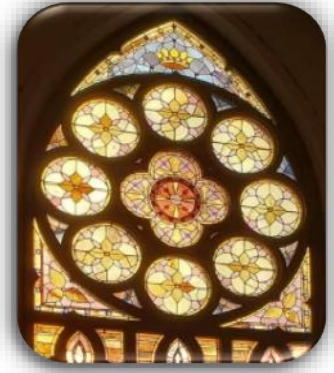


# The Link: Connected in Christ

## OCTOBER 2023



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Our Mission:  
“Bring People  
to Christ”

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### STRENGTH FOR THE DAY

I recently read an article from a pastor in Long Beach, California who was asked to be a guest preacher at a historic church in Rome, Georgia. When he arrived on Saturday, he met the host pastor who took him on a tour of his early American church. As they walked through the famous church grounds, he could almost hear the voices of early patriots echoing off the old red brick walls. The church’s celebrated history included an episode that the pastor said he will never forget. During the civil war the church building was used by the Union army as a marshalling area. At a crucial turning point during the war, the Union armies needed supplies. Supply wagons were stopped at the bank of a nearby river without a ferry. In a creative move that rivals any war story, the commanding officer ordered that the wooden church pews be used to float the vital supplies to the starving Union soldiers on the other side of the river. Pews that were meant for sitting were now serving.

### 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.**

That story reminds me that Knoxville First United Methodist Church is also engaged in a battle. It is a spiritual battle for the eternal souls of every living person within our sphere of influence. The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians (6:12) reminds us of this unwelcome reality: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world." The Bible reveals that the church is not a playground but a battleground. In the color and beauty of these soft autumn days of football and falling leaves, it's easy to forget that. To win people for God's kingdom, we need to literally throw everything we have into the fray...our energy, our resources, our time, our talents, our prayers. And if necessary, even our wooden church pews! The apostle Paul spoke of the creative commitment that should adorn the church. "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings." (1 Cor. 9:22-23)

Knoxville First United Methodist Church is growing --- spiritually, and in ministry. We are sharing in the blessings of the gospel as we witness the transformation of people who are learning to follow Jesus closer than they ever have before in their lives. To keep our growth well supplied we need to stay connected to Jesus who is the Vine (John 15), pray constantly, and stay connected in ministry with one another. I invite you to come along with me and our gifted staff and dedicated volunteers to make this Fall season the best we have ever experienced. Join "The Story" small group, volunteer for a ministry, lend your talent to the mix, give generously to resupply the efforts, pray without ceasing and expect great things from God. Remember, "We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:37).

Peace,

Pastor Jamie Cutler

## CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our 2023 Annual Charge Conference will be held on **Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

## MEALS ON WHEELS KFUMC DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



*deliver a difference*

Meals on Wheels delivery volunteers are needed Monday, **November 13, 2023 through Thursday, November 16, 2023** for 4 routes. Please reply to this email or sign up in the Narthex if you are interested in volunteering for any of these routes.

Volunteering for Meals on Wheels is a great way to make a huge impact in a short amount of time. By delivering meals you bring healthy food and a friendly visit to people in the community. Anyone can deliver meals, and it's a great volunteer opportunity for families and individuals of all ages. Sign up today and find out how easy and rewarding it is to bring nourishment and independence to your neighbors throughout the community! Thank you.

**All meals are to be picked up 10:30-10:40 a.m. in alley behind police station.  
If volunteering multiple days signing up for the same route makes it easier.**

<u>DATE &amp; ROUTE</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	<u>CELL NUMBER</u>
<b>Monday, November 13, 2023</b>			
Route 1			
Route 2			
<b>Tuesday, November 14, 2023</b>			
Route 1			
Route 2			
<b>Wednesday, November 15, 2023</b>			
Route 1			
Route 2			
<b>Thursday, November 16, 2023</b>			
Route 1			
Route 2			



## FALL HARVEST DINNER

**Saturday, October 14 is our Harvest Supper, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

Our menu is ham balls, cheesy potatoes, green beans, salads, rolls, and homemade pie all for a free-will offering.

**We are in need of a lot of helpers. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Please sign up where you can.**

We look forward to a delicious meal and fellowship time.

## MONTGOMERY STREET PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

I am raising funds for Montgomery Street Preschool and we could really use your help!

We are partnering with Charleston Wrap to offer you high-quality gift wrap, kitchen and home goods, and over 2,500 other products. The proceeds from each purchase helps support Montgomery Street Preschool. No matter the size of your order, you can make a BIG difference.

Our campaign doesn't last long, so please follow this link to support now:

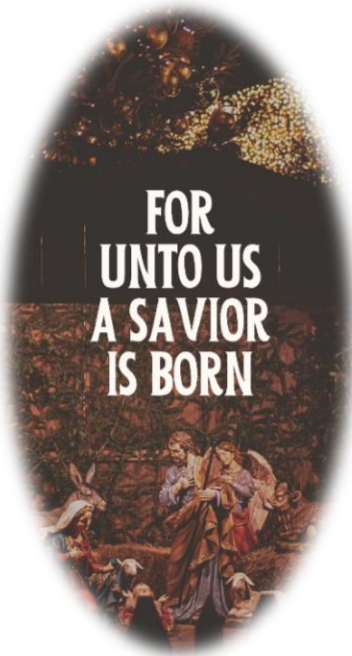
<https://registercw.com/ybWUmfJ4BK>

Thanks for your help!

- Katie

All orders are **due by October 20**. Orders will be shipped directly to your home. Please let Katie Bishop know if you have any questions.





## NATIVITY DISPLAY

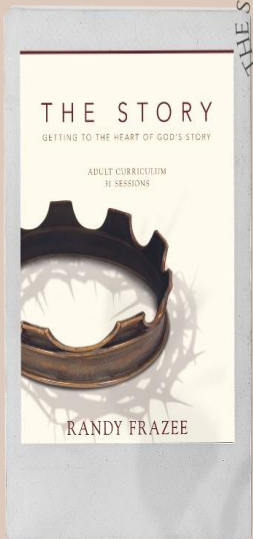
There will be a large display of nativities at Knoxville First United Methodist Church on December 7-10. This will be open to the public from **10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., December 7-9 and 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 10.** We invite anyone who has nativities that they would like to share for this display to bring their nativities to the church on **Tuesday, December 5 and Wednesday, December 6.** The nativities can then be picked up after the display is over on **Sunday, December 10 after 3:00 p.m.** We really look forward to seeing you! If you need someone to pick up your nativity, please call Merna Furney at 842-3072 or the church office at 842-3712. Thank you.

*Do you want to dig deeper into The Story?*

Join us on Tuesday's for group discussion and deeper study into The Story.

The Story  
Adult Group Study  
Tuesdays at 6:30pm

At KFUMC, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall



THE STORY LIFE GROUPS

[WWW.KFUMC.COM/THE-STORY/](http://WWW.KFUMC.COM/THE-STORY/)

# The Gathering

## FUTURE DATES

**SEPTEMBER 27**

**OCTOBER 11 & 27**

**NOVEMBER 8 & 22**

**DECEMBER 13**

**JANUARY 10**

All services will be held at 6:30pm in the chapel.





## CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

School has started and our fall programming has begun! We have something for everyone from preschool through seniors in high school. If you have any questions on any of our upcoming programming, please contact me at [lpetersen@kfumc.com](mailto:lpetersen@kfumc.com).

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH



Children's Church is on **Sundays from 10-10:30am** (right after Children's Time). Our curriculum is designed for preschool and early elementary kids. We will be following Pastor Jamie's sermon series on The Story, using the book The Story for Children. We will also be collecting an offering during Children's Church and the kids will get to help decide which charity the money will go towards.

### PATHFINDERS

This group of 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders will meet **every other week beginning October 4<sup>th</sup>**. They will meet at the church on **Wednesdays from 3:45-5pm**. We have transportation available to pick up the kids from Northstar Elementary and bring them to the church. Our lessons focus on a range of fun activities including bible stories, devotions, games, team building, service, and more. This is open to any 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders, encourage your kids to invite a friend! **Please let me know if your child will attend by September 27<sup>th</sup> so we can plan for transportation.**



### LIVING WAY YOUTH GROUP



Our Youth Group is comprised of youth grades 6-12. They will meet on the first and third Sunday of the month from 5-7pm. Our Living Way Youth will enjoy team building, games, devotions, and more!

- October 1<sup>st</sup>, 5-7pm – fall kick-off
- October 15<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm - tentative activity: DIY costume contest
- November 5<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm – tentative activity: thankfulness pumpkins
- December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5-7pm
- December 17<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm – tentative activity: sugar cookie decorating

### MSPS/KFUMC FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Join us on **October 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm** for a fun family movie night. We will have popcorn, treats, and drinks and enjoy watching the movie 'Spooky Buddies' in our new Family Life Center on 4<sup>th</sup> street (will move inside if needed due to weather). Bring your favorite chair and blanket!





## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

This year we will be putting together a short children's Christmas Drama to be performed during **Sunday Service on December 10<sup>th</sup>**. We will begin practicing on **October 22<sup>nd</sup>** following church service. Our practices will be held **10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/19, and 12/3** from approximately **10:30-11am**. Kids must attend a minimum of 3 practices including December 3<sup>rd</sup> in order to participate. If you have a child interested in participating or have questions, please contact me at [lpetersen@kfumc.com](mailto:lpetersen@kfumc.com).

**For a complete listing of program dates and details, visit our website at <https://kfumc.com/childrens-youth-and-families/>.**

Blessings,  
Lauren

## GET TO KNOW OUR CUSTODIAN

When you see Erin Harding cleaning our church, be sure to say hello and introduce yourself. She loves meeting people. Erin grew up in the South East Polk school system. She has worked as a custodian at other schools and most recently was employed as a custodian in the Knoxville Middle School. We are glad that she has joined our team here at First UMC. Erin's daughter Grace attends middle school, and her husband Nathan is a truck driver. In her spare time she enjoys following Grace's sports and her other school activities. Welcome, Erin!



## GOD'S STORY . . . OUR STORY



"Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered, "It is written, one does not live by bread alone." Then the devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written, Worship the Lord your God, and serve only God." Then the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you to protect you; and on their hands they will bear you up so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." Jesus answered, "It is said, do not put the Lord your God to the test." When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time." --Luke 4:1-13

The weather forecasters usually warn us before an Iowa thunderstorm or winter blizzard arrives in our area so we can prepare . Sometimes, the weather people get the snow predictions right on target, and sometimes, the extra trip to the grocery store is for naught. If people knew an earthquake was going to occur, people would prepare. But the problem is, earthquakes don't generally provide a warning. In life, many times, temptations appear before us without warning. In God's story, we frequently read about normal people going through temptation. Tempting opportunities present themselves unannounced and generally we are not expecting them. When we are tempted, we can recall this Luke scripture, when Jesus was famished, and the devil tempted him. The devil hoped that he had caught Jesus in a weak moment, and approached Jesus with various temptations. In each case, Jesus was role modeling for us how to respond, applying God's word. One reason Jesus lived among us on this earth so he would understand the temptations that we face in our lives. He knows and understands what we are up against. We are frequently tempted, and when we are, we can recall this example in Luke's Gospel of how Jesus dealt with his temptations. Remember that we don't pass through this life alone. Jesus, his examples, and his teachings, are always with us, we are active in God's story, which is our story. For this, we can lovingly give thanks, as God loves us first. I am truly enjoying studying our story, and I hope that you are also.

Pastor Brent Hanna, Knoxville First UMC



# October 2023

## United States holidays, KFUMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 1 Lauren @ Wartburg in D Communion Sunday/Faith Forum 8:30 AM Homebuilders 9 AM Holy Donut Hole 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Faith Forum 1 PM Sorority Meeting 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 5 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM NA Meeting	2 Deb Off 7:30 AM Monday Morning 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult P 6 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM Worship Team F	3 9 AM Almost Free Shop 11:45 AM Staff Meeting 12 PM Classical Stretch 6:30 PM The Story Small 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anon	4 12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 1:15 PM KAMA Meeting 3:30 PM Pathfinders 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 7 PM Confirmation	5 9 AM UWF Executive Meet 12 PM Classical Stretch 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 7:30 PM NA Meeting	6 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Alcoholics Anony 6 PM Narcotics Anonym	7 Communion/Food Donor Iowa Conference UWFaith 10 AM Youth Pickleball 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc 5 PM MSPS/KFUMC Kid 5 PM Chapel Worship Sr
8 8:30 AM Homebuilders 9 AM Holy Donut Hole 9:30 AM Worship Service 10 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Faith Forum 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 7:30 PM NA Meeting	9 Columbus Day No MSPS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult P 6 PM Girl Scouts	10 9 AM Almost Free Shop 11:45 AM Staff Meeting 12 PM Classical Stretch 5 PM Garden Club 6:30 PM The Story Small 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anon	11 12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 6:30 PM The Gathering	12 8 AM MSPS Pic 9 AM Rachel Circle Meet 12 PM Classical Stretch 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 7:30 PM NA Meeting	13 Lauren Off 8 AM MSPS Pic 9 AM Prep & Setup for Har 9 AM Almost Free Shop 9:30 AM Bishop at Famil 12 PM Alcoholics Anony 6 PM Narcotics Anonym	14 9 AM Prep & Setup for Har 10 AM Youth Pickleball 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc 5 PM Harvest Dinner 5 PM Chapel Worship Sr 6 PM Confirmands & Me
15 Lauren Off 8:30 AM Homebuilders 9 AM Holy Donut Hole 9:30 AM Worship Service 10 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Faith Forum 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 5 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM NA Meeting	16 7:30 AM Monday Morning 8 AM MSPS Pic 11:45 AM Staff Meeting 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult P 6 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM SPRC	17 Katie Off 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Classical Stretch 6 PM Garden Club 6:30 PM The Story Small 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anon	18 7 AM (van) Pierce's Pumpk 12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 3:30 PM Pathfinders 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 7 PM Confirmation	19 11 AM Homebuilders Lu 12 PM Classical Stretch 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 7 PM Rebecca Circle UW 7:30 PM NA Meeting	20 Heather Off 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Alcoholics Anony 6 PM Narcotics Anonym	21 10 AM Youth Pickleball 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc 5 PM Chapel Worship Sr
22 8:30 AM Homebuilders 9 AM Holy Donut Hole 9:30 AM Worship Service 10 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Faith Forum 10:30 AM Practice for Child 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 7:30 PM NA Meeting	23 Heather Off 7:30 AM Monday Morning 11:45 AM Staff Meeting 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult P 5:30 PM FUN Meeting 6 PM Girl Scouts	24 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Classical Stretch 6 PM Garden Club 6:30 PM The Story Small 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anon	25 12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 4:30 PM Cooking for a C 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 6:30 PM The Gathering	26 12 PM Classical Stretch 1:30 PM Sarah Circle Me 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 7:30 PM NA Meeting	27 Deb Off 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Alcoholics Anony 6 PM Narcotics Anonym	28 10 AM Youth Pickleball 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc 5 PM Chapel Worship Sr
29 8:30 AM Homebuilders 9 AM Holy Donut Hole 9:30 AM Worship Service 10 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Faith Forum 10:30 AM Practice for Child 3 PM Charge Conference 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 7:30 PM NA Meeting	30 Deb Off 7:30 AM Monday Morning 11:45 AM Staff Meeting 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult P 6 PM Girl Scouts	31 Halloween 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Classical Stretch 6:30 PM The Story Small 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anon	Nov 1 12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 3:30 PM Pathfinders 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 7 PM Confirmation	2 9 AM UWF Executive Meet 12 PM Classical Stretch 4 PM PEO 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) 7 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM NA Meeting	3 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Alcoholics Anony 6 PM Narcotics Anonym	4 Communion/Food Donor 10 AM Youth Pickleball 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc 5 PM Chapel Worship Sr