

## *A Note From Pastor Pat*



When we set our clocks back a few weeks ago, I was immediately struck not by the availability of an extra hour of morning light but by how dark it got so early in the evening. It has stayed on my mind that we seem to have arrived in the deepening of winter without warning. That's not actually true, but it sure seems like it. Darkness wraps itself around us in palpable ways both literal and figurative.

This provides the context for a most remarkable event at this time of year. It's not our recent time change. It's bigger, far bigger, than that. John the Gospel writer begins his selective account of Jesus' ministry by taking us back to the start, before time and place. He tells us that, back then, Jesus was already fully present as the giver of life. This life, it is written, "brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." [John 1:4-5]

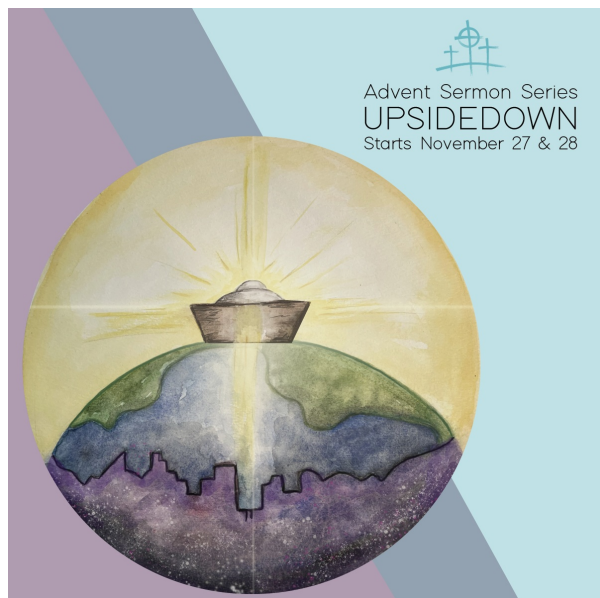
Darkness exists. It is part of this world, part of our lives, in all forms. The light, however, is the winner. It is the prevailing dispeller of darkness. Where light is present, darkness isn't. When we turn on a lamp in a darkened room, darkness is still evident out at the edges as the light dissipates, but where the light itself is, it is total. Where Jesus is, light is, because he is Light.

We're walking through Thanksgiving this week. It is the perfect preface to the season of Advent, a time when we live with expectant hope of the celebration of Jesus' birth so he will dispel the deep darkness that still holds its own in this world. With this in mind, I don't mind the darkness at all, because it is the context for the brightness of God's love in Christ Jesus.

May these weeks of Advent, that lead us to the manger, provide us with reason upon reason to be full of joy as this year draws to an end. Aware of the dark, we can keep on the lookout for flickers of light as they intensify and multiply, bringing hope to us and to the world. Joy is on the move. Let's all embrace it and live it this month. Remember Jesus the Light is for everyone and wins over darkness for us all.

Pat





## Advent Sermon Series

Does life feel upside down? The pressures and discomforts we've faced the last few years have us searching for solid ground. We need a savior.

During this Advent Season, we anticipate God's own upside down arrival. Who would've thought God would be born an infant?

The story of this birth and all that follows cannot be missed.

So let's not miss it! Let's immerse ourselves in the remarkable story of the coming Son of God, who reveals all of God's deep love for the world, now and forever.

Dear sisters and brothers,

The season of Advent is close at hand. As we anticipate the coming of Jesus, you are invited to explore the scriptures with this Advent Worship Companion. These weekly study guides can be used by small groups, during a personal quiet time, or by families who are looking for a way to intentionally walk through the four weeks leading up to Christmas. This study is perfect for people at all different points in their walk with Jesus.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact [Anna Board](#).

PS - The Presbyterian Mission Agency & Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have put together a Daily Advent Devotional and that can be found electronically [HERE](#) or in print at Knox in the Commons.

### VIEW STUDY

November 27 & 28  
Luke 21:25-36  
Signs

December 4 & 5  
Luke 3:1-6  
Rescue

December 11 & 12  
Luke 3:7-18  
What We Are to Do

December 18 & 19  
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)  
God Comes Through

December 24 - Christmas  
Eve  
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)  
Born in Bethlehem

December 26  
John 1:14-18  
Moved into the  
Neighborhood

January 2  
Genesis 1:1-5 & John 1:1-5  
Beginnings

January 8 & 9 - Epiphany-  
Star Stories  
Matthew 2:1-12  
True King

January 15 & 16  
Luke 3:15-17 & 21-22  
Dearly Loved

January 22 & 23  
Luke 4:14-21  
God's Favor

January 29 & 30  
Luke 4:21-30  
Rejected

February 5 & 6  
Luke 5: 1-11  
Unworthy

February 12 & 13  
Luke 6: 17-26  
Blessing

February 19 & 20  
Luke 6: 27-38  
Responsibility

February 26 & 27  
Luke 9: 28-36  
Presence





## Families to Light Advent Candles

Dear Families of Knox,

Advent is coming, and we are looking for families to light the Advent wreath candles during our weekly worship services in Advent.

A script will be provided, and you will also be invited to share a word about your family traditions. We are hoping that you will sign up for one of the few remaining openings:

- Sat, 12/4 5:00 pm
- Sat, 12/11: 5:00 pm
- Sun, 12/19: 9:00 am
- Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm
- Christmas Eve: 9:00 pm

Please respond to [Kim Lynn](#) or [Chris Jachcinski](#) at your earliest convenience.

Yours in Christ,  
Kim Lynn & Chris Jachcinski  
Elders, WMA Council

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### Worship Services After Christmas Eve

Weekend of December 26 one Service at 10am

Weekend of January 2 one Service at 10am

January 8 @ 5pm & January 9 @ 9AM & 10:30AM is Epiphany - Star Stories

### Office Closed

Dec 25, 27, 28 & January 1, 3

1/2 day on December 24 and December 31



## Knox's Stewardship Story Is You!

Matthew 6:21 – For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The natural inclination when we hear, or see, the word “Stewardship” is to think financial giving. For many of us this brings discomfort and perhaps even increased anxiety. Maybe it’s due to our engrained need for a scoreboard or some numerical measure of commitment to validate that we “measure up”.

However, the one true question we need to ask ourselves during Stewardship season is not “how much?” but “where?”. Stewardship is a call for us to decide where we are putting our hearts this upcoming spiritual year. Where will we put our time? Where will we put our energy? Where will we allow our talents to shine?

Throughout the years, the Knox community has unquestionably benefited from the financial generosity of its members. However, the true fabric of Knox has been woven and fortified through individuals giving time, talent and love to Knox.

This Stewardship season, yes consider your financial component of commitment...

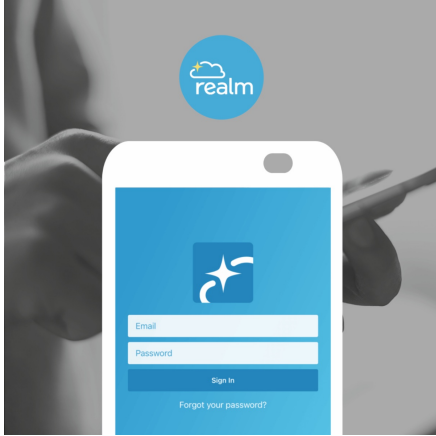


but give just as much thought to where your heart is going to be this upcoming year.

PLEDGE NOW

SET UP RECURRING GIFT

## Connect



### Dear Knox Family,

Download the realm app and create a new password. If you have questions please call the church office at 630-355-8181. This is taking place of the church life app.

Looking forward to all the possibilities to stay connected.

Knox Office Staff



### Update from Your Pastor Nominating Committee

Your PNC has successfully completed our Ministry Information Form, which is used by Presbytery to match potential candidates with our requirements for a new Head of Staff. By the time you read this, we should be receiving our first group of applicants.

Check out updates on our bulletin board across from the sanctuary. We continue to meet weekly and ask for your continued prayers- both for the discernment of the PNC and also for the Spirit to be at work on the heart of our future pastor.

### Communion Sundays - No Sunday School

On the first Sunday of every month, Knox serves communion during the service. On these Sundays, we will not be having Sunday School and instead encourage our children to attend service with their families and they are welcome to partake in communion as well.

As a friendly reminder, there are activity sheets in the back of the Sanctuary as well as activity bags to help kids focus



during the service. We hope that this time will be viewed as a special Family Sunday time.



### **Please join us for Hall of Famers Lunch Thursday, December 9 at 12 pm**

#### **“A Prairie Holiday”**

Rick Pickren, one of our favorite Hall of Famers entertainers. He will help us celebrate the season with familiar songs and guitar music. All Knox Seniors (and all others interested) are invited to join us.

Lunch will be served at 12 pm and the program will begin shortly afterwards. Menu will include Chicken Tetrazzini ordered from Belgio's Catering

**Cost is \$8.00 payable at the door.**

**For reservations, please call: Diane Heintz at 630/615-4324 by Monday, December 6.**



### **Cocoa & Cookies with Santa December 5 from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Families, please save the date for Cocoa and Cookies with Santa which will take place on December 5th from 11:30am-1:30pm. We hope you will join us for one of our services that morning and then stay with us to have some cookies and cocoa and to visit with Santa.

Register Today. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Hartman at [ehartman@knoxpres.org](mailto:ehartman@knoxpres.org).

**REGISTER**



### **Wednesday Nights Second Semester**

Our registration is now open for our 2nd semester of Wednesday Nights, starting in January. We have fun and fellowship together through music in choir, woodworking, recreation, dinner together and bible study. We hope to see you there!

Register Today. If you have any questions, please contact



Erin Hartman at [ehartman@knoxpres.org](mailto:ehartman@knoxpres.org).

REGISTER



### December G3 Event

Join us for our annual G3- Middle School Christmas Party and Sock Exchange on **December 10 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm** at Knox.

It will be a time of holiday fun and fellowship together with games, including our White Elephant Sock Exchange. Please bring a wrapped pair of fun socks for the White Elephant Sock Exchange.

Pizza and Salad will be provided.

SIGN UP



### Carols and Candlelight December 12 at 4 pm

As the bustle of Christmas activities swirl around us, we invite you to slow down and rediscover the profound gift God gave to us. Through scripture, readings and music, we offer you the opportunity to listen, sing and breathe the Good News of our newborn Savior.

### Carols and Candlelight Instrumentalists

If you are interested in playing with the orchestra for Carols and Candlelight should contact Brad Pfeil at [bradpfeil@aol.com](mailto:bradpfeil@aol.com).

### High School Christmas Story, Hot Cocoa and PJ's

Join us on December 12 at 7 pm for hot chocolate and the Christmas Story, as told by Charlie Brown! Wear pajamas and bring a blanket so we can enjoy a cozy movie night. Free event! No registration needed.



### High School White Elephant

December 15, from 6-8 pm, is our annual White Elephant! Come like the magi, bearing a wrapped gift, original value no more than \$15. We will eat dinner and then start the white elephant exchange! No cost, other than the gift. No registration needed.



### Young Adult White Elephant Sunday December 19 at 7 pm

Come one, come all, to the white elephant gift exchange for Young Adults! You are welcome to participate in person or via zoom! Mail or drop off a gift at Knox by the 19th, and text/email Darin for the zoom link. Or, simply show up in the basement with your gift, wrapped, and costing less than \$15. No Registration needed.

### Knox Caroling, December 18th, 2 pm - 4:30 pm

We hope you'll join us as we bring Christmas carols to folks from Knox and in the surrounding neighborhood!

No preparation is needed as song packets will be provided. This is a great activity for carol lovers of all ages. Refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of the event. Please register for this event.





**Caroling**  
December 18  
2 - 4:30PM

**REGISTER**



### **Winter Solstice Bike Ride** **Saturday, December 18**

Bundle up and join your buds for our annual ride on the bike trails through Knoch Knolls park and around Whalon Lake to celebrate the first day of winter! We will head out from Knox Presbyterian Church at 8 am, circle the lake, and then warm up afterward with a hot breakfast at Colonial Cafe!

Plan to join us? Let us know at [mankind@knoxpres.org](mailto:mankind@knoxpres.org).



*Healing & Hope*  
**SERVICE**  
December 19 @ 7PM

### **Service of Healing and Hope** **December 19th, 7:00pm**

The Christmas holidays aren't always merry and bright. The death of a loved one, coping with the loss of a job, facing life after divorce, and any number of difficult life events can feel all the more painful during this season of family gatherings and Christmas parties. You are not alone.

We invite you to gather with us for a *Service of Healing and Hope* where we'll reflect and be still. All are welcome.



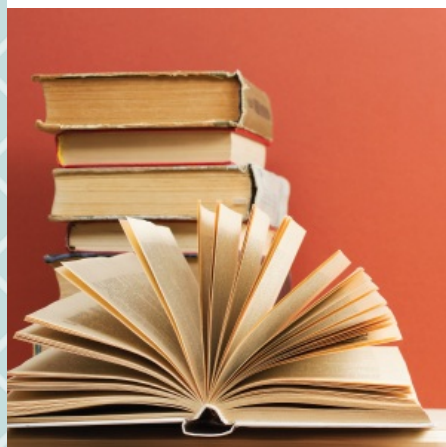
### Writing Memoirs Series

Dreading January's icy grip? Join us to escape on a journey of memoir writing. Record some of your personal stories—a special memory of a time, place, person, object, or event. In so doing, you will gain a greater sense of your own identity and create a legacy for others. Whether you're a novice or an experienced writer, we'll explore techniques to access memory, un-stick writing blocks, generate ideas, enhance creativity, and increase writing effectiveness.

We'll meet on Monday afternoons 2:00-3:00 pm, January 10, 17, 24, and 31. Bring writing materials with you—pen and paper and/or a computer or electronic device.

**SIGN UP**

Questions? Contact Alice Snelgrove at 630-983-6695 or email [alicesnelgrove@yahoo.com](mailto:alicesnelgrove@yahoo.com) for more information.



**The Evening Book Club** Zoom meetings continue on the second Wednesdays, 7:30 pm. We will be meeting in the room 202, but will simultaneously Zoom, for those who choose not to attend in person for any reason.

For December 8, we are reading ***Salt to the Sea***, by Ruth Sepetys. All readers are welcome, but if you are new to the group, you will need to email Janice Wiles, [wilesjan@gmail.com](mailto:wilesjan@gmail.com), to be added to the list to receive the Zoom link, and stay up to date on any changes.

Visit [knoxpres.org](http://knoxpres.org) and click on Events to view Evening Book Club list of upcoming dates and books.



## Women on Wednesday

Women On Wednesdays are continuing their study of Genesis and are now learning about Abram, his call and faithful response. WOW meets on Wednesday mornings from 9:15-11:15 but will not meet the day before Thanksgiving, Nov 24.

Our last meeting will be December 8th and then we will break until January when we will continue following Abraham on his journey with God.

It is never too late to join this group of all ages and all levels of Bible Study so if your Wednesday mornings are open - come join us!

Questions?

Please contact Robin Kolar at [skolar7227@aol.com](mailto:skolar7227@aol.com) or Margaret Lambka at [mllambka2@gmail.com](mailto:mllambka2@gmail.com)



## Young Adult Mission Trip

Register by November 30th for the Young Adult Mission Trip to Detroit, Michigan where we will continue some of the work begun by this summer's Go and Serve!

The trip runs from Monday, December 26th, through Friday, December 31st. You will be home in time to celebrate the New Year with friends! The cost is \$350, but scholarships are available - don't let cost be the reason you don't attend this year. Sign up today!

Please contact [Darin Nettleton](mailto:Darin Nettleton) with any questions or concerns.

REGISTER



## Not Your Mother's Circle

NYMC is an informal gathering of ladies who enjoy fellowship on the 2nd or 3rd Saturday of the month.

If you would like more information or to join this fun group of ladies, contact Sue Goll, [sgollcci@gmail.com](mailto:sgollcci@gmail.com) or Sue Lies, [suelies3231@gmail.com](mailto:suelies3231@gmail.com).

**Mary Martha circle** meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Susan Burns at [sbburns@comcast.net](mailto:sbburns@comcast.net).

**Rachel Rebecca Circle** will meet at 1:30 PM on December 14, 2021, in the Middle School Room at Knox. Kathi Olson will send out more information nearer the date. New Members are always welcome.





**MOST NEEDED  
ITEMS**

**WAYS TO  
GIVE**

## Hunger Sunday December 5

Help support Loaves and Fishes and bring some items to Knox on December 5.

Did you know that in addition to the very popular Hunger Sunday, there is a way to donate food to Loaves and Fishes from the comfort of your own home 24/7? There is a virtual food drive housed on the Loaves and Fishes website. To participate go to [www.loaves-fishes.org/ways-to-give](http://www.loaves-fishes.org/ways-to-give) and choose "virtual food drive."

There you will find a shopping list of healthy food products at discounted prices that are most needed by the Loaves and Fishes clients. With just a few clicks you can choose the items and quantities you wish to donate. At checkout you will pay with a credit card. Also at checkout, under "Company Name" enter "Knox Presbyterian Church."

For more detailed information about Loaves and Fishes, visit [www.loaves-fishes.org](http://www.loaves-fishes.org).



**SIGN UP**

**READ MORE**

## Angel Tree Sisseton

Dakota Partnership has been truly blessed this year. All the angels flew off the tree! If you feel so moved we can still use donations for the rental truck and the gas to deliver all the wonderful gifts to our precious angels in Sisseton.

We are still receiving new or gently used bedding or towels. It gets cold up in Sisseton so any coats or warm outerwear is also appreciated.

Any questions please call Julie 630-470-7044 or email [educateread1@gmail.com](mailto:educateread1@gmail.com) She will also be in the Commons between Sunday services.

**Angel Presents "drive thru, drop-off" will be Saturday, December 11, 12-2pm. You can drop off the presents whenever the Church is open prior to that date.**



## Knox Blood Drive December 14 2PM - 6 PM

It will be a time to give a special gift for the first ever Holiday Blood Drive held at Knox! Sign up today.



## Amazon Smile

Shop Amazon Smile & Contribute to Knox! Most likely you have shopped on Amazon but did you know that your purchases could also help Knox?

Amazon has a program called Amazon Smile, it offers the same selection of products, prices, shipping and shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is, when you shop on smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization that you select.

Knox Presbyterian Church is part of that selection! All you need to do, next time you want to shop amazon, is type in smile.amazon.com and select Knox Presbyterian Church as your charitable organization! What an easy way to help promote the many missions of Knox.



## COOKIE WALK is December 4 from 9AM-1PM

We have had such great response to our Cookie Walk to this point, thank you just does not seem enough, but we'll say it anyway. THANK YOU! Following is some pertinent information we want to share:

Please spread the word. Share on social media, places you go where there are other people, friends, family. Remind them again just before Thanksgiving.

We don't want to be out of product before 1 pm. PLEASE bake, we need you!

Some ways to participate:

- Nov 29, 30, Dec 1 - Bake 1:30-5 at the church with Doris and Kay. No experience needed and everything provided.
- Dec 3 - 7 pm to ?? Setting up for CW
- Dec. 4 - 7 am to 2 pm Cookie Walk and clean up
- Sign-up sheets & additional info in Commons on Oct. 24 & Nov 7
- All profits will go to Knox Young Adult Mission Trip

We are planning on joyfully fulfilling all 4 C's with this "CHRIST like, CARING, CONNECTION to our COMMUNITY!"

## Poinsettias

Knox will again be offering members the opportunity to purchase poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the



ORDER

Christmas Eve services.

Poinsettias can be taken home after the 9pm Christmas Eve service. The cost, per plant, will be \$16. The last day to order will be December 12.

To order, go to [knoxpres.org](http://knoxpres.org) and complete the form. There will also be an opportunity to order poinsettias in person in the Commons on Saturday, December 11 at 5:00pm and Sunday, December 12 between worship services.



## Hesed House Support

Knox supports the guests at the Hesed House homeless shelter in Aurora on the 4th Saturday of the month. We provide a hot dinner, a hot breakfast, lunch bags and other supplies. In 2022, we will be serving all 12 months. For more information, see the [Hesed House page](#).

Knox Donors make and purchase food items & supplies and bring them to a “drive-thru, drop off” at Knox with Knox Drivers then delivering the items to Hesed House. In addition, Knox Volunteers enter the shelter that evening and the next morning to prepare and serve the dinner and breakfast that we delivered.

The signup to bring items to the “drive-thru, drop off” at Knox and volunteer in the shelter will be posted here approx. 10 days before the 4th Saturday. In addition, the sign up will be included in a Knox Wednesday email to the Knox congregation and in a SignUpGenius email sent to those who have volunteered in the past.

Any questions, email [Bruce Burkelman](#) or call 630-209-1421.

Thanks so much for your continued support for the homeless in our community.



## Thank You!

October 17 was a great day for the 39th Naperville Area CROP Hunger Walk. The weather was perfect, the walk was in person again and much needed funds were raised to help end hunger and poverty around the block and around the world.

Team Knox had its second best year ever. A total of \$5915 was raised by 19 Knox walkers. Many, many thanks to all the walkers, their sponsors and to the Presbyterian Women of Knox. A special Thank You to Pastor Cindy for her 24 years of participating in the Naperville Area CROP Hunger Walk!



Knox CROP Team Captains  
Ineke Pelella  
Rachel Koritala



GIVE

## Christmas Joy Offering 2021 "A Gift Opens Doors" The Perfect Gift

One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift in response, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift, Jesus Christ. "a gift who opens a door. Jesus is the *perfect* gift, not only opening a door but coming through it. In Jesus, God joined with humanity, and in his life, death and resurrection, so our story of God goes, Jesus *is* the door, now standing open. The giving continues because God is with us, still - and always.

We offer our gifts during this Advent Season to the Christmas Joy Offering because God shows us the power and importance of being together, of "being with." We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together. We thank God for being "with us" through the gift of Jesus, for opening doors that may not have been accessible to us, and for joining us together as the Church and, through our gifts, with those who have need. Knox receives donations to the Christmas Joy Offering during Advent beginning November 28 through Christmas Eve. Please go online and choose Christmas Joy or mail your check payable to Knox and be sure to mark Christmas Joy in your memo section.



Knox Christmas Card Fund

GIVE

## Christmas Card Fund

Instead of sending Christmas cards this year, consider being a part of a longstanding tradition at Knox by offering Christmas greetings to the entire congregation while making a donation to one of our mission projects at the same time! This year we encourage you to sign up online and designate what you would like your mission choice to be. Mission projects include: The Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Loaves & Fishes Community Services, The Scott Moreau Fund, The Lehman Foundation Fund, and The Anne Sherren Scholarship Fund.

If you'd prefer to send in your donation to Michal Baker, please make your check payable to "Knox Presbyterian Church" and mark in the memo section "Christmas Card Fund – your mission choice." We will keep a list of everyone who contributes and provide everyone's names in the newsletter. Can you think of an easier way to send over 500 Christmas Cards? Contact Anne Sherren at 630-932-0481 with questions.

# Community



**The Worship, Music, and Arts Council** is looking for someone to join the council as Communion Coordinator. This role would include preparing, or scheduling people to prepare, the elements for communion and setting the communion table.

If you are interested in being the Communion Coordinator or in helping with communion preparation, please contact Kim Lynn [mskim.littleblessings@gmail.com](mailto:mskim.littleblessings@gmail.com) or Chris Jachcinski [cjachcinski@gmail.com](mailto:cjachcinski@gmail.com).



## Greeters Needed!

Come join the greeting team and extend a warm welcome to everyone who visits Knox. Each of us has an important part to play in extending welcome and creating an inviting environment. This welcome begins at the Front Door!

Please consider greeting as a way to serve. Question? Contact Carol Pfeiffer at [carolericp@yahoo.com](mailto:carolericp@yahoo.com)



## Are you looking for a way to serve?

Our Tech Team needs volunteers to assist in the tech booth on Sunday mornings. Potential tasks range from helping manage slides, to working with the audio and video equipment.

No experience is needed! If you are interested, please contact Patrick Schwarz [pschwarz@knoxpres.org](mailto:pschwarz@knoxpres.org).



## Part Time Custodian Help Needed - Join Our Team!

We are looking to hire one or two part time custodians to work on Wednesday afternoon/evenings 5:00 to 9:00 pm.

If you would like some extra spending money and can help us to keep Knox look welcoming – we need you! You may also be scheduled to help out during vacations or large events and the tasks could be duties inside and outside our church.

You will help to set-up and take down furniture and equipment for both church and community events that take place at Knox and also to help maintain a clean

environment for all our members and visitors.

For more information please contact Ron Mobley at 630-615-4305 or [rmobley@knoxpres.org](mailto:rmobley@knoxpres.org).

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A few songs to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus!  
(click the song title to view & listen)



[When We Love](#) by Love & The Outcome

[Love People](#) by Chris Tomlin feat. Jimmie Allen

[Love that Won't Let Go](#) by Stars Go Dim

[Love So Great](#) by Jeremy Camp

[Love Broke Thru](#) by TobyMac

[People Need People](#) by CAIN

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Worship Together Saturday @ 5PM, Sunday @ 9AM or 10:30AM

Links for Sunday Livestream

[VIEW](#)



[BULLETIN](#)



[PRAYER](#)



[GIVE](#)

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Knox Presbyterian Church | [knoxpres.org](http://knoxpres.org)

