

# The Link: Connected in Christ

## December 2023



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

313 East Montgomery Street, Knoxville

Email: [first@kfumc.com](mailto:first@kfumc.com)

Phone: 641-842-3712

Website: [www.kfumc.com](http://www.kfumc.com)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/knoxvillemethodistchurch>

### 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  
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 Journey (of Advent!)



As you enter the sanctuary on the first Sunday of Advent you will probably be awestruck by the beautiful transformation that has taken place, seemingly overnight! Unless you were part of the twenty-member crew who worked hard to lug and construct Christmas trees and manger scenes, hang garland and ornaments and lights and banners, place poinsettias and other potted pine and birch creations across the chancel, then you may not fully appreciate the time and effort it actually took to achieve such a wonderful result.

In his book The Brothers Karamazov, Fyodor Dostoevsky has the Elder say these words:

Love in action is different than love in dreams. Love in dreams is beautiful and immediate, but active love requires persistence and hard work and sacrifice. Yet I predict that just when you see with horror, that in spite of all your efforts you are getting farther from your goal instead of nearer to it --- at that moment I predict that you will reach it and behold clearly the miraculous power of the Lord who has been all the time lovingly and mysteriously guiding you.

Friends, as we begin our journey of Advent together, let's not ever forget that the coming of Christ into our world --- to save us, to inspire us to new life, was "active love"; it involved persistence, hard work, and sacrifice. We remember that truth at its purest when we gather at the Communion Table this first Sunday in Advent, and again on Christmas Eve. For it is here that we know of a certainty that however far it may seem we are from our goal, God is ever near, and in his great love for us, will never let us go.

I invite you to join with me this month as we make the Advent Journey together.

Peace,  
Pastor Jamie

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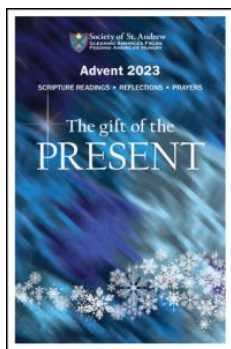
## Be a Blessing to a Family in Need this Christmas with the Giving Tree!

STEP 1 – Chose a tag from the giving tree inside the church main entrance.

STEP 2 – Write your name and phone number next to the number corresponding to the tag you have chosen.

STEP 3 – Purchase the gift.

STEP 4 – Return wrapped packages with the tag from the tree attached to the church office by **MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023 @ noon**. Thank you!



## Advent Devotional Booklet – The Gift of the PRESENT (December 3rd – December 24th)

Let's stay grounded this season with The Gift of the Present — The Society of St. Andrew's seasonal devotional booklet. May we enter this season of hope and longing with the peace that only God can provide. Hard copies are available in the Narthex or download a free copy at [https://endhunger.org/docs\\_church/advent/Advent-Booklet.pdf](https://endhunger.org/docs_church/advent/Advent-Booklet.pdf)

## 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.

## Children's Christmas Play – December 10<sup>th</sup> During Service

Be sure to come and watch our kids perform "Just a Little Christmas." They have been working really hard and are so excited to share the Nativity story with you!



## Christmas Food Baskets

The F.U.N. group is working on providing some Methodist Christmas cheer to those in need in the community with a Christmas food basket (estimate of \$40 per basket). Plans are to provide 50 or more families baskets getting names from Helping Hands, MSPS and Hospice. We will need volunteers following church at **10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17th** to help fill the baskets and to distribute them **1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** that afternoon. Thanks be to God for our many blessings, your prayers, help and financial support in feeding those in need in our community!

## Christmas Day Dinner

The FUMC will be hosting our annual Community Christmas Day Dinner (don't dine alone) on **Monday, Dec. 25 @ Noon-1:00 p.m.** celebrating Jesus's birth. Volunteers are needed around **10 am on prep days Saturday, December 16 & December 23** to prepare the meal, set up and decorate. Help is needed on Monday, Christmas Day, to finish preparing and serving the meal! We will also need delivery drivers to take the meals to shut-ins and to the Sheriff, Police, Fire Depts, Hosp come to stay if we live Christmas every Day."





# *Carols, Candles and Communion* *Christmas Eve Service*

**December 24**  
**5 PM**

C H R I S T



## LIVE CHRISTMAS PLAY

DECEMBER 24TH  
7PM SERVICE



## To My Thoughtful Church Family

A sincere thank you to all who phoned, visited my home, sent greeting cards or emails to help me celebrate my 104<sup>th</sup> birthday. Christa Belknap

### Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Happenings

Advent is already upon us. This fall has been filled with lots of fun activities and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with these kids. They always put a smile on my face and are the reason I love my job! We have some fun events going on this month, be sure to check them out! As always, 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 10:00-10:30 a.m. (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 December 24th

### Pathfinders

We have had a lot of fun with our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders this fall! Our last Pathfinders meeting will be December 6<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00 p.m.



### Living Way Youth Group

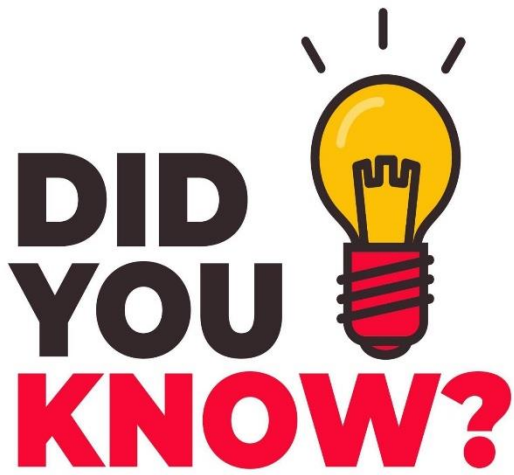


Our Youth Group meets on the first and third Sunday of the month from 5:00-7:00 p.m., enjoying team building, games, devotions, and more!

- December 17<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm – Christmas Party with cookie decorating and ornaments
- Winter Break Movie Night – TBD, watch your emails.

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

Blessings,  
Lauren



## Did You Know?

It takes many volunteers to make our Sunday morning service flow and work. Some of these volunteers are visible during the service and many play an important behind the scenes role. As we look to begin 2024, all of our Sunday volunteer areas are in need of additional help. Many of these are on rotational basis so you will be giving only a few hours of your time over the course of the year. The highlighted volunteer opportunities below are in desperate need of helpers for this next year. If you are willing to help in any of these areas, please reach out to the church office or any of the staff members. We as a church family appreciate all of our volunteers!!

**Hospitality** – Be at the church at 8:30 in the morning to prepare the coffee and donut holes for before service. Smile and greet members of the congregation as they get their morning goodies before service. Be back at the station immediately following the service to serve donuts and coffee for fellowship time. Clean up the area when done. This volunteer role is on a rotating schedule.

**Door Greeters/Offering Plates** - This dual role needs to be at the church at 9:00 am to smile and friendly greet our guest as they come into the sanctuary, while passing out the weekly bulletins. Multiple persons/families will be assigned to each weekend so that both the main and east entrances can be covered. The same persons will then pass the offering plates during the service. These positions are on a rotating schedule.

**Communion Stewards** - These persons will help the first Sunday of the month to serve communion to the congregation. This role is also completed on rotational basis.

**Liturgist** – If you like speaking in front of others, this role is for you! Help lead the Sunday service by leading the call to worship, reading scripture and introducing songs. This is a rotational volunteer role that typically helps 2-3 Sundays a year.

**What is Cooking for a Cause...you ask?**  
**Who are we feeding.... you ask?**  
**Whose crazy idea was this.....you ask?**

As Jesus said when he called his first disciples: *"Come and see."* (John 1:39a)

Come, and you will see for yourself a group of Christians who decided to step out of their comfort zone and into an all-in Christian ministry, crazy idea.... It is a beautiful thing!

This amazing group of your fellow church going family decided to do more for their community....and for their church family.

We plan, prep, cook, talk, laugh, serve, share God's love in a familiar and delicious way!

Did I mention its FREE?

Everyone is welcome.... this means you....

If you go to church here at Knoxville First United Methodist Church.

If you do not go to this church, it is for you.

If you know someone who would appreciate a home cooked meal....old or young, this is for them!

This meal is for someone who has worked all day and just does not feel like cooking.

It is for a single mom or dad who needs to eat and feed their family.

This meal is for a senior who normally has a microwave dinner.

This meal is for a community leader who wants to talk with the people of this community.

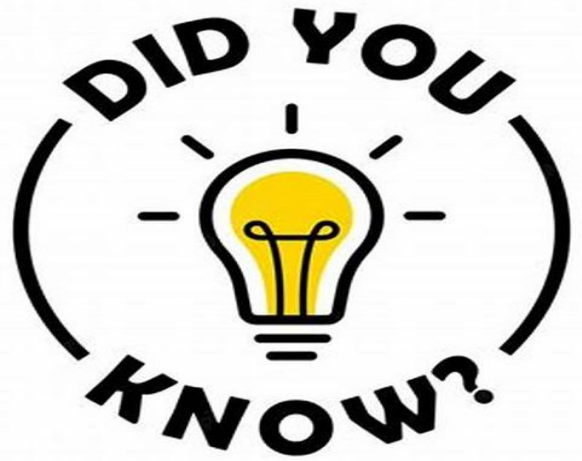
This meal is for someone new to our community...

This meal is for the young and seasoned folks who are hungry.

This meal is an opportunity to step out of your comfort zone... have a conversation with someone who you may not know well, or at all.

We are looking for people who would like to serve the kingdom of God in our community. Please join us, be a part of this amazing team! This is a once a month opportunity to make a difference!

Contact Deb Greiner at 641-842-3712 or [dgreiner@kfumc.com](mailto:dgreiner@kfumc.com) to be a part of the team!



## What Are You Doing for Lunch?

Meals on Wheels delivery volunteers are needed **Monday, January 8, 2024 through Thursday, January 11, 2024** (4 routes each day). 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. 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<br/>NUMBER</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Monday, January 8, 2024</b>     |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 1                            |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 2                            |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 3                            |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 4                            |                  |                  |                        |
| <b>Tuesday, January 9, 2024</b>    |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 1                            |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 2                            |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 3                            |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 4                            |                  |                  |                        |
| <b>Wednesday, January 10, 2024</b> |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 1                            |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 2                            |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 3                            |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 4                            |                  |                  |                        |
| <b>Thursday, January 11, 2024</b>  |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 1                            |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 2                            |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 3                            |                  |                  |                        |
| Route 4                            |                  |                  |                        |



## Church Office Closures

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday.

## Ring Those Bells!



The gospel of Jesus Christ comes to us in many forms. We are called to love the Lord our God and to love our neighbor as ourself. Jesus told us to hang all other commandments upon these two. In the late 1830's through the end of the nineteenth century, a Holiness Movement swept across America and England. People were self-examining their morality, seeking *justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.*

Among the many Christian denominations that arose within the Holiness Movement is the Salvation Army, which was founded first in England, by William and Catherine Booth. They observed that the marginalized population was ever growing, and many churches were not responding. The Salvation Army preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ and meets human needs in God's name without

discrimination.

The Marion County Salvation Army is housed at in our Activity Center at 308 East Robinson Street, next to the Almost Free Shop. It is open every Monday and Wednesday from one to three p.m. It is governed by a group of volunteers who organize the collection of funds through the red kettle bell ringing. Marion County uses ninety percent of the funds collected and ten percent is pooled with other units for disaster relief.

The money collected in the red kettles by volunteers is used by the marginalized for the following: rent, utilities of electricity, water, and LP gas. Salvation Army also assists some with food, special medical needs, and some gasoline for special needs. Up to one hundred fifty dollars can be awarded two times during a twelve month period, but not for the same emergency use. Vouchers are made to the source of the debt, never to the person requesting the funds. The Knoxville Police have the option of using some of these funds for emergency shelter and transportation.

The source of funds is from the red kettle bell ringing each November and December in Knoxville. The Marion County Unit struggles to find enough bell ringers each season. Volunteers ring one hour at a time at Knoxville Walmart and Knoxville Fareway Food Store. Perhaps now you know a little more about the Salvation Army, how funds are collected, and what the funds are used for. Every penny, quarter, and dollar donated is sacred to the cause of loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Due to a low number of volunteers to ring the bell, the funds were depleted by April, and the Salvation Army had to be closed. A *Christmas in July* campaign helped to raise money to assist the Knoxville Police in providing emergency shelter and transportation. This assistance lasted briefly, due to the lack of funds.

Please pray for the Salvation Army, the volunteers, and the recipients who dearly appreciate the assistance. If you can spare one hour to ring the bell for the red kettle, please call Kitty Shepherd at 641-842-6234.

Mary and I wish you the very best Christmas ever! Getting together with those we love, sharing some games, food, and fellowship at this time of year is so special. We have lost some dear friends this year, and our prayers reach out to families who will have an empty chair at the table. In a few more weeks, the days will become longer and the weather will be less fierce. In the empty tomb, and in our Risen Redeemer, we always have hope. Someday, we will experience the Second Advent, the Second Coming of our dear Savior. Until then, love the Lord our God with all that you have, and love our neighbor as we love ourself. Until we meet again, remain hopeful.

It has been a pleasure for Mary and me to serve our church. Merry Christmas! We wish you well in 2024!

---Pastor Brent and Mary

## December 2023



| Sunday                     | Monday                           | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday                   | Friday                  | Saturday                   |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Nov 26                     | 27                               | 28   | 29  | 30                         | Dec 1                   | 2                          |
| Consecration Sunday        | 7:30 AM Monday Mornin            | 9 AM Almost Free Shop                            | 12 PM WINGS   | 12 PM Classical Stretch    | 9 AM Almost Free Shop   | 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc     |
| 8:30 AM Homebuilders       | 11:45 AM Staff Meeting           | 9:30 AM UWF Working c                            | 1 PM Neighbor Helping   | 4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter) | 12 PM Alcoholics Anony  | 5 PM Set up for Bingo &    |
| 9 AM Holy Donut Hol        | 1 PM Neighbor Helping            | 12 PM Classical Stretch                          | 3:30 PM Pathfinders   | 7:30 PM NA Meeting         | 5:30 PM Community Choru | 5 PM Chapel Worship Sr     |
| 9:30 AM Worship Service    | 2 PM Almost Free Shop            | 6 PM MSPS Board Meeti                            | 4:30 PM Cooking for a C   | 6 PM Narcotics Anonym      | 6 PM Bingo & Brownies   |                            |
| 10 AM Education Room       | 4:30 PM Beginners Adult          | 6:30 PM Community Choru                          | 5:30 PM Gospel Goulash Pr   |                            |                         |                            |
| 10:45 AM Hanging of the C  | 5:30 PM Finance Commi            | 6:30 PM The Story Sm                             | 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)  |                            |                         |                            |
| 11 AM Chapel Reserved      | 6 PM Girl Scouts                 | 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor                          |   |                            |                         |                            |
| 1                          | 4                                | 5  | 6   | 7                          | 8                       | 9                          |
| Communion Sunday/For       | 7:30 AM Monday Mornin            | 8 AM Set up Nativity Scenes (Nothing Else in FH) | 8 AM Nativity Scenes Will Set Up Throughout (Don't Schedule FH for anything else) | 9 AM Greenhouse Deliv      | 9 AM Almost Free Shop   | 10 AM KFUMC Nativity I     |
| ADVENT WEEK 1              | 11:45 AM Staff Meeting           | 9 AM Almost Free Shop                            | 12 PM Wings   | 10 AM KFUMC Nativity I     | 10 AM KFUMC Nativity I  | 10 AM Funeral for Daryl Sc |
| 8:30 AM Homebuilders       | 1 PM Neighbor Helping            | 12 PM Classical Stretch                          | 1 PM Neighbor Helping   | 12:30 PM UWF Executive     | 12 PM Alcoholics Anony  | 11 AM Children's Christma  |
| 9 AM Holy Donut Hol        | 2 PM Almost Free Shop            | 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor                          | 3:30 PM Pathfinders   | 1:30 PM UWF General M      | 6 PM Narcotics Anonym   | 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc     |
| 9:30 AM Worship Service    | 4:30 PM Beginners Adult          | 5:30 PM Gospel Goulash                           | 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)  | 4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter) | 5 PM Chapel Worship Sr  |                            |
| 10 AM Education Room       | 6 PM Girl Scouts                 | 6:30 PM Preschool Boar                           | 7 PM Confirmation   | 7:30 PM NA Meeting         |                         |                            |
| 10 AM Children's Church    | 6 PM Worship Team Me             |  |   |                            |                         |                            |
| 10                         | 11                               | 12   | 13  | 14                         | 15                      | 16                         |
| 8 AM Nativity Scenes Wi    | 7:30 AM Monday Mornin            | 9 AM Almost Free Shop                            | 12 PM Wings   | 9 AM Rachel Circle Meer    | 9 AM Almost Free Shop   | Last Saturday Chapel Servi |
| ADVENT WEEK 2              | 11:45 AM Staff Meeting           | 12 PM Classical Stretch                          | 1 PM Neighbor Helping   | 12 PM Classical Stretch    | 12 PM Alcoholics Anony  | 10 AM Prep Food for Ch     |
| Poinsettia Sunday          | 1 PM Neighbor Helping            | 5 PM Garden Club                                 | 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)  | 1 PM Clean Choir Room      | 6 PM Narcotics Anonym   | 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc     |
| 8:30 AM Homebuilders       | 2 PM Almost Free Shop            | 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor                          | 6:30 PM The Gathering   | 1 PM UWF Executive Meeti   | 5 PM Chapel Worship Sr  |                            |
| 9 AM Holy Donut Hol        | 4:30 PM Beginners Adult          |  |   | 4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter) |                         |                            |
| 9:30 AM Children's Christm | 6 PM Girl Scouts                 |  |   | 7:30 PM NA Meeting         |                         |                            |
| 9:30 AM Worship Service    |                                  |  |   |                            |                         |                            |
| 17                         | 18                               | 19   | 20  | 21                         | 22                      | 23                         |
| ADVENT WEEK 3              | 7:30 AM Monday Mornin            | 8 AM MSPS Christmas Proj                         | 12 PM WINGS   | 11 AM Homebuilders Lu      | 9 AM Almost Free Shop   | 10 AM Prep Food for Ch     |
| 8:30 AM Homebuilders       | 11:45 AM Staff Meeting           | 9 AM Almost Free Shop                            | 1 PM Neighbor Helping   | 12 PM Classical Stretch    | 12 PM Alcoholics Anony  | 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc     |
| 9 AM Holy Donut Hol        | 1 PM Neighbor Helping            | 12 PM Classical Stretch                          | 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)  | 4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter) | 6 PM Narcotics Anonym   |                            |
| 9:30 AM Worship Service    | 2 PM Almost Free Shop            | 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor                          | 7 PM Confirmation (movie)   | 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Dra  |                         |                            |
| 10 AM Education Room       | 4:30 PM Beginners Adult          |  |   | 7 PM Rebecca Circle UW     |                         |                            |
| 10 AM Children's Church    | 6 PM Girl Scouts                 |  |   | 7:30 PM NA Meeting         |                         |                            |
| 10:30 AM Assemble Christi  |                                  |  |   |                            |                         |                            |
| 24                         | 25                               | 26   | 27  | 28                         | 29                      | 30                         |
| ADVENT WEEK 4 & CHRIST     | CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY | 11:45 AM Staff Meeting                           | 12 PM WINGS   | Heather Off                | 9 AM Almost Free Shop   | 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc     |
| 8:30 AM Homebuilders       | CHRISTMAS                        | 9 AM Almost Free Shop                            | 1 PM Neighbor Helping   | Lauren Off                 | 12 PM Alcoholics Anony  |                            |
| 9 AM Prep for Christmas    | 12 PM FREE CHRISTMAS             | 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor                          | 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)  | 12 PM Classical Stretch    | 6 PM Narcotics Anonym   |                            |
| 9 AM Holy Donut Hol        |                                  |  |   | 4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter) |                         |                            |
| 9:30 AM Worship Service    |                                  |  |   | 7:30 PM NA Meeting         |                         |                            |
| 10 AM Education Room       |                                  |  |   |                            |                         |                            |
| 31                         | Jan 1                            | 2  | 3   | 4                          | 5                       | 6                          |
|                            | New Years Day                    | 9 AM Almost Free Shop                            | 12 PM WINGS   | 12 PM Classical Stretch    | 9 AM Almost Free Shop   | 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc     |
| 8:30 AM Homebuilders       | 11:45 AM Staff Meeting           | 12 PM Classical Stretch                          | 1 PM Neighbor Helping   | 12:30 PM UWF Executive     | 6 PM Narcotics Anonym   |                            |
| 9 AM Holy Donut Hol        | 4:30 PM Beginners Adult          | 6:30 PM The Story Sm                             | 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)  | 1:30 PM UWF General M      |                         |                            |
| 9:30 AM Worship Service    | 6 PM Girl Scouts                 | 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor                          |   | 4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter) |                         |                            |
| 10 AM Education Room       |                                  |  |   | 7:30 PM NA Meeting         |                         |                            |
| 10 AM Children's Church    |                                  |  |   |                            |                         |                            |
| 11 AM Chapel Reserved      |                                  |  |   |                            |                         |                            |