

The Link: Connected in Christ

June 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>

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 Grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ!



May God's grace be with you today and in the days to come.

Now, I am approaching the end of the second year at Knoxville. I have experienced most of the routines at Knoxville First UMC, such as graduation, confirmation, weddings, funerals, and other ministerial and seasonal events. But still, I know there are many things I have not experienced yet. I am open to learning new things and new cultures.

Church ministry is what we do through the power of the Holy Spirit. There is a saying that “we are the hands of God.” Yes, God uses us, the followers of Christ, for God's ministry on earth. Through this newsletter, I would like to encourage all of you to do God's ministry. It is because the Holy Spirit is with you. There are many things you can do. We have various ministries at our church. Especially, our Knoxville First United Methodist Church has a long history of supporting this community. I hope we can continue this legacy among us so that we can glorify our God and share the love of Christ among the community.

Ministries making bridges to the community

- FUN: supporting teachers and students.
- Neighbor Helping Neighbor: providing financial assistance to those in need.
- Peter Paul and Pickleball: Connecting the Community Through Pickleball.

- Cooking for a Cause – serving hot meals twice a month, creating a welcoming atmosphere, and providing a space for fellowship for all.
- Blessing Box and Food Pantry – providing food for the community.
- Almost Free Shop (Thrift store)
- Montgomery Street Preschool
- Monday Morning Panthers (Monday morning Kids program before School hours)
- Path Finders (Upper Elementary Kids Wednesday afternoon Program)

Ministries support Children, Youth, and Family

- Children’s Church
- VBS, Day Camps
- Youth Group Gathering, Mission Trips, and Activities
- Family Programs

Ministries, we help each other in the church

- United Women in Faith and Circles.
- Adult Bible Study group, WINGS, and other small groups.

Ministries to support the church administration

- Committees and lay Leadership: Administrative Council, SPRC, Trustee, Finance, Endowment, Nomination, Lay leader, Scholarship, Preschool Board, History, and Memorial.

Ministries to support Worship Services

- Choir, Praise Team, Worship Team, Dram Team
- (Audio and video) Tech Team
- Liturgists, Communion Stewards, Communion Servers, and Greeters
- Sanctuary and Church Decoration
- Lay Speakers
- Money counters

There is one more thing I want to tell you. God wants us to use our talents, time, and money for God’s glory. These are all from God, and we use them for God with a generous and joyful heart. This is a symbolic sign of our surrender to God and of accepting that God has provided all we have. May God bring you joy and peace in His abundance.

Finance Update/Special Charge Conference

Since October 2025, we have been running a Capital Campaign to maintain church buildings. Now that the campaign has been underway for 8 months, the Church Ad Council has decided to conclude it by May 31, given its success.

We have raised \$107,473. Our goal was \$110,000, and we are nearly there. We all praise God for the successful campaign and for all the generous donors. On behalf of the Knoxville First United Methodist Church, I sincerely thank all who contributed.

At the same time, the other side of the finances, our general operations, shows a deficit. Over the past three months, the general offering has been lower than in any other year. As a result, our general operations budget is now running short. The church had to borrow \$8,000 from the Maintenance account to pay bills and staff in early May.

Therefore, the church leaders are willing to make the endowment available for the church's general operations when needed. However, the current endowment policy restricts the use of endowment funds for general church operations. Accordingly, the Church Administrative Council recommended to the charge conference that the endowment policy be amended to support general operations in an emergency situation. A Special Charge Conference will be held here at the church on Sunday, June 7, at 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall to address this recommendation. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Lilian Seagren, will be with us to preside over the meeting.

As your Pastor, I want to thank you all for your giving to God, and I also encourage you to give regularly and, if you can, give above and beyond your normal giving for a couple of months. This would help the church secure the funds needed to run its general operations. I deeply appreciate your love for the church. With appreciation and blessings,

Pastor Jae

Congratulations to our 2026 Seniors!

We were blessed to recognize them on May 3 during the Sunday service. And we are happy that the Scholarship Committee could grant \$2,000 scholarships to all. Congratulations to Bailey Gullion, Austin Bishop, and Drake Larson! May God continue to bless each of you as you move on to your next life journey.



CHURCH EVENTS



SLOPPY JOES



FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

SLOPPY JOES, MAC-N-CHEESE, DESSERT & DRINK

WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 3, 2026 @
5:00-6:30 PM

313 E. MONTGOMERY ST.
LOWER LEVEL



Special Charge Conference

Date: June 7, 2026 at 4 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Purpose: 1. To address the recommendation to combine the Music endowment with the General endowment.
2. To address the recommendation to amend the endowment policy.

2026 Annual Conference



Theme: Connected in Vision

When: Thursday, June 11 - Sunday, June 14, 2026

Where: MidAmerican Energy Company RecPlex
West Des Moines, IA

Adult Sunday School Class Lunch Meetings Cancelled For June & July

The Adult Sunday School Class lunch meetings, normally held on the third Thursday of each month, have been cancelled for June and July. We look forward to gathering for these lunches again soon!

Ben Reichert Guest Speaker/Leader June 20 & 21st

I will be back in the US from June 10 to July 1, and I would love to see people while I'm back. I will be speaking at Knoxville First United Methodist Church on June 20th and June 21st worship services.

Hi, here is my information.

My name is Ben Reichert, and I grew up in Knoxville FUMC from ages 3-18. After graduating from KHS, I attended Iowa state. While there I met a group called the Navigators. They helped me grow in my faith through one-to-one discipleship and teaching me how to read the Bible so that it spoke to me more. I now serve with the navigators reaching

university students in Auckland New Zealand. The campuses I work on have over 60 thousand students between them. Our goal is to see students in our ministry equipped and empowered to share the Gospel with their friends and families, and to help them walk with Jesus and make disciples for a lifetime.

I am married to Minyan. We enjoy going for walks, cooking, listening to podcasts, playing board games, and reading. We live in Auckland, a city of 1.7 million people- almost a third of New Zealand's population. We are expecting our first child, a boy, in September of this year.

Please mark your calendars to come see Ben and welcome him back!



FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

W E D N E S D A Y , J U N E 2 4 , 2 0 2 6

5 : 0 0 P . M . - 6 : 3 0 P . M .



Meatloaf

Mashed Potatoes

Vegetables

Dessert

Drinks

313 E. MONTGOMERY STREET

(LOWER LEVEL)

EVERYONE IS INVITED

AND WELCOME!

FREE DIZZINESS WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, JULY 2
11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Learn about treatment for:

- Dizziness & vertigo
- Loss of balance
- Vision disturbances

Call to sign up:
(641) 842-1464

Presenters: Brooke Shelquist, DPT
Sarah Thompson, DPT

First United Methodist Church
313 E. Montgomery St.
Knoxville, IA 50138

 **KNOXVILLE**
Hospital & Clinics


**21ST CENTURY
REHAB**



VOLUNTEER/DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Help Us Restock the Blessing Boxes!

Right now, our supplies are running low, and we could use your help. If you're able to donate, please consider dropping off items like the following:

Cans (pop-top preferred)

- Fruit
- Spaghetti-O's/Ravioli

Pre-packaged Individual Size Snacks:

- Crackers with Cheese Sandwiched or Peanut Butter Sandwiched
- Granola Bars/Breakfast Bars/Snack Bars
- Pop-tarts
- Fruit cups
- Mac-n-cheese

Misc. Food:

- Peanut Butter (no glass jars)
 - Jelly (no glass jars)
 - Mac-n-Cheese (boxed)
-

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Summer has officially begun and we couldn't be more excited to spend it with you! Check out all of our fun summer events below. Reminder, Children's Church will begin again in September. You can always find more information and links on our website and Facebook page. If you have any questions, please contact me at lpetersen@kfumc.com.

Children's Church

Thank you for another wonderful year at Children's Church. We look forward to seeing the kids for Children's Church again in September.

Pathfinders

Summer BBQ

June 25th, 5:30pm Marion County Park

Bring the whole family for a night of food and games! Incoming 3rd graders through graduating 5th graders are welcome to attend! This event is for incoming 3rd graders through our graduating 5th graders.

Living Way Youth Group

Youth Group Summer Events

- June 17th and 18th – Mission Work – **RSVP Deadline June 1st**
 - June 17th we will be in Des Moines serving at the Central Iowa Shelter and Food Bank of Iowa
 - June 18th we will be working around Knoxville, cleaning up the church grounds, and volunteering at The Well
- July 24th – Adventureland – **RSVP Deadline July 8th**
 - Invite your friends to join us for a day at Adventureland. Tickets for chaperones and all youth grades 6-12 are free!
- August 10th – Red Rock Adventure Day – **RSVP by July 27th**
 - Join us as we go Kayaking, hiking, and enjoy a picnic lunch. The perfect way to end the summer
- Milkshake Mondays – no RSPV necessary, bring your own money
 - June 8th, July 6th, August 3rd – 2pm at Kone Korner

Family Events

Splash Pad – June 28th, 2pm

Join us for a fun afternoon at the Splash Pad at Veterans Park in Knoxville. We will bring treats and drinks!

BBQ & Fishing – August 2nd, 6pm, Marion County Park

Wrap up summer with us as we enjoy a fun evening with games, food, and fishing at Marion County Park. BBQ will be potluck style with burgers and hot dogs provided.

Thank You To Our Volunteers

We are blessed with so many wonderful volunteers who help our children's and youth ministry, guiding and caring for these kids as they grow in their faith. These volunteers lead Children's Church on Sundays, give the Children's Message during church, lead Pathfinders, and Youth Group. If you see one of these volunteers, tell them thank you for all they do!

Children's Church Leaders: Tim & Kelli Carruthers, Jess Gullion & Family, Jill DeMoss and family, Nora & Jeremy Conner, Sara Finnegan, Stephanie Liautaud

Children's Message Volunteers: Lori Pearson, Jill DeMoss, Denise Walters McNally, Katie Bishop, Pastor Brent

Pathfinders Co-Leader: Jane Peterson

Youth Group Co-leader: Cari Meissner

Volunteer for Day Camps and VBS this Summer:

If you are looking for ways to get involved or dip your toes in Children's Ministry, volunteer for our Day Camps or VBS this summer. These are great, short-term commitments to see how you like Children's Ministry. For many of our Day Camp and VBS attendees, this is their only opportunity to get to know Jesus, and your time and presence with these events can greatly shape and change their lives! Children's Ministry is incredibly rewarding as you get to watch our future leaders grow in their faith, get to know our loving Savior, and share that love and joy with others.

All youth (6th grade and older) and adults are welcome and encouraged to volunteer at our Children's Ministry events. Background checks and Child Safety Training are required for new volunteers who are 18 years or older.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Day Camps:

Time 8:30am-12:15pm

Dates: June 10th, July 8th, and August 5th

Vacation Bible School:

Time 5:30-8:15pm

Dates: July 19th, 20th, and 21st

Kitchen Help needed from 4-6:30pm

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, contact Lauren at lpetersen@kfumc.com or call/text 515-201-1082.

PRESCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES

Thanks for a great school year! MSPS capped off a great school year on May 21 with a wonderful concert and graduation ceremony. Congratulations to our students that are moving on to Kindergarten next year!



Totally Twos



Thrilling Threes



Kinder Explorer Graduates

Enrollment for the 2026/2027 school year is open. Spots are limited, so contact us today to make sure your child gets a spot!



Montgomery Street Preschool

**Limited Spaces are available.
Enroll Today!**

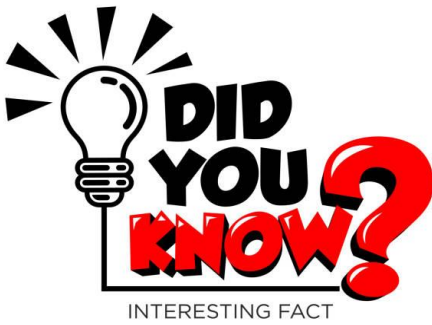
Classes available:
2 year olds (Totally Twos),
3 year olds (Thrilling Threes)
4 and 5 year olds (Kinder Explorers)

Email: msspschool@hotmail.com
Website: www.kfumc.com

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DID YOU KNOW?

Back-To-School Mission



Back to School Program Organized by the F.U.N. group at Knoxville First United Methodist Church. F.U.N. Stands for Fellowship Uniting Neighbors. We are a group of Fellow Christians who are loving our neighbors by supporting the Knoxville School Teachers.

The school year 2025-2026 KFUMC's F.U.N. group proposed something a little different than what we have done in years past.

As you may know, for many years, we provided back to school backpacks, filled with all the supplies needed for the grade level of the

student receiving the backpack.

We learned that there were multiple organizations doing the very same thing. We wanted to continue to help the students and teachers in our school system but with a different approach.

We know that the school budget doesn't always allow for the projects the teachers want to do. Often the teachers would have to spend money from their own pockets to do these projects. The F.U.N. group addressed this concern by developing a grant program to finance special classroom projects. A subcommittee made a short video for the schools and met with the principals, who gave their approval for the grant process.

Our vision was a classroom where the students are excited about their learning experience. Those same students would discuss with their parents the fun lessons they are learning at school, and the community is a better place because the teachers are able to teach these fun lessons without spending their own money to do so. That's a simplistic explanation but I can tell you my own grandchildren told me about some of these projects they had done at school and how much fun it was to learn these lessons.

KFUMC is all about community in Christ. This school year we received 5 grant applications that were all approved. These grants included funding for the following;

1. Middle School – Greek day – this was a collaboration between 6th grade Social Studies and 6th grade English Language Arts. One teacher wrote, "This experience will provide a memorable and meaningful conclusion to a rich interdisciplinary unit while honoring the effort the students have put into mastering both the historical and literary components of Ancient Greece"
2. Middle School- Social Studies- Dry-Erase World Maps with markers and erasers. Students were able to have a general sense of geography, exposure to knowing and learning their continents, oceans, countries, and important cities.
3. Northstar- 3rd grade -Game of Life- To learn about financial literacy standards around budgeting, saving, borrowing, and investing. Students can practice making life-based decisions about college vs career, children, unexpected bills, and investment opportunities. This will allow them to practice what they are learning in an interactive, meaningful way.

4. West Elementary – 2nd grade, 5 teachers – Purchase butterfly Larva and supplies. To learn about the importance of insect life cycles. The teacher wrote, “We would like a butterfly net/home for each classroom, and the larva for each classroom. We will watch as larva eat and grow from chrysalises and hatch out”
5. West Elementary – 2nd grade, 5 teachers -Plant Adventures. Learning about plants and what they need to grow. This will provide supplies for hands on learning. One teacher wrote, “We learn about plants needs and habitats in Mystery Science curriculum. We would like to buy pots, potting soil, and small flowers to plant in class and learn how to maintain them with water, soil, and sunlight. The kids will give them to their moms on Mother’s Day”

The money used for this Back-to-School program is from missions and not General Fund. The total spent from the Back-To-School Mission for the 2025-2026 school year was \$1,725.40 Thanks to all who support this mission!

Special Moments



“Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain, away from the others. And Jesus was transfigured before them, his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah and Moses, talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

--Mark 9:2-5

Special moments seem to come and go quite quickly. Peter wasn’t sure what he was getting into when Jesus took James, John, and him up the mountain. But he soon learned that it was a very special moment.

I want to point out a couple of special moments for us. First, a heartfelt congratulations to our three graduating seniors, Austin Bishop, Bailey Gullion, and Drake Larson. Just ten years ago, they were our little ones, with VBS, children’s time, and various activities keeping them busy. Now, we are sending them off to college with genuine well-wishes. Let us continue to name them in our prayers.

Second, we have completed our capital campaign. With everyone’s help, we successfully raised over \$107,000 to keep our church building in much better shape. To raise this kind of money together as a church family is a special moment.

Now, we need another special moment—a reality check. We are entering the summer months, and with people traveling and special summer activities, church attendance can be a challenge some Sundays—and along with it, so can giving. This summer, make it a special moment to give your tithe to our church, either weekly, or any other time period that fits your schedule, but please be sure to get your financial gift to the church. Giving to our church for missions or operational expenses can be made into a special moment. It is a part of worshiping and giving to the Lord. Make some special moments to be sure you give to our church this summer, and then, like Peter, you can declare to Jesus, “it is good for us to be here!”

I wish you well, class of 2026! May each graduate have a long, productive, and enjoyable life as they discover their place in this world that God has created.

And thank you, church family, in your summer business, for making a "special moment" of your time to return a portion of your blessings to our offering plate. May each of you have a wonderful summer!

See you Sunday! Be blessed!

--Pastor Brent Hanna

CALENDAR

The most current church calendar can be found on the KFUMC website at www.kfumc.com/calendar

June 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 31	1	2	3	4	5	6
10 AM Holy Donut Ho	Jae Off					
10:30 AM Worship Servi	1 PM Neighbor Helping	9 AM Almost Free Shop	12 PM WINGS	5 PM Pickleball (Petec, P)	9 AM Almost Free Shop	5 PM Chapel Worship Se
11:30 AM Churchwide Post	2 PM Almost Free Shop	10 AM Staff Meeting	1 PM Neighbor Helping	7:30 PM NA Meeting	12 PM Alcoholics Anony	
4 PM Pickleball (Petec, P)	5 PM Beginners Adult P	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anon	5 PM Free Meal (Cookin)		6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
7:30 PM NA Meeting			6:30 PM Choir Practice			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jae Off		Katie Off		Annual Conference		
Communion Sunday/For	10 AM Staff Meeting	9 AM Almost Free Shop	12 PM WINGS	9 AM Rachel Circle	9 AM Almost Free Shop	Brent's Birthday
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	1 PM Neighbor Helping	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anon	1 PM Neighbor Helping	5 PM Pickleball (Petec, P)	12 PM Alcoholics Anony	5 PM Chapel Worship Se
9 AM Holy Donut Hol	2 PM Almost Free Shop		6:30 PM Contemporary	7:30 PM NA Meeting	6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
10 AM Education Room	2 PM Youth Group Milksha					
11 AM Chapel Reserved	5 PM Beginners Adult P					
1 PM Sorarity Meeting						
4 PM Pickleball (Petec, P)						
4 PM Special Charge Confe						
7:30 PM NA Meeting						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Annual Conference		Jae Off				
	Katie Off					
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	Lauren & Heather Off	9 AM Almost Free Shop	Youth Group Mission Work in DSM & Kville Areas	Chrisman Wedding Rehear	4 PM Chrisman Wedding a	
9 AM Holy Donut Hol	10 AM Staff Meeting	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anon	12 PM WINGS	5 PM Pickleball (Petec, P)	9 AM Almost Free Shop	5 PM Chapel Worship Se
9:30 AM Worship Servio	1 PM Neighbor Helping		1 PM Neighbor Helping	7 PM Rebecca Circle	12 PM Alcoholics Anony	
10 AM Education Room	2 PM Almost Free Shop			7:30 PM NA Meeting	6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
11 AM Chapel Reserved	5 PM Beginners Adult P					
1 PM Linda Brooks Kitchen	6:30 PM SPNC					
4 PM Pickleball (Petec, P)						
7:30 PM NA Meeting						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Katie Off		Lauren @ Continuing Education		12 PM WINGS	5 PM Pickleball (Petec, P)	9 AM Almost Free Shop
Jae Off		10 AM Staff Meeting	9 AM Almost Free Shop	1 PM Neighbor Helping	5:30 PM Pathfinders Sun	12 PM Alcoholics Anony
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	1 PM Neighbor Helping	6 PM Drama Camp	5 PM Free Community M	6 PM Drama Camp	6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
9 AM Holy Donut Hol	2 PM Almost Free Shop	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anon	6 PM Drama Camp	6 PM Drama Camp		
9:30 AM Worship Servio	5 PM Beginners Adult P			7:30 PM NA Meeting		
10 AM Education Room	6 PM Drama Camp					
11 AM Chapel Reserved						
4 PM Pickleball (Petec, P)						
7:30 PM NA Meeting						
28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3	4
8:30 AM Adult Bible S	10 AM Staff Meeting	9 AM Almost Free Shop	12 PM WINGS	5 PM Pickleball (Petec, P)	9 AM Almost Free Shop	Heather's Birthday
9 AM Holy Donut Hol	1 PM Neighbor Helping	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anon	1 PM Neighbor Helping	7:30 PM NA Meeting	12 PM Alcoholics Anony	5 PM Chapel Worship Se
9:30 AM Worship Servio	2 PM Almost Free Shop		5 PM Free Meal (Cookin)		6 PM Narcotics Anonym	
10 AM Education Room	5 PM Beginners Adult P					
11 AM Chapel Reserved						
2 PM Family Day at the Spl						
4 PM Pickleball (Petec, P)						
7:30 PM NA Meeting						