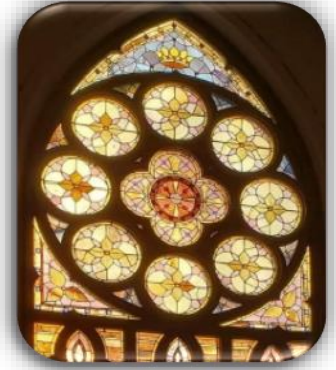


# The Link: Connected in Christ

## April 2023



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**Our Mission:**  
“Bring People  
to Christ”

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### Church Service Times

**Saturday Chapel  
Worship 5:00 PM,  
in-person worship**

**Sunday Sanctuary  
Worship 9:30 AM,  
in-person worship.**

**Sunday Children's  
Church 10 AM**

**Live Worship  
Streamed Online  
Sunday 9:30 AM  
Facebook, YouTube  
and KNIA**

**Radio Worship  
Worship with us via  
the radio at 1320 AM,  
95.3 FM or 94.3 FM at  
9:30 AM. on Sundays.**

### Strength for the Day



Do you remember Easter Sunday 2020? It was certainly a most unique time in our history. Itching to welcome Spring into our lives, preparing our bodies, lawn, gardening, and recreational equipment to engage in all manner of outdoor activities, and of course, eagerly awaiting to gather and celebrate with so many others the joy of Easter Worship Services, breakfasts, dinners, and extended family get-togethers.

So, it was an especially strange, sad, and frustrating thing to all Christians that on what was a beautiful April 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday, almost all churches were closed, save for a few folks who lead worship before a camera in an empty sanctuary, while people “sheltered-in-place” and watched from home, alone. Some wondered, what’s going to happen to the church, our church? And when, if ever, are we going to open again, meet again? Do you remember feeling that way?

About that time Timothy Merrill told the story of William and Mary College and its daffy, magnificent President Ewell. For a century and a half, this prestigious Virginia school had been a leader among American universities. Then came the Civil War. In the hard days of reconstruction that followed, William and Mary went bankrupt. Soon it had a deserted campus, decaying buildings and no students.

As with so many Southern schools after that tragic war, everyone wrote it off as dead. Everyone, except its president. He had given his best years to advancing the liberal arts through that school. He refused to give up now. So, every morning, President Ewell went to the deserted campus, climbed the tower of its main building, and rang the bells, calling the school to class.

He behaved as though the school was still there.

People thought he was crazy. Nevertheless, every day for seven years, President Ewell rang the bells at William and Mary, in defiance of the despair and hopelessness that would destroy everything he held valuable.

Eventually and miraculously, it worked. Others caught his vision. Students, teachers and money returned. Today, America's second oldest university thrives again, because of the hope of a single man.

Friends, as we approach Easter Sunday three years after the coronavirus pandemic threatened the Church, let us resolve to never again allow fear and uncertainty over our future to isolate and separate us from each other, or from the work that we have been given to do together, in Jesus' name. To wit: to make disciples of Jesus Christ, to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

We can't and don't deny that differences and disagreements within our denomination, aging congregations and buildings, and stressful economic times are causing many United Methodist churches to go through a period of spiritual reconstruction. But, like President Ewell --- we persist! We keep ringing the bells of peace, hope, joy, and love. We keep ringing the bells of Emmanuel, "God with us!" We behave like the church is still here ---- because the Church is still here!!!

We worship God again in our sanctuary, and now also in our homes and online with a virtual community of believers! We still read the Bible. We still pray on bended knee. We still give thanks. We still help others in their time of need. We still walk humbly with God and look for ever new ways to share the good news with others through our words and deeds.

And as we do those things, we keep ringing the bells of "God with us and God for us!" Of the love of God that triumphed over the grave to give us all the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ. We keep ringing the bells of Easter, and thrill to their sounds and the message they bring to our ears.

(From "Easter Song" by Glad)

Hear the bells ringing

They're singing that You can be born again

Hear the bells ringing  
They're singing Christ is risen from the dead

The angels up on the tombstone  
Said, "He is risen just as He said  
Quickly now, go tell His disciples  
That Jesus Christ is no longer dead"

Joy to the world  
He's risen, hallelujah  
He's risen, hallelujah  
He's risen, hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah

Friends, keep ringing the bells of God's love in Jesus Christ, in defiance of the hopelessness, despair, and fear that may be all around you. Knowing that eventually, and by the miraculous grace of God, others will respond. Spirits will revive, faith will grow, love will be re-born.

The church will thrive again --- if you and I, together, decide to daily, keep ringing the bells!

Happy Easter!  
Pastor Jamie



# Holy Week Services

April 2nd, 2023 Palm  
Sunday Service 9:30am

April 6th, 2023  
Maundy Thursday Drama  
7pm

April 7th, 2023  
Good Friday Service 7pm

April 8th, 2023  
Chapel Service 5pm

April 9th, 2023  
Easter Sunday  
Service 9:30am

**We hope you will be able to join us for part or all of these wonderful services!**

Join us on April 2nd for our Palm Sunday service at 9:30am celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Thursday, April 6th at 7pm will be our annual Maundy Thursday Drama where members of our congregation will act out the Last Supper.

Friday, April 7th at 7pm will be our Good Friday service where we will remember how Jesus died on the cross for our sins with a special sermon from Pastor Jamie.

Sunday, April 9th at 9:30am will be our Easter Celebration as we celebrate the empty tomb and Jesus' resurrection.

**CHURCH OFFICE**

**[Closed]**

## Easter Holiday

The church office will be closed on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> for the Easter holiday.

## Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Happenings

It is hard to believe Lent is nearly over. We are winding down



Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

are spring programming, but still have a lot of fun upcoming events. Our summer schedule will be out soon! Please remember it is never too late to start coming to any of our programs. We always welcome new faces! If you have any questions, please contact me at [lpetersen@kfumc.com](mailto:lpetersen@kfumc.com).

## Living Way Youth Meetings



Youth Group meets on Sunday nights from 5-7pm. We will have a bake sale on the first Sunday of

the month in April and May to raise money for youth group retreats, events, mission trips, etc.

### Mark your calendars:

- **April 2nd** – Bake Sale after service
- **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** – trip to Moravia to see Easter Drama
- **April 29-30<sup>th</sup>** - Wesley Woods Overnight Retreat

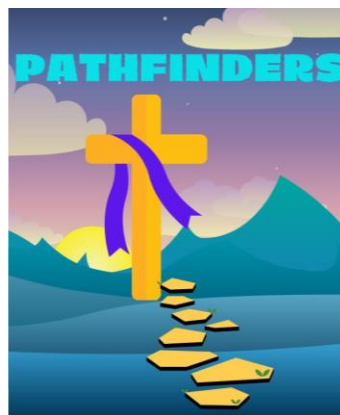
- **May 7<sup>th</sup>** – Bake Sale after service

**Exceptions (no Youth Group):** April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup>

## Children's Church

Children's Church is from 10-10:30 on Sundays during service.

Our curriculum is designed for kids ages 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, but we welcome older elementary kids and even youth. Our youth are invited to come and help the adults in leading Children's Church.



## Pathfinders

Our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders had a great spring session. They completed their fundraiser for the Knoxville Hospital and raised over \$550 to be donated to use to

purchase comfort bags for cancer patients at the Knoxville Hospital. They also made pocket hugs to be included in those bags.

Pathfinders will have their summer Family BBQ on June 29<sup>th</sup>. More details to come.



## Mark Your Calendars



### Good Friday Day Camp –

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 9am-12pm

Kids ages 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will enjoy a fun filled morning learning about the Easter Story. Walk-ins are welcome, parents are encouraged to pre-register by April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Mother's Day Tea Party – May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 10:30-11:30am

NEW DATE AND TIME!

Join us for great food, fun games, and amazing fellowship. This event is open to everyone! Come celebrate the wonderful women in your life by treating them to a Tea Party!!



### Mother's Day Tea Party

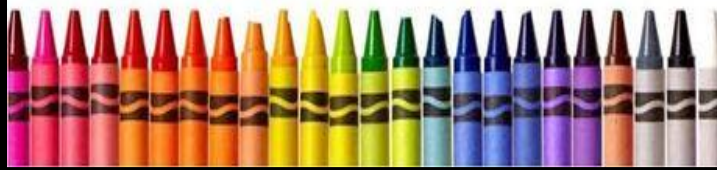
JOIN US FOR GREAT FOOD, FUN GAMES, AND AMAZING FELLOWSHIP!

Saturday  
May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
10:30am-11:30am

OPEN TO EVERYONE.  
CELEBRATE THE GREAT WOMEN IN YOUR LIFE!



PRESCHOOL  
Registration



## Montgomery Street Preschool

Enrollment is now open for the 2023/2024 school year at Montgomery Street Preschool. Classes are filling quickly and spots are first come, first served so enroll soon! Registration forms are available on the church website ([www.kfumc.com](http://www.kfumc.com)) or by contacting Katie at the preschool (641-842-2193 or [mspschool@hotmail.com](mailto:mspschool@hotmail.com)).

3/26/2023 attendance - 105

Weekly Expenses -

8060.00

3/26/2023 Contributions to General Fund -

3373.37

Difference

-4686.63

## Take what you need. Leave what you can.

Our Blessing Box is located just outside of the main entrance of the church and can be easily be accessed by anyone. People in our community who are in need of food and personal items can stop by 24 hours a day to take what they need or leave what they can.

Anyone can donate to the Blessing Box, either by leaving items in collection boxes at the main, east, or Chapel entrances of the church, or dropping off items at the church office during regular business hours or on Sunday. Most needed items currently are: Spaghetti sauce, Canned Corn, Canned Fruit, Breakfast Cereal, and Washcloths. Thank you for being a blessing!



## Pill Bottle Recycling



First thank you to everyone who has contributed to the pill bottle recycle program sponsored by the United Women in Faith. There does seem to be a little confusion as to the correct bottles to leave in the collection area. Only those bottles with a #5 are being collected. (Numbers can be located on the bottom of the bottles.) If you have left a #2 bottle or your bottle does not have a number, these are not being accepted. The #2 bottles can be recycled through our local recycling agency.

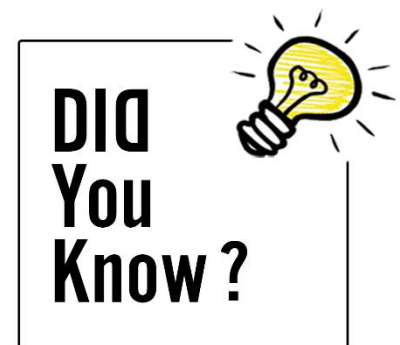
Also, before they can be sent off to eventually be used by Matthew 23 Ministries, they must be label/glue free and CLEAN! If this can be done it will save a tremendous amount of time and effort on our team to get them ready to mail. Thank you, UMW

## Did you know.....

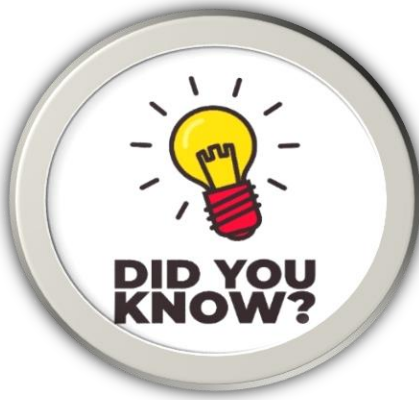
In an effort to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us both financially and environmentally, we will be reducing our carbon footprint by setting all thermostats to 68 degrees.

Most thermostats will be in a locked box.

If you tend to be cold, please wear layers. In the summer you may feel a little warmer too.



## Did you know that you can sponsor Sunday's Donut Hole Fellowship?



This fellowship is a great way to get to know someone you don't know very well and to grow relationships with church family!

Love your neighbor! Volunteer to Sponsor a Sunday of great fellowship, delicious donut holes, coffee and hot chocolate!

The Average cost of this program is just under 20.00 a week.

Contact Deb Greiner at [dgreiner@kfumc.com](mailto:dgreiner@kfumc.com) or call 641-842-3712 to find out more.

## Did you Know.....

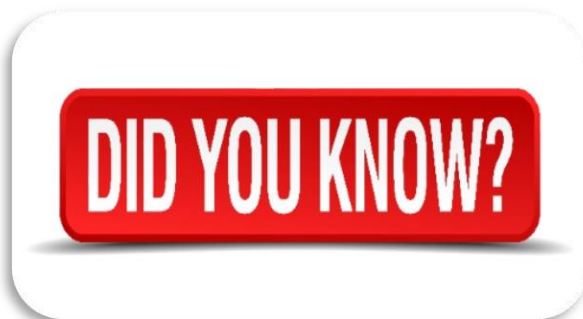
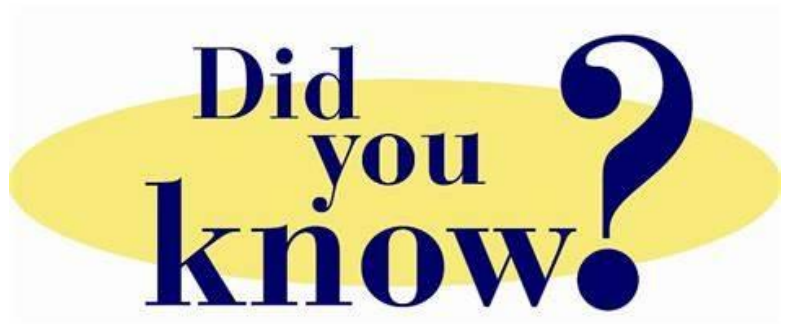
United Women in Faith have 4 different circle that meet during the month.

Rachel Circle meets at 9:00 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.

Sarah Circle meets at 1:30 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.

Rebecca Circle meets at 7:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.

P 46:10 is for young ladies they meet at night because most of they ladies work during the day. They don't have a set time, but if you are interested please call Kitty Shepherd 641-891-7590 she will get you in touch with P 46:10.



## Did you Know...

That any lady in the church is welcome to join UWF. If you don't have a circle that you belong to and just wish to come to our General meetings we will welcome you. Our next General meeting will be April 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm in West Fellowship Hall. Our program will be Jennifer Frampton from South Central Iowa Solid Waste Agency.



## CAESAR OR GOD?



*Then Pilate tried to release Jesus, but the Jewish leaders told him, "If you release this man, you are not a friend of Caesar. Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar." When they said this, Pilate brought Jesus out to them again. Then Pilate sat down on the judgment seat on the platform that is called the Stone Pavement. It was about noon of the preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, "Here is your king!"*

*"Away with him," they yelled. "Away with him, crucify him!"*

*"What? Crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the leading priests replied. Then Pilate gave Jesus to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led him away. –John 19:12-16*

We are quickly approaching the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will be waving our palm branches the week before, recalling the excitement as the crowd welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, and we welcome Jesus into our lives. Easter is a great time to once again become grounded in Christ. Earthly distractions can deter us from remembering who is first in our lives. In this gospel lesson from John, we see how people rejected the real King and bowed to the earthly ruler of Caesar. During this month of April, let our prayer be that we place Christ first in our lives. Christ is our truth.

Pilate refused to recognize the truth. First, he was wrong in assuming that he was the one in control. Second, Pilate wanted to try to please the wrong person. He wanted to remain on the favorable side of Caesar, so taking the easy way out made sense to him. Pilate's third mistake was to release Jesus to the crowd. The crowd was accusing him of not being loyal to Caesar. His main charge as the Roman governor was to keep the peace. If word should get back to Caesar that there was trouble in Jerusalem over Jesus, then Pilate feared it could cost him his status, his job, or even more.

Pilate chose to keep the earthly ruler happy rather than serve the heavenly ruler. He knew in his heart that Jesus was innocent, however, he succumbed to the pressure of the moment and gave Jesus over to the crowd to be crucified. For him, it was easier to sacrifice the life of an innocent person than jeopardize his own powerful position in the government. What sacrifices are we willing to make in our faith? Are there times in our lives that we fear offending someone by talking about our relationship with God? Is it easier just to keep quiet? Which way do we lean, toward Caesar, or toward God?

See you Sunday! *Pastor Brent Hanna*

# April 2023

April 2023							May 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31				
30													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Mar 26</b> Communion Sunday/Food Palm Sunday 8:30am Homebuilders 9:00am Holy Donut Hole 9:30am Worship Service	<b>27</b> 7:30am Monday Morning 11:45am Staff Meeting 12:30pm Put up Crosses in 1:00pm Neighbor Helping 2:00pm Almost Free Shop	<b>28</b> 9:00am Almost Free Shop 12:00pm Classical Stretch 6:00pm Community Chorus 6:30pm Final Dress 7:30pm Alcoholics	<b>29</b> 12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Neighbor Helping Neighbor (Activity Center)	<b>30</b> 12:00pm Classical Stretch 12:30pm UWF Executive 1:30pm UWF General 5:00pm Pickleball (Peter, 7:00pm Last Supper	<b>31</b> 8:30am Good Friday Day 9:00am Almost Free Shop 12:00pm Alcoholics 6:00pm Narcotics 7:00pm Good Friday Service	<b>Apr 1</b> Communion/Food Donation Palm Saturday 1:00pm John Hanning 3:00pm John Hanning 4:00pm Clean & Sober
<b>9</b> Easter 8:30am Homebuilders 9:00am Holy Donut Hole 9:30am Easter Worship 10:30am Faith Forum	<b>10</b> Church Office Closed for Easter Holiday 1:00pm Neighbor Helping 2:00pm Almost Free Shop 6:00pm Girl Scouts (Kids)	<b>11</b> 6:00am Community Chorus 9:00am Almost Free Shop 11:45am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Classical Stretch 5:00pm Deb reserved	<b>12</b> 12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Neighbor Helping Neighbor (Activity Center)	<b>13</b> 9:00am Rachel Circle Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 12:00pm Classical Stretch 5:00pm Pickleball (Peter, 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>14</b> 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 12:00pm Alcoholics 6:00pm Knoxville 6:00pm Narcotics	<b>15</b> 4:00pm Clean & Sober Social Group (Activity Center) 5:00pm Chapel Worship Service (Chapel)
<b>16</b> 8:30am Homebuilders 9:00am Holy Donut Hole 9:30am Receiving New 9:30am Worship Service 10:00am Children's Church	<b>17</b> 7:30am Monday Morning 11:45am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Neighbor Helping 2:00pm Almost Free Shop	<b>18</b> 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 12:00pm Classical Stretch 7:30pm Alcoholics	<b>19</b> 12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Neighbor Helping 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>20</b> 11:00am Homebuilders 12:00pm Classical Stretch 5:00pm Pickleball (Peter, 7:00pm Rebecca Circle UWF	<b>21</b> 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 12:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 6:00pm Narcotics	<b>22</b> 9:00am Church Cleaning Day (First United) 4:00pm Clean & Sober Social Group (Activity Center) 5:00pm Chapel Worship Service (Chapel)
<b>23</b> 8:30am Homebuilders 9:00am Holy Donut Hole 9:30am Worship Service 10:00am Children's Church 10:30am Faith Forum	<b>24</b> 7:30am Monday Morning 11:45am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Neighbor Helping 2:00pm Almost Free Shop 6:00pm Girl Scouts (Kids)	<b>25</b> 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall) 7:30pm Alcoholics	<b>26</b> 12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Neighbor Helping 4:30pm Cooking for a Cause 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>27</b> 12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall) 1:30pm Sarah Circle 5:00pm Pickleball (Peter, 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>28</b> Heather Off 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 12:00pm Alcoholics 6:00pm Narcotics	<b>29</b> Kids Overnight Retreat @ Wesley 4:00pm Clean & Sober Social Group (Activity Center) 5:00pm Chapel Worship Service (Chapel)
<b>30</b> Kids Overnight Retreat @ Wesley 8:30am Homebuilders 9:00am Holy Donut Hole 9:30am Worship Service 10:00am Children's Church	<b>May 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>