

THE CLARION

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



Shawl Makers Praised In Publication

The terrific trio – Pat Walker, Janet Shelton, and Annie Baker – and all their sister knitters were recognized in the summer issue of *Response*, the UMW international magazine.

Together they have made more than 1100 prayer shawls in the last ten years to comfort and warm individuals near and far.

A photo of the three with rows of prayer shawls was featured in the magazine's section on inspirational projects.

Beginner and experienced shawl makers are welcome to join the group's mission. Pat has supplies and patterns to get you started. Give her a call.

Back-to-School Donations - Supply Drop-Off



We are providing VBS/back-to-school backpacks to Kennewick First Sunday School children and other children in need this month. If you planned to participate by donating school supplies, your last chance to drop them off is August 9 from 3 - 4 pm. Just swing by the church and we will have a drive-through setup where you can leave your supplies. If you cannot make this date but have supplies that need to be picked up, please contact the church office (509-582-2163), and we will make arrangements to get those items picked up from your home.



A Christ-centered, inclusive and loving community

VBS and Back-to-School Backpacks!



Because we are not able to gather together for VBS this summer, we will distribute backpacks this month that will include VBS materials along with school supplies. These will be available for students entering pre-K through those entering 6th grade.

If you know of a student who would benefit, we will be distributing them on August 19, from 5:30 - 7:30 pm, under the covered drive-through at the church. Bags will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis until we run out.

*If you have a child in our Sunday School program, we have a bag reserved for them.

For questions please contact Starlite Buchholz or Rachel Loomis at the church office (509-582-2163) or email starlite@kennewickfirst.com.





Growing

By Cynthia Bement

As I sit outside on my patio embracing the cool morning while enjoying a cup of coffee, I am

aware that very shortly the temperature will begin to rise. The high may reach 104 today, and my sprinklers may have to work overtime to keep my thirsty yard hydrated!

Nearly every spring I put one or two tomato plants in the ground, but I confess, most years they don't make it. Youth trips, camp, vacations, etc. make it challenging for me to care for them, and I am forced to go into "saving" mode. Though each year I desire to have healthy plants and fresh tomatoes, I've not always been able to consistently give them what they need to thrive; then, dear people like Dorothy Block or Linda Hawley have donated to my table!

This year I put in two plants, one cherry tomato and one regular size tomato plant, side by side. I planted them in a sunny spot right next to the single strawberry plant that Michelle Collins gave me last year, which was a start from one that Linda Hawley gave her Sunday School children. Because I have had more time at home this spring and summer, I have had more time to dedicate to my little plants. They are getting watered consistently, weeded, and supported; I've applied insect barrier as needed, and given them plant food and mulch. I am no green thumb, but the Lord is turning my little green plants and white and yellow flowers into juicy red fruit!! Every day I am surprised at what is on the vines and how much those little plants can produce.

There are so many scriptures about plants, planting, gardens, and tending the garden.

The Lord will always lead you, satisfy you in a parched land, and strengthen your bones. You will be like a watered garden and like a spring whose waters never run dry. (Isaiah 58:11)

I love the reminders in this verse. No matter how challenging or ever changing our world can be, God is ALWAYS working in the garden of our lives, leading, providing for our needs, giving us strength, and continuing to pour out grace from the never-ending cup of salvation! God is never distracted or neglectful, as I am prone to be when it comes to my garden. He is present in EVERY situation, tending to EVERY need even when my small human eyes cannot see, don't want to see, or do not understand how God is at work.

This COVID summer with its slower pace has brought not only good tomatoes, but time for reflection. Unlike God, I cannot care for every need. If I am caring for children at camp, then my tomato plants will probably suffer! But each of us is called to reflect God's image, which includes His care. Tending to what is directly in front of me is likely the best way to care. Are you thirsty or do you know someone who is? If you are thirsty, God stands ready to revive your soul. If you know of someone else who is thirsty, what cup of clear, refreshing water can you share with them? My prayer for us is to remember that the Lord gives us times such as these, not to harm us, but to help us to grow and to help others grow (like fertilizer!) ...

and sometimes God uses little tomato plants to remind humans who the real plants are and who it is that waters us.





Soul Soup continues to deliver sack lunches each Thursday. Since mid-June, the numbers have dwindled from an average of 60-70 to 35-45.

Not sure why. But those coming are in desperate need. Just one indicator of the hard times so many of our neighbors are experiencing.

Dana and Kathy Bryson were able to donate a number of air mattresses to iMPACT Compassion for use by their clients. The mattresses were surplus from prior emergency response activities. Sometimes our support of conference and UMCOR projects does double duty.

We continue to look forward to returning to more normal ministry activities, but until we do, you can support the community agencies that are serving those in need. In our neighborhood, the Boys and Girls Club and iMPACT Compassion Center are doing great work.

Sunday School Update



Sunday School for children, youth, and adults will be starting up again in September! We are preparing and praying that we'll be able to meet in person at that time. For that to happen, however, we must be in Phase 4 of the church's re-opening plan. If we have not yet entered Phase 4, we will resume at-home Sunday School. If you were enrolled in our Sunday School program last year, you will be receiving information soon about how that will look. If you are a newcomer to our Sunday School program, please email Starlite Buchholz at starlite@kennewickfirst.com so we can get the information out to you.

Precision-crafted by the Master

All around us, miracles happen and God empowers life, thanks to exacting conditions. We know of caterpillars and butterflies, but did you know about these details shared by Gayle Boss in *Wild Hope* (Paraclete)?

"For about a month each female [monarch butterfly] plants four hundred or so eggs. ... Ninety-nine in a hundred ... perish. But on the third day, from the one remaining, a caterpillar the size of a rice grain breaks.

"She devours the egg casing, then the milkweed leaves beneath her feet. In those leaves is a steroid that makes her body brightly striped — and toxic to her predators. Ravenous, she eats milkweed unceasingly for twelve days, bulging her skin to splitting. Five skins later, two thousand times her birthweight, she stops. ...

"Crawling to a suitable twig or ledge, she hangs head down, shaping herself into a question mark. One last time her skin falls away. This new one is not a soft, stripy, caterpillar skin but a polished, jade-green shell studded with a gold tiara.

"Because she is enclosed and still, changes that had already begun within her wormlike body erupt outward. Wings! Long, delicate legs! After twelve days in the chrysalis she is a new creature." Praise God!



AUGUST Birthdays

Karen Green	1-Aug
David Thien	1-Aug
Daniel Thien	2-Aug
Mark McMurray	3-Aug
Helen Mitchell	4-Aug
Dorothy Block	4-Aug
David Brown	5-Aug
Sydney Howard	5-Aug
Amanda Nelson	6-Aug
Kris Hand	9-Aug
Zoe Rhodes	9-Aug
Susan Mayfield	10-Aug
Caleb Wertman	11-Aug
Michelle Collins	13-Aug
Ethan Nelson	14-Aug
Kevin Alley	16-Aug
Harley Smith	17-Aug
Julie Hooley	17-Aug
Jim Door	18-Aug
Erna Sproul	21-Aug
Charles Russcher	21-Aug
Pat Walker	22-Aug
Cami Hanson	26-Aug
Stephen Bannworth	31-Aug

Early September Birthdays

Dean Mitchell	1-Sep
Robin Chase	1-Sep
Kennedy Taggares	1-Sep
Rick Kerkow	2-Sep
Rebecca Hildman	4-Sep
Sherry Arnold	4-Sep
Kristie Myhrum	4-Sep
Geneva Nevius	5-Sep



IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

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

Ron Baker, Evelin Choate, Jordyn Andrews, Kirk Higginson, Rita McElroy, Muriel Smith, Juli Reinholz, Anita Knight, Joan Osborne, Pat Phillips, Terry Simmelink, Jennifer Bateman, Joe & Jolene Kuhns, Donna Troxel, Peggy Snyder, Don Meyers, Gweneth Russcher, Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, and our District Superintendent Rev. Joanne Coleman Campbell.

We pray for those who suffer from COVID-19 and lift up those who have lost loved ones to its ravages. Give strength to our first responders and health care providers, and wisdom to our leaders. Guide the scientists in their labors to find a vaccine and treatments for this disease.

We also remember the homeless and hungry and those who may soon become homeless and who may soon lack adequate food for themselves and their families. Teach us, Lord, and spur each of us on to *be a neighbor* to those in need in our community and the world. *Do good . . . be rich in good deeds . . . Be generous and willing to share.* (1 Tim 6:18)



Cynthia and Randy Bement celebrated 40 years of marriage on Sunday, August 2! Praise God!



All Church Camp Out

The All Church Camp out as it has been in the past has been altered. Folks that have reserved a spot will go camping as a family, and church friends will be near them, however the activities of the past that have encouraged community will be changed or cancelled in order to keep in compliance with the safe social distancing guidelines.

Jr. & Sr. High Update

To stay connected this summer, the UMY are meeting on Zoom and using various ways to communicate, including the Group Me app, texting, and phone calls. There is also a new UMY YouTube channel that I am using to post updates, devotions, scripture, and prayer periodically. Please visit our YouTube channel by searching the title, "Kennewick First United Methodist Youth," or by going to this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfe5o324cx2AcFtpQSJM9Dg>.



I will also be using this YouTube channel to post lesson videos during the week of August 24-28 that are based on the VBS curriculum.

As you know, things are changing every day. As our plans for the 2020-2021 UMY year unfold, we will let you know!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we navigate youth ministry in this season! We feel very blessed to be a youth group community that is able to stay connected and communicate with one another.

In Christ's Love,
Rachel

Growing in Faith while at Home



May the Lord bless you as you nurture your soul at home! If you have access to a computer, then finding resources to enhance your spiritual growth is much easier.

Online Kennewick First UMC Sunday morning worship is at 10:30 am on the website under sermons.

Pastor Mark also leads a devotion on Thursday evenings on the church Facebook page.

If you are not able to access the sermons through technology, please give the church office a call at 509-582-2163 and we will deliver DVDs of the worship service to you (of course you need a DVD player). We will also deliver or mail to you a copy of the Upper Room devotional if you desire one.

Below is a list of scriptures that can be helpful, beautiful, and encouraging to personalize with your name as you read through them:

John 3:16, Romans 10:13, 2 Timothy 1:7, Ephesians, 1:3, Zechariah 4:6, Malachi 4:2, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 2 Chronicles 16:9, 1 John 3:1, Psalm 90:14, Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 32:7





Our UMW Cares About You

In these difficult days of isolation, Kathy Wertman, our UMW president, requests that we reach out however possible to others in our church family and to neighbors. Your call or note may be the spark of joy in an otherwise dim day.

As of now, there are no plans to have a unit meeting at church in September, but UMW sisters will be together again as soon as it is safely possible.

Meanwhile, your dues and other offerings to UMW are keeping missions active throughout the world. You can mail your checks of support to Kathy Harris, our UMW treasurer, until we meet again.

Nationally UMW is calling on members to help dismantle racist systems in our communities, to build a more just, loving kingdom on earth, to support indigenous people in their struggles to protect their lands, and to press government leaders and companies to transition to renewable energy, because of dire climate conditions.

UMW, with more than 800,000 members, encourages women to tackle the problems of the world as Jesus called us to love one another.

Members pray together: "All-seeing God, comfort and bless those who live in isolation, those separated from loved ones for safety reasons, the disabled, those who are poor and those without access to health care or social services. Help us be the caring community you want us to be. Amen."



"A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be."
—Douglas Pagels

Hope for Holly Daze

There is good news for Holly Daze ... whenever and however it comes. Pepiot's Famous Bean Soup Mix will be available!

This holiday-inspired bazaar is usually held in October, but will probably be delayed because of the pandemic. Still, crafters are working and ideas are flowing. There is hope to hold the bazaar online this year, perhaps on Facebook. Co-chairs Susan Sandmeier and Darryl Vaughn are asking for suggestions as to what to sell and what you might want to buy at an online venue.

There also are tentative plans to have a miniature Holly Daze at church before the Christmas holidays, and to make the bean soup mix easily available for gifting.

Of course, all proceeds will support UMW missions locally and throughout the world. So, creative crafters and Holly Daze workers, know that you are treasured by UMW and in your own way are missionaries for good.

Kennewick 1st United Methodist Church

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

Worship Schedule

Online Sunday Service at 10:30 am
at <https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>

Church Office Hours

8 am - noon
Monday through Friday
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY