday worship service. Instead you are invited to participate in *The Stations of the Cross*. This is an ancient meditative pilgrimage where one walks the *Way of Sorrows* with Jesus to his death on Calvary Hill. Depicted in twelve visuals, the Stations highlight pivotal moments in Jesus' final hours. On Good Friday, *The Stations of the Cross* will be set up in Wesley Hall from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. A guidebook will be available with scripture lessons and prayers to help you contemplate the final hours of the life of Jesus.

Two evening services are planned for Holy Week. The first of these is Maundy Thursday (April 18th) at 7:00 pm. On this evening the focus will be on the new commandment Jesus gives to us to "Love One Another" as we remember Jesus' final hours and the "Last Supper" he shared with his disciples. Special music, a message and communion are all a part of this worship service.

On Good Friday (April 19th) at 7:00 pm, the worship service takes on a more somber feel as the story of the crucifixion is told during a special service in Asbury Hall.



CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

It all begins at sunrise (7:00 am) with a special service on the front lawn of the church where people gather to be the first hearing the "good news". From there, the celebrations move inside for 8:15 am and 10:30 am traditional worship services filled with the sounds of an orchestra, the chancel choir and a special Easter message.



Downstairs in Asbury Hall at the 10:30 Contemporary Worship service, a lot of new and exciting things are happening. You are invited to come and be part of the excitement on Easter morning with pre-worship music and fellowship starting at 10:15. Come praise God and hear his good news with uplifting songs and the message that Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed!



Easter is a great time to introduce people to the message of Jesus, so be sure and invite a friend (or two). We will have some invite cards available for you to take to friends and neighbors to encourage them to come to 1st UMC on Easter Sunday.

1st News

Wesley Day School director retiring



Even if you've never had a child in Wesley Day School, chances are you've seen the director, Kathy White here a few times, doing things like setting up the "Dinosaur Day", a Book Fair, or doing something with the children at WDS. At the end of this school year, Kathy is retiring.

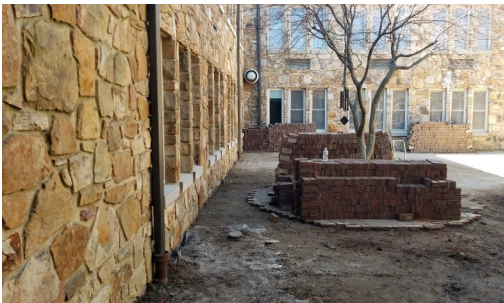
We want everyone to come and wish her a happy retirement, and thank her for her 30 years of making the children at WDS feel special.

SAVE THE DATE!

Retirement reception for Kathy White
Sunday, May 5th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Wesley Hall

Courtyard construction

A few weeks from now you should notice some BIG improvements to the Mt. Gilead Courtyard. Over the past week or so crews have been power washing the bricks as well as leveling the ground beneath them.



Contemporary Worship enhancements

On the first Sunday of the Lenten season, the 10:30 Contemporary Worship Service unveiled a few changes. One of the biggest was taking out the raised stage and adding a creative wooden backdrop (constructed by Chris Lee). In addition there is a new altar, cross and the seating has moved in closer to create a more inviting worship space.

Help Habitat for Humanity this Easter and beyond

On March 30th, the walls are set to go up at the latest 1st UMC Habitat for Humanity Home. Located at 225 Bessie Harvey Avenue in Alcoa, volunteers have already been working at the site for several weeks and will be doing so over then next couple of months.

This marks the 25th year of 1st UMC and Habitat building homes together. This home build is dedicated to 1st UMC member, Bill Mueller who volunteered at that first home build in 1994 and has been helping ever since.

This year's **Easter Offering** will go toward this Habitat Home build. Just put "Easter Offering" or "Habitat" on the memo lines of your check or give online at: 1stchurch.org/give-at-1st or text **1stchurch to 77977**.





NEW SHARE GROUP AT CELEBRATE RECOVERY!

Life after military service doesn't always make sense and it can be difficult to find people who understand what a veteran may be going through. A few weeks ago, a new share group started here at 1st UMC as part of our Celebrate Recovery ministry.

Welcome Home is a safe place for our military to share more about the problems they are facing and to find healing for their hurts, hang-ups and habits.

These share groups meet after worship at 7:40.
Find more information at:

CRMaryvilleTN.com/Welcome-Home

COMING TO CELEBRATE RECOVERY

EACH WEDNESDAY NIGHT

5:30 pm Light Meal

6:30 pm Worship

7:40 pm Share Groups

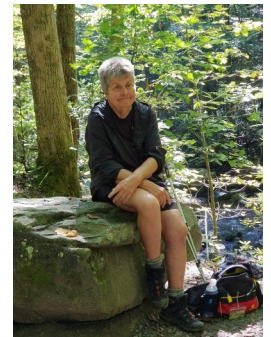
April 3rd

Turn

Rev. Matt Hall

April 10th

*Hiking for Healing
Bridging the Gap to a
New Beginning*
Dolphin Riggs



April 17th

Action

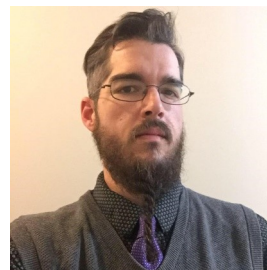
Rev. Matt Hall

April 24th

Dealing with Grief

Alex Walker,

Bereavement Coordinator with
Amedisys Hospice Care



Celebrating LOVE in February

The February Family Promise Host Week at 1stUMC was truly a celebration of love. The families were so loving and it was a joy to share time with them as they move closer to getting their own place to call home.

One dad nearly burst at the seams as he eagerly took on all the overtime available to get even closer to the goal of a home for his wife and son. The parents of each family shared childcare duties and all the dads are employed. It shouldn't be long till they reach the last phase of Family Promise and are Going Home/Staying Home.

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

United Methodist Women Tea Party Invitation

This invitation and others are going out now, and the United Methodist Women are hoping for a big turnout on April 4th as they host a Tea Party for ALL women of the church (and their friends). Jeremy Graham of True Purpose Ministries is the guest speaker. He will be filling you in on a new ministry for women here in East Tennessee.

The Tea Party is free. All you need to do is let the UMW know you are coming by signing up at 1stchurch.org/umw or calling the church office at **865-982-1273**. Be sure and bring your favorite tea pot and tea cup, don your Easter Bonnet and get ready to get to know each other better.



NEWS



Denise Johns
Director of 1st Kids Ministries
djohns@1stchurch.org
865-982-1273

Vacation Bible School Announcement

Something SUPER is coming THIS JUNE to 1st United Methodist Church. Instead of just a few day of Vacation Bible School, the science, music, crafts, great stories from the Bible and fun will be happening during the Sunday School Hour on EACH SUNDAY of the month.

The 1st Kids Ministries team is working hard to develop great lessons and learning experiences for your child with these lessons being reinforced during the worship services that month. These special Sundays will end with a big celebration on June 30th.

Just like with Vacation Bible Schools in the past, volunteers are needed to help make all this a success. Check with Denise Johns (information on the left) if you are interested in helping. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to June.



Palm Funday

In a couple of weeks, Wesley Hall will be filled with activities for children as PALM FUNDAY returns for another year. All children 6th grade and younger are invited to join in this hour of crafts, stories, food, fun and fellowship.

It all starts at 9:15 on the morning of April 14th. Parents and Grandparents are requested to accompany the children. There will be coffee and food available for the adults.

There will not be Sunday School that morning, but childcare will be available for children ages 3 and under. Volunteers are still needed to work the craft and activity stations. Contact Denise Johns at djohns@1stchurch to volunteer.

Confirmation Sunday coming up on APRIL 7th! 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Come celebrate this milestone in the lives of this year's Confirmation Class members. This special service recognizes an important step in their faith journey. The Youth Handbell Choir will be playing at the service and there will be a time for each of the confirmands to remember their baptism.

Even if you don't know someone in the Confirmation Class you are encouraged to attend to show your support and love for this group.

News



Rev. Nathan Irwin
Director of 1st Youth
nirwin@1stchurch.org
865-982-1273

It's always great when you can get together with people from other churches and that's exactly what the youth did on Sunday, March 24th.

Eighty-five people from Broadway, 1st UMC, Fairview and Middlesettlements UMCs came out to Vienna Coffee House for an evening of food, coffee and music provided by Broadway UMC.



Regular Youth fellowship is on Sunday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in room 153.

Memorials & Honorariums

Celebrate Recovery

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Frank Rankin	Randy & Laney Lambert
Frank Rankin	Roy & Sara Gregory
Frank Rankin	Randy & Margaret Trentham

Memorial Fund

<i>In honor of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Michelle Hanks	Harold & Sue Weltzin
Jennifer Weltzin	Harold & Sue Weltzin
Matt Weltzin	Harold & Sue Weltzin
Keegan Hanks	Harold & Sue Weltzin

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Joe Kenneth Melton	New Covenant SS Class
Gerald Lambert	Joyce Bennett
Gerald Lambert	Steve & Bonnie Davis Family
Gerald Lambert	Karl & Sherry Miller
Gerald Lambert	Kathleen Duncan
Gerald Lambert	William Kern
Gerald Lambert	John & Julia Story
Gerald Lambert	Kamperman Families
Gerald Lambert	Jack & Deborah Lambert
Gerald Lambert	Ernie & Pat Blankenship
Gerald Lambert	Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Reynolds
Gerald Lambert	Shannondale Community Assoc.
Sarah Dunsmore	Joy Deskins
Sarah Dunsmore	Friends at Y-12
Sarah Dunsmore	Brian, Cindy & Annie Reed
Sarah Dunsmore	Jordan & Kylie Mullins
Harold Lambert	Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Reynolds

Missions Fund

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Doug Hardwick	Bill & Elizabeth Pedersen
Doug Hardwick	Randy & Margaret Trentham

Music Fund

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Gerald Lambert	Dwain & Jane Pesterfield
Sarah Dunsmore	Bob & Phyllis Bostick

Music Ministry

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Sarah Dunsmore	Doug & Emily Smith

Welcome Table

<i>In memory of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Don Watson	Jim & Regina Watson
Gerald Lambert	Randy & Laney Lambert
Gerald Lambert	Bible Survey Sunday School Class
Frank Rankin	Phil & Amy Large

Christian sympathy extended to:

Jim Scruggs in the death of his father, "Bill" Scruggs on March 11th.

Anita Collins and Pat Dula in the death of their mother, Mildred Ballard on March 9th.

Kevin Myers in the death of his father, Jackie E. Myers on February 26th.

Kenda McCord in the death of her father, Joe Kenneth Melton on February 25th.

Wayne Anglim in the death of his father, Donald J. Anglim, Jr. on February 24th.



In Memoriam:

Dan Cochran, a former member of 1st UMC, entered the Church Triumphant on February 11th. He and his wife, Amy, were members of 1st UMC for many years, later moving to Franklin, TN.

Amy Cochran
5013 Captain Freeman Parkway
Franklin, TN 37064

Maryville First United Methodist Church
804 Montvale Station Road
Maryville, Tennessee 37803
Phone: 865-982-1273
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JOIN US
EASTER
APRIL 21 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunrise Service at 7:00 am on the front lawn of the church

1STCHURCH.ORG/EASTER

On Easter Sunday there will be a shuttle running from BEHIND Maryville Junior High School to the Porte Cochere entrance of the church from 6:45 am to 12:15 pm.

Help save spots for visitors on this busy Sunday by taking advantage of the shuttle service.

*The next regular edition of The Church Bell comes out on **April 29, 2019**
If you have something to submit, the deadline for submissions is **April 26, 2019***