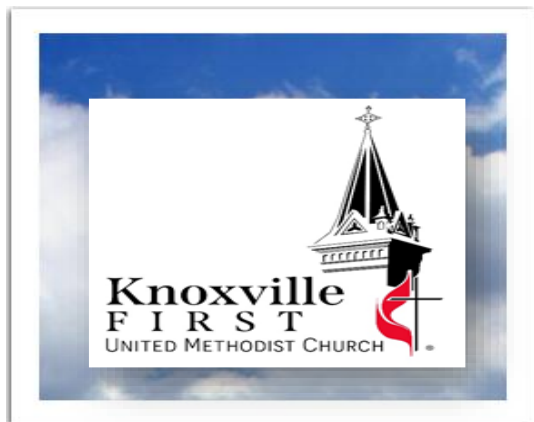


# The Link: Connected in Christ

## May 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.**

### **MAY 2023 STRENGTH FOR THE DAY**



April showers bring May flowers --- and Major League Baseball! I'll have you know that at the time of this writing my beloved Minnesota Twins were leading the American League West Division by 3 games with a stunning 17-14 win/loss record.

In one of my previous churches there was a member who was an ex-major league player. He pitched for the New York Yankees and later the Arizona Diamondbacks, before retiring to Iowa.

He would from time to time send me his thoughts after a sermon or ministry experience, and I enjoyed reading them all. Mark Danufab's words always carried the reminiscent flavor of Sport's Illustrated Magazine's Rick Reilly's back cover musings; a perfect blend of intellectual/spiritual depth and pragmatic reality.) I offer one of his springtime articles to you as a "May flower" --- breathe in its fragrance and share the beauty of its call to Christlikeness with others.

Peace,

Pastor Jamie Cutler

## KEEPING SCORE AND DISCOVERING FOOL'S GOLD

I've been thinking a lot about scores lately. Of course, being a sports-minded guy it can, at times, take an overwhelming precedent over actual success. For example, when a team plays really poorly and "wins" because they are either playing a team of lesser ability or some complete fluke of a play happened at the right time – I call that fool's gold. It looks good, but to a trained eye it's essentially worthless. So the question on what is "successful" comes into great debate. Personally, I've tried really hard as a parent, coach, spouse and friend to recognize fool's gold and understand the true purpose of "the score".

I've come to realize that the "score" is in place for one reason and one reason only – to define a winner and a loser. It doesn't define style of play, integrity, sportsmanship, team work, etc... etc... the list of positive terms can go on and on. When score is involved there is always going to be a winner and a loser. If I take the "score" out of context a little bit and bring it into the world of relationships where the score cannot be easily told on a scoreboard, both parties can consider themselves the "winner" and the other the "loser". Unfortunately, then everyone loses!

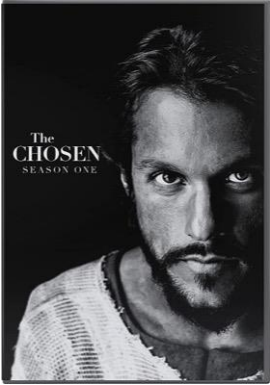
A few years ago, my wife and I took Financial Peace University. It taught us great fundamentals on becoming financially strong, but it wasn't until right now that I realized that the core of the message of that class – build wealth and give it away – is more than just about money. In the class, Dave Ramsey talked about how you should NEVER loan friends money – give it to them with no expectation of it coming back. Talk about turning the scoreboard off! BUT, like I said, I've just come to realize it's more than about money.

How many of us have kept "score" at home? "I've done the laundry, dishes, dusting, vacuuming, picking-up.....more than you – it's your turn." Or "You've done this to me – so I am going to do this to you....." Sounds like a "scoreboard" to me... and remember with a relationship scoreboard – everyone loses. So I've tried my best to take a different approach – I want to give to my family and friends as much as I possibly can – give them love through either a smile, hello, talk, act, favor.....and not care what the score is. Granted, I'm human and may grumble at times, but I'll try to quickly realize that God had no scoreboard when in his love for us, sent his Son to be born into our broken world and die to redeem it. If he did it would have been a pretty lop-sided victory.

So what's my point – turn off the dang scoreboard – and regardless of the position you think you are in – give without considering who is ahead or behind. Focus on what really matters and how your love, graciousness and compassion impact all of those around you.... And stay away from fool's gold. "It's not whether you've won or lost, but how you've played the game".....wow, isn't that the truth?

*The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. (Galatians 5:14-15).*

----- Mark Danufab



## THE CHOSEN

Please join us for Sunday School right after service at 10:30 a.m. downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. We are starting the series "The Chosen" season one.

We will be digging deeper into backstories and context of the people and events of the gospels. Season one introduces you to people such as Simon Peter, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene, Matthew and of course Jesus in a way never before seen in film.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Come and join us for a spiritually enriching experience at our Adult Sunday School Class! We offer two convenient



options for you to choose from, ensuring you find the perfect fit for your schedule and spiritual journey.

Our first class takes place before church services at 8:30 am in the southeast corner downstairs. It's a wonderful opportunity to start your day with fellowship and Bible study, setting a positive tone for the rest of your day. Our second class is held after church services at 10:30 am on the west side downstairs, allowing you to continue your spiritual growth right after worship.

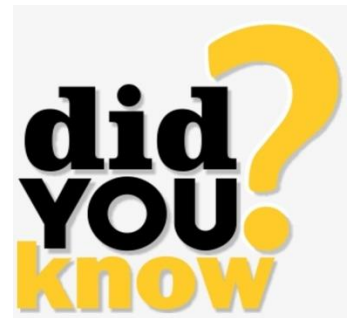
Both of our classes are open and welcoming to new members who are seeking meaningful spiritual study. Whether you have been a long-

time church member or are new to our community, we invite you to drop in and check out either class. You'll be greeted with morning pastries in a welcoming atmosphere where you can connect with fellow believers, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and deepen your understanding of the Bible.

Our classes are designed to provide both fellowship and relevant Bible study. You'll leave the classes feeling inspired and empowered. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to grow spiritually and connect with similarly motivated individuals. We eagerly look forward to seeing you there!

## WE ARE STARTING A DRAMA GROUP

This group will be involved with skits that are related to sermon series. We will do skits about men and women of the bible that will be informative and fun. Whether or not you have ever been involved in a drama class ...join us and we will learn about these great women and men of the bible.



You will have plenty of time to learn the lines and it will be fun!!!

Contact Susan Helmers at [sphelmers@yahoo.com](mailto:sphelmers@yahoo.com) or Deb Greiner at [dgreiner@kfumc.com](mailto:dgreiner@kfumc.com)

## WE ARE STARTING A SINGLES BIBLE STUDY GROUP



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

If you are divorced, widowed, never been married before this group is for you. Basically, you are not a couple.

We aim to grow our faith, have fellowship, have pot lucks, maybe see a movie.

Goals of the group will be:

1. be devoted to the study of God's word
2. Be a ministry of KFUMC
3. Find ways we can serve others
4. Have fellowship, form friendships, enjoy social time together, build common bonds, provide practical encouragement to better trust God in the journey.

This is not a dating app.

If you are interested or know someone who might be interested... please contact Deb at the church

[dgreiner@kfumc.com](mailto:dgreiner@kfumc.com)

641-842-3712

direct message on FB

## THANK YOU

Thanks to all my church family for the words of compassion, cards, prayers, phone calls,

food, friendship, caring and memorial gifts during John Haning's illness and passing. Your outpouring of love has sustained me and my family through this very difficult time. Blessings to all of you. Love, Pat Haning and family





## CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Summer is just around the corner. Check out the fun events we have scheduled for summer. Don't forget to follow our Facebook Page, First United Methodist Church. Knoxville, IA, for regular updates on upcoming events. If you have any questions, please contact me at [lpetersen@kfumc.com](mailto:lpetersen@kfumc.com).

### 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.

- May 14<sup>th</sup> NO Children's Church due to Mother's Day
- May 21<sup>st</sup> will be our last Children's Church session until fall.

### Pathfinders

Mark your calendars for our summer Family BBQ on June 29<sup>th</sup>. More details to come.

### Living Way Youth Meetings

- May 7<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm: Last meeting of the year, come celebrate with us! We will have dinner, games, and a quick devotional.
- Summer Youth Group
  - June 25<sup>th</sup>, 5-8pm, BBQ & Games
  - July 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, Service Weekend in Des Moines
  - August 27<sup>th</sup>, Bonfire





## Mark Your Calendars

### Mother's Day Tea Party –

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

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!!



### Darts with Dad –

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 10:45am-12pm

Guys, this one is designed especially for you! Join us after service on June 11<sup>th</sup> for a fun, family friendly nerf gun war on the front lawn to celebrate all the awesome men in your life. Bring your own nerf guns and darts. Refreshments will be provided.

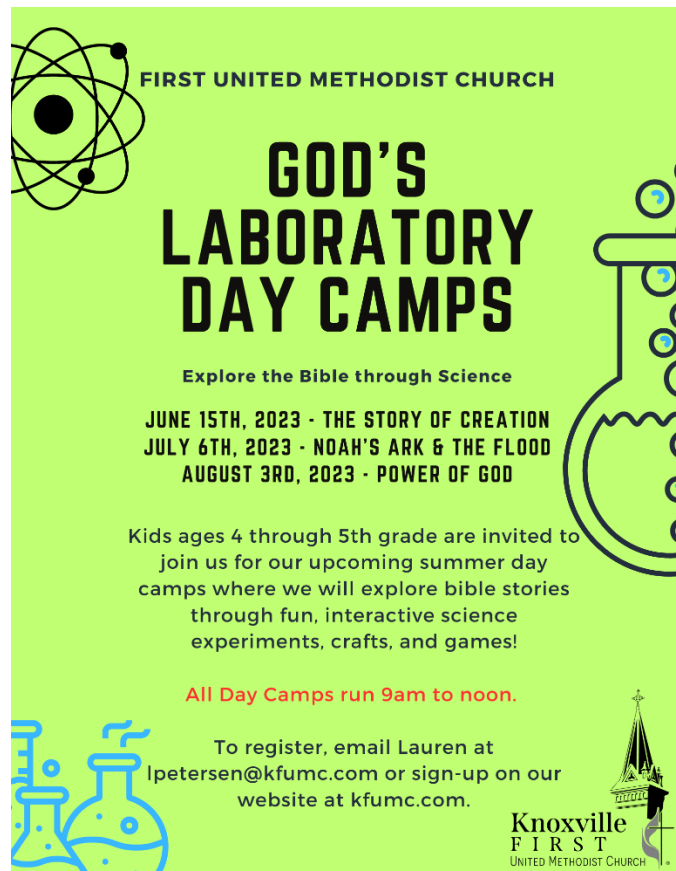


## God's Laboratory Summer Day Camps:

June 15<sup>th</sup> – 9am-12pm

July 6<sup>th</sup> – 9am-12pm

August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9am-12pm



### VBS: Hero Hotline –

July 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>,  
tentative time 5:30-8pm



## SALT, ANYONE?



We all like a little salt to add flavor to our food. Jesus liked to use salt too. He said, "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it useful again? It is no longer good for

anything, and will be thrown out and trampled upon underfoot as useless. You are the light of the world, like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for everyone to see. Don't hide your light under a basket. Instead, put it on a table and let it shine for all. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." --Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus invites us to be the salt and the light in today's world. We pick up the salt shaker and the salt enhances the flavoring of our food. Anyone that's on a restricted salt diet understands the value of it. Our pets and livestock need salt in their diet. Jesus calls us to flavor the world, to "shake" things up a bit, just as he did. My grandparents used salt as a preservative, and Jesus would like us to keep this world from spoiling, from falling further into spiritual decay.

In the same way, Jesus also invites us to be light, to illuminate. Light can also purify, such as the radiation used in cancer and other health situations. Light can be a source of warmth, and we can warm up to others, checking their need for comfort or just a warm welcome. Both salt and light provide goodness in our lives. Jesus Christ brings goodness into our life. Without Jesus, life would be bland, cold, and dark. Just as we need salt and light,

we can use some dashes of Jesus in our lives. Pass Jesus around!

--See you Sunday! Pastor Brent Hanna

# May 2023

May 2023

June 2023

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Apr 30</b> 7:30am Homebuilders 8:30am Holy Donut Hole 9:30am Worship Service 10:00am Children's Church 10:30am Faith Forum	<b>May 1</b> 7:30am Monday Morning Panthers (Fellowship) 11:45am Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 2:00pm Almost Free Shop (Annex) 6:00pm Girl Scouts (Kids)	<b>2</b> 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 12:00pm MSPS Conferences (Preschool Rooms) 12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall) 7:30pm Alcoholics	<b>3</b> Heather Off at Noon 12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall) 1:30pm Pastor's KAMA Meeting (St Anthony's) 6:30pm MSPS Board 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>4</b> 12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall) 5:00pm Pickleball (Peter, Paul & Pickleball) 5:00pm UWF Executive 6:00pm UWF General 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>5</b> Heather Off 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 12:00pm Alcoholics 6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Activity)	<b>6</b> Communion/Food Donation 4:00pm Clean & Sober Social Group (Activity Center) 5:00pm Chapel Worship Service (Chapel)
<b>7</b> Communion Sunday/Food 8:30am Homebuilders 9:00am Holy Donut Hole 9:30am Worship Service 10:00am Children's Church 10:30am Faith Forum	<b>8</b> 7:30am Monday Morning Panthers (Fellowship) 11:45am Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 2:00pm Almost Free Shop (Annex) 6:00pm Girl Scouts (Kids)	<b>9</b> 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 12:00pm MSPS Conferences (Preschool Rooms) 12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall) 5:00pm Garden Club 7:30pm Alcoholics	<b>10</b> 12:00pm MSPS Conferences (Preschool Rooms) 12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm P4G:10 Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	<b>11</b> 9:00am Rachel Circle Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall) 5:00pm Pickleball (Peter, Paul & Pickleball) 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>12</b> 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 12:00pm Set Up for Mother Child Tea Party 12:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 6:00pm Narcotics	<b>13</b> Brent (Chapel) 9:30am Mother Child Tea Party (Actual Event) 4:00pm Clean & Sober Social Group (Activity Center) 5:00pm Chapel Worship Service (Chapel)
<b>14</b> Senior Recognition Sunday 8:30am Homebuilders 9:00am Holy Donut Hole 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Faith Forum 4:00pm Pickleball (Peter, Paul & Pickleball) 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>15</b> 7:30am Monday Morning Panthers (Fellowship) 11:45am Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 2:00pm Almost Free Shop (Annex) 6:00pm Girl Scouts (Kids) 6:30pm SPRC (Library)	<b>16</b> 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Meeting (Activity Center)	<b>17</b> 12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall)	<b>18</b> 11:00am Homebuilders Lunch Meeting 12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall) 5:00pm Pickleball (Peter, Paul & Pickleball) 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>19</b> MSPS Last Day 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 12:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Activity)	<b>20</b> 4:00pm Clean & Sober Social Group (Activity Center) 5:00pm Chapel Worship Service (Chapel)
<b>21</b> MSPS Sunday 8:30am Homebuilders 9:00am Holy Donut Hole 9:30am Worship Service 10:00am Children's Church 10:30am Faith Forum	<b>22</b> 7:30am Monday Morning Panthers (Fellowship) 11:45am Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 2:00pm Almost Free Shop (Annex) 6:30pm MSPS Spring	<b>23</b> 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Meeting (Activity Center)	<b>24</b> 11:30am Helmets & Hotdogs 12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Finance Committee 6:30pm Trustee Meeting 7:30pm Board Meeting	<b>25</b> 12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall) 1:30pm Sarah Circle Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 5:00pm Pickleball (Peter, Paul & Pickleball) 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>26</b> 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 12:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Meeting (Activity Center) 6:00pm Narcotics Anonymous (Activity)	<b>27</b> 4:00pm Clean & Sober Social Group (Activity Center) 5:00pm Chapel Worship Service (Chapel)
<b>28</b> 8:30am Homebuilders 9:00am Holy Donut Hole 9:30am Worship Service 1:00pm Private Voice 4:00pm Pickleball (Peter, Paul & Pickleball) 7:30pm NA Meeting	<b>29</b> Church Office Closed for Memorial Holiday	<b>30</b> 9:00am Almost Free Shop (Annex) 11:45am Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 12:00pm Classical Stretch (Fellowship Hall) 7:30pm Alcoholics	<b>31</b> 12:00pm WINGS (Fellowship Hall) 4:30pm Cooking for a Cause (WFFH) 6:30pm F.L.N. Meeting (Kids Kingdom) 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>Jun 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>