

# The Link: Connected in Christ

## March 2023



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Our Mission:  
“Bring People  
to Christ”

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### Church Service Times

**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.**

### Decision on Disaffiliation with the United Methodist Church

After a month of prayerful discernment over the issue of human sexuality, the Administrative Council met in a special session on Monday evening (2/27) and voted to have our church remain with the United Methodist Church denomination. The vote was 11 to 3, with 1 abstention.

Our congregation will still be able to decide whether or not we will allow same-sex weddings to take place in our church, and whether or not we will accept the appointment of a gay or lesbian clergy-person to serve as the pastor of Knoxville First United Methodist Church.

During the month of March the congregation is invited to approach any and all Administrative Council members with questions and comments they may have about the vote. The feedback will be brought to the Administrative Council meeting on March 27.

Those Ad. Council members who were present with power to vote were:

Phil Chrisman, Chair	Sara Hopkins (Secretary)	Larry Rowley
Kay Jensen	Denis Johansen	Sherry Haney
Dave Deal	Lynn Deal	Kitty Shepherd
Katie Bishop	Johnna Kincaid	Lauren Peterson
Deb Greiner	Dave Johnson	Brent Hanna (Pastor)
Jamie Cutler (Pastor)		

## Strength for the Day



It's March! Time for tulips to push their way up through the last of the snow drifts. Time to fly kites on the softening tundra of public parks and school yards. And time for the important spiritual journey of Lent to begin! Lent is the period before Easter when Christians are called to remember, to reflect, and then respond to the greatest love the world has or will ever know --- the love of God as shown through his Son Jesus the Christ. We will look again at the life and teaching of Jesus, and at the events leading up to his arrest and crucifixion. We will silently wait --- and then joyously

celebrate as we run to and see the empty tomb on Easter Morning! And we will share the good news of Easter with others.

What we are describing in our Lenten journey is the "Two Channel Rule of Communication". That is --- if something is important for people to hear ---- it's important for them to see as well. Important news should be communicated both ways.

The Bible is the self-communication of God --- to people --- to you and me. It is the self-revelation of God's mind, God's will, God's purpose and plan ---- and most importantly, God's infinite and relentless love for the world and all of humankind He has created.

The Bible is the quintessential love story in all of history. It's the story of a love so strong that it found expression in creating something and someone to love. Its the story of love lost, spurned, rejected. A story of a pursuing and protecting love, that cares for, and promises to save, the one loved. A love story that can have a beautiful ---or a tragic ending, for each person who reads it.

But we can't stop here. Because we've only talked about one channel of the "two channel rule of communication". Does the Bible --- does the Word of God --- address the other ---- that being if something is important for us to hear, then it's important for us to SEE?

Maybe you've heard the story of the Iowa farmer and his wife sitting one night looking out their picture window during a late winter blizzard at a large group of sparrows who were getting blasted by the wind driven snow and were obviously so disoriented that they didn't know how to find shelter. Knowing they would die if something wasn't done, the farmer braved the storm and clawed his way out to his barn and opened the door for the sparrows to take shelter in. But the sparrows didn't seem to understand and just kept getting blown around his yard. So the farmer went out again and turned on the flood light over the open door, hoping this would attract the sparrows. But it didn't. As the situation grew more desperate, the farmer, out of compassion for the little birds and his frustration with how to save them, blurted out to his wife, "If I could just be a sparrow for one minute, I could go out there and tell those birds to follow me to the barn, and I could save them!"

Which brings us to the Living Word of God.

"En arche hvn ho Logos, kai ho Logos pros ton Theon. Kai ho Logos HVN ho Theos."

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word WAS God."

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1, 14)

The farmer did become a sparrow! How's that for the ultimate example of the power of the two-channel rule in communicating a message!

Jesus, the Living Word of God, makes no bones about it. He tells us straight out in the written word, "If you have seen ME, you have seen the Father", because "I and the Father are ONE."

So --- if you want to know what God is like --- his nature, his character,  
how God thinks and acts towards others

--- if you want to know how God would have you live your life in relationship to  
Himself and others ----- **look at how Jesus lived!**

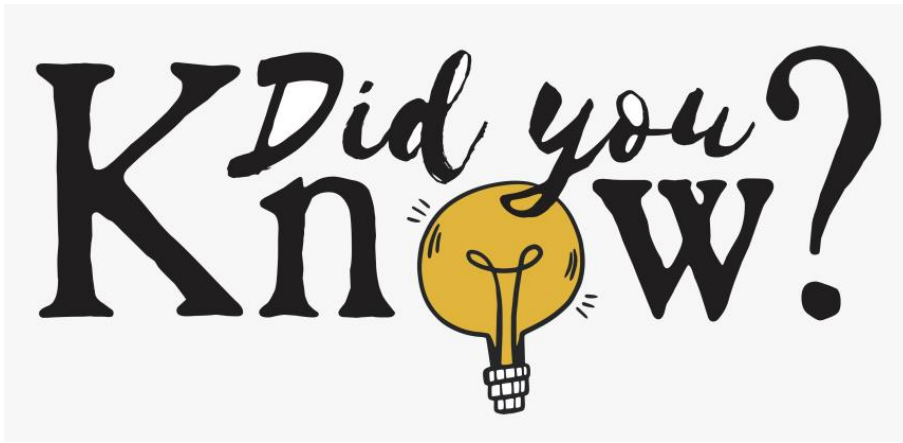
--- If you want to know how much you mean to God and how much He loves  
you ---- **look at how Jesus died!**

Toward that end, you are invited to join with others in a special Lenten journey  
we began last Sunday, February 26, called The God We Can Know. Together  
during Sunday worship, we will consider the "I Am" sayings of Jesus found in the  
Gospel of John. Jesus said of himself, "I Am: The Bread of Life, The Light of the  
World, The Good Shepherd, The True Vine, The Way, the Truth, and the Life, The  
Resurrection and the Life."

Friends, I invite you to come and engage with each of these messages and allow  
them to deepen and inspire your discipleship so that you may not only make your  
way to the cross on Good Friday, or the empty tomb on Easter Sunday, but  
journey with the Risen Christ every day and wherever his spirit will lead you.

Come and see. Go and tell. For that is how we live out the "two channel rule of  
communication" as a follower of Jesus Christ.  
Have a blessed Lent.

Peace,  
Pastor Jamie



## "Did You Know"

It takes \$8,059.46 to run KFUMC for one week?

Here's a weekly breakdown:

Salaries-----	<b>\$4,258</b>
Utilities-----	<b>\$1,222</b>
Board of Pensions-----	<b>\$ 705</b>
Apportionments-----	<b>\$ 544</b>
(Payments to Iowa Conference)	
Building/Maint. Office Equip Maint.----	<b>\$ 515</b>
Office-----	<b>\$ 331</b>
Employer Tax-----	<b>\$ 318</b>
Programs/Worship Support-----	<b>\$ 167</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,060</b>

Sincerely,  
The Finance Committee

Attendance 02/26/2023 - <b>90</b>	
Weekly expense to run KFUMC-----	<b>\$8,060</b>
Contributions to the General fund 02/26/2023--	<b><u>\$4,800</u></b>
Difference--	<b>\$4,052</b>



*Supper:*

*5:30-6:20 p.m.*

*Speakers: 6:30-7:00 p.m.*

*Location: Downstairs in Fellowship Hall*

*Free will donation proceeds on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> will go towards Knoxville Hospital for the purchasing of comfort bags for cancer patient.*

*On the following Wednesdays during lent the freewill donations proceeds will go towards the Youth Group mission trip.*

<b>Date Wednesday</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Hosts</b>	<b>Menu</b>
March 1	Pastor Jamie and Brent "Who's on First?"	UWF	Turkey and Ham Sandwiches Salads
March 8	Lori Bailey	Pathfinders (youth)	Walking Tacos
March 15	Deb Harvey	Trustees	Pork loin, green beans, cheesy potatoes, Dessert bars
March 22	Larry Rowley	SPRC	Beefburgers, salads Cookies and bars
March 29	Sherry Haney	Wings	End of Month Meal Menu

## Blessing Box Needs

Blessing Box supplies are running very low at this time. If you would like to donate to this mission, the following are needed at this time. Donations can be left in the container inside the main front door entrance of the church, in the tote outside the east entrance of the Sanctuary, or brought to the church office anytime the church is open. Monetary donations are also accepted any time. Thank you and God Bless.

**Drinks:** Bottled water, packaged protein drinks, nutritional drinks, instant breakfast drinks, & infant formula.



**Canned goods (ring pull cans if possible):** Pouched and canned meat, (tuna, chicken, spam, etc.), stew, chili hardy soups, beans (especially garbanzo beans, chili, and baked beans), ravioli, spaghetti-O's, canned diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, tomato paste, fruits & vegetables.

**Pre-packaged snacks:** Crackers, granola bars, pop-tarts, raisins, breakfast bars, snack bars, dried fruit, & individual portion size items.

**Misc. Food:** Cereal, instant oatmeal packets, peanut butter, jelly, brown and white rice, pasta in boxes, ramen noodles, pancake mix & syrup, boxed meals, & dry baby cereal.

**Condiments & Staples:** Ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, salad dressing, salt, & pepper.

**Toiletries (travel size works great):** Pads, tampons, baby supplies, diapers, wet wipes, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shavers, shampoo, conditioner, combs, brushes, bar soap, body wash, & hand soap.

**Basic essentials:** Toilet paper, dish soap, laundry detergent, gloves, hats, & scarves.

Please **DO NOT** donate the following: Open or partially used items, rusty cans, glass because of breakage, expired items, or any dented, bent, leaking, ripped, or bulging items.  
Thank you!

## Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Happenings



It is hard to believe Lent is already here. FUMC has a lot of great activities for everyone to enjoy this Lenten season. We also have Lenten activity calendars for kids/ families available in the Narthex, Facebook, or via email. 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. Beginning in March, we will be having a bake sale on the first Sunday of the month for March, April, and May to raise money for youth group events and activities!

### Mark your calendars:

- **March 5th** – Bake Sale after church service in the Narthex
- **April 29-30<sup>th</sup>** – Wesley Woods Overnight Retreat
- **June 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>** – Mission trip to St. Louis

**Exceptions (no Youth Group):** March 12<sup>th</sup> and April 9th

## 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 have been having a great spring session. This semester they are focusing on a service project to raise money for the Knoxville Hospital to purchase care bags for their cancer patients. **Pathfinders will be hosting the Lenten meal on March 8<sup>th</sup>** with all proceeds going towards their service project. They will also have a craft sale that evening. We hope you will join us on March 8<sup>th</sup> for Walking Tacos, a wonderful testimonial from a cancer survivor, and celebrating the hard works these kids have put forth for their project!



## Mark Your Calendars

**Pathfinders Lenten Meal** – March 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:45-7pm

**Family Easter Experience** – March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5-7pm.



Experience the Easter Story in a whole new way through 'A Walk with Jesus' where you will get to journey through the last days of Jesus' life on earth experiencing events such as Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Garden of Gethsemane, the Empty Tomb, and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. This is a self-led, drop in event from 5-7pm. It will take families approximately 45 minutes to an hour to complete all the stations. There will be a short narrative skit at 6pm for all to enjoy!

**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.

**Mother Child Tea Party – May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 11:30am-1pm**

Come enjoy a fun tea party where the kids will serve their moms in honor of Mother's Day. This will be a fun event for Moms and kids of any age!

**Montgomery  
Street Preschool**

Enrollment is now open for the 2023/2024 school year at Montgomery Street Preschool. We will be holding our Registration Open House on Thursday, March 23 from 4:30 until 6:30 pm. This provides families the opportunity to see the classrooms and meet the teachers. 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)).



**It's no Joke! Saturday service is back April 1!**

Beginning Saturday, April 1 @ 5 p.m. the Saturday night worship service in the chapel is resuming.



## FUMC 2023

### Cooking for a Cause Free Meal Schedule

Please join us for awesome home cooked meals and fellowship downstairs in the fellowship hall.

#### *Dates*

March 29	4:30-6:00
April 26	4:30-6:00
May 31	4:30-6:00
June 28	4:30-6:00
August 30	4:30-6:00
September 27	4:30-6:00
October 25	4:30-6:00
November 29	4:30-6:00
December 27	4:30-6:00

## Update on Recent Events in Moldova

The plan included sabotage and militarily trained people disguised as civilians to carry out violent actions, attacks on government buildings and take hostages [as a way to install] an illegitimate government controlled by the Russian Federation – President Maia Sandu



The resolve of the people of Ukraine has been a true blessing. For most of the world, their fight is a fight for their freedom. But for Moldova, they are a shield that has protected us from physical harm and an armed takeover. My family and I will be forever indebted to the people of Ukraine for this.

At the same time, Moldova has not been immune to Putin's terrorism campaign. Repeated bomb threats, rockets flying overhead and the use of energy resources as a weapon were commonplace until Moldova found a way to adapt and continue on our chosen path. But resist self-determination from a people do not sit well with the man in Moscow.

The past month, plans for an armed coup were uncovered. In particular, armed Russian supporters from Macedonia, Serbia and Russia would join in protest organized by Russian supporters in the country, and then begin operations to

takeover government buildings and take key members of the government hostage. There were also plans for Russian troops to potentially land at Chisinau International Airport to help take over the capital. Thankfully, these plans were exposed. Thankfully, the government has been developing a number of contingency plans for many different scenarios, including, if needed the destruction of the only airport in the country capable of handling military plans.

While these are concerning times, they serve to show us who reflects the love of God. We remain grateful for the hard work of so many and the difficult choices being made to keep us safe. We also remain grateful for the love, support, and prayers Columbia gives.

With love and respect,  
Brian, Dorina and Ameli

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE**

*When Jesus arrived at Peter's house, Peter's mother-in-law was sick with a high fever. But when Jesus touched her hand, the fever left her. Then she got up and prepared a meal for him. That evening, many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. All the spirits fled when he commanded them to leave; and he healed all the sick. This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who wrote, "He took our sickness and removed our diseases." --Matthew 8:14-17*

Our Creator God remains closely and lovingly involved with us. God loves us so much that God became man, in the human form of Jesus, and lived among us, teaching us how to treat one another. During this Lenten season, we remember that at Bethlehem God became one of us. God delt first hand with the hurts and pains that this life brings. Jesus reached out and healed the blind, the lame, the demon-possessed, and people with other infirmities.

Through modeling, Jesus taught us to respond to one another with God's love. Jesus taught us to offer compassion, love, and mercy to those among us who are suffering, oppressed, and sick. Jesus taught us to help those who must deal with tornado damage, or other natural disasters, to help our brothers and sisters pick up in times of war or disease. We respond to the needs of others out of God's love for us. We can find the healing and loving needs of others right here in Knoxville and then respond with God's love. That's exactly what Jesus taught us to do.

During our season of Lent, you will be able to hear people share their story of God's love each Wednesday evening. We respond to God's love. See you Sunday! Pastor Brent Hanna



March 2023

March 2023

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Feb 26

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Mar 1

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Communion Sunday/Food

Financial Peace University

8:30am Homebuilders

9:00am Holy Donut Hole

9:30am Worship Service

10:00am Children's Church

10:30am Faith Forum

7:30am Monday Morning

11:45am Staff Meeting

1:00pm Neighbor Helping

2:00pm Almost Free Shop

5:30pm Free Clinic (Activity)

6:00pm Girl Scouts (Kids)

6:30pm MSPS Board

9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex)

12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall)

7:00pm K-ACT Practice (Lori P) (Fellowship Hall)

7:30pm Alcoholics

12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall)

1:00pm Neighbor Helping

3:45pm Pathfinder Kids (3rd - 5th grade) (Kids)

5:30pm Lent-Supper &

12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall)

5:00pm Pickleball (Peter, Paul & Pickleball)

7:00pm Chancel Choir (Music Room)

7:30pm NA Meeting

9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) -

12:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal (Brent) (Sanctuary)

6:00pm Narcotics

Wedding (whole day & building reserved) (Brent) (First United Methodist)

Wedding @ 3:00 (Music starts @ 2:30)

4:00pm Clean & Sober Social Group (Activity)

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Communion Sunday/Food

Financial Peace University

8:30am Homebuilders

9:00am Holy Donut Hole

9:30am Worship Service

10:00am Children's Church

10:30am Faith Forum

7:30am Monday Morning

11:45am Staff Meeting

1:00pm Neighbor Helping

2:00pm Almost Free Shop

5:30pm Free Clinic (Activity)

6:00pm Girl Scouts (Kids)

6:30pm MSPS Board

9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex)

12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall)

7:00pm K-ACT Practice (Lori P) (Fellowship Hall)

7:30pm Alcoholics

12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall)

1:00pm Neighbor Helping

3:45pm Pathfinder Kids (3rd - 5th grade) (Kids)

5:30pm Lent-Supper &

12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall)

5:00pm Pickleball (Peter, Paul & Pickleball)

7:00pm K-ACT Practice (Lori P) (Fellowship Hall)

7:30pm NA Meeting

9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) -

12:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal (Brent) (Sanctuary)

6:00pm Narcotics

4:00pm Clean & Sober Social Group (Activity Center)

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Daylight Savings Time

Financial Peace University

8:30am Homebuilders

9:00am Holy Donut Hole

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Faith Forum

1:00pm Financial Peace

11:45am Staff Meeting (Conference Room)

1:00pm Neighbor Helping

2:00pm Almost Free Shop

6:00pm Girl Scouts (Kids)

7:00pm K-ACT Practice (Lori)

9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex)

11:00am Federated Study

12:00pm Classical Stretch

5:00pm Deb Reserved

7:00pm K-ACT Practice (Lori)

7:30pm Alcoholics

12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall)

1:00pm Neighbor Helping

5:30pm Lent-Supper &

7:00pm Chancel Choir

11:00am Homebuilders

12:00pm Classical Stretch

5:00pm Pickleball (Peter, Paul & Pickleball)

7:00pm K-ACT Practice (Lori)

7:30pm Rebecca Circle UWF

7:30pm NA Meeting

9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) -

12:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

6:00pm Narcotics

Anonymous (Activity)

4:00pm Clean & Sober Social Group (Activity Center)

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8:30am Homebuilders

9:00am Holy Donut Hole

9:30am Worship Service

10:00am Children's Church

10:30am Faith Forum

4:00pm Pickleball (Peter, Paul & Pickleball)

5:00pm Living Way Youth

7:30am Monday Morning

11:45am Staff Meeting

1:00pm Neighbor Helping

2:00pm Almost Free Shop

6:00pm Girl Scouts (Kids)

6:30pm SPRC (Library)

7:00pm K-ACT Practice (Lori)

9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex)

12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall)

7:00pm K-ACT Practice (Lori P) (Fellowship Hall)

7:30pm Alcoholics

12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall)

1:00pm Neighbor Helping

5:30pm Lent-Supper &

7:00pm Chancel Choir

8:00am Set up and Tear

12:00pm Classical Stretch

1:30pm Sarah Circle

4:30pm MSPS Open House

5:00pm Family Easter

5:00pm Pickleball (Peter, Paul & Pickleball)

7:30pm NA Meeting

Quiz Bowl (Whole Church)

9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) -

12:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

6:00pm Narcotics

Anonymous (Activity)

4:00pm Clean & Sober Social Group (Activity Center)

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8:30am Homebuilders

9:00am Holy Donut Hole

9:30am Worship Service

10:00am Children's Church

10:30am Faith Forum

4:00pm Pickleball (Peter, Paul & Pickleball)

7:30am Monday Morning

11:45am Staff Meeting

1:00pm Neighbor Helping

2:00pm Almost Free Shop

6:00pm Finance Committee

6:00pm Girl Scouts (Kids)

6:30pm Trustee Meeting

9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex)

12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall)

7:00pm K-ACT Practice (Lori P) (Fellowship Hall)

7:30pm Alcoholics

12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall)

1:00pm Neighbor Helping

4:30pm Cooking for a Cause

5:30pm Lent-Supper &

12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall)

5:00pm Pickleball (Peter, Paul & Pickleball)

7:00pm K-ACT Practice (Lori P) (Fellowship Hall)

7:30pm NA Meeting

9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) -

12:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

6:00pm Narcotics

Anonymous (Activity)

4:00pm Clean & Sober Social Group (Activity Center)