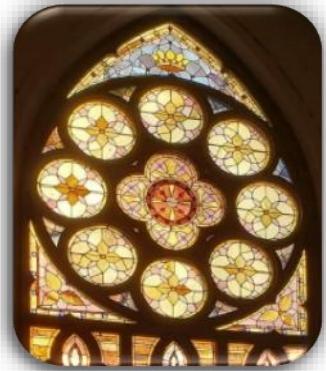


The Link: Connected in Christ

JANUARY 2026



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>



HAPPY NEW YEAR! May God Fill Your Heart With Joy and Peace Throughout 2026!

The world is not at peace, but there is peace and joy in Christ. And we are all called to share them with others. I want to encourage all of you again, in the year 2026, to have a moment to share the name of Christ with someone and invite them to come to Church.

The most excellent light has appeared to the world, and the light told us we are the light of the world and gave to the ministry the sharing of the True Light of the world. There is a blessing: when God gives people a mission, God gives them the ability to accomplish it, even physical strength.

When Elijah fled from Jezebel, he lay under a tree and asked for death, but God brought him food twice to give him strength.

For the year 2026, I pray that God gives you strength, deepens your spirituality, and provides for your needs. It's not only because God has given you a mission, but also because He loves you. God gave us another year to serve God and the body of Christ. Hope we all humbly serve one another as Jesus served us.

As one of your Pastors, I also bless you all! May God guide you throughout the year and give you peace and abundance.

Blessings, 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

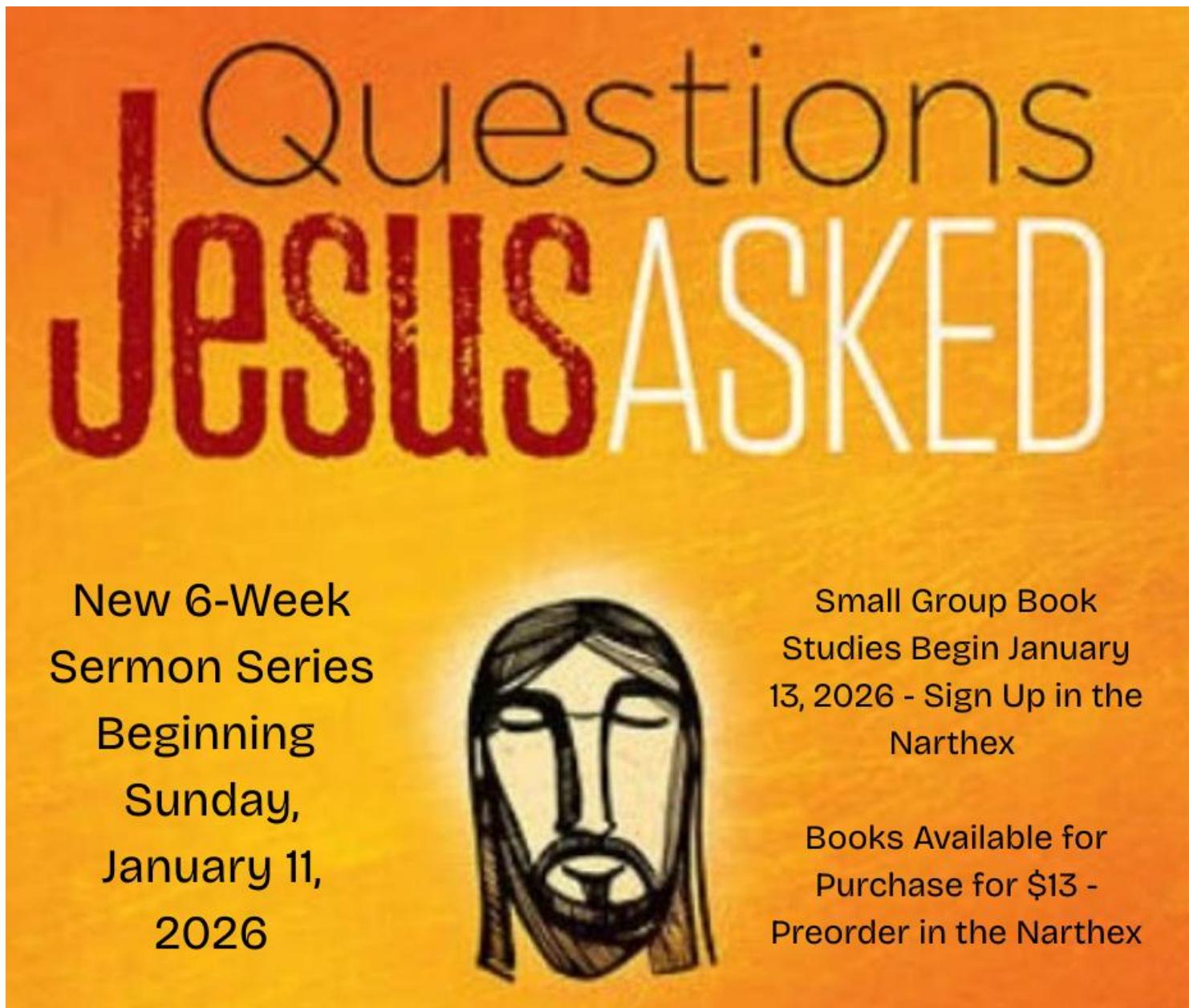
Radio Worship
Worship with us via
the radio at 1320 AM,
95.3 FM or 94.3 FM at
9:30 AM on Sundays

Upcoming Sermon Series

Starting from January 11, 2026, we will have a six-week sermon series on the **Questions Jesus Asked** (Author: Magrey R. De Vega). Additionally, Bible Study will be held on Tuesdays at 1pm and 6pm for six weeks, starting January 13.

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)



**Questions
JESUS ASKED**

New 6-Week
Sermon Series
Beginning
Sunday,
January 11,
2026

Small Group Book
Studies Begin January
13, 2026 - Sign Up in the
Narthex

Books Available for
Purchase for \$13 -
Preorder in the Narthex

CHURCH EVENTS

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

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL!

Wednesday, January 7 @ 5:00-6:30PM

Knoxville First United Methodist Church
313 East Montgomery Street, Lower Level

CHICKEN FINGERS, FRIES & DRINK!



All are invited!

**FREE COMMUNITY MEAL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28
@ 5:00-6:30 PM**

BREAKFAST FOR SUPPER!

FLUFFY PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, MILK, OJ, AND COOKIES -
FUEL YOUR AFTERNOON
WITH FLAVOR!

**313 East Montgomery St
Lower Level**



Grief Share To Begin Feb 3

Pastor Jae and I continue to pray for all who are in the process of adjusting your life due to the loss of a loved one.

Our church will be offering a small group study beginning February 3 using the book *Grief Share*. It is a 13 week study, one hour per week. We will meet on Tuesdays on the lower level from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. We will cover various aspects of the grieving process. Topics include normalcy, the grief journey, self-care, being overwhelmed, questions for God, hope and resilience, among other topics.

Of course, sharing about a lost loved one is a very personal matter. Respecting privacy and keeping discussion within the group will be a necessity.

We are limiting the small group to five or six people. Please contact the church office at 641-842-3712, or Pastor Brent 641-891-3974 if you are interested. Pastor Jae will be assisting from time to time.

Sincerely,
Pastor Brent and Pastor Jae

VOLUNTEER/DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Pop-Up Pantry Needs

The Pop-up Pantry is held on the first Wednesday of every month, along with the Free meal.

Pop-Up Pantry Needs:

We are currently in need of the following items:

- Bread and rolls
- Eggs
- Milk and butter
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Fresh fruit
- Fresh vegetables
- Fresh or frozen meats
- Frozen fruits and vegetables
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Hamburger Helper
- Pasta
- Pasta sauces

Please feel free to bring in any of these items at any time to the church office. Frozen items can be placed directly in the freezer, while fresh fruits and vegetables can be stored in the Weiler refrigerator in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support!

Are You Someone Who Likes to Plan Your Whole Year?

If you are someone who likes to plan their whole year, here are the opportunities that will be available to KFUMC volunteers for Meals on Wheels for this year. If you are interested in any of them and would like to go ahead and get them on your schedule please go ahead and reply to this message with the date and route you would like. A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered over the years and continues to volunteer!

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.

<u>DATE & ROUTE</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	<u>CELL NUMBER</u>
Monday, April 13, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			
Tuesday, April 14, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			
Wednesday, April 15, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			
Thursday, April 16, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			

<u>DATE & ROUTE</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	<u>CELL NUMBER</u>
Monday, June 1, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			
Tuesday, June 2, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			
Wednesday, June 3, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			
Thursday, June 4, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			

<u>DATE & ROUTE</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER</u>	<u>CELL NUMBER</u>
Monday, November 9, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			
Tuesday, November 10, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			
Wednesday, November 11, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			
Thursday, November 12, 2026			
Route 1			
Route 2			
Route 3			
Route 4			

UPDATES!

Knoxville First United Methodist Church is recognized for giving back to the community we live in!

We love our neighbors and are doing what we can in our community in many ways, including:

- Cooking for a Cause: Providing two meals each month
- Monthly Pop-Up Pantry
- Monday Morning Panthers Program
- Almost Free Shop
- Blessing Boxes
- Back-to-School Program
- Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets
- Neighbor Helping Neighbor
- Salvation Army
- Christmas Day Meal
- Giving Tree
- Montgomery Street Preschool
- NA (Narcotics Anonymous)
- AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)

Recently, Joshua from Northcote Meats asked a Knoxville community member who could he bless with some free meat and cheese boxes. Without hesitation, the community member said ..."The Methodist Church."

We are grateful to share that Northcote Meats generously blessed us with 150 meat and cheese boxes this week. God is good! All the time!

A big thank you to the Northcote Meats Inc.!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

I swear each year goes by faster and faster. I can now fully appreciate when my mom always told me that time flies and to not wish time away. 2025 has come to an end and we are off and running into 2026. As I approach 4 years in my role here at KFUMC, I am amazed by all the growth we have seen and blessed by all the children and families I have been able to serve. I cannot wait to see what this new year has in store for us! And thank you to everyone who has volunteered, prayed, donated, and supported the children and youth programs here. Without you none of this would be possible. 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.

We are looking forward to next month kicking off Pathfinders again! We miss these kids like crazy, but I love watching them out in the community doing their things and living out their faith! If you have a child interested in joining us for our spring session, please email Lauren at lpetersen@kfumc.com.

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>

In December, the Youth Group raised money for Helping Hands as a way to give back to the community. They did a noisy can offering, online campaign, and bake sale. They raised a total of \$675!

Save the Dates:

- Youth Group
 - January 4th, 5-7pm regular meeting
 - January 18th, 5-7pm regular meeting
 - February 1st, 5-7pm regular meeting
 - February 13th – Iowa Wild Hockey Game?
 - February 14th – Parent's Night Out Fundraiser

Children's Christmas Play

Our Children's Christmas Play was once again a huge hit! Thank you to all the parents who got their kids to practices and helped during rehearsals and the performance. And thank you to the kids for stepping up, trying new things, and doing such an amazing job telling the Christmas story in a fun new way!

Blessings,
Lauren Petersen

PRESCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES



Thanks to All That Made the MSPS Christmas Program Successful!!

We had a standing room only crowd in the sanctuary to hear the kids sing! It truly was a special morning. If you missed the program here is the YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRVpdFYcDNS>.

MSPS is Hiring!

Come join our team as an assistant teacher in the PreK and 2-year-old rooms. Applications are open until January 15 at 3 pm. Preference will be given to applicants that have childcare experience. Details are on the flyer.

Montgomery Street Preschool

HIRING

JOIN US !

Hiring an Assistant Teacher

For the 2025/2026 school year

28-30 hours per week

\$14.00 per hour plus bonus after 1st year

Requirements :

- ▶ Background in ECE
- ▶ Childcare experience preferred
- ▶ Team Player
- ▶ Good attitude

To Apply:

Pick up an application from the Methodist Church office or print from website below. All applications are due by January 15 at 3 pm.



A Fresh Start, A New Beginning



Jesus said to the person who had invited him, "When you host a lunch or dinner, don't invite your friends, your brothers, and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, lame, and blind. And you will be blessed because they can't repay you. --Luke 14:12-14

Jesus told us in the Gospel of John, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments". When you act in kindness and love toward a neighbor or family member, you are spreading God's love. The more effort we make to care for one another and extend compassion to one another, the greater we praise and glorify our God. Jesus taught us in the most painful way, how to pay the price for someone else, by dying upon the cross for us. Real love, the kind of love from Jesus, is not repaid, but instead, real love is passed on, just as we read in the above Luke scripture.

God so loved the world that God gave us a begotten Son. Our actions through God's love are paid forward. It is not repaid, but rather passed on to others. Our genuine love toward our neighbor is patterned after the full gift of Jesus Christ, a gift to all of us from Calvary.

What will be new in your life in 2026? When you pay God's love forward, you will never know or realize the ripple effect it will have on so many others, with the greatest ripple of love coming from the cross. Jesus said, "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." In 2026, go and serve God with patience and passion, and pass God's love forward.

There are very simple ways to help out others. You can send someone a gift/gas card. You can lend a hand to someone that just is overwhelmed with life. That's a great way to begin this new year of 2026!

Mary and I thank you for your friendship, and we wish you a very Happy New Year!

Be blessed in this new year, 2026, with a fresh start, and a new beginning. See you in church!

-- Pastor Brent

CALENDAR - WWW.KFUMC.COM/CALENDAR

January 2026

KFUMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 28	29 Jae Off	30 Pastor Jae's Birthday	31 Church Office Closes at 1	Jan 1 Church Office Closed	2 Almost Free Shop Alcoholics Anonymous	3
Adult Bible Study Class Holy Donut Holes Fell Worship Service Education Room Reserve Chapel Reserved Pickleball (Peter, Paul & G) NA Meeting	Neighbor Helping Neighbor Almost Free Shop Beginners Adult Pickleball Girl Scouts	Almost Free Shop Alcoholics Anonymous	Alcoholics Anonymous	NA Meeting	Narcotics Anonymous	
4	5 Communion Sunday/Fo	6 Monday Morning Panth Staff Meeting Alcoholics Anonymous	7 WINGS Free Meal (Cooking for a Doc)	8 Heather Leave for a Doc Pickleball (Peter, Paul & G) NA Meeting	9 Almost Free Shop Alcoholics Anonymous	10 Renard Gathering
Adult Bible Study Class Holy Donut Holes Fell Worship Service Education Room Reserve Children's Church Chapel Reserved Sorority Meeting Pickleball (Peter, Paul & G)	Neighbor Helping Neighbor Almost Free Shop Beginners Adult Pickleball Girl Scouts	Almost Free Shop Alcoholics Anonymous	WINGS Garden Club Questions Jesus Asker	Neighbor Helping Neighbor Contemporary Praise Band Alcoholics Anonymous	NA Meeting	Narcotics Anonymous
11	12 Adult Bible Study Class Holy Donut Holes Fell Worship Service Education Room Reserve Children's Church Chapel Reserved Pickleball (Peter, Paul & G) NA Meeting	13 Monday Morning Panth Staff Meeting Almost Free Shop Questions Jesus Asker Beginners Adult Pickleball Girl Scouts F.U.N. Meeting	14 Almost Free Shop Questions Jesus Asker Garden Club Alcoholics Anonymous	15 WINGS Contemporary Praise Band Adult Bible Study Class	16 Almost Free Shop Pickleball (Peter, Paul & G) NA Meeting	17 Alcoholics Anonymous
18	19 Adult Bible Study Class Holy Donut Holes Fell Worship Service Education Room Reserve Children's Church Chapel Reserved Pickleball (Peter, Paul & G) Youth Group NA Meeting	20 Monday Morning Panth Staff Meeting Almost Free Shop Questions Jesus Asker Beginners Adult Pickleball Girl Scouts Finance Committee Meet SPRC	21 Almost Free Shop Questions Jesus Asker Garden Club Alcoholics Anonymous	22 WINGS Neighbor Helping Neighbor Chancel Choir Practice	23 Sarah Circle Meeting Pickleball (Peter, Paul & G) NA Meeting	24 Almost Free Shop Alcoholics Anonymous
25	26 Adult Bible Study Class Holy Donut Holes Fell Worship Service Education Room Reserve Children's Church Chapel Reserved Kitty Meeting Pickleball (Peter, Paul & G) NA Meeting	27 Monday Morning Panth Staff Meeting Almost Free Shop Questions Jesus Asker Beginners Adult Pickleball Girl Scouts Trustee Meeting Board Meeting	28 Almost Free Shop Questions Jesus Asker Alcoholics Anonymous	29 WINGS Neighbor Helping Neighbor Free Community Meal (10) Chancel Choir Practice Confirmation (Pizza & Luth)	30 Pickleball (Peter, Paul & G) NA Meeting	31 Almost Free Shop Alcoholics Anonymous