By Invitation Only

Have you ever gotten a first-class, printed invitation? You know, the kind that comes in an envelope on card stock with creative design and images, perhaps? How do you respond to those invitations? Well, I have received such invitations and when I receive them, I take them seriously - especially if they are first-class mail, metered or stamped. Someone has gone to a great deal of effort to send me an invitation to an invitation-only event. If I receive such an invitation, I'll make an extra effort to attend.

On the other hand, bulk mail invitations are not taken quite as seriously. If it is something about which I feel passionately, I will make an effort to attend. If it is someone with whom I have a relationship, I will make an effort to attend. If it is something I perceive will be beneficial to my ability to be a pastor or leader in the Church, I will give the event serious consideration. Many bulk mail invitations are not “invitation-only” events. That doesn’t necessarily negate the event’s importance but I might not give it the close scrutiny it might deserve.

Then there are “open-invitation” events. They are open to anyone who might be interested. Fund-raisers fall into that category most of the time. The event coordinators want your money to help with whatever cause they represent. I have played in many golf tournaments in the area that benefit some very worthy ministries in the community – Trinity Dental Clinic, Wesley Woods Camp are two that come to mind. A reservation is usually required at these events.

Then there are personal, face-to-face invitations that, I believe, are the most inviting and effective of all. Did you know that 80% of the people who visit a church for the first time did so because someone, not only invited them, but actually brought to or met them at the church? The Church is the community God has given us to be the Kingdom on earth – in spite of the imperfections of those who make up the church.

Now is the time to invite! You only have to be passionate about your faith to lead others to the throne of grace, the Body of Christ, the Church.

Grace and Peace,
Larry
Memorials and honorariums

Memorial Fund

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<tr>
<th>In Honor or Memory Of</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Jo Kramer</td>
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Website 101

When was the last time you visited the church website? Here are a few tips on where to find what you are looking for when you get to www.fumcmaryville.org.

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Volunteer opportunities

Main Menu: 1st to Serve
Sub-menu: Volunteer to Serve

Sunday commitments for August 18 2013

Happening at 1st
August 18th – August 24th, 2013

**Sunday, August 18, 2013**

7:35 AM Morning Glory Chorus rehearsal, 249
8:15 AM Morning Glory Worship, Asbury Hall
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
10:30 AM The Crossing, Asbury Hall
11:30 AM Pastor’s Coffee, Susanna Wesley Parlor
3:30 PM Youth Praise Band, The Cove
4:00 PM Financial Peace, 214
4:30 PM Youth Handbells, 252 & 254
5:10 PM Celebration Singers, 249
5:15 PM Evensong Handbells, 252
6:00 PM Youth, Asbury Hall
6:00 PM Family Promise Volunteer Meeting, 151

**Monday, August 19, 2013**

10:00 AM Book Club, 216
3:30 PM Primary Praise Singers (K-1st), 254
3:30 PM Merrymakers (2nd & 3rd), Asbury Hall
3:30 PM Joy Singers (4th—6th), Asbury Hall
6:00 PM Congregational Care, 215
6:00 PM Finance Meeting, 214
6:30 PM Compassion Counseling Board, 243
7:00 PM Troop Meeting, Asbury Hall

**Tuesday, August 20, 2013**

6:00 PM Devoted Fitness, Asbury
7:00 PM AA, 128
7:00 PM Staff Parish, 243

**Wednesday, August 21, 2013**

9:00 AM Yoga, 254
3:45 PM Girls Bible Study, Vienna Coffee House
Recovery at Maryville, Asbury Hall
5:30 PM Light Meal, Asbury Hall
6:30 PM Celebration Service, Asbury Hall
7:45 PM Sharing Groups (assigned room)
6:00 PM Men’s Chorus, 249
7:00 PM Young Adult Trivia, Smoky Mountain Brewery
7:00 PM Dude’s Bible Study, Taco Bell
7:00 PM Ladies Bible Study, Panera Bread
7:30 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal, 249

**Thursday, August 22, 2013**

5:00 PM Welcome Table, Asbury Hall
7:00 PM AA, 128

**Saturday, August 24, 2013**

1:00 PM Young Adults Tubing in Townsend

Next steps

The presence of 1st UMC’s local ministry continues to grow. Welcome Table, Family Promise and now Recovery are bumping up against each other for space and time. For Chris Hurley, 1st UMC’s Family Promise coordinator, that is a “good problem” to have. He is stepping down as a leader. “I would like to work with the new coordinator to allow for a smooth transition,” said Chris.

This Sunday, August 18th @ 6:00 pm (Room 151), ALL Family Promise volunteers are encouraged to attend an important meeting. Chris said he would like the group to discuss how to plan for space, so each of the church’s ministries can “continue in a positive manner.” There will also be discussion about finding a new leader for Family Promise here at 1st UMC.

Prepare for Worship

Isaiah 5: 1-7
Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19 (UMH 801)
Hebrews 11: 29-12:2
Luke 12: 49-56

Kids Own Worship

Pre-school – John & Julie Elder
Elementary – Darby & Emily Abbott

Staff on call:
Please contact
Brenda (414-8493)
or Larry (414-8494)
Parsonage (233-2712)

Greeters:
- 8:15 Morning Glory
  Suzanne & Amy Rhodes
  Brian & Beth Cook

- 10:30 Sanctuary
  Barry & Lynn Mathis
  Bill Wells

- 10:30 The Crossing
  Barbara & Roger Campbell
  Lori Strait

Acolytes:
Macy Waters
Reid Waters

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Family Promise of Blount County

This Sunday, August 18th @ 6:00 pm (Room 151), ALL Family Promise volunteers are encouraged to attend an important meeting. Chris said he would like the group to discuss how to plan for space, so each of the church’s ministries can “continue in a positive manner.” There will also be discussion about finding a new leader for Family Promise here at 1st UMC.
Tools you can use
A new program is kicking off this fall designed with the belief that God wants YOU to be fit in EVERY area of your life. “Fit at First” will help you learn how to do just that while including your family on the journey.

Here’s what you can expect at the first meeting on Thursday, August 15th at 6:55 (Room 151).

- Overview of the Fit at First program
- Opportunities to exercise with your 1st UMC family
- How to get your kids to eat fruit and vegetables
- How to shop for healthier foods
- How to identify harmful ingredients in foods
- How to reduce your risk of cancer, heart disease, etc.
- Family fun at the park after the meeting

In this class you will learn practical tools you can incorporate into your busy life using Biblical principles for complete fitness.

A Welcome summer
During July, 774 meals were served here at 1st UMC as part of the Welcome Table. Combined with New Providence, this ministry provided nearly 2-thousand people with a meal in July.

With this program now serving so many people, there is a growing need for volunteer support. Clean-up on every week except the 4th week and bringing desserts are the areas where the most help is needed.

The kitchen in Asbury Hall is also in need of a deep clean as it will now be subject to health inspections. Karen Parker will be coordinating the deep clean project. If you are interested in helping please give Karen a call at 776-6721 or email Amelia at ameliageis@yahoo.com.

As always, thanks to all the volunteers helping with the Welcome Table, without you this ministry would not be possible.

We’ve got answers
Whether you are new to 1st UMC or have been here all your life there are sure to be questions you would like to ask the pastors. Coming up this Sunday after the 10:30 worship services, Brenda, Larry and Asa will be in the Susanna Wesley Parlor for a special Pastor’s Coffee. Another one is planned for September (date and place TBD).

Charlotte, NC
September 6-8, 2013

Atlanta, GA
October 11-13, 2013

A $50 non-refundable application fee is required when you sign up. Then at the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a freewill donation to cover the costs of the trip.

Your Marriage Encounter contacts here at 1st UMC are Ron and Carol Werker. You can reach them by calling 865-856-6775.

Making the connection stronger
Why would any married couple attend a Marriage Encounter United Methodist Weekend? All marriages go through seasons and most married couples believe they have “good” marriages. An important thing to keep in mind is that married couples are committed to their marriage and should realize the precious gift God has given them in their spouse.

During a Marriage Encounter Weekend YOU will gain the tools to reconnect by restoring communication, renewing commitment, and rekindling romance.

If you are ready to take your marriage to a deeper level, consider going to one of the Marriage Encounter United Methodist Weekends this fall.

Worship on Wednesdays
Sunday isn’t your only option for worship here at 1st UMC. For those of you who haven’t heard, there IS a worship service on Wednesday nights.

As Brenda mentioned in last week’s Bell, the Recovery at Maryville program provides “a time of no judgment. It is just a safe place to worship God, ‘just as I am’. The service is preceded by a light meal at 5:30 and if you need it there is a time after the service for sharing your stories of hurts, hang-ups and habits in hopes of bringing healing to your life.
Play time
The Cumberland County Playhouse near Crossville is known across the region as a great place to catch a play. Last week, a group from 1st UMC headed over there to catch Rodgers and Hammerstein’s, “The King and I.” The trip is just one of many scheduled trips to see plays there throughout the year.

An inside look at UT Sports
When you watch a UT basketball game have you ever wondered what was happening behind the scenes? If so, you can get some inside information during a trip this Friday (August 16th) to Thompson-Boling Arena. The trip begins at 11:00 am with a stop for lunch at Calhoun’s on the River. Sign up by calling 982-1273 or going online to www.fumc-maryville.org.

Special reminder!
Golden Opportunities Event at 1st UMC-Maryville
SEPTEMBER 12TH
8:30-3:00 PM
Registration deadline is September 2nd!

Geared up for learning
While the children are now well into a school routine it’s time for the adults to “hit the books.” The Fall schedule of small group studies promises to offer a great way to explore God’s word. Here are a few highlights.

Sunday, August 29th @ 6:00 pm (8 weeks)
Embrace Grace
The forgiven and grace-filled life start with an embrace.

Sunday, September 8th @ 6:30 pm (12 weeks)
12 Steps for Christians

Sunday, September 8th @ 6:00 pm (10 weeks)
Invitation to the Psalms

Monday, September 9th @ 2:00 (6 weeks)
Namesake
Find out how God wants to transform your life

Tuesday, September 10th @ 10:00 am (5 weeks)
The Early Church

Thursday, September 8th @ 6:30 am (6 weeks)
Jesus, Bombs, and Ice Cream

Thursday, September 11th @ 6:00 pm (8 weeks)
The Lord’s Prayer and Prayer

For more information contact Ginny West Case
(information listed in the above box)

Lazy day on the river
As summer winds down YOU have a chance to spend time relaxing on the Little River over in Townsend. The Young Adults Ministry is sponsoring a tubing trip on August 24th.

The cost for tubing is $9 and you need to sign a release form prior to getting on the water. You will also need some extra money for food afterward.

You can sign up online and get a release form at www.fumc-maryville.org The trip begins here at the church at 1:00 pm.

Dinner at Asa’s
Good food and conversation were the focus of last Friday night’s gathering at Asa’s. The dinner for the Young Adults provided a time for getting to know each other better while enjoying some great food.

Trivia Night
August 21st at 7:00 pm
Smoky Mountain Brewery

Jesus, Bombs and Ice Cream
Sunday School study
Each week at 9:15 am (Room 128)
Children’s Corner

What are your children learning?

Sunday, August 11th
(Last Sunday)
Preschool
Story—Ruth and Naomi
Memory Verse- Proverbs 17:17
K-4th
Ruth and Naomi
(Book of Ruth)
5th & 6th
The Explorers
(Numbers 13-14)

Sunday, August 18th
(Next Sunday)
Preschool:
Lesson-Paul and Barnabas
Memory Verse- Proverbs 17:17
K-4th
Paul and Barnabas
(Acts 9:26-31)
5th & 6th
Man who tried to buy the Holy Spirit
(Acts 8: 14-25)

If you need more information on any of these Children’s ministries activities please contact Denise Johns: djohns@fumc-maryville.org

Bibles and Blessings
Dozens of children here at 1st UMC now have new Adventure or Hands-on Bibles. They were handed out during the worship services last Sunday. The children were excited to be getting these Bibles geared toward their age groups.

In addition to the Bible presentations to 1st & 3rd Graders there was also a blessing of the backpacks and lunchboxes. Continue to be in prayer for the children as they get back into their school routines.

Painting the town (not really, just classrooms)
The Children’s Ministry department needs YOUR help over the next few weeks painting some classrooms.

The first opportunity for painting comes up this Sunday (August 18th) from 1-4 pm.

If you have any paint rollers or drop cloths that you could donate, please bring them.

Paper Creations
For the past couple of weeks, children in Kids Own Worship have been working on special paper creations they hope to reveal to everyone soon. In addition, the children have been learning about all the things that happen each Sunday here at 1st UMC. This coming Sunday, the lessons will be on what our church does outside the building.

Kids Own Worship is now open to children ages three up to THIRD grade! It happens during the 10:30 worship hour.

Let’s get crafty!
Children of the church will be getting the opportunity to spend time making crafts to be sold this fall at the Alternative Gift Fair.

The first opportunity comes on September 14th for children in Kindergarten through the sixth grade. On that morning from 9:30 until Noon the children will be working on a variety of projects. The proceeds from the sale of the crafts will benefit Holston Home for Children in Greeneville. Pizza and Ice Cream sundaes will be served at 11:15.

The second opportunity comes on September 29th from 2-4 pm. This one is for children ages 3-5. This will be a wonderful chance for the younger children to become actively involved in a mission project. Part of the time will be spent on a special project. There will also be snacks and time together on the playground. It would be beneficial if your child was accompanied by an adult. Volunteers are also needed.

In order to adequately prepare for these crafting opportunities, sign-ups are necessary. (The deadline is September 8th)

Please contact Denise at 268-2921 or go online to www.fumc-maryville.org to sign up or to let us known you are interested in volunteering.
NEW FALL SCHEDULE

- Sunday School
  9:15-10:15 AM
  7-8th Grade in Room 152A
  9-12th Grade in Room 127
- Sunday Night Youth
  6-8 PM in the GYM
- Roots & Branches
  Wednesdays 3:45 PM
  Vienna Coffee House
- Ladies Study
  Wednesdays 7-8:45 PM
  Panera
- Dudes Study
  Wednesdays 7-8:30 PM
  Taco Bell (Gill St)

DREW’S LAST WEEK

Drew Edwards, one of our super-awesome summer interns, will no longer be with us after Sunday, August 18th. He’s headed off to school at FAU. If you’d like to come send him off with kind words, prayer, and/or a gift, come to Sunday Night Youth this Sunday.

INTERN WANTED

Do you know someone who’d make a great youth ministry intern? Let them know we’re currently taking application and have them email Stephen at stephennelson22@gmail.com

YOU ARE NEEDED

You are incredible. No one has the same personal story and life experience as you. No one loves Jesus and knows the Bible quite like you do. That’s why we want you in youth ministry.

We are looking for church members who have a passion for Jesus and a willingness to volunteer with the specific goal to build relationships with our youth. They need your voice pointing them in the right direction.

Please prayerfully consider opening yourself to minister to our youth. If you’d like to find out more information, please contact Stephen.

PARENT MEETING

Sunday, August 25th
6-6:30 PM
Room 152B