Celebration Worship Service

First Sunday of Advent
9:00 am
November 29, 2026

Pre-Service Music

Invitation to Worship.....Chris McCreary

*Opening Song.....O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Welcome and Opening Prayer.....Rev. Austin Byerly

*Worship Song.....Light of the World

The Lighting of the Peace Candle.....The Miller Family
Ryan, Lindsey, Olivia, and Natalie

The light of the Peace candle reminds us that Christ, the promised Prince of Peace and the true Light of the world shines into our darkness to restore what is broken and lead us into God's wholeness and reconciliation.

Special Music.....Sweet Little Jesus Boy
Michael Rodgers, Baritone, Wendy Kitts, Piano

Offering Moment & Pastoral Prayer

Children's Moment.....Alicia Wilson

Message.....Stay Alert!.....Rev. Mike Sluder
Mark 13:24-37

*Closing Worship Song.....He Shall Reign Forevermore
Michael Rodgers, Baritone

*Benediction

The altar flowers are given to celebrate the arrival of Advent.
by Sherry Miller.

Welcome Guests!

We are so glad you're here! We'd love to connect with you, and invite you to fill out a connection card (green header) from the pew in front of you. Share your name and contact information so that we can connect with you and share more about who we are. Also, if you need them, we have a **Cry Room** and a **Sensory Room** on the right side of the sanctuary, as well as a **Nursing Mom's Room** in the Children's Wing.

Worship through Giving

To participate in worship through giving: place your offering in the baskets by the sanctuary doors; mail your offering to PO Box 31047, Knoxville TN 37930; or give online by using the QR code or visiting *www.eumcknox.org.*

Ebenezer United Methodist Church
Inspired by God's Love, Invited into God's Community, and Involved in God's Mission.
1001 Ebenezer Road | Knoxville, TN 37923
(865) 691-8330 | www.eumcknox.org | office@eumcknox.org

Heritage Worship Service

First Sunday of Advent
11:00 am
November 29, 2026

Prelude .....Our Father's Love Begotten .....arr. Joe Utterback
Edward Pierce, Organ

Call to Worship .....Sweet Little Jesus Boy.....Robert MacGimsey
Michael Rodgers, Baritone

*Opening Hymn .....Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus .....UMH 196

Welcome and Opening Prayer .....Rev. Austin Byerly

The Lighting of the Peace Candle.....The Houston and Andrejko Family
Lisa, Grayson, Lauren, Jack and George

The light of the Peace candle reminds us that Christ, the promised Prince of Peace and the true Light of the world shines into our darkness to restore what is broken and lead us into God's wholeness and reconciliation.

Chorale Response .....We Bring His Light .....John Purifoy

*Hymn.....O Come, O Come, Emmanuel v. 1,2,4.....UMH 211

Children's Moment.....Alicia Wilson

Special Music .....Let There Be Peace On Earth.....arr. Jay Rouse
Michael Rodgers, Baritone

Offering Moment & Pastoral Prayer

Special Music .....Mary Did You Know .....arr. Marcelo Urias
Michael Rodgers, Baritone

Message .....Stay Alert! .....Rev. Mike Sluder
Mark 13:24-37

*Closing Hymn.....Emmanuel, Emmanuel .....UMH 204

*Benediction

Postlude.....Prepare the Way of the Lord.....George Blake
Edward Pierce, Organ

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by Sherry Miller.

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The Candle of PEACE



"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Ebenezer United Methodist Church | First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

Invited into God's Community

Find your place, build meaningful relationships, and grow together as God's people.

First Sunday of Advent—Today

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Today, we light the first purple candle, **the candle of Peace.** The Peace candle reminds us that even though the world is filled with division, hatred, and war, one day there will finally be peace when we are united with Christ in his Kingdom of Peace. Next Sunday's candle is the candle of Hope.



Michael Rodgers in Worship This Morning!

We are excited to have Michael Rodgers with us in both worship services this morning. He will be singing in the Celebration Service and in the Heritage Worship Service. Michael performs with with Knoxville Opera, Marble City Opera, Knoxville Opera Gospel Choir, is a member of the Tri-Octaves, A-Chord, and is a featured soloist at Cokesbury and Christ UMC. Michael is also a special education teacher with Knox County Schools. We are excited for him to be with us!

Order Poinsettias!



If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas season in honor or memory of someone special, please fill out the order form in your bulletin and return it with your offering or bring it to the church office. Forms are due by **Monday, December 7.** These beautiful poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary beginning **Sunday, December 13**, adding to the joy and beauty of our Christmas worship.

Many Voices, One Story - Sunday, December 6, 3 pm

Join us for a special afternoon of Christmas music, at Central UMC Knoxville, as the combined choirs of Ebenezer UMC, Central UMC Knoxville, Central UMC Lenoir City, and St. Mark UMC, and the hand bell ensemble of Bearden UMC come together to bring us *The Good News of Christmas*!

Morning Glories Christmas Party - December 3

Join the ladies of Morning Glories for their annual Christmas party on December 3 from 10 am to 12 pm. They will be having a Santa Exchange (bring a gift of $15), snacks, coffee, and a great time together!

Men's Club Christmas Breakfast - December 12



Men, this is your invitation to pull up a chair for a hearty Christmas breakfast hosted by our Men's Club. Biscuits and gravy, omelets, bacon, sausage--everything you'd hope for on a December morning. After breakfast, the Men's Club will share proceeds from their BBQ sales to support various missions and ministries. This is a great chance to slow down, enjoy a wonderful meal, and spend time with each other.

All Music Sunday - Sunday, December 20, Both Services

We will be having an All Music Sunday to celebrate Christmas on December 20 in both services! Our Celebration Band and Heritage Choir will bless us in special Christmas music with special musical guests; you won't want to miss this worshipful Sunday!

HOLIDAY UPCOMING EVENTS

Morning Glories Christmas Party—Thursday, December 3, 10:00 am
Santa Breakfast—Saturday, December 5 9 am
Many Voices, One Story—Sunday, December 6, 3pm
Children Singing In Worship—Sunday, December 13, 11 am
Men's Club Christmas Breakfast—Saturday, December 12, 9 am
Youth Christmas Party—Sunday, December 13, 4 pm
All Music Sunday—Sunday, December 20, both services
Candlelight Christmas Eve Services—December 24, 4 pm and 6 pm
One Combined Service—Sunday, December 27, 10 am

This Week at Ebenezer

Sunday, November 29—First Sunday of Advent
9:00 am—Celebration Service (Sanctuary)
10:00 am—Sunday School (Various Locations)
11:00 am—Heritage Service (Sanctuary)
5:00 pm—Sunday Night Youth (Annex)

Monday, November 30
6:00 pm—Yoga With Tammy (Lobby)

Tuesday, December 1
10:00 am—Women's Meet & Chat (Community Room)
11:00 am—Qigong With Mona (Lobby)
2:00 pm—Farmer's Market
5:30 pm—KSYO Chamber Rehearsal (Sanctuary, Various Locations)
6:30 pm—Cub Scouts (St. Clair Hall)

Wednesday, December 2
6:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 3
9:00 am—Men's Coffee (McDonalds at Northshore)
10:00 am—Morning Glories Christmas Party (Community Room)
5:00 pm—One Knox Soccer Club (Soccer Field)
7:00 pm—AA, Al-Anon, and Alateen Meetings (St. Clair Hall, Various Locations)

Friday, December 4
5:00 pm—Brownie Troop Meeting (Annex)

Saturday, December 5
9:00 am—Santa Breakfast (St. Clair Hall, Lobby, Community Room)

Sunday, December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent
9:00 am—Celebration Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:00 am—Sunday School (Various Locations)
11:00 am—Heritage Worship Service (Sanctuary)
3:00 pm—Many Voices, One Story (Central UMC Knoxville)
5:00 pm—Sunday Night Youth (Annex)

Blue Christmas - December 20



The holidays can be a difficult season for those who are struggling with grief and loss. This service is for anyone who is missing a loved one, facing an empty chair at the table, or simply finding that the joy of the season feels heavy this year. Join us on December 20 at 6 pm in the Sanctuary for this sweet service of hope during mourning, loss, and grief. Come as you are, and know that you do not have to walk through this season alone. Together we will pause, remember, and find comfort in God's presence and in one another. All are welcome! Invite a friend, neighbor, or family member who may also need a gentle reminder that they are loved and cared for.

Youth Christmas Party!

All students are invited to join us for our Youth Christmas Party on Sunday, December 13 from 5-6:30 pm. We'll celebrate the season with games, a gift exchange, great food, and a reading of the Christmas story. Bring your Christmas spirit and enjoy an evening of fun and celebration with your friends!

Christmas Eve!

Come celebrate the birth of Christ, our newborn King, on this holy night when light shines and the darkness cannot overcome it. At 4:00 pm, our Contemporary Service will gather us in joyful praise, and at 6:00 pm, our Traditional Service will lift the beloved carols of the season. Both services will conclude with the cherished moment of candlelight during Silent Night, filling the Sanctuary with warmth and wonder. Come worship and rejoice as we welcome Christ into the world once again!

Involved in God's Mission

Participate in God's mission by using your gifts to serve others and make God's love visible in the world.

Magnolia Avenue Food Ministry



Thank you for being involved in God's mission this month through your donations to our Magnolia Avenue Food Ministry and your time in volunteering. We had 8 volunteers on Monday and handed out all 75 bags plus clothes and coats.
This month we are collecting canned pasta (ravioli, spaghetti o's, etc.)
If you'd like to participate, drop off your donation in the bucket in the hallway and if you'd like to serve a group will be meeting on December 28th at 9:30 am in the church parking lot. Come and join them!

Our 2026 Advent Giving Tree



Our 2026 Advent Giving Tree is in the lobby. Take a tag (or two) from the tree fulfill the wishes on the front. This year we will be serving the Grannies, local schools,and our Hispanic friends. The gifts will be due by Sunday, December 13.
There will be a sign up sheet next to the Giving Tree; when you take a tag, please write your name next to the corresponding number that's on the tag on the sign up sheet.When you return the gifts, place all the items in a single bag with the tag firmly attached.

Helping Hands Project

Helping Hands is inviting volunteers and donors to help support practical acts of care, encouragement, and kindness in our community. How have you experienced kindness? What did it mean to you? We would love to hear your testimony about a time when kindness meant the most to you. We will soon be setting up a Kindness Corner with serving opportunities, testimonials, and kindness cups filled with small items to uplift recipients. We are looking for ideas and donations of items, inspirational stories, motivational literature, or anything that has uplifted you and made you feel special. Join us in sharing kindness. For more information, reach out to Ken Pearson.

Inspired by God's Love

Experience God's love that forms your identity, renews your heart, and draws you into life with the Creator.

Children's Ministry

Santa Breakfast - December 5



Join us for a free Breakfast with Santa this Saturday, December 5, from 9-11 am! Enjoy delicious food, festive crafts, and a chance to meet Santa himself! Bring the whole family for a morning full of holiday cheer. Reach out to Ms. Alicia, our Children's Ministry Director, at childrensministry@eumcknox.org with questions or to volunteer!

Join Us For Our December Series!

We'd love for your family to join us as we celebrate the Christmas season together with our December series, Follow the Star. As families travel and celebrate throughout the Christmas season, we'll be learning how God guides us on our journey. Join us each Sunday as we discover how God gives us people, hope, a Savior, and direction to guide us.

Little JAM Room!

We're excited to welcome our youngest learners into our brand-new Little JAM (Jesus and Me) classroom! As our Children's Ministry continues to grow, we're grateful to have the opportunity to create a special place for our preschool and kindergarten children to learn, play, worship, and grow in their faith together. We invite you to be a part of this exciting new chapter in our Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings and we can't wait to see all that God will do through it!

Children Singing In Worship!

During worship on Sunday, December 13, our Children's Ministry will help lead us in worship! The rehearsal for this will be Saturday, December 12, 10 am to 12pm.