

THE CLARION

KENNEWICK 1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CORNER OF DAYTON ST AND KENNEWICK AVENUE,
KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Monday, December 24

4:00 pm service will feature
Time with Young Disciples
Clear Waters leading
Handbell Choir

Piano & Organ duets by Margo and Polly

7:00 pm service will feature
Communion
Chancel Choir leading
Handbell Choir

Piano & Organ duets by Margo and Polly



Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 19
7 pm

This service is designed for people who are experiencing loss, for those who, during the advent season are reminded of people who are missing from their lives, or who have difficulty "getting into the Christmas spirit" and need a safe place to reflect on the season without the expectations of others that they will "be joyful always." The service will major in liturgy, prayer, singing, and reflection. A brief meditation may be offered during the service, which will last 40 to 45 minutes.



Come join us for "A Mouse's Tale" and discover the story of Christ's birth through the eyes of the stable animals. Our children will perform this sweet tale on



Sunday, December 9, at both the 9 & 10:30 services. They've been working hard and are excited to present this play to the congregation! A cookie reception will follow each service. We hope you'll come and enjoy our children's retelling of the Christmas story!

Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 16
10:30 am

On **Sunday, December 30**, we will offer one service only at 10 am with Tom Adams preaching. Tom is Director of Chaplaincy Services at Chaplaincy Health and has preached at Kennewick First previously.



KEEP SEEKING HIM



Dear Friends:

Some of you know that a number of our saints have moved to a new address in the last few months. Their new address is Heaven. We miss them, and we look forward to seeing them again.

A great number of people are grieving a loss or are otherwise caught outside the “joy of Christmas,” and the expectation that they will sing carols with gusto and love those Christmas shopping crowds is more than people ought to expect. This is one reason we are hosting our third annual Longest Night service at 7 pm on December 19. Some congregations call it a “Blue Christmas” service.

I think the root of my interest in this service can be found in my family. When I was in my late twenties and early thirties, I was invited to participate in special training in the Montana community where the church I served was located. The training would qualify me to assist high school students struggling with addiction. It fascinated me. We learned of the common patterns of addiction, particularly to alcohol and marijuana. Quickly I discovered all of us on this side of heaven are addicted to something, we hope something not too damaging, like dark chocolate. The patterns common to families with addictions (those that leave us carrying more than our fair share of anxiety, like keeping them secret and failing to welcome and accept our emotions—except for misdirected anger) were far more familiar to me than they should have been. Could my family have had addictions? But where? I asked my dad. He changed the subject. Finally a few years later, he admitted that his dad, my grandfather, who died a few months before I was born, was probably an alcoholic. I was so glad to have a good answer to my question that I forgot to pursue the story further.

One of the stories told about my grandfather was that when he was eleven and his brother was thirteen, both boys ran away from home. Then they were separated, to be reunited again twenty years later. You ask why they would leave home at such a young age. Were they hellions or ruffians? Actually their father was a school teacher and their mom probably stayed at home to raise them. The boys’ dad was known to have been strict. He required them to attend Sunday worship and afterward to occupy a chair for hours at a time (and you know, this was before NFL Sunday football!). So my grandfather escaped his “good Christian home” as early as possible. Eventually as a hard-working and successful young adult, he rented a room in a home where an attractive, teenage girl lived. Since he was eleven years older than she, my grandmother required that he wait until she arrived at age eighteen before she would marry him. He waited.

The point to which I finally arrive is that for the remainder of his life he almost never attended Christian worship. The wounds he carried from his dad’s extreme discipline (I haven’t yet explored what he did to his sons on the other days of the week) hurt too much for forgiveness to have been shared. Yet the young girl he married was a person of deep faith (yes, she was the United Methodist I have mentioned before). If my grandfather had attended any service of worship, the Longest Night likely would have been it. A service of calm, peaceful prayers, songs, and candles with no expectations would have moved his wounded spirit. He might have been led to put down his drink and sample the natural highs of the clear-eyed and alert, the ones given freely by our loving Holy Spirit. I know I will see him some day.

In His grip,



All Church Advent Cornerstone Night!

Please plan on attending and making memories with your church family in the experiential Advent activities that are focused on serving! Cornerstone dinners will begin at 6 pm on the first three Tuesdays in December; following dinner, we will gather together until approximately 7:30 pm for the following activities:

December 4 - Rachel will lead us in creating Christmas cards for Life Care residents.

December 11 - Cynthia will oversee Apple Crisp-making for the guests at Union Gospel Mission.

December 18 - Pastor Jerry will head up a Christmas caroling event at Lourdes Medical Center. (Bus transportation provided.)

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:16

The ladies of UMW will meet on Wednesday, December 19, in the Susanna Wesley room at 10 am. All women of the church and their neighbors are invited to join in this time of shared friendship. We will have our Installation of officers in the Chapel near the overflow room, and treats will be provided by Tuesday Morning Fellowship.



Family Gingerbread House Decorating Party!

Friday, December 14, at 6:30 pm
Ida Payne Fellowship Hall
Hosted by: Cindi and Cynthia

Please join us for a sweet night of fun! We will provide the bases, graham crackers, and frosting, but need you to bring colorful candy treats to share with the group for decorating such as spice drops, dots, M & Ms, red hots, kisses, sprinkles, small candy canes, etc. Looking forward to seeing what kinds of homes all of our cookie architects build!

Live from Kennewick First, it's . . .

SNL **Saturday Night Life!**

December 15
Message by Christopher Becker
Music by Clear Waters and friends!



3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are welcome to join Rachel for an afternoon of devotion, fellowship, games, crafts, and of course, fun! We will meet together next on Sunday, December 16. Look for more details to come!

Coming Soon!



Butter Braids are Almost Here!

Thank you for ordering Butter Braids and supporting the Jr. and Sr. High program at Kennewick First. The youth will begin delivering these goodies on or after December 5. If you ordered at the church office or at the Holly Daze bazaar, we will contact you on or after December 6.



To the parents of active youth in 7th grade or above: Confirmation classes will begin in January. More information to come soon!

Jr. High Rock-a-Thon

FYI! The Jr. High Rock-a-Thon is on January 19 and 20. The Jr. Highers will start making their Rock-a-Thon calls at the beginning of January, so please be kind when our Jr. sales people make calls to ask for donations!



Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! Listen—there's a better way! Join the Financial Peace University group/class, and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future . . . together! Interested? Join us at Kennewick First United Methodist Church, Tuesdays beginning January 8, 2019, for 9 weeks, from 6:30-8 pm in the Susanna Wesley room. The church is offering this important informational program at half price for \$50.00 per student or couple of all ages; you must be registered by December 23rd!! Childcare is available. The class will be facilitated by the Hare and Tenney families.

Feel free to email your questions or sign up at office@kennewickfirst.com or 509-582-2163.

In Luke 10:38-42, Martha gets a bad rap. After all, we need Marthas to get things done and to show hospitality. (Note that Martha is the one who opens up her home to Jesus in the first place!)

Marthas are needed in December, but holiday preparations shouldn't shift our focus from the reason for the season. When we become "worried and distracted" as Martha did (v. 41, NRSV), we're tempted to trade God's "one thing" (v. 42) for the world's many worthless things. Yet if we're only like Mary, we may forget to let the world know who we're celebrating!

So this Christmas, keep a proper balance between your inner Mary and your inner Martha. Take time to "be Mary," kneeling at the manger, so that all the merry things you do as Martha have meaning and serve the newborn king.

Hurray! There will be a second chance to get ready for the Yuletide season at a Holly Daze reprise, complete with bakery, held just for our church and those attending the beautiful Christmas pageant on December 9.



UMW crafters and bakers, busy as always, will display their holiday fare that Sunday after church, adding to the festivities of the special day for children and their families.

Want to help? Contact Susan Sandmeier or Darryl Vaughn. As always, all monies raised will go to missions here and across God's world.



A Lenten booklet with 47 meditations written by members of our church family and clergy will be published for our Lenten season (March 6 – April 21, 2019).

The theme chosen is:

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10. (NRSV)

"I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of." (The Message)

The booklet is set up similar to the Upper Room and the **meditation portion is limited to 260 words**. If you would like to write a meditation about a personal experience or a testimony of your faith, contact Phyllis Koschik at 586-9355 or email at eck-pakzzz@charter.net. A copy of the guidelines will be sent to you.

In his sermon on November 11, Pastor Jerry stated, **"share your faithfulness."** Here is an opportunity to do just that!

The deadline for meditations is **January 2, 2019**.



This Christmas, we will be helping the Union Gospel Mission's Women's and Children's Shelter by providing gifts for middle school-aged children.

The staff there tells us that "The children that are the hardest for us to find gifts for are both boys and girls 12 years and up. Last year we received some donations of fast food/coffee shop gift cards (DQ, McDonalds, Dutch Bros, Roasters) and movie theater gift cards. Those were perfect for that age group. Other suggestions would include ear buds, gift cards for Claire's or passes for bowling. Most of the cards we received were for \$5 - \$10 and they seemed to go over really well. Nail polish and small purses seemed to be appreciated too." Please don't wrap these gifts, but place them in the donation boxes in the church entry prior to December 16.

In addition, our congregation will "adopt a family" for Christmas. The family is one with children attending Amistad Elementary School, and we have worked with the school counselor and coordinator of Communities in Schools to determine what best to provide. We will operate this project on the gift tree principle – family member names, ages, and a gift idea will be placed on a tree for adoption. Wrapped gifts will be returned to the church by December 16 and delivered to the family just before Christmas."



Once we have seen [Jesus] in a stable, we can never be sure where he will appear or to what lengths he will go or to what ludicrous depths of self-humiliation he will descend in his wild pursuit of men."

—Frederick Buechner

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Please pray for those in need of healing, comfort, and encouragement . . .

Carol Hardacre, Deana Ahrend, Shelby Faught, Anita Knight, Ann Kelly, Terry Simmelink, Julie Logan Hooley, Punkie Eddy, Norma Williams, Nathan and Jamie Preston, Joan Osborne, Pat Phillips, Janet Shelton

Please continue to cover our church leaders in prayer, including Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, DS Mary Huycke, Pastor Jerry, our church Council, and our church staff. Remember also to pray for our seminarian, Alexa Eisenbarth.

Juli Reinholz, our former District Superintendent, is in treatment for stage four cancer. Please remember Juli and her family in prayer.

Don Shirey entered glory on November 8. We celebrated him in our sanctuary on November 30, and enjoyed seeing pictures of Don enjoying his life! Please pray for Debbie, Deanna and husband Rod, son Don, and the rest of the family.



Thank you to those who attended the Fields of Grace fundraising dinner in October. Special thanks goes to **Cynthia Bement** who donated her famous Pina Colada Cake for the dessert rush! The cake was a work of art, taking 2nd place in the People's Choice award. To learn more about Fields of Grace and its ministry to help feed our neighbors in need, visit www.fields-of-grace.com.



John Harden
Hollis Morris
David Trump
Craig Brazell
James Marquardt
Noelia Haberling
Matthew Shoop
Valiant Alderson
John Cochran

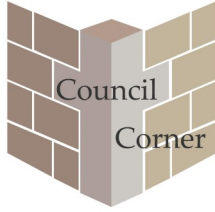
1-Dec
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8-Dec
9-Dec
9-Dec

Betty Baumann
Annika Noel Tenney
Audrey Manley
Holli Williams
Ty Haberling
Thomas Yount
Joseph Buchholz
Marcus Wertman
Sean Holloway
Christopher Whitney
Michelle Botu
Danny Moore
Alice Loomis
Ron Baker
Joyce Scott

10-Dec Kathleen Bryson
11-Dec Mike Thien
12-Dec Colin Wertman
13-Dec Jacob Hebert
14-Dec Diane Hansen
14-Dec Leslie Green
14-Dec Carol Hardacre
15-Dec Marie Duncan
17-Dec Sydnie Koschik
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This past month, we had our annual church charge conference, during which we elect officers for the upcoming year, and discuss accomplishments and what it means to us

to be members here at Kennewick First. Part of the larger report for charge conference is a summary from the church Council. I wanted to include it here for those who were unable to attend the meeting.

Last year the Church Council set goals for 2018, which were a focus during the year:

1. Promote sustainability in facilities, programs, and financial aspects of the church
2. Strengthen the connections among members, and develop/strengthen connections within the community.
3. Promote alternative worship offerings

What was accomplished:

1. The Council held a fall retreat to become better connected as a leadership team, to learn more about our spiritual gifts and where God may be calling us to serve, and wrestle with our commitment to sustainability and what that may look like for KFUMC.
2. We continue to learn the best way to work with our relatively new organizational structure and have shifted back to monthly meetings to provide more consistent progress and communication.
3. A Safety and Security Ministry team was developed. This team was started as an ad hoc team and has been approved as a permanent part of our organization. The Steward of this ministry team has a seat and a vote on the Council.
4. The Council has supported the Saturday Night Life service that typically meets twice monthly as an alternative worship.

Where are we headed:

The next year will bring many changes. In the forefront is saying goodbye to our

Pastor, Jerry Poole. The Council will be working closely with the Staff/Personnel Ministry Team and the Conference to transition to a new pastor.

We will continue our work on how to relate WHO we are and WHAT we're about at KFUMC to our community in an easy, relevant way. As part of our fall retreat we discussed how we describe our mission/vision to those outside our membership. Is it relatable? Here are a few ideas that came out of that conversation:

Vision: We are a Christ-centered inclusive and loving community.

Mission: We serve through our gifts.

How: We provide meaningful Youth groups, worship, congregation care, mission/service and education for both youth and adults.

As we continue to strengthen connections, learn more about our spiritual gifts—personally and communally, and look for ways to provide sustainable programs, I invite you to join us in finding solutions to ensure KFUMC is here to stay for another 116 years!

*To God be the glory,
Jill Berg, Lay Leader*

While waiting ...

Advent does not lead to nervous tension stemming from expectation of something spectacular about to happen. On the contrary, it leads to a growing inner stillness and joy allowing me to realize that he for whom I am waiting has already arrived and speaks to me in the silence of my heart.

Just as a mother feels the child grow in her and is not surprised on the day of the birth, but joyfully receives the one she learned to know during her waiting, so Jesus can be born in my life slowly and steadily and be received as the one I learned to know while waiting.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Genesee Diary*



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Kennewick, WA 99336

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Corner of W. Kennewick Ave. and
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Office: 421 W. Kennewick Avenue
Kennewick, Washington 99336
(509) 582-2163

Worship Schedule

Services at 9 and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9 a.m.
Nursery provided
Handicapped Accessible

Church Office Hours

8:30 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. - noon on Fridays

www.kennewickfirst.com
facebook.com/KennewickFirstUMC



Five-Pointed Star

The star of Bethlehem is often shown as a five-pointed star. Roughly shaped like a human being, it symbolizes Christ's incarnation. It also calls to mind the wise men's journey: "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'" *(Matthew 2:1-2, NIV).*

*Articles for the January 2019
Clarion will be due on
December 20.*

