

The Clarion

The Newsletter of Kennewick First United Methodist Church
December 2011



Christmas at Kennewick First

Christmas Eve Services

Kennewick First will again celebrate three worship services on Christmas Eve, December 24. We invite you to celebrate Christmas with us through Scripture, story, and song at 3 pm, 5 pm, or 11 pm. Communion will be shared during the 11 pm service. Spread the joy of Christ's birth by inviting your friends, family, and neighbors to worship with us. *(Please note that our buses will provide transportation for the 3 pm service only.)* Our special Christmas Eve offering will support the overall ministries and outreach of our church.

Christmas Cantata

Christmas this year is on a Sunday, and we will celebrate with one service only on that day, at 10:30. It promises to be a very special service as we will enjoy a Christmas Cantata, "Mary, Did You Know?" presented by our Kennewick First choir. Please make plans to join us on Christmas morning as we celebrate the coming of our Savior, praising Him through song and narration. Christ has come!



December Events

Gift Sunday

Our church family is incredibly blessed and we encourage all to share those blessings with those who are not so fortunate. Gift Sunday will be celebrated on December 4; we ask you to bring your unwrapped gifts to worship on that day and place them in one of the large gift-wrapped boxes located in the new entryway or at the back of the sanctuary. These gifts will be distributed by the Salvation Army to those in need. Not only do those who receive these gifts experience the joy of this season; those who give also receive the joy that comes of extravagant generosity.

Advent Cornerstone

Our Advent all-family Cornerstone fellowship nights will begin on Tuesday, December 6, from 6-8 pm. Bring the whole family down for dinner, fellowship gathering, Christmas story, and an all-church service activity. On December 6, we will make tray ornaments for LifeCare's Christmas supper; we will go Christmas caroling at Hawthorne Court December 13; and on December 20, our service project will be to make apple crisp for the Union Gospel Mission's Christmas dinner. We hope that you will all join us in this truly wonderful way to anticipate the coming of our Savior.

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Jr. and Sr. High Holiday Dance

Our holiday dance will be held on Friday, December 9, from 7:30 to 10 pm, in the Ida Payne fellowship hall. Cost of this event is \$1 plus a can of food for the food bank. Friends are welcome!

Dress is semi-formal. Gentlemen, we encourage you to wear dress or casual slacks and a collared shirt. Ladies, please wear skirts, dresses, or dress pants with nice tops. Please, no jeans or T-shirts!

Sunday is a FUNDAY

Mark your calendars all you 4th and 5th grade Fundayers -- December 11th is FUNDAY!!! Meet in the 4th and 5th grade room from 12:00-1:30 pm; bring your sack lunch and get ready to have some holiday fun and fellowship time!

UMW December Bake Sale

Younger members of UMW are holding a bake sale/mini-Holly Daze on December 11. All church goers, including men, are encouraged to bring in baked goods, so perfect to enjoy during the holidays. Proceeds from the one-day Sunday sale will support UMW missions. Suzy Swanson and Jill Berg suggested this project last year, and it was such a big success then that they're heading it up again this holiday season!

Baked goods can be brought in Saturday or Sunday, December 10 and 11, and dropped off in the church kitchen. Selected items from Holly Daze will also be sold at fantastic prices. Please help the less fortunate of the world by supporting the many, many missions and charities of the women of Kennewick First United Methodist Church, local and abroad, by bringing in your holiday favorites and buying some, too!

Carols by Candlelight

Give yourself a special Christmas gift this year and attend *Carols by Candlelight* on Sunday evening, December 11, at 6 pm. In the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, this event allows us to slow down and savor God's gifts of beauty and music. Our beautifully decorated sanctuary will be softly lit with candles, and we'll get to sing the old familiar Christmas hymns we love so dearly. Invite a friend; this is also a lovely way to share Christmas with others!

December Meeting of the United Methodist Women

The monthly meeting of the United Methodist Women will be held Wednesday morning, December 14, at 10:30 am in the Future Kitchen. The program will be the "Installation of Officers" for the coming year. Following the program, lunch will be hosted by the Tuesday AM Fellowship. Attendees are asked to bring finger food for lunch. The sharing gift will be for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. If you have any questions, please call Donna Troxel, UMW President, at 586-3478.

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Our Church Family

Prayers and Concerns

- ♥ Our prayers are with Kathy Wertman and her family at the passing of Kathy's mother, Katy Redmond, on November 8.

- ♥ We also lift Christy Howard and her family in prayer on the passing of her grandfather, Chet Ritter on November 12.

- ♥ Please pray for those on our ongoing prayers list:
Deana & Joseph Ahrend, Opal Baker, Roberta Barcot, Betty Bauman, Verdine Davis, Lois Davis, Bud Deines, Carl Ficker, Carol Hardacre, Gwen Harder, Gene Hardy, Marty Hendrickson, Dick & Helen Ingersoll, Pete James, Jane Johnson, Adam Lamberd, Phil LaMont, Bill & Eileen Mandell, Dorothy Matz, Mikel Meilink, Lucy Merritt, Joyce Nightingale, Don Olsen, Nancy Osborn, Jean Oversby, Josh Pearson, Janet Sadler, Donna Shirey, Lynn Simmelink, Rhonda Simmelink, Terry Simmelink, Jacque Sonderman, Willard & Barbara Stone, Lowell & Madeline Swift, Steve Vaughn, Elmo Warren, Emma Wentz, Shorty Wertman, Boots Wise, Marybelle Yarzombeck, Mike Zabel.

UMW Woman of the Year and Special Mission Recognition Awards -- 2011

Each year the United Methodist Women select three women for outstanding service to their church, their mission work, and commitment to Jesus Christ. Two people are selected for Special Mission Recognition and one person is selected for Woman of the Year

Beginning in April, a Selection Committee reviews names suggested by members of United Methodist Women and members of the congregation. After the names are selected, written recommendations are sent to our Seven Rivers District in June. Pins and a plaque are ordered in July. All of this is done confidentially, and those women selected do not know until the day of the presentation. This year our Selection Committee consisted of: Verdine Davis, Dolores Conrad, Donna Troxel, and Phyllis Koschik.

Recipients of the 2011 Special Mission Recognition Award

- **Suzy Swanson**
- **Debi Britton**

Recipient of the 2011 Woman of the Year Award

- **Shirley Miller**

It should be noted that over the years six men have received our Special Mission Recognition award for all the support they have given to UMW.

We, of United Methodist Women, extend an invitation to every woman in our congregation to visit our Unit Meetings and encourage them to join a fellowship.

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Coming in January

One Worship Service New Year's Day

As New Year's Day falls on a Sunday this year, there will be one worship service at 10:30; *there will be no 9:00 service on that day.* In the Wesleyan tradition of reaffirming our covenant relationship with God at the first of the year, our New Year's Day service will focus on renewing our commitment to Christ and the Church. This will be a wonderful way to begin the year in faith. Holy Communion will also be observed on New Year's Day.

Senior News

The Seniors will not be meeting for a potluck in December; the next gathering will be January 16, and Bob Rupp will be the featured speaker. Matt Taylor is working on a program for February, Arlan Gadeken will speak in March about his trip to Ethiopia, and Miss Tri-Cities will be with us in April. May is still a question.

The group is still looking for someone to plan/organize trips, as well as for someone to keep its scrapbook.

Thanks to all those who have come forward with programs. You have been great. Please keep your ideas in mind for next year. It will be here before you know it!

Looking Ahead with the Jr. High Youth...

With the Christmas season quickly approaching and schedules being filled with holiday adventures and family traditions, I want to look ahead to the New Year. January is a busy month for the Jr. High youth at our church. **Confirmation** classes will begin on January 3 and run until March 11, 2012. Confirmation is open to youth 7th grade and older who would like to dive into their faith journey and their commitment to the church. Please be praying for the youth who will be participating in this life-changing experience!

Also in January, the Jr High youth will hold their BIG fundraiser, the **Rock-A-Thon**. The Rock-A-Thon parent and youth meeting will be on Sunday, December 4, at 8:00 pm in the youth chapel. Please mark your calendar now if you have a youth in Jr. High and plan on attending this short informational meeting. The Rock-A-Thon itself will be January 14-15 here at the church. The money raised at this event will go toward the different trips the youth take, programs, food, and transportation. Thank you for your continued support of the youth in our church!



Stephen Ministry Information

With just four more training sessions to complete, our Stephen Ministers will soon minister to our members and constituents dealing with a wide variety of pastoral needs. By December 13, each trainee will have completed the 50-hour training program. Your Stephen

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Ministers will be commissioned during worship on Sunday, January 8. In the weeks and months to follow they will be deployed at the direction of our pastors. Only those desiring a Stephen Minister will receive the care of one.

Then what? Is each care-receiver and Stephen Minister on his or her own?

Definitely NOT. Stephen Ministers will continue to get together twice a month for support and continuing education. These future gatherings are called "Small Group Peer Supervision" sessions. The activities during these times are clearly defined. Peer supervision is *not* a discussion of care receivers, but rather is a clinical setting in which the Stephen Minister's strategy and quality of care is evaluated and refined. Peer supervision is for the sake of the Stephen Ministers in their care-giving. The privacy and confidentiality of our care receivers is strictly adhered to. Small Group Peer Supervision is crucial to supporting our Stephen Ministers and helping them hone their care-giving skills.

Again, remember as you read this - confidentiality remains vital throughout the Stephen Ministry process. No identifiable personnel records are kept. It is a "two-way street." As ministers and leaders, we ask you, the members of our spiritual community, to respect our commitment to confidentiality. Please do not approach a Stephen Minister with questions about someone you know or imagine to be receiving the care of a Stephen Minister. The Stephen Minister's response to you will not be rude; however, they will respond with something like, "As a matter of confidentiality, I cannot respond to your inquiry."

Please pray for all of us that we will be vessels through which God works to heal and make whole. *Sarah Longan, Stephen Leader*



Notes of Interest

Special Offerings

The United Methodist Student Offering was collected in worship services on November 27, but that doesn't mean you are too late with your offering! Special Sunday offerings can be given at any time; simply designate on your check or offering envelope, or on a note attached to cash, the name of the special offering to which you wish to donate. The student offering calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge by funding scholarships and student loans.

Can We Borrow Your Machine?

Deb Reeve is looking for 'portable' sewing machines she can borrow for her Cornerstone Sewing Class beginning in January. If you have an old machine, or an extra, that you can do without for a few weeks, we would certainly appreciate it. These machines will be used by young people and beginning sewers, so the more *basic*, the better! If you can assist us, please give Deb a call at the church office at 582-2163.

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Bus Bloggin's

Sixty-seven of us in our Terrific Threesome will be traveling to the Sunnyside Lighted Implement Parade on December 3. It has become an annual event for families, and this year we will be going early so that we can enjoy our choice of Fire Station Chili or Methodist pancakes. The most hardy of us will stand outside while others will choose to stay warm in the bus while the parade passes by. We are sure to have a great time.

On Saturday, December 10, our big bus will roll up to Spokane for a day of shopping and munching. Good thing the bus has LOTS of storage. We really try to fill it up! Thanks to our drivers, all we have to do is snack and talk and enjoy that special worry-free, comfy bus seat. And we DO!

Each Sunday our "little" buses bring multiple worshipers to both Sunday services. Would you believe each bus averages 100 miles each Sunday to deliver our special friends to share in worship with us? This takes a tremendous amount of time on the part of our drivers. They are true treasures.

Keep checking the Bus Board for information. We love your suggestions for trips; keep 'em coming!

The Bus Bunch



Community Events

Hope for the Holidays

The Tri-Cities Chaplaincy will offer three opportunities to attend a two-hour class designed to help grieving people deal with the stress, loneliness, and confusion of the holiday season.

- ✓ Thursday, December 1st, Noon to 2 p.m. or 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, location to be announced
- ✓ Saturday, December 3rd, Noon to 2 pm, location to be announced

There is no charge for these classes. Please call the Chaplaincy office at 783-7416 for more information and to register.

Bells of the Desert

Bells of the Desert, a community handbell choir in the Tri-Cities, is presenting a concert, "Night of Wonder," on Saturday, December 17, and again on Sunday, January 8. Under director Cathy Rohrig, ringers strive to bring out the amazing versatility of the handbell instrument. The sight and sound of over 120 precisely tuned bells and chimes ringing in concert is incrediBELL. All ages will be engaged and entertained. The December 17 concert will be at Kennewick First Presbyterian Church, 2001 W. Kennewick Ave., Kennewick, at 7:00 pm. The concert on January 8 will be at Central United Protestant Church, 1124 Stevens, Richland, at 4:00 pm. Donations are appreciated. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Safe Harbor Crisis Nursery.

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You Took My Parking Space At Church

One day, a man went to visit a church, He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver got out and said, "I always park there!"

"You took my place!" The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

When you receive this, say a prayer and share this with a friend. Maybe, just maybe, we can get the world to start thinking of Who took our place. . .

The Hospitality Committee

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Dear Kennewick First UMC Members and Friends,

After considerable discussion, Pastor Roger Barr and the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) have mutually agreed to request that Bishop Hagiya appoint a new pastor to KFUMC beginning July 1, 2012, the next date when pastoral appointments usually change. Within our United Methodist system, appointments are solely under the control of the Bishop, and requests may or may not be implemented. Assuming such a change occurs, Pastor Roger would be eligible for appointment to another church in the Pacific Northwest Conference, effective at that time.

The SPRC Committee, on behalf of the whole Church, needs to develop a "profile" of a future head pastor for us. Our Seven Rivers District Superintendent, the Rev. Mary Huycke, will be sending the Committee survey forms to be used in developing that profile. Upon receipt of the forms, the Committee will develop a process for completion of the profile, including some form of congregational input.

If you have comments or questions about the process, please contact an SPRC member to share them. Members of SPRC are: Mary Lynn Arter, Linda Bauer, Larry Berg, Jill Door, Jerry Hansen, Bob Kelly, Kris Kieffer, Dennis Simmelink, Steve Vaughn, and Becky West.

Please pray for our Church and all those involved in this probable transition, so that everyone will stay focused on working for the overall good and be respectful and considerate of others who may have a different viewpoint.

*Sincerely,
Roger Barr, Pastor
Jerry Hansen, SPRC Chair*

To: Kennewick First United Methodist Congregation
From: Jerry Hansen – SPRC Chair
Date: November 10, 2011

Pastoral Change Q. and A.

Pastor Roger Barr and the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) have mutually requested that Bishop Hagiya appoint a new pastor for our church and appoint Roger to a new location. This page answers some of the common questions surrounding the requests and the appointment process.

Q. Why has this request been made?

A. For some time now, Roger and various members of SPRC have been evaluating whether the gifts and graces Roger brought to address our ministry needs six years ago continue to be effective in meeting some of the needs of the congregation today. After substantial discussion, both parties concluded that it was time to seek a change.

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Q. How does the Church get a new pastor?

A. Basically, the Bishop appoints one. To help him in that process, he has a cabinet composed of the seven District Superintendents and the Conference Financial Officer, and he requests the SPRC to provide a profile of this Church and the pastoral characteristics we think can lead us to our goals.

Q. How will that profile be developed?

A. The Conference has provided an outline of the profile the Bishop desires. As part of that, SPRC needs to secure a great deal of information from the Church and the community. And SPRC will seek input from members and staff, although the particular process(es) for that input have not been developed yet.

Q. What is the major focus of the profile?

A. A description of the community we serve, how it is changing, what its needs are, and our goals for serving the community. In addition, we are asked to describe the pastoral characteristics that we believe can help us achieve our goals.

Q. When does this profile need to be completed for the Bishop and cabinet?

A. By early January. They will start the process of reviewing all Conference churches and the requests that have been made in late January.

Q. When will we know who the new pastor will be?

A. That's difficult to predict. Technically, appointments are not final until after Annual Conference (late June), but a church of our size would usually know about April.

Q. Do the requests guarantee that we will have a new pastor next year.

A. Technically, "no," but our District Superintendent says she has never known of a case where the pastor and SPRC requested a change and it did not occur.

Q. What can we members do to help this process?

A. Provide SPRC with your ideas, help everyone stay focused on the future of our Church, provide love and encouragement to one another through this time of transition, and accept perspectives different from your own with an understanding and loving spirit.

In closing, one of our members who attended the Charge Conference on Monday night stated that we should all understand that we are here to serve God. We all need to ask deep questions as we move forward. What do you feel God is calling our church to do? What needs do we have in our community? What are the needs of our congregational family? If we are willing to probe ourselves and be open to other opinions, we will be on the path to finding a vision for our church. This is an important and crucial process for our church.

***Kennewick First United
Methodist Church
Worship Services***

Alternative Service - 9 am
Sunday School - 9 am
Traditional Service - 10:30 am

Nursery provided at each service
Handicapped Accessible

Church Office Hours

8 am - noon and 1 - 4 pm
Monday through Thursday
8 am - noon, Friday

(509) 582-2163

Visit our website at
www.kennewickfirst.com



*For to us a child is born, to
us a son is given, and the
government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace. Of the
increase of his government and
peace there will be no end.*

Isaiah 9:6-7a

*Articles for the January 2012
Clarion will be due by December 16.*



First United Methodist Church
Corner of Dayton St. & Kennewick Ave.
Office: 421 W. Kennewick Ave.
Kennewick, WA 99336

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