



NEWS + NEEDS

2025 Year-End Giving

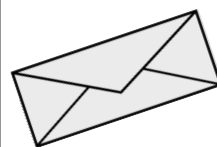
As we near the end of the year, we would like to remind you that if you have year-end contributions you would like to credit toward your 2025 giving, all money must be **postmarked by December 31, 2025**. For further information on this matter, contact Nancy Counts in the church office at 865-922-1412 or financial@christumcknox.com.

UMW 2026 Mission Project

Our United Methodist Women are helping launch a "Back to School: *post-Christmas edition*" project by collecting boxes of Kleenex to deliver to schools after the holidays. This collection is happening now and ongoing **until February 1, 2026**. Consider picking up a box or two on an upcoming shopping trip, and you may drop them off any time at the UMW room or the church office. Imagine how much of a difference we can make between now and then!

Christmas Card Drop-Off

Our alphabetized drawers are filling with Christmas cards, and one (or four!) of them might be for YOU! Come check them during business hours or today while you're here! If you wish to send a Christmas card to your friends here at church, let us help! Write the recipient's **first AND last names** on the envelope, drop it off at the card station outside the gym, and we will sort them in the alphabetized drawers for pick-up.



There's still time for you to turn in your commitment card for 2026 if you haven't already. We appreciate your time in getting those turned in at your convenience. If you have any questions or need a new commitment card, contact Nancy in the church office.

DATES TO NOTE

Wednesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service, 5 p.m.
Dec. 24-Jan. 1: Church office closed
Wednesday, Jan. 7: First Wednesday Fellowship, 6 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 11: Bluegrass Sunday; feat. Stoney Point
January 23-25: Resurrection 2026

Church Office Operations:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00-3:00; **closed on Fridays**
865-922-1412
Website — www.christumcknox.com
Prayer Chain — christumcprayers@gmail.com

WiFi Network: "Christ UMC Guest"
(No password required)

Follow us online!



Christ United
Methodist Church,
Knoxville (gray logo)



@christumcknox



www.christumcknox.com



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Join Our Email List!

For full announcements and updates, please refer to our online newsletter, *The Christ Connection*, which is emailed out every week. If you are not an email subscriber and would like to receive weekly emails and announcements, scan the QR Code here to access the online form.



CHRIST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission: To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ For the Transformation of the World

December 21, 2025



7535 Maynardville Pike, Knoxville, TN 37938

Phone: (865) 922-1412 | www.christumcknox.com

Sunday Morning Worship: 10 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:00 & 11:00 for all ages

Pastor: Rev. Mark Kilbourne

Director of Music: Sarah Holloway

Organist: Mike Beckley | Pianist: Nancy Hodges

Today's Liturgist: Kim Hansard

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, KNOXVILLE
—TRADITIONAL WORSHIP—

December 21, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. | Sanctuary & Online

Call to Worship “Ring Out, Ye Bells!” | CUMC Choir, Christ’s Bells

Welcome | Passing the Peace Kim Hansard

*Congregational Hymn “Joy to the World” | UMH #246

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Love Laura Gibson and Annabelle Owens

Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary’s womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God’s love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world’s judgment.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

Children's Message Rev. Mark Kilbourne
(Children may exit following the Children’s Message for children’s worship with Ms. Samantha and her team of volunteers.)

*Congregational Hymn “Angels We Have Heard on High” | UMH #238

Offertory Prayer

Offertory

*Doxology UMH #95

Pastoral Prayer, followed by

The Lord’s Prayer
(Please be in prayer for those individuals listed on the Prayer List)

Scripture Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)

Anthem “O’ Little Town of Bethlehem” | CUMC Choir, accompanied by Shirley Babick, flute


Message “Signs and Faithfulness” | Rev. Kilbourne

*Congregational Hymn “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” | UMH #204

*Benediction Rev. Kilbourne

Postlude

*Rise in body or in spirit

 Today’s altar flowers are given by the Professional Leadership Committee in honor of Kathryn Paden and her 7 years on staff at Christ UMC. She will be starting a new position at Second Presbyterian Church next month as their Church Administrator, and we wish her the best in her career!



WELCOME TO CHRIST UMC!

Whether you are visiting today or have been with us for many years, we invite you to take a moment and mark your attendance in our pew books at the end of your row, and fill out a **Connection Card** also located in your pew to let us know more about yourself, a change in contact information, a prayer request, or anything else you need our office to know. Welcome gift bags are available if you are visiting today—please see an usher for yours. Have a wonderful Sunday!



Christmas Eve SERVICE

at Christ UMC

5:00 p.m. | Sanctuary



Thank you so much for participating in our Angel Tree mission project.

Our church assisted in providing much needed holiday cheer for 69 children this year.

2026 Volunteer Opportunities

If you have an interest in serving communion, being a liturgist for a worship service, or assisting on food pantry distribution days, we would love to have you! Stop by the food pantry (former conference room) to sign up for a month, and for all other opportunities, contact the church office (865-922-1412). Thank you in advance for your help!

Santa Brunch Wrap-Up

Approximately 70 children and 100+ adults filled the building with laughs and smiles last Saturday at our annual Santa Brunch. Thank you to our United Methodist Men (and the UMW volunteers!) for their leadership and planning, and for creating a magical morning for families in our community!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM DEC 24TH TO JAN 1ST IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR’S DAY. REGULAR BUSINESS WILL RESUME MONDAY, JANUARY 5.

CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Kim Counts	Lisa Beeler
Cindy Skaggs	Mark Roberts
Mark Grace	Lisa C. Beeler (sister of Larry Beeler)
Sheila Morris	Paula Williams
Jaxton King	The Boggs family
Lois Watkins	The Paden family
Vicki Clair	
Lindsey, niece of Nancy Counts	
David Landreth	
Lyn and Larry Coble	
Bonnie Belile	

*Names remain on our Prayer List for **4 weeks**, unless requested otherwise. To add or omit a name on this list, please contact the church office, 865-922-1412 or scan the QR code here to send an email to office staff.

