

The Link: Connected in Christ

April 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>

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**

Greetings in the Peace of Christ!



As I drove into downtown Knoxville recently, I noticed new flags atop the light posts. The images on the flags celebrated spring, signaling that the town is ready for a new season.

It is a new season for everyone. I think about all the plants that will soon emerge and all the green leaves and flowers sprouting. These are signs of a new season, not just for spring, but as a pastor, I see them as symbols of new opportunities for all of us. The harsh winter has gone, and we are entering a new life

season. The old one fades away, and a new chance comes. This is not only for some people but for all of us.

Lamentation 3:22-24 says *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him.*

Our God is faithful and loves us. As we call our God our Father in Heaven, God is the one who takes care of us. God has been giving grace to every one of us. God gives you a new day, mercy, and grace every morning.

We all have heard many times that Jesus died for us while we were still sinners. God gives grace to sinners. Jesus came to save those who sinned against God. We all fall short of God's righteousness and need God's forgiving grace through Jesus Christ.

If you feel guilty, please do not run away from God. Instead, come back to Jesus, who is ready to forgive and restore you as you were created.

Upcoming Sermon Series (Starting May 4): The Third Day by Tom Berlin

This six-week series focuses on the experiences of several characters around Jesus during his final days, their despair at losing him, and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the Resurrection. The series traces the events around Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, Thomas, Paul, and the disciples at Emmaus and how the resurrection transforms their lives.

Bible Study will be provided on Tuesdays (starting May 6)

SAVE THE DATES

**SAVE THE DATES!!!
April 2025**

Wednesday April 2	Free Community Meal & Lenten Speaker	Meal: 5:00–6:15 Speaker: 6:15–7:00 Lower Level (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday April 9	Lenten Meal & Speaker	Meal: 5:30–6:15 Speaker: 6:15–7:00 Lower Level (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday April 13	Palm Sunday with Children's Easter Drama	TIME: 9:30 AM LOCATION: Sanctuary
Thursday April 17	Maundy Thursday Service	TIME: 7:00 PM LOCATION: Sanctuary
Friday April 18	Good Friday Service with Drama	TIME: 7:30 PM LOCATION: Sanctuary
Sunday April 20	Easter Sunday Service with Special Music by Brass Ensemble and Solist	TIME: 9:30 AM LOCATION: Sanctuary

HOLY WEEK

Worship Schedule

PALM SUNDAY

April 13 @ 9:30AM
Palm Sunday Service
with Children's
Drama

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 17 @ 7:00PM
Maundy Thursday Service
with Communion

GOOD FRIDAY

April 18 @ 7:30PM
Good Friday Service with
Drama

EASTER SUNDAY

April 20 @ 9:30AM
Easter Worship Service
with Special Music by
Brass Ensemble and
Guitar/Vocalist Special
Music

www.facebook.com/knoxvillemethodistchurch

CHURCH EVENTS

UWF General meeting April 3 at 1:30 pm.

The United Women in Faith General Meeting will be on April 3 at 1:30, featuring Tamsin Webb from Families Forward.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY MEALS & SPEAKER SERIES



**Wednesday,
April 9, 2025 @
5:30-7:00PM**

SPEAKERS: Landon & Lincoln Norris
MENU: Spaghetti

HAVE A BLESSED

PALM SUNDAY

Start Holy Week With Us

April 13 | 9:30AM

Includes Live Children's Easter Play

APRIL 17, 2025 @ 7:00PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Today we commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, during which he washed the feet of his disciples.



GOOD FRIDAY DAY CAMP

April 18th, 2025 9am - 12pm
Knoxville First United Methodist Church

4 years old - 5th Grade

Register by April 11th



Good Friday Service with Live Drama

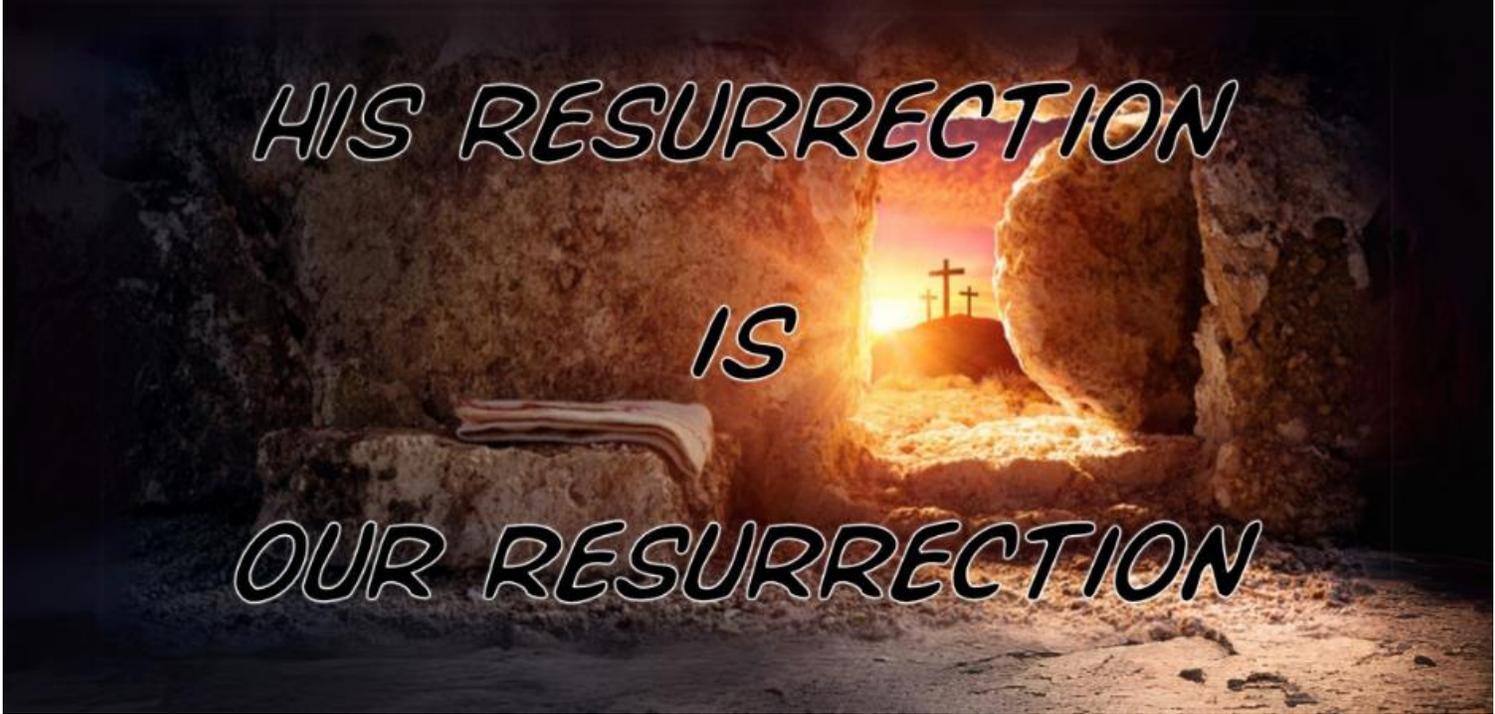
April 18, 2025 @ 7:30PM

Knoxville First United Methodist Church Sanctuary
313 E Montgomery

Easter: Alive in Me

Sunday, April 20 @
9:30AM

Special Music:
Brass Ensemble
Vocal Soloist
&
Two Baptisms



*HIS RESURRECTION
IS
OUR RESURRECTION*

VOLUNTEER/DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Meals on Wheels Needs KFUMC Volunteers!

We are still in need of caring KFUMC volunteers to deliver 3 routes for Meals on Wheels and bring nutrition to those in need in the community. Reply to this message or contact Heather in the office as soon as possible if you are able to take any of the following routes: Wednesday, April 16 – Route 4 and/or Thursday, April 17 – Route 3 & Route 4.

Good Friday Day Camp Supplies Needed

We are in need of some supplies for our upcoming Good Friday Day Camp. To view the list of supplies and sign-up, please click the link below. All supplies need to be dropped off by Wednesday, April 16th. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EA5AA2FA2F9CE9-55703751-good>

Volunteer for Good Friday Day Camp

Do you love having fun, helping others, and getting a little crazy? If so, sign-up as a volunteer for Good Friday Day Camp. We need fun loving adults and youth (middle and high school) to help lead groups around to the different stations, assist with crafts and snacks, and play games. Good Friday Day Camp is on April 18th from 9am-noon. Volunteers are needed from 8:30am to 12:15pm. If you would like to sign up, email Lauren at lpetersen@kfumc.com or call/text her at 515-201-1082.

Summer Events Survey

Please take a moment to answer these four questions regarding potential summer events. We are wanting to plan some fun events for the whole family/church and need your input on what you want to do! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B75YV99>

Pop-Up Pantry

We are making a few changes to our Pop-Up Pantry! Both for donations and the way we give items out.

Currently, the Pop-Up Pantry occurs once a month on the first Wednesday. It takes place during the First Wednesday meal. We set up tables just inside the entrance in WFH. We provide items to create a complete meal along with some paper products. Families can browse the available options and take home either a complete meal or part of one. This initiative supports families during challenging times when making ends meet can be difficult. Our goal is to provide enough food to support 15-20 families each month, depending on their size.

In the past, we would bag up all of the ingredients and hand out a bag to each family. What we have found is that some items were discarded because the family didn't like it.

A few benefits to a client choice pantry:

- Increased respect: Offering clients a variety of choice provides a more meaningful service that allows shoppers to tailor their selections based on preferences and cultural or dietary needs.
- Increased dignity: An atmosphere of participation and choice lends dignity to a process that is difficult and humbling for many of our neighbors and friends.
- Refined means of food acquisition: Tracking which food items are in highest demand and which items are left on the shelf helps us know what to buy.
- Increased efficiency: Shoppers leave only with what they have chosen. This creates a more efficient use of limited food resources that will not be wasted or given away.

We are changing our Pop-Up pantry to a client-choice or supermarket-style pantry. We will try to include fresh fruits and vegetables as they become available, making adjustments monthly and seasonally. There are limits based on family size.

As you know we received the Carma Mohler Grant and purchased a freezer for frozen items for the pantry. We look for sales and can store the frozen pantry items until needed.

Here's how the donations will work: we will have a list of needed donations on a cart in the Narthex on Sunday. Take the list to use when you shop. Bring the items back and place them on the cart where you found the list. Please bring fresh fruits or dairy products listed as close to the pantry date as possible to reduce spoilage. Pantry dates are the first Wednesday of each month.

You have been so generous! Thank you for your support!



WANTED!

MSPS IS IN NEED OF A FRIDGE!

GENTLY USED
TRADITIONAL STYLE



IT WILL BE USED FOR MSPS
SNACKS AND JUICE

LET KATIE KNOW IF YOU
HAVE ONE THAT YOU'D LIKE
TO DONATE



Sunday Soundbooth Volunteers Wanted!



MEDIA MINISTRY

JOIN THE TEAM

Interested??? Contact the church office
at hmarconi@kfumc.com or 641-842-3712.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Spring is here, hooray, hooray! Easter is just around the corner, then we will blink, and it will be summer. We have a ton of fun stuff planned for spring and summer and hope to see you there! Don't forget to watch our Facebook page for updates on upcoming events, registration forms, and more. As always, if you have any questions on any of our upcoming programming, please contact me at lpetersen@kfumc.com.

Children's Easter Play

This year we are going to have a children's Easter play on Palm Sunday, April 13th during service. We still have some non-speaking roles available. If your child is interested in participating, please email Lauren at lpetersen@kfumc.com.

Good Friday Day Camp

Friday, April 18th, 9am-noon

Kids ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to join us for a fun filled morning learning about the Easter Story through crafts, games, science experiments, and more. This event is free and open to everyone! Register here by April 11th: <https://forms.gle/hfAwKc3Rk9NB3RuW6>

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, but all elementary aged kids are welcome to join us. Our last day of Children's Church will be May 18th, then we will break for summer.

Pathfinders



Pathfinders has just kicked off its spring session. Spring session dates: March 25th, April 1st, 9th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. These are all Tuesdays from 3:30-5pm. If you have a 3rd – 5th grader interested in participating, please email Lauren at lpetersen@kfumc.com or call the church at 641-842-3712. This spring we will enjoy our usual lessons, games, and activities along with our annual service project.

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! Watch your email for Summer 2025 events!



Youth Group April Schedule

- April 6th – 5-7pm, Easter Lesson
- April 20th – NO YOUTH GROUP, Happy Easter!
- April 26th – All Day Wesley Woods Retreat

Summer 2025 Events

Day Camps:

Day Camps are back this summer. We will have two day camps this summer that will be open to kids ages 3 through 5th grade (must be potty trained). During our day camps the kids will enjoy a variety of fun activities, bible lessons, crafts, games, and more. These camps are free and open to everyone. Dates: June 10th, 9am-noon, July 8th, 9am-noon, and August 5th, 9am-noon



VBS 2025

July 20th, 21st, and 22nd; Approximate Time 5:30pm-8:15pm

This year's VBS theme is Road Trip: On the Go with God. We will kick each night off with a free light meal followed by loads of fun! VBS is open to kids ages 3 through 5th grade (grade just completed). This event is free and open to everyone! Registration will open in May.

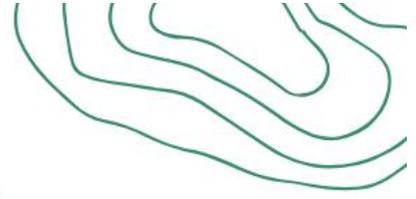
Family Events

We are working on scheduling some fun Family Events this summer such as a Family Fishing Day, I-Cubs Game, and a Pool Party. We will have more details on these events soon. Watch our Facebook page for updates! If you have a great idea for an event, let us know by emailing Lauren at lpetersen@kfumc.com.

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



Montgomery Street Preschool

**Enrollment opens March 1st
for the
2025/2026 school year**

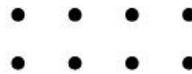
**Classes available:
2 year olds (Totally Twos),
3 year olds (Thrilling Threes)
4 and 5 year olds (Kinder Explorers)**

Enroll today!

Email: msschool@hotmail.com

Phone: 641-842-2193

Website: www.kfumc.com



Jesus Was The Resurrection



Martha replied to Jesus, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die."--John 11:24-25

Jesus was and IS the resurrection! He told us that he was the resurrection even before he died and rose again. We are quickly approaching our resurrection Sunday celebration on April 20. The month of April ushers in Palm Sunday on April 13, with our children's play, and on April 17, we worship together at 7 pm during Maunday Thursday, with the choir singing. And then we have Good Friday on April 18. We will have a children's day camp Friday morning and then we will worship at 7:30 Friday evening with a special Drama.

With Jesus' resurrection, we find life, eternal life. And our forgiven and resurrected life can't be separated from God by sin and our eternal life won't be destroyed by death. Jesus told Martha he is already the resurrection and is testifying to the truth that the Son of God indeed holds power over death and eternal life. Both the empty tomb and the cross are testimonials that God's plan of salvation was fulfilled from the very beginning at Bethlehem.

As a church family, I invite you to participate in each of these services. Each has its own purpose and uniqueness and fits into the approaching sacrifice of the Son of God. You will leave each service with a sense of Jesus' experiences just prior to his death, a better understanding of Jesus' passion before he was killed, as an innocent man, upon the cross. And then on the morning of April 20, you will experience the joy and excitement when the empty tomb is discovered, and you can exclaim to another person, "He is risen, He is risen indeed." AMEN.

I so enjoy worshiping with each of you on Sunday mornings. We have a loving atmosphere of encouraging one another, walking with one another, and praying for each other. I enjoy the God moments when we show one another mercy! We adhere to the Biblical principles brought forth by God.

See you Sunday! —With God's love,

Pastor Brent

CALENDAR

Reminder – the most up-to-date calendar can always be found at <https://kfumc.com/calendar/>

April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	7:30 AM Monday Mornin	9 AM Almost Free Shop	12 PM WINGS	12:30 PM UWF Executive	9 AM Almost Free Shop	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc
8:30 AM Children's Easter	12:15 PM Staff Meeting	3:30 PM Pathfinders	1 PM Neighbor Helping	1:30 PM UWF General Me	12 PM Alcoholics Anony	
9 AM Holy Donut Hol	1 PM Neighbor Helping	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor	5 PM Free Meal (Cookin	5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P	6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
9:30 AM Worship Service	2 PM Almost Free Shop		5:30 PM Lenten Meal w	7 PM Chancel Choir Pract		
10 AM Education Room	5 PM Beginners Adult Pi		6 PM Wednesday Pickle	7:30 PM NA Meeting		
10 AM Children's Church	5 PM Girl Scouts					
11 AM Chapel Reserved	6:30 PM Trustees					
2 PM Community Chorus I	7:30 PM Board Meeting					
4 PM Pickleball (Peter, P						
7:30 PM NA Meeting						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Communion Sunday/For	7:30 AM Monday Mornin	Heather Off	12 PM WINGS	9 AM Rachel Circle	9 AM Almost Free Shop	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	12:15 PM Staff Meeting	9 AM Almost Free Shop	1 PM Neighbor Helping	5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P	12 PM Alcoholics Anony	
8:30 AM Children's Easter	1 PM Neighbor Helping	3:30 PM Pathfinders	5:30 PM Lenten Meal w	7:30 PM NA Meeting	6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
9 AM Holy Donut Hol	2 PM Almost Free Shop	5 PM Garden Club	6 PM Wednesday Pickle			
9:30 AM Worship Service	5 PM Beginners Adult Pi	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor	6:30 PM Contemporary I			
10 AM Education Room	5 PM Girl Scouts					
10 AM Children's Church						
10:30 AM Drama Practice						
11 AM Chapel Reserved						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
PALM SUNDAY	7:30 AM Monday Mornin	KFUMC Deliver Meals on Wheels		11 AM Adult Bible Study	9 AM Almost Free Shop	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	12:15 PM Staff Meeting	9 AM Almost Free Shop	12 PM WINGS	5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P	9 AM Good Friday Day C	
9 AM Holy Donut Hol	1 PM Neighbor Helping	3:30 PM Pathfinders	1 PM Neighbor Helping	7 PM Maundy Thursday Se	12 PM Alcoholics Anony	
9:30 AM Contemporary	2 PM Almost Free Shop	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor	6 PM Wednesday Pickle	7:30 PM NA Meeting	6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
10 AM Education Room	5 PM Beginners Adult Pi				7 PM Good Friday Service	
10 AM Children's Church	5 PM Girl Scouts					
10 AM Children's Easter Dr						
10:30 AM Drama Practice						
11 AM Chapel Reserved						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
EASTER	7:30 AM Monday Mornin	9 AM Almost Free Shop	12 PM WINGS	1:30 PM Sarah Circle Me	Heather Off	Youth Day Retreat at Wash
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	12:15 PM Staff Meeting	3:30 PM Pathfinders	1 PM Neighbor Helping	5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P	9 AM Almost Free Shop	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc
9 AM Holy Donut Hol	1 PM Neighbor Helping	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor	6 PM Wednesday Pickle	7 PM Rebecca Circle	12 PM Alcoholics Anony	5 PM Chapel Worship Se
9:30 AM Worship Service	2 PM Almost Free Shop		7 PM Chancel Choir Pract	7:30 PM NA Meeting	6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
10 AM Education Room	5 PM Beginners Adult Pi					
11 AM Chapel Reserved	5 PM Girl Scouts					
4 PM Pickleball (Peter, P	6:30 PM SPBC					
7:30 PM NA Meeting						
27	28	29	30	May 1	2	3
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	7:30 AM Monday Mornin	9 AM Almost Free Shop	12 PM WINGS	Jae Off	9 AM Almost Free Shop	Mother's Day Event (Lau
8:30 AM MSPS Families I	12:15 PM Staff Meeting	3:30 PM Pathfinders	1 PM Neighbor Helping	5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P	9 AM Almost Free Shop	4 PM Clean & Sober Soc
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9:30 AM Worship Service	2 PM Almost Free Shop		6 PM Wednesday Pickle	6 PM UWF General Meet	6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
10 AM Education Room	5 PM Beginners Adult Pi		7 PM Chancel Choir Prac	7:30 PM NA Meeting		
10 AM Children's Church	5 PM Girl Scouts					
10 AM MSPS Celebration						
11 AM Chapel Reserved						
2 PM Baccalaureate						