

# The Link: Connected in Christ

## April 2024



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

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YouTube:

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

### Church Service Times

**The Gathering**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays  
of the Month @  
6:30 PM in Chapel  
for in-person  
midweek  
renewal & recharge

**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 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



The Gospel of Mark is the earliest Christian account we have of the good news of that first Easter morning. Scholars agree that Matthew and Luke both had Mark's gospel in front of them when they wrote their gospels. They then added additional remembrances.

Following Mark 16:8, there are two blocks of material enclosed in double square brackets. The first is headed "The Shorter Ending of Mark" and the second is headed, "The Longer Ending of Mark." What's going on is the attempt of Bible translators to give us the full picture from the old manuscripts. As far as we know, none of the original scrolls exist. All we have are copies --- and copies of copies of copies.

In the case of Mark's Gospel, the oldest (and scholars believe most accurate) manuscripts end at verse 8. The other endings were added by others — the shorter ending sometime after the third century and the longer ending in the late second or early third century.

But if you look at verse 8, you can understand why copyists or editors felt compelled to add endings. Verse 8 reads: "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

What kind of closure to the Easter Story is that? If you were going to write a biography of Jesus that went all the way up through the Resurrection:

- Would you end your book by saying that some of his followers were --- afraid?
- Would you point out that despite being told by no less than an angel that Jesus had risen from the dead and that they should tell this news to the disciples, the women were so terrified that they --- said nothing to anyone?

I mean, if I'm going to get up early on a Sunday morning, shave, get dressed up, get kids up, dressed, fed, piled into the car, etc. --- then I want to hear how Mary and the women ran to tell the disciples, and how Peter and John had a footrace to see who could look inside the empty tomb first, and how the risen Christ met Mary while she stood crying in the garden and the Good News and the Easter Joy was just gushing out and flowing all over everybody!

Which brings us to the point. The all important thing that Mark's original ending tells us about the Easter story. If you want to read or hear the "rest of the story" ---- you have to tell it. You have to write it. The microphone, or the pen --- is in your hands. Mark's abrupt and ragged ending leaves it to us to decide how the story will end, or --- continue.

In their book, Mark as Story: An Introduction to the Narrative of a Gospel, David Rhoads and Donald Michie summarized their conclusion by explaining that implicitly, the narrative defines the presumed reader as a faithful follower of the risen Christ.

"The reader travels the journey with Jesus, like a disciple who understands the ways of God when others do not, accepts Jesus' teaching when his disciples resist, and arrives in Jerusalem prepared to go through death with Jesus. In a sense, by staying with the story, the reader remains faithful to the end, staying awake at Gethsemane, being present at the trial and crucifixion, and afterward following the women to the grave. Based on Jesus' earlier prophecies, the reader expects the grave to be empty ..." But the reader, they say, does not expect the women's surprising fear-filled flight in silence!

"This abrupt ending which ends the hope that someone will proclaim the good news," they conclude, "cries out for the reader to provide the resolution to the story. The reader alone has remained faithful to the end and is now left with a decision, whether to flee in silence like the disciples at the tomb, or to proclaim boldly in spite of fear and death. The one who reads the gospel --- will choose to proclaim."

Easter is a day then, to choose. To choose to enter the story of Easter. To share, through your own personal words and actions, the good news of a risen savior. To bring the hope of new life to those who are drowning in a world of fear and despair, loneliness and hopelessness.

Or, you can choose to keep silent about Easter --- keep your distance from others --- play it safe. And that will write a different ending to the Good News according to Mark.

Something to think about.

Friends, our chance for truly celebrating the joy of Easter --- and, as far as the Gospel of Mark is concerned --- OTHER people's only chance for experiencing a newly resurrected life in Jesus Christ --- that is, a life empowered by the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead --- is in OUR choosing to enter the Easter story ourselves!

He is Risen!

Pastor Jamie Cutler

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## The Gathering

Join us at the Gathering on **every other Wednesday evening at 6:30pm** for a mid-week renewal and recharge of your Spirit. All Gatherings take place in the chapel for approximately 45 minutes. Come open your hearts and minds and experience a different type of worship.

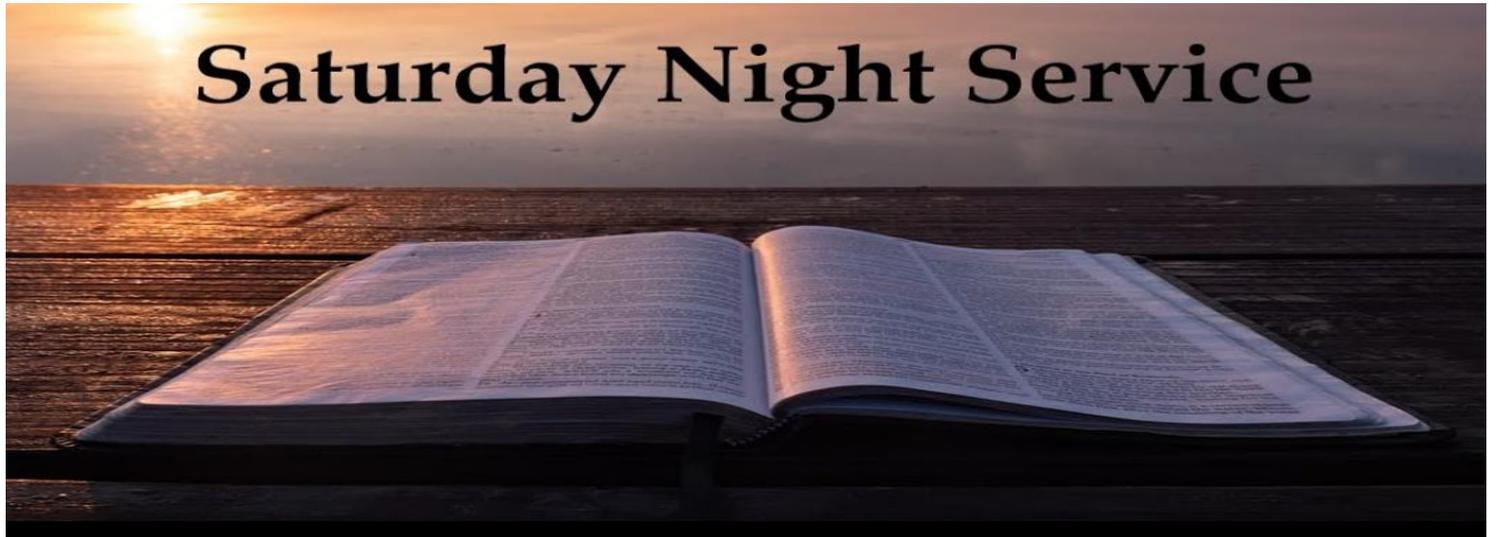
*The Gathering*  
Dates for Spring 2024

April 3  
April 17  
May 1  
May 15

6:30pm in the KFUMC  
Chapel

Knoxville  
FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Saturday 5:00 PM Chapel Services Resume April 6<sup>th</sup>**



After our short seasonal break, weekly Saturday Chapel services resume this Saturday, April 6, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m. It's a wonderful opportunity to come together in worship and community. Whether you're a regular attendee or a newcomer, you're invited to join us.

## **Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Happenings**

I don't know about you, but I am still trying to figure out where the first quarter of 2024 went. It seems like January was just yesterday. Lent and Easter have flown by and now we are in full swing to Summer. I am looking forward to planning some fun summer events for our children, youth, and families. If you have any questions or event ideas, please contact me at [lpetersen@kfumc.com](mailto:lpetersen@kfumc.com).

## **Living Way Youth Meetings**

Youth Group meets on the first and third Sunday night from 5-7pm. This group is for youth in grades 6-12.

## **Mark your calendars:**

- **April 7<sup>th</sup>** – regular meeting, 5-7pm
- **April 13<sup>th</sup>** - Wesley Woods Retreat, leave 7:15am return by 2:30-3pm
- **April 21<sup>st</sup>** – regular meeting, 5-7pm
- **May 5<sup>th</sup>** - regular meeting, 5-7pm
- **May 19<sup>th</sup>** – final meeting, end of year celebration, 5-7pm

## **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** – **Last day of Children's Church is May 19th**

## **Pathfinders**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders had a great spring session. Their mission project was to collect donations for the Marion County Humane Society which was very successful. We look forward to seeing them again in the fall. Stay tuned for a possible summer family get together as we say goodbye to our 5<sup>th</sup> graders and welcome our new 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

Pathfinder meeting dates: Tuesdays 3:30-5pm, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, final meeting

## **Mark Your Calendars**

Stay tuned for family events for April and May. Watch our Facebook page or sign up for emails on our website. Possible events include a family movie night on the lawn, Bikes and Trikes event. Summer events will be posted in the May newsletter.

**April 19<sup>th</sup> - Family Movie Night, 6pm, 'Daddy Day Care', Free concessions available**

**VBS 2024 – Save the Date – July 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> – Evenings, Time TBD**

Blessings,  
Lauren

## **Preschool News and Updates**

### **Save the date!!!**



Montgomery Street Preschool will be hosting a Cater2u2 (formerly **Thelma's**) fried chicken fundraiser at the church on **Thursday, June 13 from 4:30 to 6:30**. Watch for more details and how to get tickets in the May newsletter!!

# MONTGOMERY STREET PRESCHOOL

**ENROLLMENT FOR 2024/25 OPENS  
MARCH 1ST!**

## **ABOUT**

Faith-based, State licensed preschool serving Knoxville and the surrounding area for over 50 years.

## **CLASSES**

Totally Twos - one day a week for two year olds

Thrilling Threes- two days a week for three year olds

Kinder Explorers- four days a week for both 4 and 5 year olds

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Call: 641-842-2193**

**Email: [mppschoo@hotmail.com](mailto:mppschoo@hotmail.com)**

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



Enrollment for the 2024/2025 school year is open! Classes will be offered for 2 year olds, 3 year olds and a pre-kindergarten class for 4s and 5s. The registration can be found on the church website ([www.kfumc.com](http://www.kfumc.com)). Contact Katie for more information.

## April's Good Fridays and Our Daily Resurrections



*Mary Magdalene stood weeping outside the tomb, and she looked into the tomb and saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head, and one at the feet. They asked, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said, "Because they have taken my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." She turned and saw Jesus, but did not recognize him. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek? Supposing him to be the gardener, Mary said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him, "Teacher!" Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!"* -

John 20:11-18

Like most months, April has four Fridays, and all of them are good. We have even come to label them TGIFs. We recently celebrated the official Good Friday, the day that Jesus carried his own cross to Golgotha, the Place of the Skull. And Jesus was crucified, with two others. Pilate had the words "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" placed on the cross. The soldiers cast lots for Jesus' clothing. Jesus said from the cross, "I am thirsty." They put a sponge full of wine on a branch and held it next to his mouth. After that, Jesus said, "It is finished." He bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Why would we call this Good Friday? After all, Jesus was tortured and unjustly murdered upon a cross. It is a day of sorrow, but this led to the resurrection of Jesus, three days later. Jesus claimed victory over sin and death. That's very good! Jesus' tomb was found empty because he resurrected, he met and talked with his disciples, and later ascended into heaven. When Jesus met with his disciples, he breathed on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Good Friday is a time to quietly remember the pain and suffering Jesus went through for our sins. Jesus paid the price, but the forgiveness of our sins is free to us, when we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. There is the story of the man standing in line at the bank, waiting his turn to see the teller. He overheard the person in front of him becoming distraught. "But I have always banked here, and this is where I keep my money, I even have my home loan at this bank. What am I going to do?" The person had read a small sign on the teller's counter, "This bank will be closed for Good Friday." Without thinking about the Resurrection season, the person thought that the bank was closing for good on the upcoming Friday.

Resurrection Sunday follows Good Friday, and it is a time to declare to one another, "He is Risen, he is Risen, Indeed! So today, remember that Jesus died for your sins, and then three days later, Jesus resurrected from the grave. Forgiveness and resurrection! Remember that Jesus defeated death and is living still day. We can experience daily

resurrections in our lives when we experience new things in Christ. The Lord is risen, he is risen indeed!!

See you in church! --Pastor Brent

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### **Did you know??**

There is now a sign-in station at each service and church event. Please sign in on the note pads as this helps staff to accurately track attendance at services and special events. We appreciate your help in tracking attendance!



# April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30 AM ☞ Adult Bible S ☞ 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol ☞ 9:30 AM Worship Service ☞ 10 AM Education Room ☞ 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ 4 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) ☞ 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ 2 PM Almost Free Shop ☞ 5 PM Beginners Adult Pi ☞ 6 PM Girl Scouts ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 11:45 AM ☞ Staff Meeting ☞ 3:30 PM Pathfinders ☞ 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 ☞	MSPS Pics 12:30 PM UWF Executive ☞ 1:30 PM UWF General Me ☞ 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) ☞ 7 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Alcoholics Anony ☞ 6 PM Narcotics Anonym ☞	Saturday Chapel Service R ☞ 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc ☞ 5 PM Chapel Worship Se ☞
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Communion Sunday/For ☞ 8:30 AM ☞ Adult Bible S ☞ 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol ☞ 9:30 AM Worship Service ☞ 9:30 AM CONFIRMATION S ☞ 10 AM Education Room ☞ 10 AM Children's Church ☞ 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ 1 PM Sorority Meeting ☞	Erin Off 7:30 AM Monday Mornin ☞ 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	Deb Off 9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 5 PM Garden Club ☞ 6 PM ☞ Preschool Board M ☞ 6:30 PM ☞ The Story Small 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor ☞	KFUMC Deliver Meals on Wheels 12 PM WINGS ☞ 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) ☞	9 AM Rachel Circle UWF ☞ 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) ☞ 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Alcoholics Anony ☞ 6 PM Narcotics Anonym ☞	7:15 AM Wesley Woods Re ☞ 4 PM Clean & Sober Soc ☞ 4 PM Davis & Eunice Folke ☞ 5 PM Chapel Worship Se ☞
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
7:15 AM Living Way Youth ☞ 8:30 AM ☞ Adult Bible S ☞ 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol ☞ 9:30 AM Worship Service ☞ 10 AM Education Room ☞ 10 AM Children's Church ☞ 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ 4 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) ☞ 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	7:30 AM Monday Mornin ☞ 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 ☞ 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 ☞	11 AM Adult Bible Study ☞ 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) ☞ 7 PM Rebecca Circle UWF ☞ 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Alcoholics Anony ☞ 6 PM ☞ Family Movie Nigh ☞ 6 PM Narcotics Anonym ☞	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc ☞ 5 PM Chapel Worship Se ☞
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30 AM ☞ Adult Bible S ☞ 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol ☞ 9:30 AM Worship Service ☞ 10 AM Education Room ☞ 10 AM Children's Church ☞ 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ 4 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) ☞ 5 PM ☞ Youth Group 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	7:30 AM Monday Mornin ☞ 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 ☞ F.U.N. Meetin ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 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 ☞ 6 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) ☞	MSPS Fieldtrip (Van) 1:30 PM Sarah Circle Me ☞ 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) ☞ 7 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	Heather Off 9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Alcoholics Anony ☞ 6 PM Narcotics Anonym ☞	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc ☞ 4:30 PM Katie & Austin Ten ☞ 5 PM Chapel Worship Se ☞
28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4
8:30 AM ☞ Adult Bible S ☞ 9 AM ☞ Holy Donut Hol ☞ 9:30 AM Worship Service ☞ 10 AM Education Room ☞ 10 AM Children's Church ☞ 11 AM Chapel Reserved ☞ 2 PM Baccalaureate 4 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) ☞ 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	11:45 AM Staff Meeting ☞ 1 PM Neighbor Helping ☞ 2 PM Beta Sigma Phi Lore ☞ 5 PM Beginners Adult Pi ☞ 6 PM Girl Scouts ☞	9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 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 ☞	5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P) ☞ 5 PM ☞ UWF Executive Me ☞ 6 PM ☞ UWF General Meet ☞ 7 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM NA Meeting ☞	Heather Off 9 AM Almost Free Shop ☞ 12 PM Alcoholics Anony ☞ 6 PM Narcotics Anonym ☞	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc ☞ 5 PM Chapel Worship Se ☞