

The Link: Connected in Christ

March 2026 Newsletter



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**

PASTOR JAE

May God's Grace Be With You!



Spring is approaching us. The temperature rises and falls like a roller coaster; sometimes warmer and sometimes colder. I don't complain too much because it signals that spring is coming.

The world is in turmoil. People are killing people without hesitation. It's hard to find human dignity amid tragedy. As followers of Christ, this may be a time to remind ourselves of our Baptismal covenant. The first question is, "Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?" We all answered, "I do." And God heard that. The second question is, "Do you accept the freedom and power that God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?" And we also answered, "I do." The evil powers in the world foster hatred among us.

These issues are deeply connected to our Social Holiness. When you have a cold, you experience symptoms such as a fever and a headache. Similarly, as believers in Christ, we also show symptoms. These appear both personally and within communities. Jesus told us, "Love God and love our neighbors as ourselves," is the greatest commandment. If we love God, we love our neighbors. If we love our neighbors, we cannot be selfish. We must not ignore our neighbors' suffering. We all know that even Jesus taught us to love our enemies. During this Lenten season, we should focus on practicing mercy and love toward others instead of hatred. When the weather is cold, we truly understand what warmth means. In this season, I hope everyone demonstrates that we are followers of Christ, both to the community and beyond.



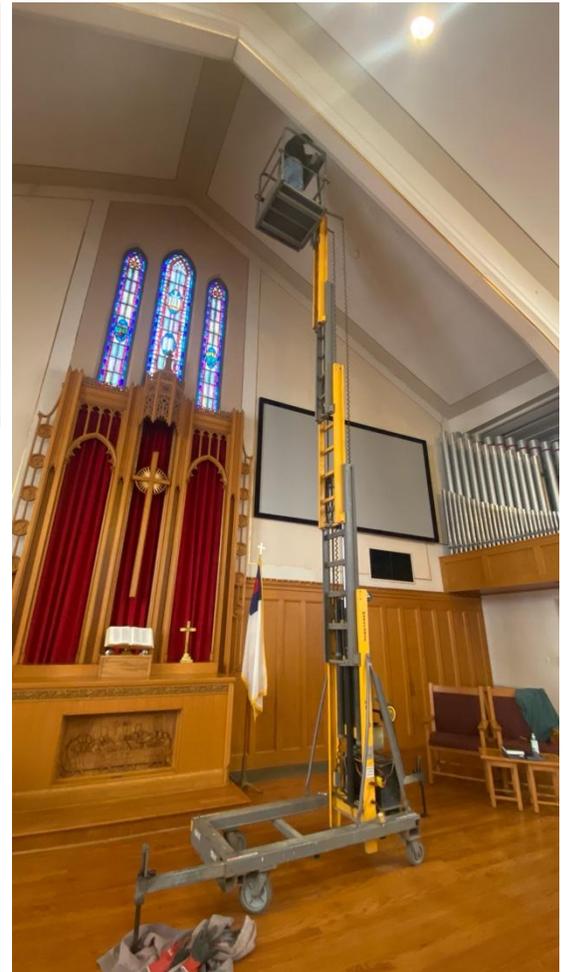
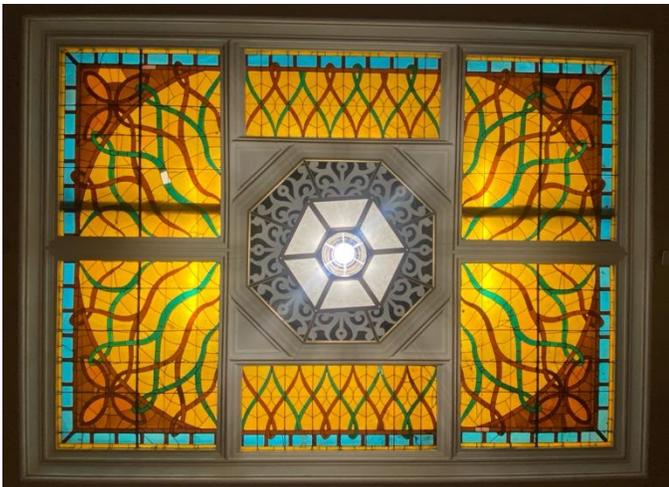
Welcome New members!

I'd like to introduce our new members. Please welcome Bill and Ellen Wright! I would appreciate your prayers for them. As members of the body of Christ, we pray for each other's spiritual growth. So, please remember them in your prayers!

Bright and Shines!

Thank you for your generous donations to the Capital Campaign!

Restoring the building is still in progress. Over the past few weeks, Harvey Electrics has come and repaired our lights in the Sanctuary. I was very happy on Sunday (March 1st) to show it to the congregation. The lights on the stained glass ceiling at the back of the Sanctuary have been restored, and all the lights in the sanctuary are now working well. I sincerely appreciate your generous, heartfelt donations to the capital campaigns for the building.



Blessings, Pastor Jae

SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERIES
Supper (5:30-6:15PM) & Speaker (6:15-7:00PM)
Fellowship Hall (Lower Level)

DATE	SPEAKER(S)	MENU
<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 25 (Free Community Meal Starts at 5PM)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Jae & Pastor Brent "Who's On First?" Also sharing some of God's Biblical workers who put God First.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chili, Potato Soup, Cornbread, Veggies, Cookies & Drink</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">March 4 (Free Community Meal with Pop-Up Pantry Starts at 5PM)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Angie Gentry "My Journey" & Freedom For Youth</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Dessert & Drinks</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">March 11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Christine & Lee Meyers Journey</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Chips, Brownies & Drinks</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">March 18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cari Meissner & Ashley Miller - Meet the new public librarian and hear about library programs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ham and Turkey Sandwiches, Salads, Desserts & Drinks</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">March 25 (Free Community Meal Starts at 5PM)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">High School Seniors: Austin Bishop Bailey Gullion Drake Larson They will discuss their high school activities and future plans.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Beef Burgers, Mac-n-Cheese, Baked Beans, Cookies & Drink</p>

Holy Week

Palm Sunday - March 29, 2026

9:30 AM IN THE SANCTUARY

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE INCLUDING
A LIVE CHILDRENS' EASTER DRAMA

Maundy Thursday - April 2, 2026

7:00 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE INCLUDING COMMUNION

Good Friday - April 3, 2026

APRIL 3 @ 9:00 AM-NOON IN THE LOWER LEVEL
KIDS (AGES 4-5TH GRADE) GOOD FRIDAY DAY CAMP

LOWER LEVEL 7:00 PM IN SANCTUARY

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE INCLUDING A LIVE DRAMA &
SPECIAL MUSIC BY KAURIE MARINKOVICH

Easter Sunday - April 5, 2026

9:30 AM IN SANCTUARY

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE WITH SPECIAL MUSIC BY THE
BRASS QUINTET AND CHANCEL CHOIR ALONG WITH COMMUNION

A gentle reminder that Holy Week is not just about long holidays but a sacred time to
slow down, reflect, and reconnect with what truly matters.

KNOXVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
313 E. MONTGOMERY STREET, KNOXVILLE, IA

CHURCH EVENTS

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

@ 5:00-6:30 PM



313 E. Montgomery St.
Knoxville - Lower Level

FREE
COMMUNITY
MEAL

SPAGHETTI,
GARLIC BREAD
& DRINK!



FREE COMMUNITY MEAL/ LENTEN MEAL & SPEAKERS



Wednesday,
March 4, 2026

MEAL: 5:00-6:20PM

SPEAKERS: 6:20-7:00PM

SPEAKERS: Angie Gentry "My Journey &
Freedom For Youth

MENU: Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Salad,
Dessert & Drinks

Lower Level - Fellowship Hall
First United Methodist Church
313 E. Montgomery St.
Knoxville, IA 50138

LENTEN MEAL & SPEAKER

Wednesday,
March 11, 2026

MEAL: 5:30-6:15PM

SPEAKERS: 6:15-7:00PM

SPEAKERS: Christine & Lee Meyers'
Journey

MENU: Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Baked
Beans, Chips, Brownies & Drinks

Lower Level - Fellowship Hall
First United Methodist Church
313 E. Montgomery St.
Knoxville, IA 50138

LENTEN MEAL & SPEAKER

Wednesday,
March 18, 2026

MEAL: 5:30-6:15PM

SPEAKERS: 6:15-7:00PM

SPEAKERS: Cari Meissner & Ashley Miller -
(meet the new public librarian and hear
about library programs)

MENU: Ham and Turkey Sandwiches,
Salads, Desserts & Drinks

Lower Level - Fellowship Hall
First United Methodist Church
313 E. Montgomery St.
Knoxville, IA 50138



BEEF BURGERS

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

BEEF BURGERS, MAC-N-CHEESE,
BAKED BEANS, COOKIES &
DRINKS

WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 25, 2026
@ 5:00-6:30 PM

313 E. MONTGOMERY ST.
LOWER LEVEL



FREE COMMUNITY MEAL/ LENTEN MEAL & SPEAKERS

Wednesday,
March 25, 2026

MEAL: 5:00-6:20PM

SPEAKERS: 6:20-7:00PM

SPEAKERS: High School Seniors:
Austin Bishop, Bailey Gullion & Drake Larson

MENU: Beef Burgers, Mac-n-Cheese,
Baked Beans, Cookies & Drinks

Lower Level - Fellowship Hall
First United Methodist Church
313 E. Montgomery St.
Knoxville, IA 50138

GOOD FRIDAY DAY CAMP

April 3rd, 2026 9am - 12pm
Knoxville First United Methodist Church

4 years old - 5th Grade

Register by March 30th

SCAN ME!



CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Spring is nearly here! I hope you all got a chance to soak up the warmer temps in February. That was a nice change after the bitter cold in January. Spring is a wonderful time with new growth, Easter, warm weather, longer days, and so much to look forward to! We have lots of fun stuff planned and will be unveiling our summer plans in April! 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!

-No Children's Church on April 5th – Happy Easter!

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 excited to be back and have already begun our spring session of Pathfinders. It is never too late to join, so 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 (serve free meal, 3:30-7pm), March 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 February we had a big month! We took eight youth to the Iowa Wild Hockey game on February 13th and hosted our first Parent's Night Out event on February 14th where we had 24 kids and raised \$400 for our summer youth group trips and events. In March we will begin talking about Summer Mission Days where we will travel around central Iowa to volunteer with different organizations. We will also be attending the Winter Jam concert on March 15th!

Save the Dates:

- Youth Group
 - March 1st – Friends Night Challenge
 - March 15th – Winter Jam Concert, leave at 1pm
 - March 29th – 5-7pm regular meeting
 - April 5th – NO MEETING HAPPY EASTER!

Easter Children's Play

We are getting ready for our second annual Children's Easter Play. This year's play is a wonderful walk through the Easter Story from Palm Sunday through the crucifixion. We have speaking parts and non-speaking parts available. Practices will begin February 15th before church, and we will perform on March 29th during service. If you have a child interested in participating, please email Lauren at lpetersen@kfumc.com.

Family Movie Day Recap

Our Family Movie Day was a huge success! We had over 70 people from the church and community join us at the Grand Theater for a showing of Moana. Thank you to everyone who joined us, and we look forward to hosting this event again!

Good Friday Day Camp

April 3rd, 9am-noon

Kids ages 3 through 5th grade (must be potty trained)

We are so excited for another year of hosting our Good Friday Day Camp! We even have an extra special surprise in store for everyone this year. This event is completely free and open to anyone. If you have a kid interested in joining us, please register online at: <https://forms.gle/LzexPZban4rCFvvs9> or fill out a paper registration form at the church.

Summer 2026 Sneak Peak!

VBS Save the Date: July 19th-21st

Summer Day Camps – Information Coming Soon!

Blessings,
Lauren Petersen

PRESCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES



Montgomery Street Preschool

**Enrollment opens March 1st
for the
2026/2027 school year**

Classes available:

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

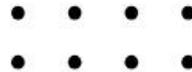
**Open House Thursday, March 5
4:30 to 6:30pm**

Enroll today!

Email: mppschoo@hotmai.com

Phone: 641-842-2193

Website: www.kfumc.com



DID YOU KNOW???

Fun Facts about Cooking 4 A Cause

In 2021, Cooking for a Cause evolved from the End of the Month Meals, where the Wings Bible study group prepared meals for the homebound and ill members of our own congregation.

The Wings group decided to start making a free community meal once a month. On average, we served 30-40 people each month in the first couple of years. We continued to deliver meals to our homebound. Most months, our congregation members, Rocky and Debbie Agan and Bonnie Crook, would deliver meals to the homebound.

By 2025, our monthly attendance had significantly increased, leading us to add a second meal on the first Wednesday of each month.

With the addition of the second meal, we needed additional support with this expansion, so we reached out to churches and community groups for help.

So far, we have received assistance from the Catholic Church, Attica-Zion Churches, Seventh-day Adventist Church, KFUMC Pathfinders, KFUMC Youth Group, Class of 1973, Peter, Paul & Pickleball, Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Uniting Neighbors, Freedom for Youth, and KFUMC Staff.

Later this year, we will have servers from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Celebrate Church Speeders, and more.

We are so blessed by the donations of our own congregation, other churches, and individuals from the community.

In 2025, we served a total of 3,314 meals.

Thank you for your support. Please reach out if you know of a group that would like to serve. We welcome you to join us to serve or eat!

PASTOR BRENT

What's Your Hope Built Upon?



"Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts upon them will be like a wise person who built their house upon rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on the house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these teachings of mine and does not act upon them will be like a foolish person who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against the house, it collapsed, and great was its fall!"

--Matthew 7:24-29

It was just six years ago when we found out what a derecho really was. The straight-line winds caused so much damage, reaching almost completely across our state. Trees, homes, and countless man-made structures were demolished. What do you think is the most important part of a house or structure? The roof, or the doors, or the walls? We know from experience that the foundation is the most important part. The foundation is out of sight, hidden under the house, and it is what supports everything. It is so important to build a home or any structure on solid ground. We have seen video from California and other locations where homes slide down a hill during a rain storm.

Jesus taught us that we are like houses, and we also need to have a strong base, a solid foundation. If we don't have a solid faith and a firm foundation, like homes, we can begin to slide or fall apart. When we experience derechos in our personal lives, with a firm foundation, we have Christ to hold onto, we have the solid rock of Christ as our foundation. Christ is the solid and firm foundation for our life. The Holy Bible provides the instructions on how to build upon Christ as a foundation. And knowing God's words, but not following them is like having no foundation at all. When we encounter difficult times in our life, with Christ, we can withstand all types of hardships. We are invited to build our life on the solid rock of Jesus Christ and God's Holy Word. The alternative is to rely upon worldly ways and our own set of skills—in other words, unstable sand, and a very weak foundation. Edward Mote wrote these hymnal words in 1834, and they still hold true today, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

During this season of Lent, we have many opportunities to re-enforce our foundation in Jesus. We can participate in our weekly Lenten meals and also participate in Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. It is good to build upon a solid foundation.

--Be blessed, *Pastor Brent*

March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 1 Communion Sunday/For 8:30 AM Adult Bible S 8:30 AM Kids Easter Play 9 AM Holy Donut Hal 9:30 AM Worship Servio 10 AM Education Room 10 AM Children's Church 10:45 AM Brass/Choir Praet 11 AM Chapel Reserved	2 7:30 AM Monday Mornin 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult P 5 PM Girl Scouts	3 9 AM Almost Free Shop 1 PM Grief Share 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor	4 12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 3:30 PM Pathfinders 5 PM Confirmation (Atts 5 PM Free Meal (Cooking 5:30 PM Lenten Meal	5 4:30 PM MSPS Preschoo 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P 7:30 PM NA Meeting	6 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Alcoholics Anony 6 PM Narcotics Anonym	7 10 AM Anna Hartley (ch
8 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 8:30 AM Adult Bible S 8:30 AM Kids Easter Play 9 AM Holy Donut Hal 9:30 AM Worship Servio 10 AM Education Room 10 AM Children's Church 10:45 AM Good Friday Play 11 AM Chapel Reserved	9 7:30 AM Monday Mornin 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult P 5 PM Girl Scouts 6 PM F.U.N. Meeting	10 9 AM Almost Free Shop 1 PM Grief Share 5 PM Garden Club 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor	11 12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 3:30 PM Pathfinders 5 PM Confirmation (Atts 5:30 PM Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Contemporary	12 9 AM Rachel Circle 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P 7:30 PM NA Meeting	13 Katie Off Heather Off 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Alcoholics Anony 6 PM Narcotics Anonym	14
15	16 Katie Off	17	18	19 11 AM Adult Bible Study	20 9 AM Almost Free Shop	21
8:30 AM Adult Bible S 8:30 AM Kids Easter Play 9 AM Holy Donut Hal 9:30 AM Worship Servio 10 AM Education Room 10 AM Children's Church 11 AM Chapel Reserved 1 PM Winter Jam Concer	11:15 AM Staff Meeting 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult P 5 PM Girl Scouts	9 AM Almost Free Shop 1 PM Grief Share 6 PM Community Chorus P 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor	12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 5 PM Confirmation (Attend 5:30 PM Lenten Meal	5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P 7 PM Rebecca Circle 7:30 PM NA Meeting	12 PM Alcoholics Anony 6 PM Narcotics Anonym	Knoxville Spring Break
22 Jae Off	23 7:30 AM Monday Mornin 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult P 10 AM Education Room 10 AM Children's Church 10:45 AM Good Friday Play 11 AM Chapel Reserved	24 9 AM Almost Free Shop 1 PM Grief Share 6 PM Community Chorus P 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor	25 12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 3:30 PM Pathfinders 5 PM Confirmation (Atts 5 PM Free Community M 5:30 PM Lenten Meal	26 1:30 PM Sarah Circle Me 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P 7:30 PM NA Meeting	27 9 AM Almost Free Shop 12 PM Alcoholics Anony 6 PM Narcotics Anonym	28
29 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY 8 AM Prep & Staging for Ki 8:30 AM Adult Bible S 9 AM Holy Donut Hal 9:30 AM Kid's Easter Play 9:30 AM Worship Servio 10 AM Education Room 10 AM Children's Church 11 AM Chapel Reserved	30 7:30 AM Monday Mornin 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 1 PM Neighbor Helping 2 PM Almost Free Shop 5 PM Beginners Adult P 5 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM Trustee Meeting 7:30 PM Board Meeting	31 Good Friday Play Evenin 9 AM Almost Free Shop 1 PM Grief Share 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anor	Apr 1 12 PM WINGS 1 PM Neighbor Helping 3:30 PM Pathfinders 5 PM Free Meal (Cooking 7 PM Confirmation	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 12:30 PM UWF Execut 1:30 PM UWF General 5 PM Pickleball (Peter, P 7 PM Maundy Thursday Se 7:30 PM NA Meeting	3 GOOD FRIDAY 9 AM Almost Free Shop 9 AM Good Friday Day C 12 PM Alcoholics Anony 6 PM Narcotics Anonym 7 PM Good Friday Service	4