



# *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.**

**May 31, 2026**

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**Pastor Joel Bucklin**  
256-698-8813  
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**Youth Pastor Tory Breitigan**  
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**Clinton Hirschfeld**  
Vocal & Bell Choir Director

**In Worship Today:**  
Praise Team  
Terry Wissman, Organist

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**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 for Young Children** is located in the basement.
- **Large Print bulletins** are available at the back of the sanctuary at the info center.
- **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**

#### **\*Call to Worship from Psalm 103**

- All:**     <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul;  
            all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul,  
            and forget not all his benefits—
- <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins  
            and heals all your diseases,
- <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit  
            and crowns you with love and compassion,
- <sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things  
            so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- One:**     <sup>6</sup> The Lord works righteousness  
            and justice for all the oppressed.
- <sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses,  
            his deeds to the people of Israel:
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
            slow to anger, abounding in love.

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;  
<sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.

**All:** <sup>11</sup> **For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;  
<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

**One:** <sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;  
<sup>14</sup> for he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust.  
<sup>15</sup> The life of mortals is like grass,  
they flourish like a flower of the field;  
<sup>16</sup> the wind blows over it and it is gone,  
and its place remembers it no more.  
<sup>17</sup> But from everlasting to everlasting  
the Lord's love is with those who fear him,  
and his righteousness with their children's children—  
<sup>18</sup> with those who keep his covenant  
and remember to obey his precepts.

**All:** <sup>19</sup> **The Lord has established his throne in heaven,  
and his kingdom rules over all.  
<sup>20</sup> Praise the Lord, you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding,  
who obey his word.  
<sup>21</sup> Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts,  
you his servants who do his will.  
<sup>22</sup> Praise the Lord, all his works  
everywhere in his dominion.  
Praise the Lord, my soul.**

God So Loved

**Come all you weary, come all you thirsty.  
Come to the well that never runs dry.  
Drink of the water, come and thirst no more.**

**Come all you sinners, come find His mercy.  
Come to the table; He will satisfy.  
Taste of His goodness, find what you're looking for.**

**For God so loved He world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us.  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.**

**Bring all your failures, bring your addictions.  
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.  
Jesus is waiting there with open arms**

**For God so loved He world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us.  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.  
The power of hell forever defeated.  
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom.  
For God so loved, God so loved the world.**

**Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love.  
(repeat)**

**For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save.**

**For God so loved He world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us.  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.  
The power of hell forever defeated.  
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom.  
For God so loved, God so loved the world.**

**Bring all your failures, bring your addictions.  
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.  
Jesus is waiting.  
God so loved the world.**

CCLI Song # 7138599

Reckless Love

Before I spoke a word, You were singing over me.  
You have been so, so good to me.  
Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life in me.  
You have been so, so kind to me.

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless  
love of God.

Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found,  
leaves the ninety-nine.

I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it,  
still You give Yourself away.

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless  
love of God.

When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for me.

You have been so, so good to me.

When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me.

You have been so, so kind to me.

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless  
love of God.

Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found,  
leaves the ninety-nine.

I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it,  
still You give Yourself away.

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless  
love of God.

There's no shadow You won't light up,  
mountain You won't climb up,  
coming after me.

There's no wall You won't kick down,  
lie You won't tear down,  
coming after me.

(repeat)

**Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless  
love of God.**

**Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found,  
leaves the ninety-nine.**

**I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it,  
still You give Yourself away.**

**Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless  
love of God.**

CCLI Song # 7089641

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

**Children's Chat**

**Worship / Giving Back to God**

Offering: Children's Ministry Fund

Offertory: Sweet Hour of Prayer

**\*Scripture Reading** – Galatians 5:22-23 and 1 Peter 1:22-23  
(Page 1171 & 1221 in the pew Bible)

**Message** – Fruit of The Spirit: Love

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

**How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory**

**Behold the Man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished**

**His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished**

**I will not boast in anything  
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom**

CCLI Song # 1558110

**\*Benediction & Dismissal**

### **Announcements**

**Prayer List** – The family of Serra Pax, The family of Joann Feldwisch, Cameron Wilkerson, Larry Longworth, Kevin Kruse, Jane Novean, Joann Kuck, Dick Elsass, Ted Lammers, Noah Hoelscher, Ken Cline, Bob Snyder, Robert Engel, Diane Fledderjohann, Greg Metzger, Holly Brown, Sandy Hoelscher, Linda Kuck, Betty Kiefer, and Crystal Miller.

**We Extend our Love and Sympathy** to the family of JoAnn Feldwisch. JoAnn entered into Christ's care on Saturday, May 23, 2026. She was 97. You may greet the family on Sunday, June 7 from 1:30 to 3 pm at Miller-Long and Folk Funeral Home (314 W. High St., St. Marys). The service in remembrance of her life will begin at 3 pm.

**We Extend our Love and Sympathy** to the family of Serra Pax. Serra entered into Christ's care on Monday, May 25, 2026. She was 29. You may greet the family on Monday evening, June 8 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm in the Heritage Room of First Church. The service in remembrance of her life will be Tuesday, June 9 at 11:00 am in the First Church sanctuary.

**Office Hours During VBS** are always hit or miss. Lunchtimes are off from usual. If you need something specific this week please call ahead to confirm someone will be here in the afternoon.

## **VBS WEEK IS HERE!!!**

We are so excited to spend the week sharing the love of Jesus with the children in our community! As we get closer, there is an urgent need for help to make this week possible.

We are also collecting gently used school supplies for the Mid-West Mission Project. As the school year wraps up, we encourage you to consider donating items instead of discarding them. New supplies are welcome as well. A list of items needed is available—thank you for helping us support this meaningful outreach!

**VBS Songs** – Parents, your kids will be singing their VBS songs at the end of the service on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. We will walk to the Methodist Church afterwards to sing, then head back to First Church. First Church parents may wait for their kids to return or join us at the Methodist Church and leave from there.

**VBS Cookies Needed!** We're excited to have nearly 180+ kids already registered for Vacation Bible School—and that means we will need plenty of cookies! If you're able to bake or buy a few dozen, please drop them off at the Ministry Center starting today, May 31, or anytime during the week. Thanks for helping us make VBS a sweet success!

**Nursery Help** – We are looking for helpers in the nursery during the summer. If you are able to cover one of these open Sunday, please let Shelby know in the church office. Your service is invaluable, and it allows parents to freely participate in our worship services, be spiritually fed, all while knowing their little ones are being loved and well cared for. The Nursery Ministry plays such a crucial role in our Sunday worship, and it would not be possible without the help of compassionate and committed volunteers like you. We hope you consider helping. **Open Sundays: June 7, 14, 28 and July**

**Vocal and Bell Choir Thank you** – Today marks the end of the handbell and vocal choir seasons. Thank you to each and every one of you who participated and supported this ministry. Special thanks to Barb Howe and Connie O'Neill, without whom none of this would be possible.

*Yours in Song, Clinton Hirschfeld*

**Parents and students** - We will have Lakeside camp meeting on Wednesday, June 3rd at 7:00pm in the Ministry Center. We will be handing out the packing list for camp and other important information. Please plan on attending this meeting if you are going to camp with us this year!

**Volunteer Day** – We want to thank everyone who helped this past Tuesday clean up the landscape around the church buildings and Parsonage. What a blessing you were!

**Our Daily Bread Booklets** – NEW June through August booklets are now available at all entrances, the info center and in the Ministry Center lobby. Please take one for yourself and one or more to give to someone you know.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
**ADULT**  
*Bible Study*

STRENGTHENING  
THE FOUNDATION

• ESSENTIALS OF FAITH •

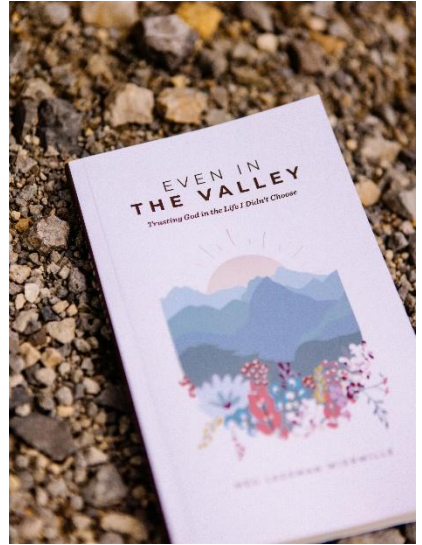
BUILDING OUR LIVES ON THE TRUTH  
THAT LASTS.

MORE INFORMATION TO COME.

*Even In The Valley* by Meg Lageman Wierwille is now available for purchase. This memoir shares Meg's journey through grief, faith, healing, and leaning to move forward after the loss of her high school sweetheart. It is a story of hope, resilience, and God's faithfulness even in life's hardest valleys. Books are available on Amazon beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> and at select local bookstores.

*Thank you for your support!*

*Meg*



## **This Week at First Church – May 31 to June 7**

### **SUNDAY**

- 8:00 am Men's Prayer Group - Min. Ctr. Youth Room  
8:00 am Sunday Morning Prayer – Min. Ctr. Conference Room  
9:00 am Morning Worship  
10:15 am Adult Sunday School – in Social Room led by Pastor Joel  
10:15 am Adult Sunday School – in Youth Room led by Stan R.  
7:00pm Jr. & Sr. High Bible Study – Bambauer's House

### **MONDAY VBS WEEK – Emerald Crossing**

- 9:00 –11:45pm Welcome to VBS

### **TUESDAY**

- 9:00 –11:45pm VBS  
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study (The Bible Recap)– Youth Room

### **WEDNESDAY**

- 9:00 –11:45pm VBS  
7:00pm Lakeside Parent & Student Meeting

### **THURSDAY**

- 9:00 –11:45pm VBS

### **FRIDAY**

- 9:00 –11:45pm Last day of VBS

### **NEXT SUN.**

- 8:00 am Men's Prayer Group - Min. Ctr. Youth Room  
8:00 am Sunday Morning Prayer – Min. Ctr. Conference Room  
9:00 am Morning Worship  
10:15 am Adult Sunday School – in Youth Room led by Stan R.

**Offering on May 24<sup>th</sup> - \$1,969.00**

**Attendance: 190**

Radio Ministry Fund Offering – \$1,569.00

General Operating Fund Gifts & Pledges – \$400.00

