The Link: Connected in Christ September 2025



Our Mission: "Bring People to Christ"

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May God's peace be with you all!



The beautiful weather continues here in Knoxville. It is just wonderful to be outdoors. I hope you all find some time outside to feel the peace God provides through nature.

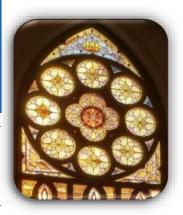
Pastor Brent shared during the staff meeting that this year is **our church's 180**th **anniversary**. This church has been serving the people of the Knoxville area for a long time. The ministry started long ago, but we are still here to continue sharing God's love, mercy, and grace. As one of your Pastors, I am very proud of all of you for being faithful servants of God.

Rally Sunday is coming again. (September 7, 2025)

School has started, and most families have returned for the new school season.

Therefore, more families attended the Sunday worship service. We just had over 100 people on Sunday, August 24. I hope more families return to services and enjoy each moment in God's grace and love. Once again, we will have **Rally Sunday on September 7**. This event marks the start of the fall season and is the most important gathering for all church families, emphasizing our identity as one family in Christ. As your Pastor, I highly encourage you to attend the service and join us for the potluck lunch afterward. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reunite with all families and enjoy fellowship once more. I invite you, your family, friends, and neighbors. Please join us!

God Walks with Us!



Church Service Times

Sunday Sanctuary Worship 9:30 AM, In-person worship

Saturday Chapel Worship 5:00 PM In-person worship

Sunday Children's Church 10 AM

Live Worship Streamed Online Sunday 9:30 AM via YouTube and KNIA

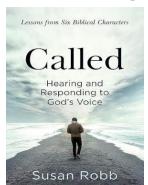
Radio Worship Worship with us via the radio at 1320 AM, 95.3 FM or 94.3 FM at 9:30 AM on Sundays Our new theme for a year, 2025 through 2026, is "**We Walk Together**." The Sermon series will focus on famous figures in the Old Testament, such as Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Joshua. We will follow their life journeys and learn how God walked with them throughout their journeys. It is comforting and reassuring to know that God truly walks with us.

In October, I will do another sermon series on Susan Robb's book "Called." Bible study will follow the sermon series. Please let the office know if you want to preorder a book.

May God bless you and keep you all the time!

Pastor Jae

Bible Study with Pastor Jae



Bible Study: Called

Starting: October 14, 2025 (for 6 weeks)

Dates & Times: Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Description of the book:

God calls us to a life that we could never imagine on our own. Discover how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on your life through the stories of ordinary people found in the Bible. Called will examine the lives of Abraham, Samuel, Esther, Mary Magdalene, Jonah, and the beloved disciples. Writers: Susan Robb

Sign up sheets for the bible study and to preorder books are located in the Narthex. Cost will be \$16 per book.

CONFIRMATION 2005-26

We are offering Confirmation classes for grades 8 through 12, beginning with an orientation on September 21. Most classes will be held on Wednesday evenings, and will begin October 1. Confirmands will be confirmed on the Sunday following Easter, April 12, 2026. Our studies will explore United Methodism, the Reformation, the Triune God of the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. We will learn more about the Sacraments, prayer, and different styles of worship. We will also help with the Church Harvest Dinner on October 11. If you're an eighth grader through your senior year, and haven't been confirmed, please call the office at 842-3712, or email first@kfumc.com and let us know that you're interested.

CHURCH EVENTS



IOIN US AS WE KICK OFF A NEW SEASON TOGETHER WITH A SPECIAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE FOLLOWED BY A POTLUCK LUNCH IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.

WORSHIP SERVICE (FRONT LAWN): ENJOY UPLIFTING MUSIC WITH A BLEND OF CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL SONGS TO INSPIRE AND UPLIFT EVERYONE! REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS FOR COMFORT **DURING THE SERVICE.**

POTLUCK LUNCH (FELLOWSHIP HALL): AFTER THE SERVICE, GATHER INDOORS FOR A DELICIOUS POTLUCK LUNCH. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE, PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR DISH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGINS. THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE THE TABLEWARE, CUTLERY, AND DRINKS,

EVERYONE IS WELCOME, AND WE INVITE YOU TO BRING ALONG FRIENDS & FAMILY FOR A MORNING FILLED WITH FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, AND A STRONG SENSE OF CHURCH FAMILY. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

WORSHIP | LIVE MUSIC | FOOD & DRINK | FRIENDS | FELLOWSHIP



ONE HUNDRED-EIGHTY YEARS, ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

We will be celebrating the one hundred-eighth year of Methodist worship in Knoxville on Sunday morning, during our 9:30 worship service on October 5th. In this newsletter, we are attaching a Knoxville Journal-Express newspaper clipping from the 150th anniversary that we celebrated in 1995. Additional information will be emailed to the congregation as plans are still under development. Please take a moment to read the newspaper clipping. How many other institutions are still around from 1845?

lethodist Church marks 150th anniversa

(150 years) of Marion This year marks the Sesquicenas the Sesquicentennial of the First County and the state of Jowa as well United Methodist Church of Knoxville.

The following is an edited version church's history:

conference of the ME Church was of the time line of some of May 9, 1846

held at the home of Conrad Walters near Attica. It indicated that Knoxin 1845. The church became part of he Whitebreast Mission, Ottumwa ville had become a preaching place M.H. Hare, pastor in charge; and .W. Knight, supply pastor, were District with James F. New, pastor ppointed to serve in Knoxville. For one room on the south side of the juare. The land was purchased on 1846 Conference - The Rev 1848 - A log cabin became the irst parsonage of the church with eir support, \$57.75 was collected 10, 1850, for \$35.

May 28, 1856 - The first place of 1849 - Knoxville's population

worship was dedicated at 509 to 515 Main. Because this place was deemed too small, a new building was constructed soon thereafter, From 1894-96 — Church services were held in the old skating rink. The existing church was torn down and neasuring 40 x 60 feet.

August 1895 - The comerstone of the current church building was the new one constructed,

- Permission was ng, measuring 96 X 120 feet, 24 feet east of the church for Billy Sunday Evangelistic Meetings, which were granted to erect a temporary build. 1936 - The Youth Group was called the Epworth League, Abour included games, popping corn or evening. A typical evening's events and closing with a verse of Scripture 50 people attended each Sunday or poem for reflection during the pulling taffy, singing, eating a snack April 1907 held in May.

Winter 1936-37 - The fumace fell to pieces and the congregation moved into the Knoxville Women's Club House from mid-December through January. Replacement cost coming week. Was \$2225

October 1937 - This marked the September 1940 - The ladies of dedication of the new altar and redecoration of the sanctuary.

the church started the charter meet-Society of Christian Society, 113 Bridgeman was elected the first local man serving. At the end of the vices were held for servicemen, with a star placed on the wall for each During World War II - Nine sering of UMW, then called Women' ladies signed the charter. Mrs. H. L. president.

- A dedication ser-Vera McKay had charge of these war, 237 stars were on the wall. Mrs. educational wing and the Memorial vice was held for March 1966 services.

April 1896 - The current church

0

built at a cost

was dedicated,

This old photograph shows the second building of the First United Methodist Church which was built in 1856. The church's current = location is the same as it was back then. The church picture was replaced by the larger, present structure. **DON'T MISS OUT!** Order your T-shirt now to proudly wear on Sunday, October 5 morning, as we celebrate our momentous 180th anniversary of Methodist worship in Knoxville! More celebration details forthcoming soon!

180th Anniversary Celebration Shirts Celebrate Your Faith - Order Form Knoxville, IA 50138 Name: Address: Phone: E-mail: ADULT (\$12+ per) YOUTH (\$12 per) M 1845-2025 L XL 2X (\$15 per) 3X (\$17 per) Order your T-shirt now and wear it to church on Sunday, October 5, to celebrate our 180th anniversary. Please return this order form along with your payment to the church office by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH AT NOON. QUANTITY __ X \$12 PAYMENT METHOD QUANTITY __ X \$15 □ CASH QUANTITY __ X \$17 ☐ CHECK TOTAL # OF SHIRTS _ TOTAL PAID \$



SILENT AUCTION

OCTOBER 11, 2025 5-7PM

YOU CAN HELP BY DONATING AN ITEM FOR THE SILENT AUCTION

Fellowship Uniting Neighbors (F.U.N.) and Montgomery Street Preschool (MSPS) are raising money for local community projects

such as:

Preschool

Back to School Program

Community -Thanksgiving and Christmas food Baskets

Community- Free Christmas Meal Items needed by October 6,2025

VOLUNTEER/DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Blessing Box & Pop-Up Pantry Ministries

Hello all,

By now all of you know about the Blessing Boxes out in front of the church. Did you know that there are volunteer opportunities still available for this ministry?

This ministry is an easy one to do on your own schedule. We have some wonderful volunteers who fill the boxes on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We still need a couple of people to check the boxes on Monday and Wednesday. You can choose your own times and create your own schedule. Would you be willing to give of your time and talents and be a part of this ministry?

We are in need the following items for the Blessing Boxes:

- Canned meat
- Peanut butter
- Complete shelf-stable box meals
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deoderant, trial-size shampoo
- Gently worn clothing and shoes
- Combs and brushes
- Individual rolls of toilet paper and paper towels

These items can be brought in at any time and we have a pantry room for storage

The Pop-Up-Pantry takes place on the first Wednesday of the month during the Free Meal and to this point has been generously filled by our awesome congregation! This pantry is an extension of the Blessing Boxes Ministry.

Items needed for the Pop-Up-Pantry Pantry Include:

- Bread and rolls
- Eggs
- Milk
- Butter
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Fresh Fruits
- Fresh Vegetables
- Fresh Frozen Meats
- Frozen Fruits and Vegetables
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Hamburger Helper
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauces

Please remember that frozen items should be brought in at any time, and we will store them in the freezer. For fresh fruits and vegetables, kindly wait until the Tuesday before the pantry event to place them on the Pop-Up Pantry cart located in the narthex.

Consider joining one of these ministries!

Thank you, everyone!

Our Cooking for a Cause Ministry is GROWING!

We are looking for people who feel in their hearts the need to give back to our community, people who want to do what God asks us to do, LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS. Anyone who is willing do any small part of this mission with joy in their hearts!

Our history,

Last year we served on average 30-40 people. We wanted to do more. We partnered with the Almost Free Shop, KNIA, Roberts and Associates paper, and the Marion County Express to get the word out about a free meal. Our numbers doubled this year!

Now, we serve anywhere from 100 - 200 people twice a month. Thats 200 - 400 people a month!! This all started with a bible study group of 11 women., 2 years ago, in the bible study group we were talking about how we could help our community and shine God's light. We decided to serve a free community meal. Open to everyone. No strings attached.

Initially, about 6-8 of the bible study group would plan, shop, prep and serve the last Wednesday meal. It was once a month for a year, then this year we added another Wednesday and a Pop-up-pantry. In preparation of starting the second meal a group of us made a visit to Bloomfield where we were able to see what they are doing with a free community meal and a pantry. We came back inspired and committed to adding a meal and pantry.

Now, in Knoxville, 3 of the 4 weeks each month you can enjoy a free meal:

- KFUMC on the first Wednesday,
- Riverside Church on the second Tuesday, and
- KFUMC on the last Wednesday of the month.

When we added the second meal, we began having outside groups to help with prep and serving. These amazing volunteers, some of which are members of ministries in our church, but others are angels that just want to give back. This year the Class of 1973 has served, the pickleball ministry folks have served, the Church ladies of the Catholic church have served, Freedom for youth have served, the F.U.N. Group have served, the KFUMC staff have served, the Zion/Attica Methodist Church ladies, the youth group will be serving and Pathfinders will also be serving. Merna Dr. Block party group will be serving next year also. We also have angels that just show up to help!

We are asking you to consider showing up for God's kingdom and our community by coming and eating, helping with planning, helping with prep or helping to serve. Another very important job is help us shine God's light on people who come to the meal by sitting with someone you don't know and let them get to know you...a disciple of Christ.

Please join us in whatever way you can, all volunteers welcome!

Deb Greiner

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Fall is in the air! School has started, we are enjoying the Friday Night Lights, and all things fall! Our programs are kicking off this month including Children's Church and Youth Group. Pathfinders will begin in October.

We still need volunteers for our fall programs including Pathfinder, and a Family Event Coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these activities, please let me know. We can always use great volunteers to help with our CYF programs! If you have any questions, please contact me at lpetersen@kfumc.com.

Living Way Youth Group

Youth group is for students in grades 6^{th} through 12^{th} . Youth from any school or church are welcome and encouraged to join us. We meet on the 1^{st} and 3^{rd} Sunday of each month from 5-7pm. This year we are looking forward to continuing to grow in our faith, serve our community, and raise money for our 2026 Mission Trip!

Save the Dates:

- Youth Group Kick-Off Mini Golf at Slideways
 - o September 7th, 5pm
 - o RSVP to Lauren by September 5th
- Youth Group
 - September 21st, 5-7pm

Children's Church

Children's Church is our version of Sunday School designed for kids in preschool through early elementary. All kids are welcome to attend and we encourage older children to come down and help! Children will sit through the first part of worship in the sanctuary, then will be dismissed to Children's Church after the Children's Message in big church. They will have about 30-35 minutes of learning about bible stories through fun games, songs, crafts, and more!

Children's Church will begin on September 14th!

Pathfinders

Pathfinders is designed for kids in grades 3-5. They enjoy a 6-week session in the fall and spring where they will learn about bible stories and lessons through games, crafts, activities, and service projects. We are anticipating kicking off Pathfinders in mid-October. More details to come!

Fall Programing Save the Dates

Children's Church – September 14th (meets every Sunday during worship, 10-10:30am ish) Youth Group - September 7th (meets 1st and 3rd Sunday from 5-7pm) Pathfinders – tentative date October 14th or 15th, details TBD 3rd Grade Bible Sunday – tentatively Oct. 12th Children's Christmas Play – tentative dates, play December 7th, practices begin November 2nd



Volunteers Needed:

Our fall programs are just around the corner, and I am looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Family Events such as game night, trivia, bingo, fall fest, Halloween/Fall party, Bikes & Trikes night, etc.
- Children's Christmas Pageant

If you feel called to help in any of these areas, please contact me. It takes a village to make these ministries possible and bring God to the next generation!

Blessings, Lauren

PRESCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES

Well here we are in September, kicking off a new school year at MSPS! We are blessed to be serving 56 students age 2 through 5 this year. It is sure to be a busy year with lots of fun and learning.

We are also excited to introduce Michele Gilchrist as our new Assistant Teacher. Please welcome Michele as you see her around the church!



Hi! I am Michele Gilchrist, but your kids will get to know me as Miss Michele. This is my first year at MSPS. I will be Miss Katie's assistant teacher.

I grew up and graduated from Melcher-Dallas. My husband and I, along with our three dogs, live outside of town in Dallas. I love to read and spend time with our dogs and riding in our side-by-side. I can't wait to meet all our MSPS families!

Did You Know?

Montgomery Street Preschool is hosting a fundraiser pickleball tournament, called Pickleball and Pumpkins. This will be a fun tournament where contestants can dress up in costumes and there is even adult/child bracket. If you are interested in registering a team, use the QR code below.



Team Registration Code

In addition to the pickleball tournament, there will be a family festival going on up and down 4th street between Robinson and Montgomery. There will be pumpkin decorating, kid bingo, yard games, coloring contest and much more! We will also have a bake sale and concession stand going on so you can get lunch or snacks to take home.

Community members and businesses are helping to sponsor this event. If you would like to sponsor or know of a business that would be interested, use the QR code below.



Sponsorship Code

We are grateful for our community and church family for the support and hope to see you all on September 27 for this fun event!





Thank you to our church family for the love and support as we begin the school year! The supply donations have been awesome! It takes many hands to make the preschool possible for our families and communities. We couldn't do it without the support of our church family!

Pastor Brent



Our hot, rainy, summer has come to a close, and everyone is getting settled back into routines. School does that for families, a regimented time each morning to leave the home for school, take care of school lunch, and then sports practice and homework to round out the day. It's kinda fun to live the summer months just a tad bit more carefree than we do during the school year.

This fall we have several exciting activities. Rally Day is on September 7, with 9:30 worship service being held on our church lawn, a group picture taken, followed by a delicious pot-luck meal in our fellowship hall! We will provide some chairs and hope most of you can bring a lawn chair. It is exciting to worship God outdoors and always good to share in fellowship and home cooked

food.

On Saturday, September 27, from 10 to 2, we have another way to participate in our church missions. You can support our Montgomery Street Preschool fundraise called Pickleball and Pumpkins. There will be pickleball games, pumpkin decorating, carnival games, and concessions. Please plan to join in the fun and financially support our preschool.

Do you recall our 150th celebration of our church in 1995? I dug out my celebratory T-shirt and we're including a picture of it in this newsletter. Who else has their 30 year old T-shirt? Our current church building was dedicated in 1896, at a cost of \$20,000. Marion County was legally created in June of 1845. Methodists in the area had been meeting two years prior to that.

We are going to celebrate our 180th anniversary on Sunday, October 5 during our 9:30 worship service. We will share in Holy Communion, review a little history of our church, and take an outside church group picture by the corner stone on the southeast side of the church. Be sure to attend and celebrate a part of our history.

September 2025

KFUMC

