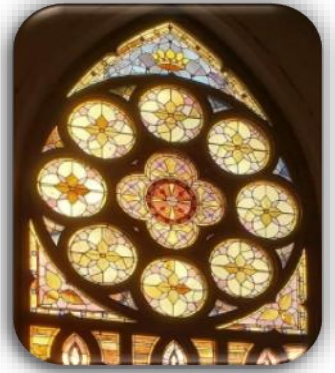


The Link: Connected in Christ

January 2024



Our Mission: “Bring People to Christ”

313 East Montgomery, Knoxville, IA 50138

Phone: 641-842-3712

Email: first@kfumc.com Website: www.kfumc.com

Facebook:

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

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@firstunitedmethodistchurch9770>

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
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 Day



Happy New Year! As we say goodbye to 2023 and step into 2024, let's remember with joy that our God said "Behold, I am making all things new!" The God of love has come in the Christ child to make all things new --- years, lives, relationships, careers, outlooks, habits, ministries, even whole congregations!

In A Guide to Prayer for all Who Seek God, co-editor Norman Shawchuck laments that "American churches give virtually no attention

through their liturgies to the fact that January 1 is the beginning of a new civil year. Yet virtually every nation on earth gives a special significance to this day." The one bright exception to the rule Shawchuck sees is our own United Methodist Church founder, John Wesley, of whom he says: "John Wesley, never known to miss an opportunity to gather people together for prayer and worship, attributed a special significance to covenant services, and he found the celebration of a new year to be an especially propitious time to invite people to renew their covenants /promises with God."

The entire Wesleyan Covenant Service is intended to be held over a three hour period from 9:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight. What follows is the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer. I invite you to pray and meditate on both its call and its hold on your life in this New Year of 2013.

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

*Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.*

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

*And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.*

So be it.

*And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

May God bless you as together we enter this New Year. Remember, we serve a mighty God. A God who has created us and called us into a loving and trusting relationship with himself. A God who encourages us, saying "For surely I know the plans I have for you... plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

Friends, this is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

Happy New Year!

Pastor Jamie Cutler

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Happenings

I hope you all had a wonderful and blessed Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year. As we kick off 2024, I want to take a moment to thank all of our amazing volunteers that helped with children and youth programs in 2023. We are so blessed to have so many wonderful people who make these programs possible. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the kids and our volunteers and am looking forward to what 2024 has in store for us! Here is a quick look at what events we have coming up. As always, if you have any questions on any of our upcoming programming, please contact me at lpetersen@kfumc.com.

Family Game Nights

January 13th, 6-7:30pm & February 23rd, 6-7:30pm

Get out of the house and join us for a fun family game night on January 13th and February 23rd. You can bring in your favorite board game. We will have snacks and drinks available. This will be fun for the whole family. Don't forget to invite a friend or neighbor!

Good Friday Day Camp – March 29th, 9am-11:30am

Kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us for our annual Good Friday Day Camp where we will learn about the Easter story through fun games, activities, and crafts. Contact Lauren to pre-register 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 March 31st

Pathfinders

We have had a lot of fun with our 3rd-5th graders this fall and are excited for spring semester! Pathfinders will kick off on February 13th. We will meet on Tuesdays from 3:30-5pm with transportation available from Northstar Elementary. Spring dates are February 13th, 20th, 27th, March 5th, 19th, and April 2nd.

Living Way Youth Group

Our Youth Group meets on the first and third Sunday of the month from 5-7pm, enjoying team building, games, devotions, and more! Here are some upcoming events. Contact Lauren for more information.

- Winter Jam – February 2nd, 2024 – leave around 4pm
- Ignite Youth Leadership Conference in Des Moines – March 8th-9th

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

Blessings,
Lauren

Preschool News and Updates

Thank you to our church family for the love and support given to MSPS this year. We have amazing support from our church family as well as great families and students!

The MSPS students worked really hard on their Christmas program. We were blessed to have a full house on December 19 for their performance and to celebrate Christmas.



As MSPS heads into the Spring semester, we are looking forward to starting enrollment for the 2024/2025 school year on March 1, 2024. Watch upcoming newsletters for the Registration Open House information.



Christmas Eve Thank You

Thank you to everyone that made the Christmas Eve services special this year! A special thank you to the cast and crew of the 7pm service for your time and energy to make this service happen!



Mary- Aubrey Hernandez
Joseph- Roberto Hernandez
Baby Jesus- Lorenzo Hernandez
Angel Gabriel - Deb Greiner
Messenger Angel - Deb Harvey
Innkeeper- Tim McCombs
Shepherds- Tim Finnegan, Mike Kramer, Ricky Smith
Band of Angels - Molly Finnegan, Kaylee Figland, Karen Kline, Melodie Bishop
Wise Men- Brian Bishop, Austin Bishop, Cody Bishop
King Herod- Brent Hanna
Narrators- Lois Reichert, Sara Finnegan
Spot Light - Jensen Finnegan
AV Crew- Trey Purvis, Lauren Petersen, Joseph Finnegan
Directors- Katie Bishop, Lori Pearson
Accompanist- Davis Folkers
Soloists- Kaurie Marinkovich & Cathy Struecker



Community Christmas Day Dinner Thank You

God always provides enough food and volunteers needed for another successful Free Community Christmas Day Dinner! The Day Dinner provided needed community fellowship and filled the tummy's of over 150 friends and neighbors, including first responders and prisoners in our county jail! Counting Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets for families in need in our community FUMC was able to feed another 82 families, providing additional meals to over 300 community brothers and sisters for a total of 450 meals or so.

The FUN group would like to especially thank HyVee for their cake donations and the help of Fareway! The meal would not be possible without members of our congregation, like you, sacrificing their Christmas Day, volunteering to help serve others and the generous financial support of our members, as it would not be possible without all of YOU! May God Bless you!

Wishing everyone the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that only our Savior can provide – and a Blessed and Happy New Year! The Fellowship Uniting Neighbors church committee.

Our Church in 2024



"You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, you will know them by their fruits." --Matthew 7:16-20

It's a new year—2024 to be exact. And next is 2025—doesn't that sound scary! Lots of things changed from just the last few years. How about changes in your own life? Yes, friends and family have come and gone, but what about your individual life? Has the

Babe born in Bethlehem changed you? How have you grown in Christ? Have you examined your fruits?

And what does a true Christian look like in the year 2024? Most likely, the basics remain—professing faith in Jesus Christ, reading and studying the Bible, worshiping and participating in church work and missions. Most importantly a 2024 Christian is one whose actions and engagement in every-day life reflect Christ's teachings. There are hungry people in Knoxville, we help feed them through our blessing boxes and the end of the month meals.

On the other hand, there are self-proclaimed Christians whose actions habitually reflect their greed and use their positions for self-advancement and power. In this seventh chapter of Matthew's scripture, Jesus warns us about false prophets and pretend Christians. In 2024, there will be those who profess to follow Jesus, but are really promoting their own agendas. Jesus tells us to look at one's fruit; that a "good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit." We each will need to examine our fruit, the results of our labor as expressed in the way we live, the way we treat one another, the way we help others through Christian love. With this new year of 2024, and the beginning of new opportunities with a fresh start, we need to reflect on what our own life says about us. When we say that we believe in Christ, let us remember that our actions with others express what we truly believe.

As we say farewell to 2023, we can reflect on the strides we have made in our personal Christian life and in the life of our church. I am grateful and thankful for the many people who work hard in our church to bring people to Christ, and who share the good news of God's love. Many are actively engaged in the teachings of Jesus Christ and helping others to see what Christians are capable of doing. As Jesus said, "You will know them by their fruits."

May the year 2024 be a fruitful year for all of us, and let us be followers of Christ in 2024. See you Sunday!

---With God's love and blessings, Happy New

Pastor Brent and Mary

January 2024

United States holidays, KFUMC

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dec 31 | Jan 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | MSPS Christmas Break | | | 9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ | 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc ☞ |
| New Year's Eve ☞ | CHURCH OFFICE CLOSE ☞ | 9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ | 12 PM WINGS ☞ | 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ | 12 PM Alcoholics Anony ☞ | |
| 8:30 AM Homebuilders ☞ | New Year's Day ☞ | 9 AM ☞ Staff Meeting | 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ | 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, Pr ☞ | 6 PM Narcotics Anonym ☞ | |
| 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol ☞ | | 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ | 5:30 PM Gospel Goulash Re ☞ | 7 PM Choir Practice | | |
| 9:30 AM Worship Service ☞ | | 6:30 PM ☞ The Story Sm ☞ | 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, Pr ☞ | 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞ | | |
| 10 AM Education Room ☞ | | 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor ☞ | | | | |
| 10 AM Children's Church ☞ | | | | | | |
| 10:45 AM Special Charge C ☞ | | | | | | |
| 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Communion Sunday/For ☞ | | KFUMC Deliver Meals on Wheels | | | 9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ | 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc ☞ |
| 8:30 AM Homebuilders ☞ | 7:30 AM Monday Morn ☞ | Heather Off | 12 PM WINGS ☞ | 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ | 12 PM Alcoholics Anony ☞ | 6 PM Family Game Night |
| 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol ☞ | 11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞ | 9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ | 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ | 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, Pr ☞ | 6 PM Narcotics Anonym ☞ | |
| 9:30 AM Worship Service ☞ | 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ | 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ | 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, Pr ☞ | 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞ | | |
| 10 AM Education Room ☞ | 2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞ | 5 PM Garden Club ☞ | 6:30 PM The Gathering | | | |
| 10 AM Children's Church ☞ | 5 PM Beginners Adult Pr ☞ | 6:30 PM ☞ The Story Small ☞ | 7 PM ☞ P46:10 UWF Me ☞ | | | |
| 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ | 6 PM Girl Scouts ☞ | 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor ☞ | | | | |
| 1 PM Sorority Meeting ☞ | | | | | | |
| 4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter ☞ | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 8:30 AM Homebuilders ☞ | Heather Off | 9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ | 12 PM WINGS ☞ | 11 AM Homebuilders Lu ☞ | 9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ | 8 AM Fellowship Hall & Ki ☞ |
| 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol ☞ | Martin Luther King Day | 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ | 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ | 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ | 12 PM Alcoholics Anony ☞ | 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc ☞ |
| 9:30 AM Worship Service ☞ | No MSPS | 6:30 PM ☞ The Story Sm ☞ | 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, Pr ☞ | 1 PM ☞ Clean Out Music R ☞ | 6 PM Narcotics Anonym ☞ | |
| 10 AM Education Room ☞ | 11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞ | 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor ☞ | 6 PM MSPS Board | 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, Pr ☞ | | |
| 10 AM Children's Church ☞ | 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ | | 7 PM Confirmation | 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞ | | |
| 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ | 2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞ | | | | | |
| 4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter ☞ | 5 PM Beginners Adult Pr ☞ | | | | | |
| 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞ | 6 PM Girl Scouts ☞ | | | | | |
| | 6:30 PM SPRC ☞ | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | Brent Off | 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 ☞ | 7:30 AM Monday Morn ☞ | 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ | 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ | 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, Pr ☞ | 12 PM Alcoholics Anony ☞ | |
| 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol ☞ | 11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞ | 6:30 PM ☞ The Story Sm ☞ | 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, Pr ☞ | 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞ | 6 PM Narcotics Anonym ☞ | |
| 9:30 AM Worship Service ☞ | 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ | 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor ☞ | 6:30 PM The Gathering | | | |
| 10 AM Education Room ☞ | 2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞ | | | | | |
| 10 AM Children's Church ☞ | 5 PM Beginners Adult Pr ☞ | | | | | |
| 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ | 5:30 PM Finance Commi ☞ | | | | | |
| 4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter ☞ | 6 PM Girl Scouts ☞ | | | | | |
| 5 PM ☞ Youth Group | 6:30 PM ☞ F.U.N. Meeting | | | | | |
| 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞ | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Feb 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 8:30 AM Homebuilders ☞ | 7:30 AM Monday Morn ☞ | 9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ | 12 PM WINGS ☞ | 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ | Groundhog Day ☞ | 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc ☞ |
| 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol ☞ | 11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞ | 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ | 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ | 12:30 PM ☞ UWF Executive | 9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ | |
| 9:30 AM Worship Service ☞ | 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ | 6:30 PM ☞ The Story Sm ☞ | 4:30 PM Cooking for a C ☞ | 1:30 PM UWF General M ☞ | 12 PM Alcoholics Anony ☞ | |
| 10 AM Education Room ☞ | 2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞ | 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor ☞ | 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, Pr ☞ | 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, Pr ☞ | 4 PM Winter Jam (Living W ☞ | |
| 10 AM Children's Church ☞ | 5 PM Beginners Adult Pr ☞ | | 7 PM Confirmation | 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞ | 6 PM Narcotics Anonym ☞ | |
| 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ | 6 PM Girl Scouts ☞ | | | | | |
| 4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter ☞ | | | | | | |
| 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞ | | | | | | |