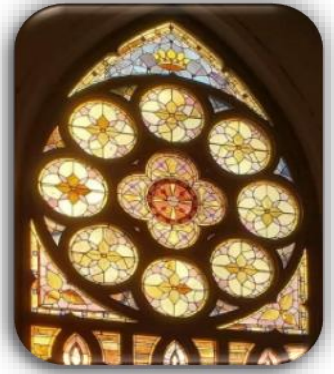


The Link: Connected in Christ

November 2023



Our Mission: “Bring People to Christ”

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.**



Let Go of What's Holding You

Back when I was in 5th grade my teacher read to the class Wilson Rawl's book, Where the Red Fern Grows, a heartwarming tale of adventure and friendship between a young boy named Billy, and his two hunting dogs, Big Dan and Little Ann, in the Ozark Mountains of northeastern Oklahoma. Early in the story, Billy, who needs to get his hands on a raccoon skin in order to train his pups, goes to see his grandfather, who tells him how he can catch a raccoon.

His grandfather tells him to go to the river bottom and find a log by the water. Billy should then drill a hole in the log, about six inches down into it. Inside the hole, he then was to pound nails halfway into the sides of the hole, with the exposed nail ends pointing down at an angle, creating a funnel. To set the trap, Billy only had to drop a shiny piece of tin into the hole.

Billy listened to his grandfather and was about ready to do what he had told him --- and then it hit him! Wait a minute! Billy could understand that when the raccoon's natural curiosity made him reach down into the hole and grab the shiny piece of tin, his paw would have to ball up, and that it would be too big to get past the pointing nails --- they would stick into his paw.

But all the racoon would have to do to free itself was to let go of the tin and it could slide its paw past the nails and out of the hole!

Billy was so mad at his grandfather for tricking him that he cried. But his dad persuaded him to give it a try, so Billy reluctantly went ahead with the plan. After several days of empty traps, Billy was ready to give up. But then, one morning, he came upon the biggest raccoon on the river bottom with his hand down the hole and madder than a hornet! His whole family came down to see it! Billy's dad "dispatched" the animal. Rawl's writes:

After Papa had pulled the nails, he lifted the racoon's paw from the hole. There, clamped firmly in it, was the bright piece of tin. In a low voice Papa said, "Well I'll be. All he had to do was open it up --- and he was free. But he wouldn't do it. Your grandfather was right."

The story of the raccoon trap is, unfortunately, and ironically, very appropriate for us to hear, especially as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, when we Americans will pause to thank God for the many things in our lives. Because like the racoon, it is part of our human nature to want to hold onto what we've got --- even when letting go of those things could set us free to experience and possess something far, far better that God is so able and willing and wanting to bless us with --- in abundance!

RACCOON QUESTION #1: Do you trust God enough to give him what you think you just couldn't live without?

Remember that followers of Jesus Christ have been "blessed to be a blessing" to others --- in every area of our lives. But we cannot do it when we're proudly or stubbornly holding onto the things in this world we think "we" control, and that we think will provide us with happiness, security, and satisfaction in this life.

RACCOON QUESTION #2: "What are you taking for granted in your life as though it was yours to possess? Yours to hold?"

Each of us are probably holding onto something in our life, right now, this very moment, that we need to let go of. Something that can't save us, can't help us, or even fully and ultimately satisfy us, and yet, we've been clinging to it like a shiny piece of tin in our hands for far, too long.

What is the "shiny piece of tin" that holds captive your heart and mind?

A habit that holds you? --- a sin that seems to continually stalk you?

A painful memory that forever haunts you? Houses, closets, and garages full of "trophies" from shopping sprees that now sit unworn, unused, or un-enjoyed?

Activities and relationships that are based on unhealthy and passing interests?

A heart and attitude toward "giving" that is based on "self-sufficiency and self interest" or, what you expect to get back from the world?

Friends, whatever it is that you may be wrongly holding onto in your life at this time, God invites you to let go of it. For no one can fully receive all the spiritual blessings our heavenly Father offers us if our hands, or our hearts, are clinging to the things of this world.

Unlike the raccoon in Where the Red Fern Grows, it's time to let go of the things in life that capture our minds, our attention and energy, and if we let them, ultimately, our very self. Our very soul. It's time to open our hands, give God those things, and experience the freedom and life and so much more, that God has intended, and wants so much to give us --- if only our hands were open to receive it.

The season of Thanksgiving, when we "count our many blessings" is the perfect time to do so.

I pray that each one of you will let go of what's holding you, so that with open hearts and empty hands, you'll be able to receive, in abundance, the generous, the bountiful harvest of blessing that God, in His great love, is just waiting and so wanting, to give to you.

Peace,
Pastor Jamie Cutler

Advent Study



Advent Season is a time of remembering, studying, and preparing for the birth of Christ. People from First United Methodist and Good Shepherd Lutheran will gather with St. Anthony's people on **Thursday, November 9 at 6 pm**. At the St. Anthony Church. Following a soup supper, we will divide into small groups to read and study the scriptures from the Old and New Testament, the Epistles, and the Psalms as they pertain to the four Sundays of Advent. We will reassemble into a large group and share key words and thoughts from our small groups. Please call the church office by November 6th to sign up.

The Gathering



Come join The Gathering on **November 8th** for a special prayer service and on **November 22** for a service on gratitude and thankfulness. Reset yourself mid-week to feel God's presence and love. The Gathering meets at **6:30 pm** in the Chapel every other Wednesday.

Please Join us for Bill and Kitty Shepherd's 50th Wedding Anniversary!

Saturday, November 11, 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. at First United Methodist Church. The

most important thing is to have you with us to help celebrate, no gifts needed or expected. If you are unable to attend and would like to send a card, please send to:
Bill and Kitty Shepherd
214 W. Montgomery
Knoxville, IA 50138





2023 Poinsettia Order Form

Help us add color and beauty to the church during the Advent and Christmas season while honoring and/or remembering someone special in your life.

Price Per Plant: \$9 x #Ordered _____ = Total \$_____

***Order form and payment due to church office by November 12, 2023.**

Given by: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

In Honor of:

(names) _____

And/Or

In Memory of:

(names) _____

Poinsettias may be picked up following the 9:30 a.m. service on December 10, 2023.

- ☐ I will pick up my plant(s).
- ☐ The plant(s) are gifts and will be picked up by _____
_____.
- ☐ Please deliver my plant(s) to a homebound member of KFUMC.
- ☐ I will leave my plant(s) at the church to decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.

Bible Presentation Sunday



November 12th **during Sunday** **Service**

Join us on November 12th to celebrate our 3rd-5th graders who will be receiving their bibles. We will have a short program following play practice from

11am-noon for the families of the kids receiving their bible where we will have fun games and activities to introduce them to their new bible!

Pumpkin Pie Fundraiser

Our Living Way Youth will be baking homemade pumpkin pies fresh for

Thanksgiving as a fundraiser to raise money for their upcoming trips and events. Pies are \$15 and need to be **ordered by November 13th**

by emailing Lauren at lpetersen@kfumc.com. Pie pickup will be from 5-6pm on November 22nd. Please contact Lauren if you need to schedule a different time for pickup.



What Are You Doing for Lunch?



One person from KFUMC is needed to volunteer to deliver meals for **route 1** on, **Thursday, November 16**. Please contact Heather at the church office at 641-842-3712 or hmarconi@kfumc.com if you are able to fill this route as soon as possible.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets



The F.U.N. group would like to provide 50 families in need in the community with a Thanksgiving Food Basket! We are collecting names from Helping Hands, MSPS and Hospice. If you know of a family that might be in need of a food basket, please let Heather know (641-842-3712). We are in need of help **following church on Nov. 19th** to put the baskets together and at **1:00 pm** to pass them out! Thank God for your prayers, help and financial support in feeding those in need in our community!

FUMC Christmas Eve Drama

Actors are needed for the Christmas eve drama. The drama will be held at the 7:00pm service on Christmas Eve. If you would like to be a part of this great group, please contact Katie or Lauren or call the office. We will be **meeting in November** after we get enough actors signed up to help.



Children's Christmas Play



This year we are putting together a short children's Christmas Drama to be performed during **Sunday Service on December 10th**. Our practices are being 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 3rd in order to participate. Speaking and non-speaking parts are available. All children are welcome! If you have a child interested in participating or have questions, please contact me at lpetersen@kfumc.com.

Hanging of the Greens with Pizza to Follow!



Sunday, 11/26/2023, immediately following the church service stay a little longer and help decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season! Come when you can...if you can't stay the whole time, that's OK! There will be jobs for people of all ages. Afterwards, join us downstairs to celebrate a job well done with some free pizza!

Bingo and Brownies



December 2nd, 2023 – 6-7pm

Join us for a fun evening playing Bingo and enjoying brownies and other sweet treats. This is a great family friendly event and will be fun for all ages! We hope you will join us!

Nativity Display Open House



There will be a large display of nativities at KFUMC 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 to share to bring them to the church on **Tuesday, December 5 and Wednesday, December 6.** They can then be picked up after the display on **Sunday, December 10 after 3:00 p.m.** If you need someone to pick up your nativity, please call Merna Furney at 842-3072 or the church office at 842-3712.

Winter Items Needed for the Blessing Boxes

With the temperatures changing and the KFUMC Community Blessing Boxes being located outside and subject to extreme temperatures, the safety of the items being donated throughout the year also changes as it gets colder. Please discontinue donating glass items and canned goods until the warmer weather returns in the spring. Instead please consider donating:

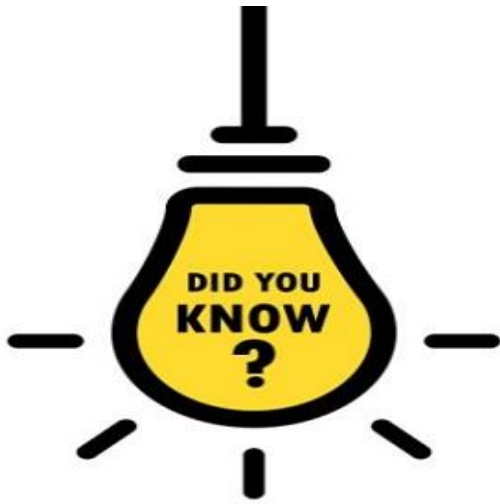


Non-Perishable Food Items:

- One-box meals
- Pouched meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Dry foods like pancake mix, rice, and pasta
- Dried fruit and nuts
- Crackers, granola bars, cereal, and instant oatmeal packets
- Individually packaged foods such as fruit cups, snack mixes, etc.
- Kitchen staples (flour, sugar, salt, pepper)
- Peanut butter/Jelly

Household and Hygiene Items:

- Winter items - Hats, gloves, scarves, socks
- Toilet paper, paper towels, and facial tissues
- Personal hygiene supplies (travel size is best) such as wet wipes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap
- Laundry supplies (travel sizes is best)
- Baby supplies (travel sizes is best) (lotion, diaper cream, diapers, wipes, etc.)



KFUMC Virtual Store

Did you know we now have a virtual store on our web page?

You can find it by going to www.kfumc.com

Look for the online store, browse the items listed in the store, print the order form, and then email it to Deb Greiner at dgreiner@kfumc.com, or you can bring it to the office or mail it to the office at 313 E Montgomery Knoxville, Iowa 50138.

We hope to keep this store updated with new items. Right now you will find apparel, stickers, mugs, tumblers and more! Check it out!

Thank You! Thank You!

The Harvest Meal was very successful serving 230 people. We had 93 people providing pies, salads, and working to accomplish this. Our whole church worked very hard. It is so appreciated. We cleared about \$2300 which will be divided between Montgomery Street Preschool and food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The F.U.N. Committee thanks you all!



Preschool Thank You

Thank you to everyone that purchased items from our fall fundraiser or that made donations to the preschool! Our school is very blessed to have a congregation that supports us so well!

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Happenings

I have no idea where time has gone, but welcome to November and the beginning of our holiday season! I hope all of you get the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends over the next couple of months. We have some fun events happening here at the church for all to enjoy as well! As always, if you have any questions on any of our upcoming programming, please contact me at lpetersen@kfumc.com.



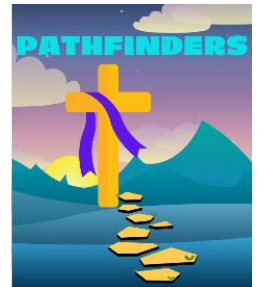
Children's Church



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 are following along with The Story. Reminder – No Children's Church November 26th and December 24th.

Pathfinders

Our 3rd-5th graders are off to a great start. We are enjoying getting back together and learning about bible stories through fun interactive activities and games. Pathfinders meetings for 2023: Nov. 1st, 15th, 29th, and Dec. 6th from 3:30-5pm



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!

- November 5th, 5-7pm – tentative activity: thankfulness pumpkins
- November 19th, 5-7pm
- November 22nd – Pumpkin Pie Baking, Time TBD
- December 3rd, 5-7pm
- December 17th, 5-7pm – tentative activity: sugar cookie decorating

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

Blessings, Lauren

YOUR INVESTMENT



"Do not store up for yourselves treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths or consumed by rust, or where thieves can break in and steal. Instead, store up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where they will not be eaten by moths and where they will always be safe from thieves. Wherever your treasure is, there will be your heart also. No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You can not serve both God and money."

--Matthew 6:19-24

What do you hold as most important to you? Not what you think is important to someone else, and not what you think others would say is important to you, but what is most important to you?

You can narrow down things that are most important by looking at how you spend your free time. After you have completed all of your tasks at work (or at school) and at home, what do you choose to do with your time? Also, after all of your bills and expenses have been paid, and you have some cash remaining, how do you spend your extra money? By answering these questions, you can see what is pretty important to you in your life. Do you set aside some God time, working for God's kingdom? Do you include God in your budgeting? Jesus reminds us, "Wherever your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

We will be making our 2024 pledges to our church's mission and budget this month. Please prayerfully discuss with your family your financial commitment to our church and all of its activities. We actively work to bring people to Christ each and every day through numerous avenues. Money is necessary, and as you grow older, you realize how precious time is also. Where do you invest your treasure? You can invest in worldly things, or you can invest in Christ.

Pastor Brent Hanna
Knoxville First UMC
Columbia UMC

November 2023

KFUMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4
8:30 AM Homebuilders ☞	Deb Off	MSPS Trick or Treat (2 Gro	12 PM WINGS ☞	9 AM UWF Executive Meet	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞	Communion/Food Donor☞
9 AM Holy Donut Hole ☞	MSPS Trick or Treat (7 kids	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞	1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞	12 PM Classical Stretch ☞	12 PM Alcoholics Anony☞	8 AM Fellowship Hall Rese
9:30 AM Worship Service☞	7:30 AM Monday Mornin☞	11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞	1:30 PM Pathfinders	4 PM PEO	6 PM Narcotics Anonym☞	10 AM Youth Pickleball ☞
10 AM Children's Church☞	1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞	12 PM Classical Stretch ☞	6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞	4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter☞		4 PM Clean & Sober Soc☞
10:30 AM Faith Forum ☞	2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞	6:30 PM r th The Story Sm☞	7 PM Confirmation	7 PM Choir Practice		5 PM Chapel Worship Sr☞
10:30 AM Practice for Child	4:30 PM Beginners Adult☞	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor☞		7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞		
3 PM Charge Conference ☞	6 PM Girl Scouts ☞					
4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter☞						
7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Communion Sunday/For☞	No MSPS	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞	12 PM WINGS ☞	9 AM Rachel Circle Meet☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞	10 AM Youth Pickleball ☞
All Saints Day	10:30 AM Eugene Cummins	11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞	1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞	12 PM Classical Stretch ☞	12 PM Alcoholics Anony☞	10:30 AM r th Shepherd/Den
☞ DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIM	12 PM Eugene Cummings I	12 PM Classical Stretch ☞	6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞	4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter☞	6 PM Narcotics Anonym☞	1 PM r th Bill and Kitty Shep
8:30 AM Homebuilders ☞	1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞	6:30 PM r th The Story Sm☞	6:30 PM The Gathering	6 PM Advent Planning (KFI		4 PM Clean & Sober Soc☞
9 AM Holy Donut Hole ☞	2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor☞		7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞		5 PM Chapel Worship Sr☞
9:30 AM All Saints Day Rec	4:30 PM Beginners Adult☞					
9:30 AM Worship Service☞	6 PM Girl Scouts ☞					
10 AM Education Room Re						
10 AM Children's Church☞						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30 AM Homebuilders ☞		KFUMC Meals on Wheels				9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞
9 AM Holy Donut Hole ☞	7:30 AM Monday Mornin☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞	8 AM Van (MSPS Fareway)	11 AM Homebuilders Lu☞	12 PM Alcoholics Anony☞	10 AM Youth Pickleball ☞
9:30 AM 3rd Grade Bible Pr	11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞	12 PM Classical Stretch ☞	12 PM WINGS ☞	12 PM Classical Stretch ☞	6 PM Narcotics Anonym☞	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc☞
9:30 AM Worship Service☞	1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞	5 PM Garden Club ☞	1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞	12:30 PM Piano Tuning		5 PM Chapel Worship Sr☞
10 AM Children's Church☞	2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞	6:30 PM r th The Story Small	3:30 PM Pathfinders	4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter☞		
10:30 AM 3rd Grade Bible t	4:30 PM Beginners Adult☞	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor☞	6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞	5 PM Living Windows		
10:30 AM Faith Forum ☞	6 PM Girl Scouts ☞		7 PM Confirmation	6 PM Rebecca Circle UW☞		
11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞				7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞		
4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter☞						
7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Consecration Sunday	7:30 AM Monday Mornin☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞		MSPS Thanksgiving Break		10 AM Youth Pickleball ☞
8:30 AM Homebuilders ☞	11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞	12 PM Classical Stretch ☞	9 AM Youth Baking Pies	☞ Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday		4 PM Clean & Sober Soc☞
9 AM Holy Donut Hole ☞	1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞	6:30 PM Community Choru	12 PM WINGS ☞	8 AM Fellowship Hall Reserved (Pastor Jamie)		5 PM Chapel Worship Sr☞
9:30 AM Worship Service☞	2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞	6:30 PM r th The Story Sm☞	1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞	THANKSGIVING	12 PM Alcoholics Anony☞	
10 AM Children's Church☞	4:30 PM Beginners Adult☞	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor☞	5 PM Distribution of Pies	4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter☞	6 PM Narcotics Anonym☞	
10:30 AM Assemble & Dist	6 PM Girl Scouts ☞		6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞	7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞		
10:30 AM Faith Forum ☞	6:30 PM SPRC ☞		6:30 PM The Gathering			
10:30 AM Practice for Child						
11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞						
26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2
8:30 AM Homebuilders ☞	7:30 AM Monday Mornin☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞	12 PM WINGS ☞	12 PM Classical Stretch ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞	10 AM Youth Pickleball ☞
9 AM Holy Donut Hole ☞	11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞	12 PM Classical Stretch ☞	1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞	4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter☞	12 PM Alcoholics Anony☞	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc☞
9:30 AM Worship Service☞	1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞	6:30 PM Community Choru	3:30 PM Pathfinders	7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	5:30 PM Community Choru	5 PM r th Set up for Bingo &
10:30 AM Faith Forum ☞	2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞	6:30 PM r th The Story Sm☞	4:30 PM Cooking for a C☞		6 PM Narcotics Anonym☞	5 PM Chapel Worship Sr☞
10:45 AM Hanging of the G	4:30 PM Beginners Adult☞	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor☞	6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞			6 PM Bingo & Brownies
11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞	5:30 PM Finance Commi☞					
4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter☞	6 PM Girl Scouts ☞					
7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	6:30 PM Trustee Meeting☞					
	7:30 PM Board Meeting ☞					