

The Link: Connected in Christ

December 2025



Our Mission: “Bring People to Christ”

313 East Montgomery, Knoxville, IA 50138

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Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/knoxvillemethodistchurch>

YouTube:

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

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**

Greetings in the name of Christ!



May God's peace be with you and your family in this season of Advent.

This would be the second Christmas in Knoxville. I am thankful for all our church families and their dedication to Christ.

As I watched our members packing Thanksgiving baskets for our neighbors, I was pleased because we are doing what Jesus taught us to do.

In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus gives a parable that encourages us to reach out to the least among us.

“³⁴ ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ⁴⁰ ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’” (**Matthew 25:34-36, 40**)

Additionally, I would like to mention the Giving Tree, which stands by the main entrance. I noticed the tags on the tree have disappeared so quickly. I can tell that our church family is very generous and eager to help and support those who are in need. Please remember that you are doing this for Jesus. Glory to God for all we do!

As one of your Pastors, I am proud of you. God has blessed you with the inheritance of the kingdom. This is such a blessing for all of us. Merry Christmas! Pastor Jae

Upcoming Sermon Series

1) For the Advent season, we will reflect on the Names of Jesus that God gave Him. These names encapsulate the essence of who Jesus is.

1. Emmanuel, God with us 2. Wonderful Counselor 3. Everlasting Father 4. I AM

2) For the New Year, starting from January 14, 2026, we will have a six-week sermon series on the ***Questions Jesus Asked*** (Author: Magrey R. De Vega).

These are the questions we will consider.

1. Who do you say that I am? (Luke 9:18-21)
2. Why are you afraid? (Matthew 8:23-27)
3. Why are you anxious? (Luke 12:25-31)
4. What do you live for? (Mark 8:34-38)
5. Who will you love? (Luke 6:27-36)
6. What are you looking for? (John 1:35-38)

SAVE THE DATE

EVENT SCHEDULE

December



**12/05 &
12/07**

7:00P Friday-Knoxville Community Choir

Sanctuary

2:00P Sunday-Knoxville Community Choir

Sanctuary

**SUN
12/07**

9:30A Kid's Play - A Super Christmas

Sanctuary

10:30A Youth Bake Sale (fundraiser)

Narthex

**FRI
12/19**

9:00A MSPS Christmas Concert

Sanctuary

**WED
12/24**

**7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with Live Play**

Sanctuary

**THURS
12/25**

Noon Free Community Christmas Lunch

Lower Level - Fellowship Hall

CHURCH EVENTS



FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 3, 2025**

5:00-6:30 PM

**313 EAST MONTGOMERY ST
LOWER LEVEL**

**MENU: HAM BALLS, CHEESY
POTATOES, GREEN BEANS,
COOKIES & DRINKS**

Everyone Welcome!

Children's Christmas Play

December 7th at 9:30am

What do Superheroes and
Jesus have in common?

Find out at our Children's Play!




YOUTH GROUP BAKE SALE

December 7th at 10:30am
Immediately following worship.

Join us for our
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE WITH
LIVE
CHRISTMAS PLAY
DECEMBER 24TH
7PM SERVICE





EVERYONE IS WELCOME
AND INVITED TO JOIN IN
THE CELEBRATION!

Christmas Dinner

Join us for this FREE Community Event!

Christmas Dinner from Noon to 1:00 PM on
Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2025.

**Knoxville First United Methodist Church: 313 E. Montgomery, Knoxville -
Lower Level (dine-in & carry out available)**

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS!

2026 Cooking for a Cause Meal Schedule

Hours: 5:00-6:30 p.m.

**Location: First United Methodist Church, 313 E. Montgomery Street –
Lower Level**

EVERYONE IS INVITED AND WELCOME!

January 7 – Chicken fingers, fries, drink

January 28 – Pancakes, sausage, milk/OJ, cookies

February 4 – Loose beef sandwiches, chips, drink

February 25 – Choice of 2 soups, cornbread, veggie tray, cookie, drink

March 4 – Spaghetti, garlic bread, drink

March 25 – Beefburgers, Mac N Cheese, baked beans, cookie, drink

April 1 – Chili, cornbread, drink

April 29 – Chicken Tetrazzini, lettuce salad, rolls, cookie, drink

May 6 – Ham, glazed carrots, potato salad, drink

May 27 – Savory breakfast casserole, mixed fruit, cinnamon rolls, drink

June 3 – Sloppy Joes, mac n cheese, drink

June 24 – Meat Loaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables, cookies, drink

July 1 – Pulled Pork Sandwiches, baked beans, fruit, drink

July 29 – Picnic – Grilled burgers, hot dogs, corn on the cob, chips, cookie, drink

August 5 – Walking Tacos, drink

August 26 – Baked potato bar, cookies, drink (Mac N Cheese if MSPS event)

September 2 – Goulash, vegetable, rolls, drink

September 30 – Chicken Alfredo, garlic bread, lettuce salad, cookie, drink

October 7 – Breakfast casserole, sausage, drink

October 28 – Baked Ziti, garlic bread, drink

November 4 – Chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes, vegetables, cookies, drink

November 25 – No Meal

December 2 – Ham balls, cheesy potatoes, green beans, cookie, drink

December 30 – Soups, bread, drink

VOLUNTEER/DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

GIVING TREE

If you have taken a tag from the giving tree, please remember to return the wrapped gift with the Giving Tree tag attached to the church office by noon on 12/16/2025. Thank you!

MEALS ON WHEELS: Deliver A Difference!

Volunteer to deliver Meals on Wheels from January 12 to 15, 2026, and help our community. There are four routes each day, making it great for individuals and families.

Pick up meals between 10:30 and 10:40 a.m. in the alley behind the police station. If you're volunteering multiple days, consider signing up for the same route.



deliver a difference

Join us in supporting those in need—sign up today by replying to this email or in the Narthex! Thank you!

<u>DATE & ROUTE</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	<u>CELL NUMBER</u>
Monday, January 12, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			
Tuesday, January 13, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			
Wednesday, January 14, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			
Thursday, January 15, 2026			

Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas... This is my favorite time of year, filled with twinkle lights, laughs, all the Christmas songs, and lots of joy! This Advent season, I am personally looking forward to slowing down during the 'waiting' of Advent and taking some time to reconnect with God and learning more about the reason for the season! We have several fun events including our Children's Christmas Play and fun activities during Children's Church and Youth Group. If you have any questions, please contact me at lpetersen@kfumc.com.

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!

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.

I cannot believe we have already finished up our fall session of Pathfinders. It went way to fast and we had so much fun. These kids are absolutely amazing and it was wonderful watching them grow in their faith, learn about God, and serve others during the community meal. Jane and I are excited for our spring session which begins in February.

Spring 2026 Pathfinders Schedule

Time: 3:30-5pm

Dates: Feb. 25th, March 4th, 11th, 25th, April 1st, 8th, 15th

Living Way Youth Group

Youth group is for students in grades 6th through 12th. Youth from any school or church are welcome and encouraged to join us. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month from 5-7pm. We have started a group on the Band app for easier communication with our Youth Group Families. You can join the Band here: <https://band.us/n/afa1b3N9oeye7>

Save the Dates:

- Youth Group
 - December 3rd – youth serve free meal, 4pm-7pm
 - December 7th – 9:30am Bake Sale
 - December 7th – 5-7pm Youth Group, going to see Marion County Lights
 - December 21st – Youth Group

Children's Christmas Play

December 7th, 9:30am

Dress Rehearsal Dec. 6th at 5pm.

What do Jesus and superheroes have in common? Find out at our annual Children's Christmas Play this year! We cannot wait for you to experience the Christmas Story in this new and fun way brought to you by our young disciples.

Advent Kits

In leu of a children's or family Advent event this year, we are going to be sending home Advent kits for families with fun activities, and Advent calendar, and ways to make this Advent season meaningful and memorable for the whole family. If you would like an Advent kit for your family, please contact Lauren.

Blessings,
Lauren Petersen

PRESCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES

In November our Kinder Explorer Class got to visit Fareway for a behind the scenes tour. We ended our trip by shopping for those less fortunate. All food items were delivered by students to the Blessing Box room here at the church.





In November we spent time being thankful for our blessings. On behalf of our preschool families we are blessed and thankful to be a part of the KFUMC church family!



MSPS Program

Upcoming - Christmas program Friday, December 19 at 9 am in the sanctuary!



"While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to deliver her child. And Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. The . . . shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger."
--Luke 2: 6-16

Remember the times you have had the joy of holding a newborn baby in your arms? So precious, so delicate, and what a miracle to behold. What did you experience as you gazed upon the little baby, sometimes with eyes closed, and sometimes, luckily, you could gaze into their open eyes?

You exclaim in your heart about the pure innocence of a child. They are so pure, so trusting to be in your care, so innocent and holy. You never want this baby to be hurt or disappointed in any way. You want all that is good in this world to blanket the little one.

Imagine Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and all of the other visitors that held baby Jesus in their arms. They gazed upon Jesus, and prayerfully wished the child a good and safe life.

How could the mighty Creator of the earth become so tiny, so vulnerable? How could our God become an ordinary baby who needs to be changed and fed, and comforted?

There are so many signs and wonders on this special eve. A bright star in the night sky, angels singing to the shepherds!

We know, that in reality, many hurts and challenges will befall the child. In the case of Jesus, the shadow of the cross lurks over Jesus' life. Growing up, leaving Mary and the town of Nazareth, and with the start of his ministry is also the start of trickery, deceit, lies, and plans to destroy him. Eventually, this grown man has his final supper with his disciples. Jesus is betrayed by his own disciple, falsely arrested and subjected to a kangaroo court. Herod and Pilate have no reason to condemn Jesus, but the religious community is tired and jealous of the popular Jesus.

There is the blood-thirsty whip, carrying his cross to Calvary, and being nailed to that cross, with no one in his defense. And we realize that in our own lives, there will be times that we will disappoint Jesus. We betray him, we deny him, we become impatient and are tempted to walk away from him, to go our own way. We even ignore Jesus. And then we seek his forgiveness.

Throughout our lives, we will have opportunities to hold newborn babies. We don't know what life will bring these babies, but we do know that Jesus walked in our shoes, and understand our pains and misfortunes in life. God invites us to renew our vision of the Christ. Each and every day, God invites us to lift the baby Jesus from the manger, to hold Jesus in our arms, and gaze upon our personal Savior, with all of his love, compassion, grace, and mercy. Jesus offers enough love that we can be saved from our sins. As we grow, may we mature in Christ, so that we can love the Lord our God, and love our

neighbor as we love ourselves. The next time you hold a newborn, gaze into their eyes, and ponder these things in your heart. Experience a holy advent, and have a Merry Christmas! With God's love and blessings, *Pastor Brent and Mary.*

CALENDAR

December 2025

KFUMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 30 Youth Noisy Can Offering 8:30 AM Adult Bible Study 8:45 AM Practice for Choir 9 AM Holy Donut Holes 9:30 AM Worship Service 10 AM Education Room 10 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Christmas Eve Play 11 AM Chapel Reserved	Dec 1 7:30 AM Monday Morning 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult PY 5 PM Girl Scouts	2 9 AM Almost Free Shop 1 PM UWF Program Book 6:30 PM Knoxville Community 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	3 12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 1:15 PM KAMA 5 PM Free Meal (Cooking)	4 10:30 AM UWF Executive Meeting 12 PM UWF General Meeting 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, Ph) 7:30 PM NA Meeting	5 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 6 PM Narcotics Anonymous 7 PM Knoxville Community	6 5 PM Chapel Worship Service 5 PM Children's Xmas Play
7 Communion Sunday/Fundraiser 8:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9 AM Holy Donut Holes 9:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Christmas 10 AM Education Room 10 AM Children's Church 11 AM Chapel Reserved	8 7:30 AM Monday Morning 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult PY 5 PM Girl Scouts 6 PM F.U.N.L. Meeting	9 9 AM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Garden Club 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	10 12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 6:30 PM Contemporary Fellowship	11 9 AM Rachel Circle 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, Ph) 7:30 PM NA Meeting	12 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 6 PM Narcotics Anonymous	13 5 PM Chapel Worship Service
14 Poinsettia Sunday 8:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9 AM Holy Donut Holes 9:30 AM Contemporary 10 AM Education Room 10 AM Children's Church 11 AM Chapel Reserved 4 PM Pickleball (Peter, Ph) 6 PM Christmas Eve Play 7:30 PM NA Meeting	15 7:30 AM Monday Morning 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult PY 5 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM SPRC	16 9 AM Almost Free Shop 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	17 12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 6 PM Christmas Eve Play	18 11 AM Adult Bible Study 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, Ph) 7 PM Rebecca Circle 7:30 PM NA Meeting	19 Robby Rehearsal @ 6:30 & 8:00 9 AM Almost Free Shop 9 AM Preschool Christmas 12 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 6 PM Narcotics Anonymous	20 Robby Wedding
21 8:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9 AM Holy Donut Holes 9:30 AM Worship Service 10 AM Education Room 10 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM Assemble Christmas 11 AM Chapel Reserved 1:30 PM Distribute Christmas 4 PM Pickleball (Peter, Ph)	22 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult PY 5 PM Girl Scouts 6 PM Christmas Eve Play	23 9 AM Almost Free Shop 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	24 7 PM Candlelight Christmas	25 Christmas 12 PM Community Christmas 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, Ph) 7:30 PM NA Meeting	26 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 6 PM Narcotics Anonymous	27
28 8:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9 AM Holy Donut Holes 9:30 AM Worship Service 10 AM Education Room 11 AM Chapel Reserved 4 PM Pickleball (Peter, Ph) 7:30 PM NA Meeting	29 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult PY 5 PM Girl Scouts	30 Pastor Joe's Birthday 9 AM Almost Free Shop 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	31 12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping	Jan 1 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, Ph) 7:30 PM NA Meeting	2 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 6 PM Narcotics Anonymous	3