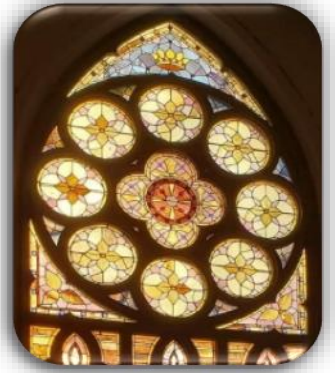


# The Link: Connected in Christ @



## Our Mission: “Bring People to Christ”

313 East Montgomery, Knoxville, IA 50138

Phone: 641-842-3712

Email: [first@kfumc.com](mailto:first@kfumc.com) Website: [www.kfumc.com](http://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 via  
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

Welcome to February 2024! Congratulations! You've made it. You've made it through the January blizzards and deep freeze temps and can now look forward to the opportunity of thawing out --- depending on what the groundhog sees!



Even though it's a new year full of opportunities, I'm not going to mention resolutions. That is, how we've probably all broken them by now. Most people never keep their resolutions. If you made it through last year keeping the resolutions you made, you are one of the few.

Most people don't make it past January with unbroken resolutions.

So, I'm not going to suggest getting the old exercise bike out, purchasing a new gym membership, or throwing out all the food you love but know isn't good for you. I'm not going to give you a reading plan or encourage you to learn a new skill or hobby. No. Those are actions of resolutions.

Instead, I'm going to encourage you to ask a question. It's a simple question, but you'll have to pay attention.

We've all heard the witticism; "I'm so broke I can't even afford to pay attention." Some of us may feel that way. And truthfully, with all the things in life vying for our attention it may feel like it's impossible to pay attention. And that's unfortunate. Because what we pay attention to determines more of our lives than what we might believe.

We are formed by what we focus on and what we pay attention to. For example: When I pay attention to social media, I may become envious, jealous, or dissatisfied with my life. Research suggests we can even become depressed. If I focus my attention on what's wrong with my neighbors, my city, my church, and all that isn't right with the world and my life, I may become cynical. If I focus on what I don't have, I may become ungrateful and unappreciative and miss the joy coming from gratitude.

So if I don't pay attention to what I pay attention to, well, it's hard telling where I might end up.

So, I'm not suggesting making resolutions early in this New Year. Instead, I'm inviting you to pay attention to what you pay attention to. What has your focus? What has your attention? But those questions aren't THE question I want you to ask in 2024. Those questions are questions of discovery and realization. Instead, for this new year, I hope you will ask yourself a question of --- transformation.

The question I encourage you to ask yourself is, **"God, what do YOU want me to pay attention to?"** You may find some insight from Paul in Philippians 4 (I'll let you look that up yourself).

Make sure to pay attention to what the apostle says!

So, no resolutions this year. Instead, a question. One that just might transform your new year --- and life!

Peace,  
Pastor Jamie



# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

February 13th 5-6:30pm

Plain, Chocolate Chip, & Blueberry Pancakes  
plus toppings, sausage, and drinks.

Free will donation, proceeds go to  
Neighbor Helping Neighbor and  
Montgomery Street Preschool!

313 E Montgomery St, Knoxville



# ASH WEDNESDAY

## WORSHIP February 14 7:00 PM



# LENTEN DINNERS

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**TIME:**  
**DINNER 5:30 - 6:15 PM**  
**SPEAKER 6:20 - 7 PM**

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## **FEBRUARY 21ST**

Menu: Sandwiches, salads, and desserts  
Speakers: Pastor Jamie and Pastor Brent  
Host: United Women in Faith

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## **FEBRUARY 28TH**

Menu: Lasagna  
Speakers: Jacob & Makayla Chambers  
Host: Cooking for a Cause

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## **MARCH 6TH**

Menu: Baked Potato Bar  
Speakers: Chris & Melodie Smith  
Host: Trustees

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## **MARCH 13TH**

Menu: Maid Rites  
Speaker: Lauren Petersen  
Host: Staff Parish Relations Committee

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## **MARCH 20TH**

Menu: Walking Tacos  
Speaker: Marley Larson  
Host: Living Way Youth

**FREE WILL DONATION.**

**PROCEEDS GOING TO NEIGHBOR HELPING  
NEIGHBOR AND MONTGOMERY STREET PRESCHOOL.**

## Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Happenings

Holy buckets, its already February. I feel like January had more snow days than I have seen in the last few years. I hope you all survived the lovely winter weather and have had a great start to the new year. Here is a quick look at what events we have coming up. As always, if you have any questions on any of our upcoming programing, please contact me at [lpetersen@kfumc.com](mailto:lpetersen@kfumc.com).

### Family Trivia Night –February 23rd, 6-7:30pm

Get out of the house and join us for a fun family trivia night and February 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be fun questions and prizes! 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 9am-11:30am

Kids in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> 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](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 are following along with The Story.

Reminder – No Children's Church March 31st

### Pathfinders

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



### 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.

Ignite Youth Leadership Conference in Des Moines – March 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>

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

**Email Updates:** If you would like added to my email lists for Children (Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade) or Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade), please email me and let me know which list you would like to be added to. I send out reminders about upcoming events and activities for each age group.

Blessings,  
Lauren

## Montgomery Street Preschool News and Updates

### Enrollment Information for 2024/2025

Enrollment for the 2024/2025 school year will open on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Classes will be offered for 2 year olds, 3 year olds and a pre-kindergarten class for 4s and 5s. The MSPS staff will be holding a Registration Open House on Thursday, March 21 from 4:30 until 6:30. This is a great time for families to come tour our facility and meet the staff. The registration form is included in the newsletter and will also be on the church website ([www.kfumc.com](http://www.kfumc.com)).

#### Classes Offered:

##### Totally Two's

(Must be 2 by September 15)

This class gives children a chance to begin experiencing preschool with learning experiences primarily coming from play, while working on social/emotional growth.

Friday Mornings

8:30 -11:00 am

\$50.00 per month

##### Thrilling Three's

(Must be 3 by September 15)

This class explores in a learning environment where activities are set up to encourage development of large and small motor skills while also working on social/emotional development.

Monday and Wednesday Mornings

Or

Tuesday and Thursday Mornings

8:30 -11:00 am

\$90.00 per month

##### Kinder Explorers

(Must be 4 by September 15)

Classes meet four days per week preparing children for kindergarten. Classes work on both academic and social/emotional skills while in a loving nurturing environment.

4 days per week (AM or PM, PM class will only be available if AM is filled)  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday

8:30 – 11:00 am or 12:30 - 3:00

\$130 per month



##### Our dedication to quality:

Montgomery Street Preschool is a ministry of the First United Methodist Church. We have been Knoxville's choice for faith based early learning for over 50 years. We are dedicated to providing high quality early childhood education to Knoxville and the surrounding area.

Montgomery Street Preschool is unique in that we offer a two-year old preschool class and we also accept registrations for 5 year olds that may not be ready for Kindergarten.

Montgomery Street Preschool is proud to be a part of the Knoxville community. We are an agency of the Marion County United Way. Donations to the United Way help us to update classrooms, curriculum, and learning centers.

##### Enrollment Forms:

To enroll in preschool, the enclosed enrollment form needs to be filled out for each child. The form along with the registration fee may be mailed or dropped off at the preschool or First United Methodist Church office.

**Financial assistance is available. Please ask the director for more information or for the scholarship form.**

#### Our Philosophy:

Your child is a unique child of God. At Montgomery Street Preschool, children are encouraged to have a healthy self-image and appreciation of themselves and the community. Through opportunities for individual affirmation and group sharing, the children learn positive feelings of self-worth, confidence, and trust.

Your child learns by doing. Children learn best when they have "hands-on" experiences. Through learning centers, children grow in basic skills needed for further growth in language arts, mathematical thinking, science, and creative arts. Our learning environment provides activities which develop large and small motor skills, listening skills, and school readiness skills.

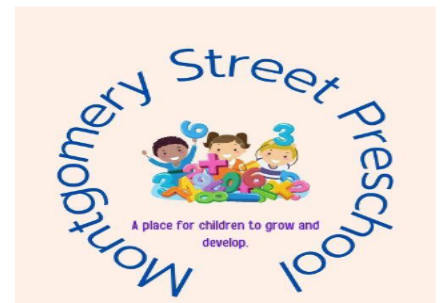
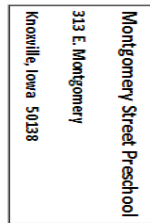
#### Our setting:

- Spacious, bright, colorful rooms with a variety of equipment for developing large and small motor skills
- Fenced in outdoor play area with climbing structure. Indoor climber for cold or rainy days.

#### Our Teaching Staff:

-Director and teachers are highly qualified through continuing education classes, training events, and teaching experiences.

-Classes have no more than 12 children with a teacher and an assistant.



Where your child learns...

I Am Special!

I Am Loved!

I Can Do It!

I Am Ready!

Located at Knoxville First United  
Methodist Church

313 E Montgomery

Knoxville, Iowa 50138

Phone: 641-842-2193

Email- [msspschool@hotmail.com](mailto:msspschool@hotmail.com)

For the 2024/2025 School Year:

September tuition will be due  
September 1, 2024. If payment  
is not received or arrangements  
have not been made with the  
director by September 1, your  
child's spot will be given to a  
child on the waiting list.

**A \$25.00 non-refundable fee  
must accompany this form.**

Please register my child for:

- ☐ Totally Two's (Friday) AM
- ☐ M/W Thrilling Three's AM
- ☐ T/TH Thrilling Three's AM
- ☐ M/T/W/TH Kinder Explorers AM
- ☐ M/T/W/TH Kinder Explorers PM

Child's Name

Child's Age      Date of Birth      Sex

Parent's name

Street Address

City/Zip

Mom Cell

Dad Cell

Preferred Phone Number

Email address for school correspondence



## MSPS Students gifted books in honor of Millie Rose Zellmer

Ms. Carey's classes were gifted books by a local family in honor of Millie Rose Zellmer. Acts of kindness were carried out all over central Iowa and beyond the week of January 22<sup>nd</sup> in honor of Millie. We were blessed to receive these as a "Millie Moment" to help spread kindness and love.





MSPS students have made the most of the very short January that we had due to all the snow and cold. The Kinder Explorers spent some time learning about kitchen tools and helped make whipped cream for snack. The younger students in 2s were excited to be back at school with their friends and spent time painting. Everyone at MSPS is hoping for better weather in February!



# Thank You

## Almost Free Shop

The United Women in Faith would like to thank our Church Family for supporting The Almost Free Shop this past year.

Maybe you donated or maybe you shopped but if it wasn't for you, we wouldn't be doing the mission work that we do. We would like to share with you that last year the shop took in \$57,286.17. We have in turn disbursed this money to local, state and national missions. A list of disbursements for 2023 can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you are interested. Again Thank you for all your support.

## Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Thank you to all of you Salvation Army bell ringers! We took in \$29,474.47. A total of 272 hours were rang by 363 people from 35 groups, churches and businesses. We couldn't do it without your help.

## Cooking 4 A Cause

Wow did we ever have a great Cooking for a Cause night! 1/31/2024 was a great night of ministry! We were able to feed people both physically and spiritually!

- We served 66 in the house.
- We delivered 41 take outs.
- We had 13 awesome helpers.

I am so proud of everyone!!!! We were able to serve a delicious meal and have fellowship with many! Thank you everyone for all that you do!! You are amazing!! We are so blessed to have all this amazing help, if you didn't get to help with this meal, we will catch you next time!

## A Sign of Spring

Our January blizzard behind us. Wow, minus thirty-five wind chills and snow drifts like we hadn't seen in a long time. Is February a bit early to be thinking of spring? We've had ground hog day, and we notice the days getting a little longer, along with those absolutely beautiful sunrises and sunsets. Another sure sign of spring is that three different avid gardeners have told me they've picked through their garden catalogs and their garden seed order is in the mail. Jesus gave the illustration that *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in the garden. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants and can grow into a shrub where birds can come and find shelter among the branches."*



--Matthew 13: 31-32

Seeds are another amazing part of God's creation. A tiny acorn can grow into a mighty oak. Christianity had a tiny start, beginning with Jesus and twelve disciples, it grew from village to village until Jesus' name and his teachings have surrounded the globe, and God's Word continues to grow. God has a way of starting things out so small, like a tiny seed, and growing into very big things. Perhaps that is what God sees in you? Ever since you have heard about Jesus and God, you have had the opportunity to grow. We especially are growing each week via our journey with THE STORY. Each chapter shows us how God engages with ordinary people in a relationship that furthers God's Kingdom. You can flourish by acting upon Jesus' teachings. You can love the Lord and your neighbor as yourself. Just like an acorn, or a tiny mustard seed, as your faith grows, you can make a Godly difference in your neighborhood and even in the world. God has planted you where you are for a reason. Perhaps you can be a hopeful sign of spring for someone that you may not even know. God bless your deeds and actions! Spring is just around the corner. See you Sunday!

*Pastor Brent*



## February 2024

### United States holidays, KFUMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
8:30 AM ☞ Adult Bible S☞ 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol☞ 9:30 AM Worship Servico☞ 10 AM Education Room ☞ 10 AM Children's Church☞ 10:40 AM ☞ F.U.N. Meeting ☞ 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ 4:30 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞ 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	7:30 AM Monday Mornir☞ 11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞ 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ 2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞ 5 PM Beginners Adult Pi☞ 6 PM Girl Scouts ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ 1 PM FH Reserved 1 PM ☞ Library Reserved 6:30 PM ☞ The Story Sm☞ 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor☞	12 PM WINGS ☞ 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ 4:30 PM Cooking for a C☞ 5:30 PM Gospel Goulash ☞ 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞ 7 PM Confirmation	12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ 12:30 PM ☞ UWF Executive 1:30 PM UWF General M☞ 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞ 7 PM Choir Practice 7 PM ☞ P46:10 Meeting ☞ 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	Groundhog Day ☞ Jamie Off 9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Alcoholics Anony☞ 4 PM Winter Jam (Living W 6 PM Narcotics Anonym☞	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc☞
1	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communion Sunday/For☞ 8:30 AM ☞ Adult Bible S☞ 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol☞ 9:30 AM Worship Servico☞ 10 AM Education Room ☞ 10 AM Children's Church☞ 10:40 AM ☞ F.U.N. Bake Sa 10:45 AM Take-Down Chris 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞	7:30 AM Monday Mornir☞ 11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞ 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ 2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞ 5 PM Beginners Adult Pi☞ 6 PM Girl Scouts ☞ 6 PM ☞ Worship Team Mex	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ 6:30 PM ☞ The Story Sm☞ 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor☞	12 PM WINGS ☞ 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞ 6:30 PM The Gathering 7 PM Confirmation	12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ 5 PM ☞ MSPS Family Fun t 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞ 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Alcoholics Anony☞ 6 PM Narcotics Anonym☞	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc☞
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30 AM ☞ Adult Bible S☞ 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol☞ 9:30 AM Worship Servico☞ 10 AM Education Room ☞ 10 AM Children's Church☞ 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞ 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞ 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ 2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞ 5 PM Beginners Adult Pi☞ 6 PM Girl Scouts ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ 3:30 PM Pathfinders ☞ 5 PM Garden Club 5 PM Pancake Supper (Shn 6:30 PM ☞ The Story Small 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor☞	☞ Annual Fire Alarm Inspe Valentine's Day ☞ 12 PM WINGS ☞ 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞ 7 PM Ash Wednesday Serv	11 AM Adult Bible Study☞ 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞ 7 PM Rebecca Circle UW☞ 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Alcoholics Anony☞ 6 PM Narcotics Anonym☞	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc☞
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30 AM ☞ Adult Bible S☞ 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol☞ 9:30 AM Worship Servico☞ 10 AM Education Room ☞ 10 AM Children's Church☞ 10:40 AM ☞ F.U.N. Bake Sa 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞ 5 PM ☞ Youth Group 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	Presidents' Day 7:30 AM Monday Mornir☞ 11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞ 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ 2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞ 5 PM Beginners Adult Pi☞ 6 PM Girl Scouts ☞ 6:30 PM SPRC ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ 3:30 PM Pathfinders ☞ 6:30 PM ☞ The Story Sm☞ 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor☞	12 PM WINGS ☞ 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ 5:30 PM ☞ Lenten Meal 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞ 7 PM Confirmation	12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞ 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Alcoholics Anony☞ 6 PM Family Game Night 6 PM Narcotics Anonym☞	Deb's Birthday ☞ 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc☞
25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2
8:30 AM ☞ Adult Bible S☞ 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol☞ 9:30 AM Worship Servico☞ 10 AM Education Room ☞ 10 AM Children's Church☞ 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞ 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	7:30 AM Monday Mornir☞ 11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞ 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ 2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞ 5 PM Beginners Adult Pi☞ 6 PM Girl Scouts ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ 3:30 PM Pathfinders ☞ 6:30 PM ☞ The Story Sm☞ 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor☞	Statistical Reports Due 12 PM WINGS ☞ 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ 4:30 PM Cooking for a C☞ 5:30 PM ☞ Lenten Meal 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞	12 PM Classical Stretch ☞ 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P☞ 7 PM Chancel Choir Practi☞ 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Alcoholics Anony☞ 6 PM Narcotics Anonym☞	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc☞