

Knoxville First United Methodist Church Reference Guide

The purpose of the following document is to help people who are new to our church to become familiar with our church and to aid communications among FUMC church members.

Suggestions for additions and modifications should be e-mailed to Mel Woolsey (mel@woolseystudio.com) and will be greatly appreciated.

The Table Of Contents is setup with both page numbers and the individual items are hyperlinked so that, if you are reading the document in Microsoft Word, selecting the item and entering CTRL+click will take you directly to the item. If you would like a machine readable copy of this document, please email a request to me and will be happy to provide one.

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Acolytes

Acolytes are usually young persons but could be anyone else who assist in running the [Sunday Worship Service](#).

Advent

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24). If Christmas Eve is a Sunday, it is counted as the fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas Eve proper beginning at sundown. Historically, the primary sanctuary color of Advent is Purple, the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King.

The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is Emmanuel (God's arrival on Earth). It is a time of spiritual celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God.

The beginning of Advent is a time for the Hanging Of The Greens, decoration of the church with evergreen wreaths, boughs, or trees that help to symbolize the new and everlasting life brought through Jesus Christ.

Advent Candles

Advent Candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The **four outer candles** represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ. There are three purple candles representing **Hope, Peace, and Love** respectively; and one pink candle representing **Joy**. The **center candle** is white and is called the **Christ Candle**. The **central location of the Christ Candle** reminds us that the incarnation is the heart of the season, giving light to the world.

One of the purple candles is lighted the first Sunday of Advent. On subsequent Sundays, previous candles are relighted with an additional one lighted. All five candles continue to be lighted in services through Epiphany (Jan 6). The light of the candles reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope

Alter Flowers

On most Sundays, except for Communion Sundays and a few other exceptions during the year, the sanctuary is supplied with a flower arrangement for the altar by someone sponsoring these *in honor of or in memory of* a loved one or an occasion. You do not have to physically supply the arrangement. A chart for signing up for the date of your choice is located in the Narthex. You will be contacted the week prior to the date that you committed to in order to supply the secretary with information for the bulletin. The ordering of the flowers will be handled for you. The cost is presently \$40. You can put this amount in the collection plate earmarked "altar flowers" or send it prior to that Sunday to the church office. Suggestions or questions can be e-mailed to connectionteam@knoxvillefumc.org.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It is a somber day of reflection on what needs to change in our lives if we are to be fully Christian. It was not always the way we know it today. Ashes marked on the forehead of worshippers were not given to everyone, but only to the public penitents who were brought before the church. Much like Hester Prynne bearing her scarlet letter, these open and notorious sinners were marked publicly with the sign of their disgrace.

As time went on, others began to show their humility and their affection for the penitents by asking that they, too, be marked as sinners. Finally, the number of penitents grew so large that the imposition of ashes was extended to the whole congregation.

Ashes are signs that we are all sinners, and that the difference between the good in us and the bad in us is sometimes frightfully thin.

Baptism

Baptism is a sacrament of the church, commanded by our Lord, signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ to be administered to believers, as declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Benediction

The Benediction is a prayer by the pastor at the end of the service requesting divine blessing.

Bible Study

A collective formal or informal study of the scriptures.

Care Team (Ministry & Missions)

The Care Team is responsible for [Tape Ministry](#), [Missions](#), [Habitat for Humanity](#), [Interfaith Hospitality Network](#), [FISH](#), Volunteer Ministries, [UMW](#), [Children's Ministries](#), [Child Development Center](#), Parish Nurse Program, and Senior Ministries. Suggestions and questions can be e-mailed to this ministry team at careteam.knoxvillefumc.org.

Children's Development Center (CDC)

A Church supported outreach where children receive education and spiritual enrichment.

Children's Ministries

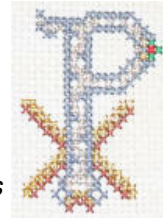
Each week there are three opportunities for children ages birth through 5th grade to experience God's love and grace through programs here at FUMC. **Sunday mornings**, of course, is Sunday School from 9:30 to 10:30. Our youngest ones, from birth through 3, are in "Miss Ann's Church" on the first floor. Miss Gail and Miss Charlene meet with the 4 year olds through 5th grade in the Jungle Room on the 2nd floor. Due to the large age range and the wide distribution of distribution of children, we are implementing a "One Room" Sunday School. In simple terms, it takes parts of traditional Sunday School and parts of Rotation Sunday School and pulls them together for congregations who have small groups of young children. We will all talk about the same story or theme, but more in depth with the older ones, more creatively and actively with the younger ones.

Following the Children's Message in the Worship service, children have the opportunity to go back to "Miss Ann's Church", or those ages 4 to 8 can participate in Children's Church. Our worship looks somewhat like the big folks church, with praise songs, Bible messages, and a sermon, usually in an alternative form. Big plus for kids, we have a theme snack each week!

Wednesday nights are great fun! Join us in the Jungle Room from 5:30 to 6:00 for children's music. Miss Nancy helps us learn some songs, and we work on rhythm, beat, and movin' to the music! (If children are under 4 years of age, a parent is requested to attend with them. The fun doesn't have to stop after the music. Join other families, many with young children, for a delicious, affordable dinner in the Fellowship Hall, then enjoy one of the [Journeys](#) while Miss Ann and Miss Charlene supervise play time for all the little ones. For further information telephone the church and extension 106 or e-mail children@knoxvillefunc.org.

Chrismon Tree

Chrismons are handmade Christmas tree ornaments with various symbols of Christianity. The name Chrismon comes from a combination of CHRIST and MONogram. Some of the traditional symbols of Christianity are monograms composed of various combinations of letters of the name Christ or titles for Jesus. They are sometimes called Christograms. An early example is the Chi-Rho monogram, composed of the first two letters in Greek of the word *Christos* (Greek: chi, X = ch; rho, P = r).



These monograms and other symbols, such as the sign of the fish, were in use early in the church as secret symbols of Christianity. However, they became popular in the fourth century AD when the Roman emperor Constantine, after his conversion to Christianity, adapted the Chi-Rho monogram as his military ensign.

Chrismons are a recent innovative way to use these ancient symbols at Christmas. They were popularized by Mrs. Frances Spencer, who began making Christmas decorations from a variety of materials and left-over Christmas paper and decorations in the late 1940s. Becoming proficient in ornament making, her church asked her to decorate the church's Christmas tree. Rather than making the typical secular styles of ornaments, she decided to use the traditional symbols of Christianity in the main liturgical colors of Christmas, white and gold. In 1957 she coined the term Chrismons for her creations and began the Chrismon ministry that is continued today. The practice of using Chrismons has spread and is becoming an increasingly popular way for churches and families to retain a sense of the sacred amid the secularization of this important Christian holiday.

Christian Forum Class

The Christian Forum Class is a [Sunday School Class](#) that meets on the first floor of the [Parish House](#). Their focus is the spirit at work in contemporary society. Basically organized as a forum class with members teaching the lessons. Outside speakers may be used to highlight a topic or speak on a specialized subject.. Members are mainly senior adults (60+)

Circles

Circles (or groups) of the United Methodist Women are special interest groups of women in the church organized for specific goals, such as: study groups; book reviews; mission outreach; and kitchen support. Most groups meet on a monthly basis. Suggestions and questions can be e-mailed to careteam.knoxvillefumc.org.

CDC

See [Children's Development Center](#)

Coffee and Fellowship Hour

A time of fellowship after the Worship Service

Colors of the Church Year

The Church Year begins with Advent in November/December. The Christian calendar is organized around two major centers of Sacred Time: [Advent](#), [Christmas](#), and [Epiphany](#); and [Lent](#), [Holy Week](#), and [Easter](#), concluding at [Pentecost](#). The rest of the year following Pentecost is known as Ordinary Time, from the word "ordinal," which simply means counted time (First Sunday after Pentecost, etc.). Different colors are associated with different seasons, and the changing colors of communion table and pulpit coverings (called paraments), or wall banners, provide visual clues for the seasons.

Purple	Advent , Lent , Ash Wednesday , Maundy Thursday
White	Christmas , Epiphany , Transfiguration , Easter , Eastertide
Red	Pentecost , All Saints Day
Green	Ordinary Time

Commission Team (Evangelism)

The Commission Team is responsible for all aspects of evangelism including the [Keys](#) program welcoming. Suggestions and questions can be e-mailed to this ministry team at commissionteam.knoxvillefumc.org.

Communication Team

The purpose of this ministry team is to focus on how we help the congregation in relating to our purpose and staying informed of ministry opportunities. Suggestions and questions can be e-mailed to this ministry team at communcationteam.knoxvillefumc.org.

Communion

Communion is the Christian sacrament commemorating Christ's Last Supper. Eating and drinking at the table of the Lord pledges our commitment to Christ and to the other believers with whom we participate in the communion meal. The communion meal both creates and expresses the oneness of the body of Christ. The unity of the church as the body of Christ means that no individual believer has the right to ignore the consequences of his or her actions on a brother or sister.

In Semitic cultures, the act of eating with another person was an act of commitment. It was a pledge of mutual defense and support. Based on their understanding that it took three days for food to pass through the body and be eliminated, Jews believed that one was committed to support and defend another with whom he had eaten for the three days following the meal. Part of the reason the scribes and Pharisees objected so much to Jesus eating and drinking with various kinds of sinners was this cultural understanding. They saw Jesus pledging his support to the sinners.

Community Team (Fellowship)

The Community Team is responsible for [New Member Classes](#), [Wednesday Night Suppers](#), [4 by 4 Shepherding Ministry](#), and [Coffee and Fellowship Hour](#). Suggestions and questions can be e-mailed to this ministry team at communityteam.knoxvillefumc.org.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class is a formal indoctrination class for those considering membership into the Church. This is conducted by the Minister

Connection Team (Worship)

The Connection Team is responsible for sound system, music, flowers, [Acolytes](#), [paraments](#), Ushers, Greeters, Pew Materials, and Worship Set Up. Suggestions and questions can be e-mailed to this ministry team at connectionteam.knoxvillefumc.org

Contact Information.

Phone: 865 525-0435 Fax: 865 525-4049 Web: www.knoxvillefumc.org

	Ext.	E-mail
Communications	101	communication@knoxvillefumc.org
Pastor	102	pastor@knoxvillefumc.org
Nursery		nursery@knoxvillefumc.org
Children's Ministry	106	children@knoxvillefumc.org
Youth Ministry	115	youth@knoxvillefumc.org
Child Development Center	108	cdc@knoxvillefumc.org
Music Ministry		music@knoxvillefumc.org
Organist		organist@knoxvillefumc.org
Maintenance	104	maintenance@knoxvillefumc.org
Prayer Requests	105	prayerteam@knoxvillefumc.org
Hall (Church)	109	
Kitchen	110	
Choir Room	111	
Office	114	

When you call 525-0435 the call will either be answered or after 4 rings you will hear a prerecorded message telling you your options. Once you reach this point, you can dial any of the above extensions to go directly to that person.

For our location and worship times, press * at the menu. For our Weekly Scripture Reading, press # at the menu. To leave a prayer request, dial 105 at the menu. Prayer requests are checked by the Prayer Team.

The Child Development Center still has its own phone number 525-8843 with its own voice mail system as well.

Covenant Team (Discipleship)

The Covenant Team is responsible for [Sunday School](#), [Bible Study](#), [Journeys](#), [Vacation Bible School](#), [Youth Ministries](#), [Confirmation Class](#), and the [Library](#). Suggestions and questions can be e-mailed to this ministry team at covenantteam.knoxvillefumc.org.

Church Council

The Church Council is used to set the direction for the church and consists of the following ministry teams:

- [Care Team \(Ministry & Missions\)](#)
- [Commission Team \(Evangelism\)](#)
- [Communication Team](#)
- [Community Team \(Fellowship\)](#)
- [Connection Team \(Worship\)](#)
- [Covenant Team \(Discipleship\)](#)
- [Prayer Team](#)

Disciple Class

The Disciple Class is a [Sunday School Class](#) that meets on the second floor of the Parish House. Their focus is Biblical lessons with interpretations for modern times. Members range in age from 30 to 70.

Doxology

The Doxology is a hymn sung by the congregation praising God. This hymn is hymn number 94 in the church Hymnal.

Easter

Easter or Resurrection Sunday is the day Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus the Christ from the dead. Even before theologians explained the death of Jesus in terms of various atonement theories, the early church saw his resurrection as the central witness to a new act of God in history and the victory of God in vindicating Jesus as the Messiah. This event marks the central faith confession of the early church and was the focal point for Christian worship, observed on the first day of each week since the first century (Acts 20:7; Sunday was officially proclaimed the day of Christian worship in AD 321). Easter as an annual celebration of the Resurrection that lies at the center of a liturgical year has been observed at least since the fourth century.

Epiphany

The term epiphany means "to show" or "to make known" or "to reveal." Our church celebrates Epiphany by remembering the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King.

The Wise Men or Magi who brought gifts to the infant Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as "King" and so were the first to "show" or "reveal" Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon's blessing that this child Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.

The day is now observed as a time of focusing on the mission of the church in reaching others by "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people. It is also a time of focusing on Christian brotherhood and fellowship, especially in healing the divisions of prejudice and bigotry that we all too often create between God's children.

January 6 is celebrated as Epiphany. Epiphany is the climax of the Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are counted from December 25th until January 5th. The day *before* Epiphany is the twelfth day of Christmas, and is called Twelfth Night.

Fellowship Class

The Fellowship Class is a [Sunday School Class](#) that meets on the main floor of the main building. They use the International Sunday School Guide for their lesson focus. Members are senior adults (60+)

Fellowship Hall

The Fellowship Hall is located on the lower level of the main building. It is used for Wednesday night suppers (it is adjacent to the church kitchen), Wednesday night programs, and other church fellowship events.

FISH

A program for feeding the disadvantaged and the “hungry.”

Flower Chart

See [Alter Flowers](#)

Four Course Fellowship

Four Course Fellowship is a fun “supper club” way to get to know other members of FUMC. Here is how it works: FUMC members voluntarily sign up and are placed in a seven to eight person group to share a meal and fellowship. Your group meets once a month for four months. The days and times of the meals are determined by your group to be convenient for all. This is open to all adults, couples and singles. At the end of the first four months, you will decide if you would like to continue with a new group. To become a part of the Four Course Fellowship call 525-0435 or email (michelle@knoxvillefumc.org) the church office and ask Michelle to put your name on the list.

FUMC

First United Methodist Church

Habitat for Humanity (HFH)

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian ministry dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action. FUMC partners with other organizations in contributing both funds and labor for the building of HFH houses. If you would like to volunteer to participate in this effort or would like further information, please e-mail careteam@knoxvillefumc.org.

Hanging Of The Greens

See [Advent](#)

HFH

See [Habitat for Humanity](#)

Holy Week

Holy Week is the last week of [Lent](#), the week immediately preceding Easter Sunday. It is observed as a time to commemorate the suffering (Passion) and death of Jesus through various observances and services of worship.

IHN

See [Interfaith Hospitality Network](#)

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

The Interfaith Hospitality Network is a program for supporting and transitioning homeless families to jobs and affordable long term lodging. FUMC has been involved with the Interfaith Hospitality Network since June 2005. Two day a quarter we function as a support church to Middlebrook UMC. This is an opportunity to be “our brother’s keeper” as we help these families without homes to try to stay together. These families spend a week at the host, with FUMC and St. Episcopal as support churches. These families have been screened before being accepted into the program by the director, this includes a background check.

As a support church we provide **van drivers** in the morning and afternoon to pick up the families from the host church and drive them to the Day Center, and the children to school and again in the afternoon picking them up and returning them to the host church in time for dinner. **Dinner** is provided for the families at 6pm-7pm. Nothing fancy is required; and the families help with cleanup. They also prepare their lunches for the next day. Playtime/afternoon monitor helps with the children and with homework. This is a great opportunity for youth to participate, as this only requires 2-3 youth with adult supervision. Serving dinner and afternoon activities could be combined. **Two overnight people(male and female)** are needed each evening to spend the night from 8pm to 7am. For further information contact careteam@knoxvillefumc.org.

Introit

A process where the Congregation is focused on Worship Service.

Journeys

Journeys are Wednesday evening educational studies that begin at 6:30 PM.

Joy Class

The Joy Class is a [Sunday School Class](#) that meets on the second floor of the [Parish House](#). The name "JOY" is derived from **J**esus first, **O**thers second, and **Y**ourself third. Members take turns teaching lessons which vary from Bible or book studies to current events and local mission opportunities. Members are singles and married couples (35+).

Keys

The Keys are people who are responsible for contacting visitors after they attend a Worship Service. The origin of the term is the scripture reference that we are given keys to the Kingdom (Matt 16: 19).

Lay Leader

The lay leader is elected by the charge conference.

The lay leader functions as the primary lay representative of the laity in that local church and shall have the following responsibilities:

- Fostering awareness of the role of laity both within the congregation and through their ministries in the home, workplace, community, and world, and finding ways within the community of faith to recognize all these ministries.
- Meeting regularly with the pastor to discuss the state of the church and the needs for ministry;
- Membership in the charge conference, church council, committees on finance, lay leadership, SPR, where, along with the pastor, the lay leader shall serve as an interpreter of the actions and programs of the annual conference and the general Church
- Continuing involvement in study and training opportunities to develop a growing understanding of the Church's reason for existence and the types of ministry that will most effectively fulfill the church's mission.

Lent

The season of Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on [Ash Wednesday](#) and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was

called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Today, Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self-examination, and repentance. This season of the year is equal only to the [Season of Advent](#) in importance in the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals and sacred time that includes [Holy Week](#), [Easter](#) and [Pentecost](#).

Library

The church library is located on the first floor of the [Parish House](#). This collection is available as a resource and reference for the congregation.

Liturgist

The Liturgist is the person who does the announcements at the beginning of the service.

Maundy Thursday, or Holy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter. There are a variety of events that are clustered on this last day before Jesus was arrested that are commemorated in various ways in services of worship. These include the last meal together (The Last Supper), the institution of Communion, the betrayal by Judas, and Jesus praying in Gethsemane while the disciples fell asleep.

This day is known as Maundy Thursday. The term Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum* (from which we get our English word *mandate*). The term is usually translated "commandment," from John's account of this Thursday night. According to the Fourth Gospel, as Jesus and the Disciples were eating their final meal together before Jesus' arrest, he washed the disciples' feet to illustrate humility and the spirit of servanthood. After they had finished the meal, as they walked into the night toward Gethsemane, Jesus taught his disciples a "new" commandment (John 13:34-35):

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, you also ought to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee is responsible for the following:

- Developing and promoting a program for memorials which will stimulate interest among our church members.
- Receiving memorial gifts and bequests and using the funds according to the wishes of the donor and approved policies.
- Keeping adequate and accurate records and making reports to the Administrative Board upon request.
- Providing written recognition of the receipt of memorials to donors.

Memorial Room

First United Methodist Church has a long and inspiring history. A visit to this room will bring memories of past leaders and events which give meaning to that history. The Memorial Room is located at one end of the [Narthex](#).

Memorials

There are two types of memorial programs, Endowment memorials and General Memorials. The Endowment Memorial program has a strong "person" orientation. Programs or projects are designed to motivate and aid worthy individuals (students, rural or inner city preachers, teachers, social workers) to continue and strengthen their preparation for service as Christians in some worthy vocation. All memorial gifts or bequests not designated as Endowments are considered General Memorials. These funds are used for worthy memorials which cannot be considered normal budget items.

Missions

[The Great Commission](#) (Matt. 28:19-20) is exercised by our Missions Program. The booklet "Opportunities for Christian Service" published by the Missions Committee is available in a kiosk in the [Narthex](#) or from the church office.

Mobile Meals

This community outreach program provides meals to disadvantaged persons. For further information contact Scott Carley.

Montgomery Village Ministries

Montgomery Village Ministries is a UMW local mission outreach which our church has been involved with for many years. It is located in the Montgomery Village project development in South Knoxville, and serves the residents with a food pantry, church services, bible studies, summer programs, and seasonal activities such as a Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas Shops, etc. We contribute every other month to their food pantry and help with many of their other projects as needed. They are also supported by other churches of different denominations.

There is also a Montgomery Village Child Care Center that is off the premises that our church supports, along with having had several of our members on its board of directors. It serves the same population but is not directly connected to the Ministry Center. Questions and suggestions can be e-mailed to careteam@knoxvillefumc.org.

Monthly Mixer

A monthly program focused on an activity, usually a lunch with a discussion, with the goal of getting church members to know one another better.

Music Ministry

Music is one of God's greatest gifts to us, and the Bible contains many references to singing, dancing and playing instruments. Our Chancel Choir sings for 10:45 Sunday morning worship, and the Hand bells Choir often rings as well. Practice times for these groups are on Wednesday evenings with Hand bells at 6:30 and Chancel Choir at 7:30. New musical members are always welcome.

We also have a children's music time on Wednesdays from 5:30 until 6:00. We explore rhythms, sing songs, and play simple instruments. Children from 4 to 11 are welcome. Children younger than 4 are asked to "bring a parent."

Narthex

The Narthex is the foyer to the church sanctuary.

New Member Class

The New Member Class is a class where new members can associate and integrate themselves into the Programs of the Church.

Nursery

Childcare is provided on the first floor during worship services for children ages birth through four years.

Office

The church office is located on the first floor of the [Parish House](#).
Telephone: 525-0435 Fax: 525-0435

Paraments

Paraments are the pulpit cloth coverings.

Parish House

The Parish House is the building just behind the main church building. It includes the church office, the church library, and Sunday school class rooms.

Parish Nurse Program

Our church is exploring the health needs of our congregation and whether or not we should have a parish nurse and health team to meet with those needs. We are looking for any licensed health care professional who would be interested in meeting with us and/or volunteering to help. If interested, please contact Stephanie Parrott.

Pavilion

The Pavilion is the building closest to the river. It is mostly open on three sides and, in the summer, is used for early church and for other outdoor events such as weddings, church picnics, etc.

Pentecost

Pentecost was originally an Old Testament festival, since the time of Josephus calculated as beginning on the fiftieth day after the beginning of Passover . In the Christian calendar, it falls on the seventh Sunday after [Easter](#). By the early New Testament period, it had gradually lost its association with agriculture and became associated with the celebration of God's creation of His people and their religious history.

Pentecost represents God's gracious, enabling presence actively at work among His people, calling and enabling them to live out in dynamic ways the witness of being His people. (Acts 1-2)

The word "Pentecost" means "fiftieth day." In most Christian traditions, Pentecost Sunday occurs 50 days following [Easter](#) Sunday (counting Easter Sunday since it is the first day of the week). Those 50 days span seven Sundays after Easter, so Pentecost is the seventh Sunday after Easter (7 weeks times 7 days = 49 days, plus Pentecost Sunday). Since Easter is a "movable feast," meaning that it occurs on different days in different years (it is tied to the lunar cycle while the calendar is solar based), Pentecost is also moveable.

Pilgrimage Class

The Pilgrimage Class is a [Sunday School Class](#) that meets on the 2nd floor of the [Parish House](#). Members do both Bible and book studies and occasionally have guest speakers. Member's age range from 50 years and up.

Prayer Chapel

The Prayer Chapel is a quiet room in the basement of the [Parish House](#) that is available to members of the congregation that would like a quiet place to pray. Access to the Prayer Chapel is through the door on the left just prior to entering the office area.

Prayer Team

The Prayer Team focuses on how we will be empowered to fulfill our purpose. Suggestions and questions can be e-mailed to this ministry team at prayerteam.knoxvillefumc.org.

Purpose

The purpose of First United Methodist Church is to lead people to Christ, nurture them in the faith, incorporate them into the family, prepare them for ministry, that God might be loved and worshiped.

Snow Policy

In the case that Knoxville ever has inclement weather and you aren't sure if the church will open, refer to the following guidelines.

CDC - If Knox County schools are closed, the CDC will also be closed.
Church -

For Wednesday night services: If Knox County schools are closed, the Midweek Dinner and programs will be cancelled.

For Sunday services: If it is determined that the weather is too bad to hold Sunday School or our morning worship service, we will have it announced on the following radio stations: WIVK 107.7 FM and WJXB 97.5 FM. We will also notify all of the Sunday School officers to help spread the word.

SPR

See [Staff Parish Relations](#)

Staff Parish Relations (SPR)

The Staff Parish Relations is the committee that is the formal interface between the staff and church members.

Sunday School

The following Sunday School Classes start at 9:30 am on Sunday morning:

[Christian Forum Class](#)

[Disciple Class](#)

[Fellowship Class](#)

[Joy Class](#)

[Pilgrimage Class](#)

[Trinity Class](#)

[Youth Class](#)

Children – For ages 3 to 11.

[Nursery](#) – Ages birth through 2 years.

Sunday Worship Service

The Sunday Worship Service starts at 10:45 am in the sanctuary. In the summer an additional service is provided at the [Pavilion](#) at 8:30 am.

Tape Ministry

This ministry makes available an audio tape of the weekly sermon. Questions or suggestions can e-mails to careteam@knoxvillefumc.org.

The Cross and Flame

The Cross and Flame is the official symbol of the United Methodist Church. The Cross represents Christ and the flame is a reminder of Pentecost when diverse witnesses were unified by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Great Commission

Mathew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Transfiguration Sunday

This is the last Sunday before Lent.

Trinity Class

This [Sunday School Class](#) meets on the 2nd floor of the [Parish House](#). Members are both married and single adults; open to all ages.

UMW

See [United Methodist Women](#)

UMW Food Pantry

For many years our church has supported the food pantries at Montgomery Village and Wesley House on a rotating monthly basis. The non-perishable items we collect are used to supplement food stamps and often provide things that are not covered in that program for residence in communities. This year we are going to ask for different requested items every two months, but of course any donation is always appreciated. For further information contact careteam@knoxvillefumc.org.

UMYF

See [United Methodist Youth Fellowship](#)

United Methodist Women (UMW)

The organized unit of United Methodist Women is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. For more information Lib Jeffries or Jane Anen.

United Methodist Volunteers In Ministry (UMVIM)

UMVIN is an international organization whose purpose is to build relationships with all God's children. Whether we serve in our own backyard or in another country, our purpose is to share the love of Christ in multiple ways. God has given us all unique skills and gifts as a means to embody Christian love in action. The task is what we are to do with our abilities such as construct a building, pull teeth, provide glasses, or bring to life a Vacation Bible School. Our task is a way to achieve our overall purpose. When FUMC does a mission outside of our immediate area, FUMC provides the funding for the mission and UMVIM provides the infrastructure to make the mission successful. For more information e-mail: careteam@knoxvillefunc.org.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)

Purpose ???

VIM

See [United Methodist Volunteers In Ministry](#)

Visioning Process

This is an ongoing process that solicits input from the congregation, which is used to set the direction for the church through the [Church Council](#).

Web Sites

FUMC

www.knoxvillefunc.org

The Voice - Biblical and Theological References

www.cresourcei.org/index.html

E-Sword – Free Bible Study software

www.e-sword.net

Weekly Scripture Reading

The Weekly Scripture Reading focuses on prayer. To listen to the Weekly Scripture Reading, dial 525-0435, then press #.

Wesley House Community Center (WHCC)

The Wesley House Community Center (WHCC) was organized in 1907 as a kindergarten for children of the workers of Brookside Mills. It became formally associated with the Women's Division of the Methodist Church in 1940 and constructed and moved to its present location in 1952. It serves the Lonsdale-Mechanicville-Beaumont neighborhoods. A 100th anniversary celebration is planned for 2007.

Some of the current programs include: an after school program for grades 1 - 6, with organized curriculum supporting academic and social development; a performing arts program with instruction in violin, piano, African dance and drums; a summer day camp and a Senior's wellness program.

Volunteer opportunities include: serving snacks and meals to both the children's and senior's programs; Office assistance; Monetary and in-kind gifts; Tutoring and mentoring; Arts and crafts; and Food Pantry donations (*every other month FUMC's food pantry donations go to Wesley House*). For more information contact: careteam@knoxvillefunc.org.

Youth Class

This [Sunday School Class](#) meets on the top floor of the main building. Members study lessons on contemporary youth issues with Bible emphasis and lots of discussion. Members are Senior High and Junior High.