

The Link: Connected in Christ

January 2025



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>

PASTOR JAE

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**

Happy New Year!



We are in the year 2025. Many people are planning their activities for this year. Some are eager to complete their studies, while others want to engage in physical exercise to improve their health. Some aim to be kind to both others and themselves. I am curious about what you hope to accomplish this year.

As a Pastor, I want you to take time to rest and reflect on your life. If you have been pursuing your goals without a break, you must be exhausted or unable to feel it because you are already burned out. I know we need to keep going until we finish our race. However, if you continue to run without a break, you may not be able to finish your race. You need time for self-care. Additionally, you need to reevaluate your goals. You might have changed from who you were in the past. The goals you set back then might not reflect your current situation, and your present circumstances may

require different objectives. You may need to readjust your life trajectory.

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” (Ecclesiastes 1:2)

This bible verse is from Ecclesiastes 1. King Solomon realized that he had been chasing meaningless things throughout his life. He thought everything he did was meaningful and valuable, but they were not. I hope we do not chase the illusions the world has created. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” When we follow Jesus, we can be on the right track following meaningful things.

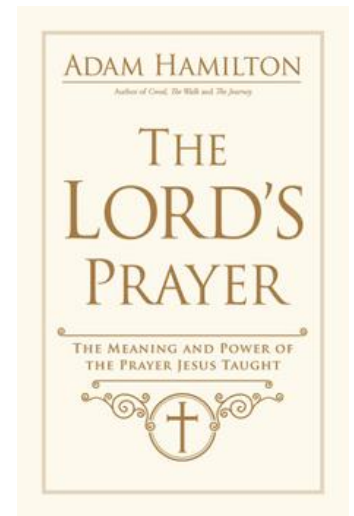
To help you find your way, I want us to study “The Lord’s Prayer” as we begin the new year. The new sermon series begins on the last Sunday of January (January 26), and Bible study will be on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 1 p.m. as usual (for six weeks, until March 4). I hope the Lord’s prayer series helps you reevaluate your values and priorities.

Many blessings,
Pastor Jaeseong Lee

CHURCH EVENTS

“THE LORD’S PRAYER”

Beginning Sunday, January 26th, Pastor Jae will launch a new sermon series based on Adam Hamilton's book, “The Lord’s Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught.” Join us as we deepen our understanding of prayer and strengthen our connection to Jesus. Books are available for purchase at the church office for \$13. Small groups will start on January 30th, meeting on Thursdays at 1:00 PM for six weeks: January 30, February 6, February 13, February 20, February 27 & March 6. Sign-up sheets can be found in the Narthex.



Upcoming Sundays for The Lord’s Prayer Sermon Series:

- 01/26/2025 Week 1: Our Father, Who Are in Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name
- 02/02/2025 Week 2: Whose Will Be Done
- 02/09/2025 Week 3: Our Daily Bread
- 02/16/2025 Week 4: Forgive As We Forgive
- 02/23/2025 Week 5: And Lead Us Not Into Temptation
- 03/02/2025 Week 6: For Thine Is The Kingdom, Power and Glory

Most Christians know the Lord’s Prayer by heart. We pray it often, at different times and in different settings. We remember it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do we really understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words, what we ask of God each time we pray it?

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus gave them this prayer. He likely taught it to his followers often, not just one time. He never intended the Lord's Prayer to be a museum piece, framed and placed on a mantel or in a display case. It was Jesus teaching God's people, through his disciples, how to pray.

In *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught*, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton guides us to really know—and really pray—the Lord's Prayer. He explores each of its rich lines and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words. And he teaches us how to use it as a pattern for our own prayer life.

New Group Starting at KFUMC

We have started a new group for Christian singles in the Knoxville Community. This group is for people who are widowed, divorced, never married and would like a safe space to have conversations, share laughs, have a meal, see a movie, in a group setting. Develop friendships, enjoy fellowship and create bonds. Both male and females alike are invited to join us for the next meeting on January 24th, 2025. Location for our next meeting to be determined. Follow us on Facebook for details. Contact: dgreiner@kfumc if you are interested.

Cooking For a Cause is Expanding!

Our mission is growing! We are adding a second free community meal per month starting in February 2025! We will begin on February 5, 2025, with a simple meal, maid-rites, chips and a drink. During the meal we will partner with the Blessing Box Mission to have an indoor pantry set up. Where we will have a recipe and the ingredients to make the recipe, including frozen meat. One meal per family. While supplies last. This indoor pantry will only occur during the meal on the first Wednesday of the month. The outdoor Blessing boxes will continue as per normal with shelf stable foods.

So, we will have a meal on the first Wednesday and a meal on the last Wednesday of the month. These meals are open to everyone in Knoxville. Servers will not always be the Wings group but may include some or all of them too. If you would be interested in Serving at any of these meals, please let us know. dgreiner@kfumc.com or call 641-842-3712 Invite your friends and neighbors to eat and serve!

2025 Cooking for A Cause Meal Schedule

These are free community events- All Welcome

January 29 – 5:00 to 6:30 -Pancakes, sausage, bacon, milk and OJ, cookies, drink

February 5 – 5:00 to 6:30-Beef maid-rites sandwiches, chips, drink (**Pantry open**)

February 26 -5:00-6:30 -Choice of soups, cornbread, veggie- tray, cookie and drink

March 5 – 5:00-6:30 – Spaghetti, garlic bread, drink (**Pantry open**)

March 26 -5:00-6:30 – Beefburgers, Mac n Cheese, baked beans, cookie and drink

April 2 -5:00-6:30 – Chili, ham and beans, cornbread, drink (**Pantry open**)

April 30 -5:00-6:30-Ham Balls, cheesy potatoes, green beans, cookie, drink

May 7 – 5:00-6:30 -Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drink (**Pantry open**)

May 28 – 5:00-6:30 – Savory breakfast casserole, mixed fruit, cinnamon rolls, cookie, drink

June 4- 5:00-6:30 – Chicken fingers, fries, drink (**Pantry open**)

June 25 – 5:00-6:30 – Chicken Tetrizzini, lettuce salad, rolls, cookie and drink
July 2 – 5:00-6:30 – Sloppy Joes, mac n cheese, drink (**Pantry open**)
July 30 -5:00-6:30-Picnic outside- grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, corn on the cob, chips, cookie, drink
August 6 -5:00-6:30 -Walking tacos, drink (**Pantry open**)
August 27- 5:00-6:30 – Baked Potatoes Bar with fixn’s, cookies and drink
September 3 -5:00-6:30- goulash, vegetable, rolls, drink (**Pantry open**)
September 24- 5:00-6:30-Spaghetti casserole, garlic bread, lettuce salad, cookie and drink
October 1- 5:00-6:30 Chicken pot-pie casserole, fruit salad, drink (**Pantry open**)
October 29-5:00-6:30 Chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, vegetable, cookies and drink
November 5-5:00-6:30- Baked Ziti pasta, garlic bread, drink (**Pantry open**)
November 26 – No meal
December 3-5:00-6:30 – Meat loaf, mashed potatoes, drink (**Pantry open**)
December 31- No meal

VOLUNTEER/DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Meals on Wheels Needs

We are still looking for one volunteer to assist with Route 3 on January 15th. The volunteer will help Ginger Harry deliver Meals on Wheels while she drives. If you are available to help, please reply to this email, as the sign-up sheet needs to be returned to the Meals on Wheels office this week. Thank you for your support!

Blessing Box Needs

Our Blessing Boxes are open year-round, and we attempt to keep them stocked, especially during the cold winter months. Here are some items we currently need:

- Toiletries (travel-sized items work great—bars of soap, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)
- Winter items (new or gently used—hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots, coats)
- Socks
- Hand warmers
- Easy Mac
- Packaged soup (just add water)
- Packaged noodles or ramen noodles
- Pouched meat (tuna, salmon, etc.)
- Packaged potatoes (just add water)

You can drop off any donations at the church office or in the collection boxes located inside any entrance. You are also welcome to place donations directly into the Blessing Boxes at any time.

Thank you for your continued support!

UPDATES!

Salvation Army Thank You

Thank you to all you Salvation Army bell ringers. We took in \$ 32,694.16. A total of 264 hours were rung by 360 people from 40 groups, churches and businesses. We couldn't do it without your help. Thank you.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY HAPPENINGS



Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. I can't believe it is already 2025. I am looking forward to another great year with our kids and looking forward to adding some fun new events this year. As always, if you have any questions on any of our upcoming programming, please contact me at lpetersen@kfumc.com.

MSPS & KFUMC Family Game Night

Thursday, January 30th, 5-7pm

We are teaming up with Montgomery Street Preschool to put on a fun family game night. This event is geared towards all ages, adults, that means you too! We will have pizza, snacks and drinks and lots of fun board games to play. Feel free to bring in your favorite board games to share!

Parents Night Out

Friday, February 14th, time TBA, Cost TBA

Our Living Way Youth are offering to watch your kids so you can have date night on Valentines Day. The night will be filled with fun, games, dinner, snacks, and a movie. We will have more details to come. Be sure to watch our Facebook page and emails!

Family Movie Night

Friday, February 21st, Time TBA

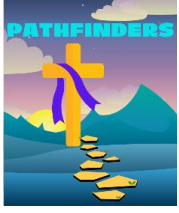
Come get out of the cold and join us for a fun family movie night! More details to come!



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. Reminder – No Children's Church the first Sunday of each month

Pathfinders



We had a great fall session with our 3rd-5th graders. Pathfinders will kick off again in March. Our spring session dates are: March 25th, April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. These are all Tuesdays from 3:30-5pm. We will have more information as we get closer.

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! We have a ton of fun events that we will be discussing and finalizing RSVP's for in January. Watch your emails for more details.

Youth Group December Schedule

- January 5th, 5-7pm – Youth group
- January 19th, 5-7pm - Youth Group
- February 23rd, Iowa Wolves Game, leave 1:30pm – RSVP by Jan. 20th
- March 14th-15th – Ignite Youth Conference in DSM, RSVP by Jan. 20th
- Winter Jam Christian Concert – March 21st, doors open at 6pm

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

Blessings,
Lauren

PRESCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES

Thanks to our KFUMC family for helping make 2024 a great year for MSPS! We love the support that is given to the preschool through prayers, financial gifts, and school supplies. You are all helping to teach our students what sharing the love of Christ means! Thank you!!

The MSPS students had a great Christmas program this year! Enjoy some photos of the students on program day.



PASTOR BRENT

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING



Advent and Christmas have come and gone. We celebrated the birth and the message of Jesus Christ. Jesus' message to us is peace, hope, joy, and love. We have exchanged our gifts with our loved ones. Jesus calls us to continue to spread God's message of love—love for God and love for our neighbor, to accept Christ as our personal Savior.

God's love includes unselfish caring and helping each other. Jesus modeled for us how to love and care for one another. God gave us the greatest gift of all, His Son, our Savior. We are called to share the message of hope through the promise of the resurrection. We accept this gift of hope with confidence to spend both joyful and peaceful eternity with our Creator.

We can provide hope by offering the hungry a meal or snack through our blessing box. When we help our neighbor, we are being engaged in God's love. We bring hope and joy to others when we spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We can also offer the gift of joy. There are many reasons for joy to be in our hearts, not only this time of year, but throughout the year. The greatest joy we can have in our lives is knowing Jesus Christ as our Savior and spreading the meaning of God's love, hope, joy, and peace. It has been joyful this season in celebrating the birth of Jesus. We celebrate the love that God has for us, and we celebrate the hope of salvation. That is the gift that keeps on giving.

We continue to share the message of God's plan of salvation in our worship, and through our missions here at First UMC. May God bless each of our activities and may we continue to reach out and bring people to Christ. God bless you, and see you Sunday!

----*Pastor Brent*

CALENDAR

January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 29	30	31	Jan 1	2	3	4
		MSPS Christmas Break			Heather Off	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc
Lauren Off		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSE	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSE	12:30 PM UWF Executive	9 AM Almost Free Shop	
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	Pastor Joe's Birthday	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSE		1:30 PM UWF General M	12 PM Alcoholics Anony	
9 AM Holy Donut Hol	1 PM Neighbor Helping	9 AM Almost Free Shop		5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)	6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
9:30 AM Worship Serv	2 PM Almost Free Shop	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor		7:30 PM NA Meeting		
10 AM Education Room	5 PM Beginners Adult P					
10 AM Children's Church	5 PM Girl Scouts					
11 AM Chapel Reserved						
4 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)						
7:30 PM NA Meeting						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Communion Sunday/For	7:30 AM Monday Morn	9 AM Almost Free Shop	12 PM WINGS	5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)	9 AM Almost Free Shop	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	12:15 PM Staff Meeting	1 PM Grief Share Sma	1 PM Neighbor Helping	7:30 PM NA Meeting	12 PM Alcoholics Anony	
9 AM Holy Donut Hol	1 PM Neighbor Helping	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor	6 PM Wednesday Pickle		6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
9:30 AM Worship Serv	2 PM Almost Free Shop		6:30 PM Contemporary P			
10 AM Education Room	5 PM Beginners Adult P					
10 AM Children's Church	5 PM Girl Scouts					
11 AM Chapel Reserved						
1 PM Sorority Meeting						
4 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)						
5 PM Youth Group						
7:30 PM NA Meeting						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	12:15 PM Staff Meeting	Heather Off	Heather Off @ Noon	11 AM Adult Bible Study	9 AM Almost Free Shop	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc
9 AM Holy Donut Hol	1 PM Neighbor Helping	9 AM Almost Free Shop	12 PM WINGS	5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)	12 PM Alcoholics Anony	
9:30 AM Contemporary W	2 PM Almost Free Shop	1 PM Grief Share Sma	1 PM Neighbor Helping	7:30 PM NA Meeting	6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
10 AM Education Room	5 PM Beginners Adult P	5 PM Garden Club	6 PM Wednesday Pickle		6:30 PM F.U.N. Meeting	
10 AM Children's Church	5 PM Girl Scouts	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor				
11 AM Chapel Reserved						
4 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)						
7:30 PM NA Meeting						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	7:30 AM Monday Morn	9 AM Almost Free Shop	12 PM WINGS	5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)	9 AM Almost Free Shop	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc
9 AM Holy Donut Hol	12:15 PM Staff Meeting	1 PM Grief Share Sma	1 PM Neighbor Helping	7:30 PM NA Meeting	12 PM Alcoholics Anony	
9:30 AM Worship Serv	1 PM Neighbor Helping	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor	6 PM Wednesday Pickle		6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
10 AM Education Room	2 PM Almost Free Shop		7 PM Chancel Choir Pract		6:30 PM Church Singles	
10 AM Children's Church	5 PM Beginners Adult P					
11 AM Chapel Reserved	5 PM Girl Scouts					
4 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)	5:30 PM Finance Comm					
5 PM Youth Group	6:30 PM SPRC					
7:30 PM NA Meeting						
26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	7:30 AM Monday Morn	9 AM Almost Free Shop	12 PM WINGS	1 PM The Lord's Prayer	9 AM Almost Free Shop	7 AM Christmas/Derby We
9 AM Holy Donut Hol	12:15 PM Staff Meeting	1 PM Grief Share Sma	1 PM Neighbor Helping	5 PM Family Game Nigh	12 PM Alcoholics Anony	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc
9:30 AM Worship Serv	1 PM Neighbor Helping	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor	5 PM Free Meal (Cook)	5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)	7 PM Christmas/Derby Rel	
10 AM Education Room	2 PM Almost Free Shop		6 PM Wednesday Pickle	7:30 PM NA Meeting	6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
10 AM Children's Church	5 PM Beginners Adult P		7 PM Chancel Choir Prac			
11 AM Chapel Reserved	5 PM Girl Scouts					
4 PM Pickleball (Peter, P)	6:30 PM Trustee Meeting					
7:30 PM NA Meeting	7:30 PM Board Meeting					