



# *First Church*

OF NEW KNOXVILLE

**Rooted in Christ, Growing in Christ, Serving Christ.**

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**First Church recognizes Jesus Christ  
as the head of the Church and as Savior and Lord.**

**We are a community of faith who engage Biblical truth  
to provide an environment where people mature  
as disciples of Christ.**

**December 28, 2025**

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**Pastor Joel Bucklin**

256-698-8813

joel.bucklin@nktelco.net

**Youth Pastor Tory Breitigan**

231-557-0260

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**Clinton Hirschfeld**

Choir Director

**In Worship Today:**

Terry Wissman – Organist

Barb Howe – Organist

Praise & Worship Team

Bell Choir

**Office Phone:** 419-753-2446

**Email:** firstchurchnk@nktelco.net

**Website:** [www.firstchurchnk.org](http://www.firstchurchnk.org)

***If you are a Guest or Visitor today, we are glad you're here!***

- **The Restrooms** are in the basement at the East end of the church and inside the main glass doors of the Ministry Center next door.
- **The Nursery** is located in the basement. Available for infant to 4 yr old.
- **Large Print bulletins** are available at the back of the sanctuary near the info center near the back of the sanctuary.
- **Children's Activity Items** are available at the info center near the back of the sanctuary.
- **WiFi Connection is available** for those who wish to use their device to connect to the Bible app or take notes. Connect via "FirstChurchWifi Guest"
- **Our Worship Service** is broadcast Sundays on T-102 FM at 10:15am
- **YouTube Livestream** - We stream our service live via our YouTube page @firstchurchofnewknoxville1014 at 9:00 am on Sundays.
- **Music** used with permission. CCLI License# 2403283
- **The \* invites** those who are able to please rise.

***Welcome to Worship at First Church***

**Announcements & Greeting Time**

**Special Music - O Holy Night** – Terry Wissman

**Call to Worship** from Psalm 118

- One:   <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
          his love endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup> Let Israel say:  
          "His love endures forever."
- <sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say:  
          "His love endures forever."
- <sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the Lord say:  
          "His love endures forever."
- <sup>5</sup> When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord;  
          he brought me into a spacious place.
- All:    <sup>6</sup> **The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.**  
          **What can mere mortals do to me?**
- <sup>7</sup> **The Lord is with me; he is my helper.**  
          **I look in triumph on my enemies.**

**<sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in humans.**

**<sup>9</sup> It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in princes.**

One: **<sup>10</sup> All the nations surrounded me,  
but in the name of the Lord I cut them down.  
<sup>11</sup> They surrounded me on every side,  
but in the name of the Lord I cut them down.  
<sup>12</sup> They swarmed around me like bees,  
but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them down.  
<sup>13</sup> I was pushed back and about to fall,  
but the Lord helped me.**

**All: <sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation.  
<sup>15</sup> Shouts of joy and victory  
resound in the tents of the righteous:  
“The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!  
<sup>16</sup> The Lord’s right hand is lifted high;  
the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!”  
<sup>17</sup> I will not die but live,  
and will proclaim what the Lord has done.**

One: **<sup>18</sup> The Lord has chastened me severely,  
but he has not given me over to death.  
<sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates of the righteous;  
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.  
<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord  
through which the righteous may enter.  
<sup>21</sup> I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
you have become my salvation.  
<sup>22</sup> The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
<sup>23</sup> the Lord has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.  
<sup>24</sup> The Lord has done it this very day;  
let us rejoice today and be glad.**

**ALL <sup>25</sup> Lord, save us!  
Lord, grant us success!  
<sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

One: <sup>27</sup> The Lord is God,  
and he has made his light shine on us.  
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession  
up to the horns of the altar.

All: <sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will praise you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.  
<sup>29</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

Revelation Song

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain;  
Holy, holy is He;  
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on  
Heaven's mercy seat.  
(repeat)

Holy, holy, holy  
Is the Lord God Almighty.  
Who was and is and is to come;  
With all creation I sing  
Praise to the King of kings;  
You are my ev'rything  
And I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows of living color,  
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;  
Blessing and honor, strength and glory  
And power be to You, the only wise King

Holy, holy, holy  
Is the Lord God Almighty.  
Who was and is and is to come;  
With all creation I sing  
Praise to the King of kings;  
You are my ev'rything  
And I will adore You.

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder,  
At the mention of Your name;  
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and living water,  
Such a marv'lous mystery

**Holy, holy, holy  
Is the Lord God Almighty.  
Who was and is and is to come;  
With all creation I sing  
Praise to the King of kings;  
You are my ev'rything  
And I will adore You.**

**(repeat)**

CCLI Song # 4447960

**King of Kings**

**In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope, without light  
Till from Heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes**

**To fulfil the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt**

**Praise the Father, Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of Glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings**

**To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
For even in Your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake You died**

**Praise the Father, Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of Glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings**

And the morning that You rose  
All of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this Gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel, shall not faint  
By His blood and in His Name  
In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me

Praise the Father, Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of Glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings  
Praise forever to the King of Kings

CCLI Song # 7127647

**The Lord's Prayer** (using debts and debtors)

**Children's Chat**

**Worship / Giving Back to God**

Offering: Agape Ministries, St. Marys

Offertory: Bell Choir

Offertory Hymn: No. 625 Doxology

**\*Scripture Reading** – Mark 11:1-11  
(Page 1015 in the pew Bible)

**Message** – The King has Come

**\*Hymn No. 234** – Crown Him with Many Crowns

**\*Benediction & Dismissal**

## Announcements

**The Rose on the Altar** is in honor of Donald & Carolyn Henschen who will celebrate 61 years of marriage on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Happy Anniversary!*

**The Congregational Meeting** to accept nominations for officers of the consistory/congregation will be held on Sunday, January 11, 2026, following the 9 am service. Nominations are listed at the back of the bulletin.

**Prayer List** – Brian Tostrick, Ned Howe, Ted Lammers, Noah Hoelscher, Jay Shinaberry, Deb Halter, Ken Cline, Barb Phipps, Bob Snyder, Serra Pax, Robert Engel, Matthew Anspach, Diane Fledderjohann, Greg Metzger, Holly Brown, Mike Knatz, Susan Snyder, Sandy Hoelscher, Linda Kuck, Joann Feldwisch, Betty Kiefer, and Crystal Miller.

**Christmas Decorations** – We will be taking down all Christmas decorations, including the winter backdrop, following the service this morning. If you can lend a hand, we would greatly appreciate your help.

**Year End Gifts & Pledges** - All financial gifts to be credited to 2025 giving statements must arrive at the church office by noon on December 31, 2025. Thank you.

**Awana Schedule** – There is no Awana on December 31st. Happy New Year! This group will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup> and the theme that night will be Beach Day.

**Ministry Center Reservations Update** – Sunday Worship services will be in the Ministry Center beginning January 11, 2026. Therefore, we will not be able to accommodate reservations for family functions on the weekends in the Ministry Center until the painting project is completed in March. This will allow enough time to set up the Big Room for services before Sunday morning. **Reservations that are already on the calendar for January- March will be honored.** The Ministry Center may still be used Monday-Thursday. The Social Room is also still available. Thank you in advance for understanding!

**The Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study** – This group will be reading The Bible Recap for their next study. All are welcome to come, even if you can only come occasionally. They will meet at 7:00 PM in the Ministry Center beginning Tuesday, January 6, 2026. If you have any

questions, please call Maria Lammers: 419-953-6129.

**Bible in a Year 2026:** First Church will read through the Bible in a Year again in 2026. This time around, we are going to read through the Bible chronologically using a resource called The Bible Recap. In addition to the daily reading plan, there is a daily podcast, devotional, and Bible Study resources available to help us better understand and apply God's Word.



Visit our First Church website to view details and "How to get started" guides. <https://firstchurchnk.org/the-bible-recap/>

We have listed resource links and information for you to purchase books from The Cornerstone Shop in New Bremen or from Amazon.

**Jr. / Sr. High Youth Bible Study** at Dave & Judy Bambauer's home resumes on January 4<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 PM.

**Jr. / Sr. High Youth Group** resumes on January 7<sup>th</sup> in the Ministry Center Big Room from 7-8:30 PM.

**The Sunday School Class led by Stan Reineke – Join us on February 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Stan Reineke's Sunday School class will begin a study on *The Spirit Filled Life* by Charles Stanley. "Are you trying your best to be a good Christian but still feel something's missing? Do the peace and joy you long for seem to elude you? Does following Christ sometimes feel like a lot of work—or like it's just not working very well? Much has been written and spoken—and argued!— about the Holy Spirit and what it means to be filled with the Spirit. Charles Stanley cuts through the confusion and introduces you to a living Person as real and active as God the Father and Christ the Son. In *The Spirit-Filled Life* Charles Stanley reveals how to recognize and begin to live with the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

### **Dates to Remember**

January 1 - New Year's Day, Office Closed

January 4 – The Lord's Supper

January 11 – Congregational Meeting to approve nomination of officers

January 28 – Annual Meeting

February 1 – Installation & Ordination of Deacons, Trustees & Elders



**The Congregational Meeting** to accept nominations for officers of the consistory/congregation will be held on Sunday, January 11, 2026 following the 9:00 am service.

Below is a list of those nominated for office (in bold) and outgoing officers who have completed their terms. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

**Elders:**           **Maria Lammers**  
Michelle Dillon (outgoing)

**Dean Haberkamp**  
Keith Leffel (outgoing)

**Trustee:**       **Doug Bambauer**  
Jesse Dillon (outgoing)

**Deacons:**  
**Logan Leffel**  
Logan Leffel (staying for second term)

**Open**  
Dean Haberkamp (outgoing)

**Tracy Luck**  
Maria Lammers (outgoing)

**Lois Harrod**  
Zach Metzger (outgoing)

**The Annual Meeting** to elect officers, hear reports from the Pastors, the Trustees, the Treasurer, the committees and to approve the proposed 2025 budget will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026 in the sanctuary after the 9:00 am service.

## **This Week at First Church December 28 – January 4**

### **THIS SUNDAY**

- 8:00 am Men's Prayer Group - Ministry Center Youth Room
- 8:00 am Sunday Morning Prayer – Ministry Center Conf. Rm.
- 9:00 am Morning Worship
- 10:15 am Adult Sunday School – Led by Pastor Joel in Social Room

**WEDNESDAY** Church office will be open till Noon

**THURSDAY** **Happy New Year!**

### **FRIDAY**

Noon – 6 pm Bloodmobile

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

- 8:00 am Men's Prayer Group - Ministry Center Youth Room
- 8:00 am Sunday Morning Prayer – Ministry Center Conf. Rm.
- 9:00 am Morning Worship
- 10:15 am Sunday School for Pre-k through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 10:15 am Confirmation – Ministry Center
- 10:15 am Adult Sunday School – in Social Room, led by Pastor Joel
- 7:00-8:00 pm Youth Bible Study at Dave & Judy's House

**Total Offering on December 21st - \$4,309.27**

**Attendance: 230**

Offering: Elizabeth new Life Center - \$1,904.27

Other Mission Gifts - \$60.00

General Fund Gifts & Pledges - \$2,345.00

**Online Giving for the week of December 14th - \$2,585.00**

**Sunday School Offering - \$12.82**

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.