

THE CLARION

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



SWEETHEART SOCIAL



February 10
2—4 pm



You are invited to an all-church Sweetheart Social! The Sweetheart Social is a dance sponsored by the Jr. and Sr. Highers. Come enjoy refreshments, dancing, and music from past decades! Guests are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Rachel at (509)582-2163.



A Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church will be held February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri. The session will examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning [human sexuality](https://www.umen.org/2019/02/23/sexual-orientation/) and explore options to strengthen the unity of the church. Keep up-to-date with developments from the session at <https://www.umen.org/2019/02/23/sexual-orientation/>.



A message from our Seven Rivers District Superintendent Mary Huycke, clergy delegate to the Special Session may be found at <https://www.pnwumc.org/news/rev-mary-huycke-hopes-for-spirit-led-discernment-at-2019-general-conference/>.



**Come One...Come All
Sunday after Church**

**February 24
Noon – 1:30 pm**

**Ida Payne
Fellowship Hall**

**All Church Event!
Lunch - Punch &
Prizes**

On Wednesday, February 6, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., our church will host the first of seven classes in which young people 7th grade and older will grow and learn more about faith and their church. Classes will meet on Wednesday evenings.



Teachers for this 7-week series, which includes a weekend retreat, are Pastor Jerry Poole, Cynthia Bement, and Rachel Loomis. The classes will cover topics including who Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit are, along with church history, what it means to be United Methodist, the early church, Faith Journey, and how to serve. In March, those who choose to do so will confirm their faith and become members of Kennewick First United Methodist Church.

Please keep our 2019 Confirmands and their sponsors in your prayers this winter!



Dear Friends,

This week marks seven years since I was invited to serve as your church's senior pastor. I am blessed to have been called to serve among you.

The General Conference of the worldwide UMC will gather

February 23 - 26 in St. Louis, Missouri, to try to find a way forward together in the midst of disagreement on ordination standards primarily relative to sexual attraction. Our church's Book of Discipline states that homosexual practice is incompatible with Christian teaching and, therefore, such self-avowed practicing persons may not be ordained or appointed to ministry service.

Although the language in each case has been different, the Presbyterians and the United Methodists have grappled with the same core issues for the last forty-plus years. The differing, and we can call them warring, perspectives continue in both denominations to this day and in other faith groups as well. I watched it play out among the PCUSA Presbyterians over the years. In about 2010, the denomination changed its rules to allow regional governing bodies to decide whether or not to ordain gay/lesbian persons as pastors, deacons, or elders. A substantial number of congregations withdrew and a new denomination was born to receive them. I was surprised at the number and size of the congregations that remained. Some of the strongest moderate to conservative ones chose to remain exactly as before, hoping denominational leaders would not drive them away.

Here in the Pacific Northwest UMC, a majority of congregations and leaders on the west side of our state strongly favor the full inclusion of gay/lesbian pastors, whereas United Methodists in the southern USA as well as in third world regions want to retain those prohibitions. In particular countries, people's lives could be at stake if some learned that such inhabited their town.

Years ago, I stood on the conservative side wondering how the progressives could be so wrong. Both sides would seem to talk past each other, always ready to score another debate

point, certain the other side was misinformed (at best).

Somewhere along the way, probably after I came to this church, I began to think again through the biblical foundations that supported each side's position. The teachings of the apostle Paul support biblical condemnations. Jesus seemed to keep busy reaching out to rescue people on life's margins: poor and rich, Jew and gentile, welcoming, not condemning people (except for some scribes and Pharisees). Jesus could have condemned the same groups Paul condemned. He did not. Then, frankly, I met gay and lesbian pastors and lay church leaders. I judged them no less qualified or called than me. I thought of the gay or lesbian persons I knew and remembered some called themselves Jesus' followers. I wanted them to be welcomed into, not turned away from, whatever churches they approached. If my theology is wrong, I'd rather be wrong on the side of grace than on the side of rules. Am I a crusader for the progressives? No. Do I carry signs? No. I have simply stopped opposing and instead will support persons on an individual basis.

What do I want to happen in St. Louis late this month? I'd like to see the church find a way to remain together. Those who want to split off from the UMC, on whatever side, don't have enough good reasons to leave. At the core (I hope) we are all trying to follow Jesus, and none of us knows for certain whether our position is correct. Jesus often had a way of surprising people about that. Those who leave are searching for a purer church. A church will not be pure as long as you and I are in it. Let's stop trying to find the pure church. Instead, let's choose to remain in and pray for the UMC to hold together so we can help hold each other together now and later.

Other available leaders and I will be on hand for a conversation (we can call it a congregational forum) after 10:30 worship on February 17. If you have questions or want to listen in, join us. Any and all perspectives welcome.

In His grip,



M&Ms met on January 21 with 28 in attendance. Robin Duncan, joined by her daughter Kelsie, gave an excellent presentation about her family trip to Peru this past summer. It was a fun and informative program enjoyed by all.

Laura Jackson will be speaking on "Compasscare" and advanced care planning at the February M&M gathering. Laura has a Masters of Divinity and a Masters Certificate in Clinical Ethics. She encourages asking friends/spouses to this presentation. Laura is an excellent speaker, you will enjoy her.

This February event will be held on Monday, the 18th at noon, in the Ida Payne Hall. Please bring a dish to share, and come enjoy the fellowship and good food. Setup begins at 10:30, and your help would be appreciated if you have time and are able.



New Crafts Wanted

As plans unfold for a series of Holly Daze workshops, UMW is paving the way to introduce new crafts.

Funds are available in the church group's budget to buy supplies for creative projects. UMW is eager to support crafters willing to show others how to make items for Holly Daze. Contact Susan Sandmeier or Darryl Vaughn with your ideas.

Regardless if they are able to attend workshops, church members who want to contribute funds for Holly Daze work are encouraged to do that and are much appreciated.

Gift cards to purchase supplies at any of the local craft stores are also welcome.

(continued next column)

Each week please check your church bulletin and UMW email communications for workshop dates and projects. And remember, the Saturday morning sessions in the Susanna Wesley Room are open to all. No special skills required, only smiles!

UMW To Explore Investing as Activists



UMW supports many good projects to make life better for families. In that sense, we are activists, or advocates.

On February 27, we will learn about how to invest as activists. Kris Kennedy, who is with Edward Jones, will give the program that Wednesday at the 10 a.m. meeting in the Susanna Wesley Room. All women of the church and their friends are invited to this helpful, informative presentation.

Your board officers will provide treats, and the sharing gift will be for the Boys and Girls Club.

The 2019 UMW Yearbooks will be available, thanks to coordinator Phyllis Koschik. Come, pick up your copy. To quote from it, UMW's purpose is "...to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission ..."

At church services on February 24, President Kathy Wertman will give a short talk about the celebration of 150 years of service by UMW that will be taking place this spring. The story is remarkable, especially considering how little freedom and rights women had in 1869. Today, across the world, UMW is still advocating for women, children, and families. And so are UMW members at Kennewick First United Methodist Church.

If you have questions about UMW, catch Kathy at church or call her at 586-4669.



Sr. High Snow Go

The Sr. High will travel to Kellogg, Idaho, on February 15 for a weekend of worship, fellowship, and playing in the snow! They will enjoy a day at Silver Mountain, Bible study, and small group time.

Please pray for this group of young people who will retreat to God in the great outdoors!

A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.



That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch. —Henri J.M. Nouwen

Rock-a-Thon Wrap

Last month, the Jr. UMY rocked out during the annual Rock-a-Thon fundraiser, January 19-20! The youth rocked for about 15 hours while being in fellowship, worshipping, and having fun with their friends and leaders.



Thank you for your pledges, donations, and continued support of these young people and our youth program, which helps to fund their 2019 activities!



Jr. High at Bluewood!

On February 2, the Jr High youth and leaders spent the day at Ski Bluewood near Dayton, enjoying skiing, snowboarding, fellowship, and worship! A great time was had by all, even Max!



Please mark your calendars for the

Sr. High Auction!

Go Green to Grow Hope

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Doors open at 2:45 PM

Silent Auction from 3:00 to 4:00 PM

Live Auction begins at 4:00 PM

You are invited to come enjoy food while supporting the Sr. High group and their upcoming Mission Trip in June!

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

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

Deana Ahrend, Ron Baker, Shelby Faught, Carol Hardacre, Julie Logan Hooley, Ann Kelly, Anita Knight, Joan Osborne, Altha Perry, Pat Phillips, Nathan and Jamie Pres-ton, Juli Reinholz, Janet Shelton, Terry Sim-melink, Juli Troxel, Norma Williams, Juli Reinholz

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, and our confirmands, as well as for God's guidance for those who will be attending the General Conference Special Session.



Transitory Funds

Some of you may wonder how the church keeps track of all the various funds for such items as Jr. UMY, Camperships, Easter Lilies, Pastor Discretionary, Transportation, Food Bank, PNW Human Relations Day, Rum-mage Sale, etc. Currently we have 67 separate funds for which we track income, disbursements, and the fund balance. The funds are held for their intended use or disbursed to the appropriate organization. The Finance Team is currently improving the old system with a new Excel worksheet for each fund that will help make details of each account more transparent to the leader designated as responsible for the fund. These details will provide a basis for a quarterly summary report.



A Spa for the Soul!

Ladies, mark your calendars for the evening of Friday, March 22. We will be hosting an event to renew our spirits and refresh our souls. The evening will start with dinner catered by Back Alley BBQ and include music and so much more! Watch for more information coming soon!



BIRTHDAYS Coming Up!

Richard Nelson
James Canada
Matthew Kaiser
Steve Tucker
Kathleen Ritter
Mark Hawley
Jason Elvik
Anita Cochran
Judy (Kookie) Graham
Amy Basche
Vera Nickolaus

1-Feb
3-Feb
3-Feb
4-Feb
4-Feb
5-Feb
5-Feb
5-Feb
6-Feb
6-Feb
6-Feb

Ryan Bannworth
Cheri Baker
Eric Berg
Mandy Simmelink
Maia Canada
Lauren Davis
Debra Britton
Joanna Puryear
Izaiah Canada
Donna Parkes
Don Board
Matthew Marquardt
Erynn Williams
Rita Shuck
Andrew Tillman
Geoff Helton
Micki Perry

7-Feb
8-Feb
8-Feb
9-Feb
9-Feb
10-Feb
13-Feb
13-Feb
14-Feb
17-Feb
18-Feb
18-Feb
18-Feb
21-Feb
21-Feb
23-Feb
24-Feb

A.J. Foster
Cory Manley

Adam Nelson
Colby Eberhardt
Aiden Mason
Altha Perry
Brooke Kaiser
Arlan Gadeken
Dennis Arter

25-Feb
26-Feb

1-Mar
2-Mar
2-Mar
4-Mar
4-Mar
6-Mar
6-Mar





First United Methodist Church
Office: 421 W. Kennewick Ave.
Kennewick, WA 99336

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Kennewick 1st United Methodist Church
Corner of W. Kennewick Ave. and
S. Dayton Street
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



Tuesday evenings
Cornerstone dinner (6 pm)
and classes (6:30 pm)



March 2019
Clarion articles will be
due on February 20.