

Transformed by Christ, we will:  
TELL, TEACH, TOUCH the World.

Some folks said that this past Sunday was “a long day.” I think I may have been one of those folks!

If you look back at the calendar and see the list of things going on, time-wise, it was a long day. From 8:15 worship to a funeral service at 2:00, Confirmation service at 5:00, and then our new 1st Worship Nights service at 7:00, yes the hours add up.

But instead of referring to a long day, I prefer to think of days like this past Sunday as deep and wide. Hopefully, the events and services that our church provides does more than fill our time. It is my prayer that they fill our spirits.

- The mothers who moved from our church to another early Sunday morning will remember the volunteers who took time to play with their children during Family Promise week;
- Surely there was someone here this Sunday who could relate to a thirsty soul and the quenching refreshment that God brings;
- Perhaps there was someone at the funeral who hasn't been to church in a while and was reminded of the need for community;
- As sixth graders knelt to be confirmed, I am almost certain that there were long time members who knelt in their hearts and renewed their commitment to Christ;
- And what a blessing it was to see such a variety of people at the 1st Worship Nights ... some old timers (you know who are!) and some people I have never seen before.

Thanks be to God for a deep and wide Sunday!

As we continue our Lenten journey, I hope you will look for opportunities to fill your spirit and not just your time.

A good place to begin is inside this newsletter! Take time to look for inspiration, opportunities, and connections!

Blessings to you!

*Catherine*

Issue 5

March 7, 2016



2016 Confirmation Service



1st Worship Nights



Conversation Matters

## Find yourself in a small group

Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20).

Small Groups are a great way to learn from others and grow in our faith. In Small Groups, we pray for each other, encourage each other, and offer accountability. Getting to know others and sharing honestly about life can strengthen our walk with Jesus.



"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

MATTHEW 18:20



Beginning in April, you will have an opportunity to join a short-term small group. The groups will meet once a week for six weeks. By meeting each week, you will get to know others in our church, build relationships, and grow in your faith journey.

Registration for Small Groups will be available at the lunch on March 20, as well as online. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Pastor Sarah at [sslack@1stchurch.org](mailto:sslack@1stchurch.org).



SMALL GROUP REGISTRATION  
MARCH 20TH AT THE CHURCHWIDE LUNCH  
FOLLOWING THE 10:30 WORSHIP SERVICES  
ASBURY HALL



A couple of existing small study groups also invite you to join them as they begin new topics. Details on page 3.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20TH!

## EASTER EGG HUNT & CHURCHWIDE LUNCH

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE  
[WWW.1STCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.1STCHURCH.ORG)  
OR CALL 982-1273



The Holston delegates to General Conference 2016 will be here at 1st UMC on Saturday **March 12th at 10:00 am** (in Asbury Hall), to answer your questions.

To learn more about General Conference, visit: <http://umc.org/gc2016>

## Staff

The main church phone number is **865-982-1273**

\*Please note that ALL staff emails now end with **1stchurch.org** unless otherwise noted.

### Pastors

Catherine Nance	cnance	ext. 111
Parker Benson	pbenson	ext. 106
Sarah Slack	sslack	ext. 107

### Music

Terry Wilson	sacmusic	ext. 109
Susan Daves	sdaves	ext. 110
Chris Lee	clee	ext. 116
Dwain Pesterfield (organist)	DwainP602@bellsouth.net	

### Children's Ministries

Denise Johns	djohns	ext. 113
Carmen Faircloth	ceaf26@att.net	

### Youth Ministries

Nathan Irwin	nirwin	ext. 202
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### Administrator

Mark Blodgett	mblodgett	ext. 103
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### Communications

Clayton Hensley	chensley	ext. 100
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### Membership Secretary

Jane Sanders	jsanders	ext. 101
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### Welcome Table

Amelia Geis-Scott	ameliageis@yahoo.com	
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### Technical Director

Samuel Williams	swilliams@1stchurch.org	
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### Maintenance & Custodial Staff

Paul Brown, Sherri Justice, Bryan Holder	982-1273	
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## Continuing the Conversation

Discussion can be healthy, especially when you are dealing with a subject like homosexuality and the church. Last month, around 250 people came out on a Sunday night for the latest of our *Conversation Matters* events.



Dr. Philip Sherman of Maryville College led the discussion which took a look at the history of this debate within the United Methodist Church. "It is sometimes hard for the Bible to stop being a mirror of what we are instead of becoming a window for us," Dr. Sherman told the crowd as he explained why people often interpret scripture differently.

People in the audience shared stories, their views on the subject, and asked thought provoking questions. It was an evening of great conversation. We hope you'll join us again on April 24th as Dr. Joseph Reiff of Emory & Henry College joins us to discuss his book, *Born of Conviction: White Methodists and Mississippi's Closed Society*.



## A great night of worship

The Holy Spirit filled Asbury Hall on the night of March 6th as a NEW worship service kicked off. Contemporary

Worship Music Director, Chris Lee said the 1st Worship Night service will be a way of bringing folks from the three other Sunday services together as well as serve as a way to reach out to the Maryville College community.

The focus of 1st Worship Nights (on the 1st Sunday night of each month) is on music and prayer. On the night of the first new service, the band played a variety of familiar tunes including *I Surrender All*. The Rev. Sarah Slack set up prayer stations where people lit candles for someone in need of prayer and another where people could write out their prayers to God.

In coming months, you can expect to see different people leading this unique worship experience. Come and enjoy 1st Worship Nights again on **April 3rd at 7:00 pm.**

# 1st News

## New topics for small groups

Two of the regular small group studies here at 1st UMC are getting ready to tackle new material. The Men's Group which meets on Thursday mornings from 6:00 to 7:30 am (Room 254) will begin "I am a Church Member" by Thom S. Rainer on March 17th. The book is based on one of Rainer's blogs and takes a look at the attitudes and responsibilities of church members.



Meanwhile, this week, the Bible Study group led by Bonnie VanPelt just started a 7-week study focused on the story of Gideon and how his story reflects our lives, our weakness and God's strength. Bonnie's group meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am in Room 152.

## Welcome to 1st UMC!

This year's Confirmation Service included a special addition. Nine members of the confirmand's families decided to join the church. Below is a picture of the group as they took the vows of the church during the Confirmation ceremony. Please take time and welcome all these new members to the 1st UMC family!



You'll find a closer look at the Confirmation Service on page 6

Starting the third Sunday of Lent, 1st UMC was home for Leanne and her children, Shyanne

(11) and Troy (10.) Stacy and son, Gabe (6), joined them on Monday as part of the Family Promise Mission to end homelessness one family at a time. Being new to the program Stacy wasn't certain what to expect. She was reassured when the hosts treated her as a person and didn't look down upon her. She vowed, "When I get back to standing on my own I'm going to be a Family Promise volunteer." Stacy and Gabe learned what Christian love looks and feels like. Leanne echoed her sentiments and was impressed that the hosts "engaged with the children, had conversation with everyone, and didn't just sit in the corner like some babysitter."

For all that Family Promise guests learned about the people at 1st UMC, we learned a lot from them too. Ever active Troy used some of that energy to clean up the dishes for everyone without being asked. Sweet little Gabe blessed the food like one of our own clergy. Shyanne took in everything around her. For example, after an outing to the Cunningham farm she named the team of horses that pulled the joyful guests through the gorgeous Tennessee countryside. Then she thanked Kirk, Tammy, Kyle, Katie and Brett Cunningham for making it possible. Back at the church she recalled the names of the many horses that lived in the barn too as she relived the pleasant escape from reality. The next morning the families moved on to the next church they call home. Stacy couldn't help but marvel over the well-oiled group that transformed their bedrooms and family room back into Sunday school classrooms. As she's working hard to find her own housing she's convinced she's found a home church.

Thank you to everyone who helped with all the different aspects of housing these families as they face the most challenging time of their lives. Most of all, thank you for doing your duties, whether it was preparing for their arrival, providing food or hosting companionship, with such great love.

*Mavis Ziegler*

1st UMC Family Promise Coordinator  
[mavisziegler@yahoo.com](mailto:mavisziegler@yahoo.com)

P.S. Save the dates of **June 5-12, 2016** for the next host week. Watch the *Church Bell* for the dates for a one-time training if you're not already part of this amazing mission right here at home.

# 1st News

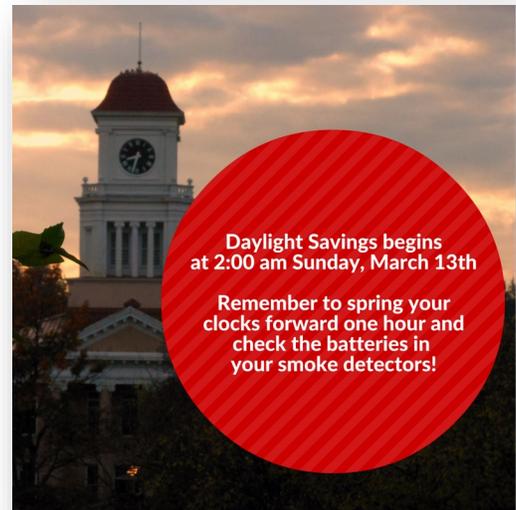
## Tales from the Trail

Photo from The Call/Holston Conference



Chuck "Cold Turkey" Jones will be hitting the trail on March 15th, starting on Springer Mountain, GA, the southern terminus of the trail.

Right after the last *Church Bell* went to press, Bert "Wildcat" Emmerson wrapped up his time as the Appalachian Trail Chaplain. Bishop Taylor congratulated him during Minister's Convocation. At that time, the new AT Chaplain was recognized.



Daylight Savings begins at 2:00 am Sunday, March 13th

Remember to spring your clocks forward one hour and check the batteries in your smoke detectors!

## Long awaited arrival

Easter Sunday 2015 was the last time the pipe organ here at 1st UMC was played during worship. After an extensive renovation and restoration the organ is close to being ready for use again. Workers from Barger & Nix Organs near Cleveland, TN delivered the console of the organ on Monday, March 7th. The pedals and other components will be coming soon. If all goes as planned, you should be hearing the beautiful sounds of the pipe organ again on Easter Sunday during 8:15 and 10:30 Traditional worship.



You can see pictures and video of the organ delivery on the church [Facebook page](#).

# CELEBRATE RECOVERY

www.crmaryvilletn.com

**Each Wednesday**  
Asbury Hall  
5:30 pm - Light Meal  
6:30 pm - Worship  
7:40 pm - Share Groups

**March 16 – Ronnie Lee, “God, Family and Country”**

**March 23 – Chip Bates of True Purpose Ministries  
“Redeemed and Delivered”**

**March 30—Sheryl McCormick, “This Little Light of Mine”**

**April 6th—Lesson 19, Crossroads with Rev. Parker Benson**



Because of Holy Week services, there will not be a J.O.Y. Fellowship lunch in March. Instead, there will be one on April 6th at Noon. The Reverend Linda Foster Momsen will join us for a couple of great workshops, “The Gift of Grandparenting” and “Crayonics.” More details coming.

You can sign up online at  
[www.1stchurch.org](http://www.1stchurch.org) or  
call 982-1273.

**Call to Prayer and Self-Denial  
with Rev. Catherine Nance  
March 17th at 11:00 am  
Wesley Hall**

Members of our UMW will be providing a salad potluck for lunch. All women of the church are invited to this event.



**Help out in your community!**

These two organizations could use a little extra help.

**Meals on Wheels &  
SMiles transportation services**

If you're interested please call the number below to set an appointment with the Blount County Community Action Agency to talk further about volunteering.

**865-983-8411 ext. 26**

Download the volunteer application at:

[www.blountcaa.org/volunteer](http://www.blountcaa.org/volunteer)

## CR Update from Sandy Hodson

There are 12 steps in the Recovery process and you'll hear about them each Wednesday night during the Celebrate Recovery services at 1st UMC. As this edition of the newsletter goes out, Celebrate Recovery is getting ready to look at Step 9 on March 9th.

Step 9= We made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

*The Biblical passage that goes with Step 9 is: Matthew 5:23-24,*

*“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; and then come and offer your gift.”*

**G=God's Gift**

**R= Received by our faith**

**A = Accepted by God's Love**

**C = Christ paid the price**

**E = Everlasting Gift**

In Christian belief, the definition of Grace is the free and unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings.

Thank God for his **GRACE**.

With all the meals and events happening here at 1st UMC, it's easy to leave a dish or two behind when you're bringing in food.

Patsy Lunde has collected all the “stray” dishes and put them under the microwave in the Asbury Hall kitchen.

If you're missing a dish you think might be there, please come by and get it. In about two weeks, whatever is left will be taken to the New Providence rummage sale.



### 2016 Confirmation Class

Pictured on the left are:

Front row (L to R):  
*Fisher Harling, Cade Johnson, Lake Larson, Tannen Roberts, Megan Carroll, Amelia Richardson, Jackson Brinkley*

Back row (L to R):  
*Claire Jansen, Isabella Morstatt, Carter Cox, Madeline Waters, Eliana Smith, Delaney White, Caroline Cox, Sara Kate White, Madeleine Rowe*

What a wonderful night it was on March 6th as more than 150 people came out and celebrated a big step in the faith journeys of 16 young men and women in the picture above. The 2016 Confirmation class remembered their baptisms as the Rev. Catherine Nance shared special stories about that event in each child's life. Following this special time of remembering the group was received into membership of the United Methodist Church. If you see anyone in this group, please be sure and tell them "Congratulations!" on this big accomplishment.

**EASTER EGG HUNT**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 20TH**  
**9:15 AM**

Sign up online at  
[www.1stchurch.org](http://www.1stchurch.org)  
(under "Happening at 1st")

Please take your child to their regular Sunday school room and each class will have a specific time and area of the church to hunt eggs. None of the eggs will be filled with edibles but instead be filled with small trinkets or toys. A detailed listing of the times and place where each child's classroom will go will be posted in the classrooms on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to have your child there on time so that they do not miss the fun!

**NEXT SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING**  
**April 10, 2016**  
Following the 10:30 worship  
Wesley Hall

The training will last approximately 60-75 minutes and there will be a pizza lunch served. Please sign up for this event. *(Info below)*



Youth Worship & Fellowship  
Sundays at 6:00 pm

Denise Johns, Children's Ministry Director [djohns@1stchurch.org](mailto:djohns@1stchurch.org)  
Sign up for events online at: [1stchurch.org/happening-at-1st](http://1stchurch.org/happening-at-1st)  
or call the church office at 982-1273.

**Nathan Irwin, Director of Youth**  
[nirwin@1stchurch.org](mailto:nirwin@1stchurch.org)  
865-982-1273



**Maryville First United Methodist Church**  
**804 Montvale Station Road**  
**Maryville, Tennessee 37803**  
**Phone: 865-982-1273 / Fax: 865-983-5408**  
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### **March 21st through March 25th**

*Holy Week services at Noon each day with special guests and music.*

Monday - Tim Jones, Sycamore Tree UMC  
Tuesday - Billy Newton, Highland Presbyterian  
Wednesday - Laura Razor, Broadway UMC  
Thursday - Mickey Rainwater, Fairview UMC  
Friday - Anne McKee, Maryville College



**March 24th at 7:00 pm**  
Maundy Thursday Worship

**March 25th at 7:00 pm**  
Good Friday Worship

### **Easter Sunday shuttle service on March 27th!**

Last Easter, more than 1100 people came to worship at 1st UMC on Easter Sunday. The need is now greater than ever to help free up parking spaces for guests and visitors. This Easter Sunday, March 27th, there will be a continuous shuttle for all choir and orchestra members as well as people from 1st UMC who want to help free up 70 to 90 parking spaces. The shuttle will begin at 7:00 am and run until 12:15 pm from BEHIND the Junior High School to the Porte Cochere. Look for the return shuttle at the Porte Cochere.

**ONLINE ALL THE TIME!**

[www.1stchurch.org](http://www.1stchurch.org)

