

# THE CLARION

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



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

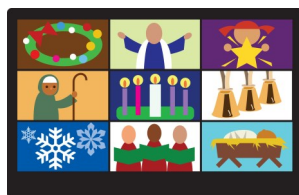
5 and 7 pm

Plan to join the Kennewick First family on Christmas Eve for a special time of worship as we welcome the Christ child. We will be gathering together for a drive-in church service that will include video projection, spoken word, music, and candle-light in celebration of this most holy night! Come and participate in the comfort of your warm car at this creative and meaningful Christmas Eve event. Look for more information about reserving a spot for this service in Pastor Mark's Friday emails this month and on the Kennewick First website..



## Children's Christmas Program

December 20,  
10:30 am



Virtual Christmas Program

The Kennewick First Children's Christmas Program will be presented during our worship service on December 20. Our children will record and film their parts individually in the "studio" that Chuck Smith has created in the church. Chuck will then combine those individual scenes into a full production video. Enjoy the pageant at our virtual worship service (<https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>) at 10:30 am on Sunday, December 20.



*A Christ-centered, inclusive  
and loving community*

On that first Christmas night, the angel said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid" (Luke 2:10). What is there to fear from a baby? A baby is powerless, with no guile, no anger and no judgment, only needing from us without fearing we will not provide: simply trusting, and content to be resting in our arms. This is how God came. This is Christmas. This one child, and for a time, perhaps too brief, our fears are taken over by our love for this child, and he is able to change our hearts. ...



In Jesus, we are free to live life as fully and as joyfully as we will allow ourselves. For it is only we who hold ourselves back. God does not. For God has forgiven us in this baby and will not restrain us from living with sheer abandon, trusting in this gentle and gracious God, who keeps telling us: "Do not be afraid."

—Gary Westgard, *At Break of Day*





## Christmas Offers Colorful Crafts

Ho, ho, ho! Holly Daze for Christmas is almost here – on Saturday,

December 5.

The wonderful array of crafted items can be previewed online at the Holly Daze Facebook page. UMW's Facebook monitor, Mary Lynn Arter, is showing all the items until the day before the sale.

In the spirit of the season, many church members are contributing crafts that make great Christmas gifts and holiday decorations.

The autumn online UMW bazaar raised \$2,000 to support human service projects, and, equally important, it was accomplished safely. The Christmas bazaar will follow the same safe procedures.

Photos of Pepiot's famous bean soup mix, as well as dozens of handcrafted items, will be posted individually on Facebook by Mary Lynn, along with their price and quantity. Buys can be made in the comment section for each craft.

Check online often because updates will be made on holiday decorations and gift suggestions. To contribute crafts, or if you have questions, contact Holly Daze Co-Chairs Susan Sandmeier and Darryl Vaughn.

As of today, the plans for our Christmas Holly Daze are these:

The side entrance to the church will be staffed from 11 am to 1 pm on Saturday, December 5, for orders to be picked up.

Purchasers will need a check or exact cash in an envelope or baggie.

Signs will be posted in the church parking lot to guide entry and exit. Your purchases will be placed in your vehicle's trunk.

Once more, it will be a safe, contactless exchange, complete with masks. And, with every craft purchased, worthy causes will be supported by UMW, including Second Harvest, Grace Clinic, Union Gospel Mission, the KFUMC youth activities, Piece-makers, and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.



## Warm Prayer Shawls Bring Love To Friends, Neighbors

In the cold of this winter, if you know anyone who would be comforted by a prayer shawl, come by the church office and select one. The handcrafted stoles in many colors are a gift from Pat Walker and her UMW committee.

Caring women of our church have stayed busy throughout this difficult year knitting and crocheting shawls and praying, too, for the health and happiness of those who receive them.

There are shawls for both men and women, and to wrap a child in.

Pat and her assistants, Annie Baker and Janet Shelton, gladly will answer any questions about the prayer shawl ministry, which has been active in our church for many years. More than a thousand have been given in love with God's blessing.



# All-Church Gingerbread House Making Event

Sunday, December 13, at 5:00 PM on Zoom

Hosted by: Rachel and Cynthia

Please join us for a sweet night of fun on Zoom, Sunday, December 13, at 5 PM! We're looking forward to seeing what kinds of homes our cookie architects build.



For this event, you will need to purchase the items that are on the Gingerbread House Supply List:

## Gingerbread House Supply List

At least 5 rectangle graham crackers

Royal icing...homemade or store bought (Best frosting to help “glue” the house together)

4 cups (480g) **confectioners’ sugar**, sifted

3 Tablespoons **meringue powder** or (3 ounces pasteurized egg whites and no water)

¼ tsp. **Cream of Tartar**

**If using meringue powder**...9–10 Tablespoons room temperature **water**

Can of white frosting...tastes better and works well for decorating and adhering the candies to the base

Cardboard base covered in aluminum foil, or a sturdy paper plate

Serrated knife

Disposable piping bag or a baggie (scissors to cut end)

Download, print, and assemble a small milk carton out of construction paper and cover with foil or wax paper (dimensions 2.5-inch width on all sides) or purchase a dairy product in a carton with the correct dimensions, rinse out, and use! (email [rachel@kennewickfirst.com](mailto:rachel@kennewickfirst.com) or [cyn-thia@kennewickfirst.com](mailto:cynthia@kennewickfirst.com) if you need the milk carton template)

**Candy**...gum drops, red hots, mini candy canes, ribbon candy, cinnamon bears, M&Ms, Skittles, sprinkles, peppermints in green and red, and Sixlets. Get creative!

**If you need help purchasing gingerbread house making supplies, we are happy to help! Please do not hesitate to sign up to receive supplies on the Reopen church website (below) by the end of Sunday, December 6.** Then you will pick up the gingerbread house making supplies on Thursday, December 10, from 5-7 PM, during the Butter Braid pick-up event.

**\*\*\*To sign-up to receive supplies for gingerbread house making, visit this website and sign up by the end of Sunday, December 6:** <https://reopen.church/r/yYVuCLl4>

**To Join our Zoom Gingerbread house making...tune into this site at 5:00 pm on Sunday, December 13!** Zoom link: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/98645413505> Meeting ID: 986 4541 3505



October and November have been a period of transition from summer to winter for Soul Soup. We continue to serve a sack lunch/dinner, but instead of a cold sandwich, we are now serving a hot dish (like a hot chicken sandwich, hamburger helper, beef and rice casserole, chili, etc.). Hot coffee has replaced lemonade for our guests along with bottled water. We are starting to give out blankets, sleeping bags and tarps, gloves and socks, and hand and foot warmers. Panera Bread is continuing to donate bread and desserts. We serve 40-60 guests each Thursday, and about half are living on the streets at this time. Keep this important ministry and our guests in your prayers!! Soul Soup was closed on Thanksgiving but plans to serve on Christmas Eve.

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## ***Camping Board of Stewards***

The PNW Conference coordinates camping ministries through the Camping and Retreat (C&R) Ministries team. The Camping Board of Stewards (CBS) is appointed by the conference and assists the C&R Ministries in its work. As a new member of CBS, I am learning a great deal about the Conference's camping mission as well as a great deal about the four camps – Indianola, Ocean Park, Twinlow, and Lazy F.

So, how has the pandemic impacted our camps and their ministries this year? The short answer is that the pandemic has effectively shut down the camps with a few minor exceptions. Camp staff have been furloughed or laid off, and maintenance has been deferred in many cases, but most importantly hundreds of would-be campers



have not had the benefit of their time at camp this year. With just one exception, each camp has operated with significant financial deficits since camping and other retreat revenue has not been available. Literally the only thing keeping the camps afloat right now has been the generous support of those who believe in and support our Christian camping ministry.

I attended the Twinlow annual meeting via Facebook on November 14, and in spite of all of the difficulties, good leadership has allowed improvements to be made with volunteer assistance and dedicated financial gifts. The craft cabin was completely refurbished (and actually looks like a craft space now) along with a new roof, electrical, and plumbing (thank you Nomads). The camp kitchen has been painted, the camp store updated and improved (no cost), and new sports areas improved. A highlight has been the rental of Pinecrest through AirBNB to family groups. But the camp has a \$25,000 deficit as we end the year. There are stories like this for each camp. It is a story of adaptation and not letting a good pandemic go to waste.

Camping ministry is a vital part of the overall ministry of the Methodist Church. How can you help? Easy. First, pray for our camps and their staff and for the CBS, that we all make good decisions regarding our camps and their activities. Second, if you can, support your favorite camp financially. You can do that by going to the camp's website (Ocean Park at <https://opretreat.org/>; Indianola at <https://campindianola.org/>; Twinlow at <https://twinlow.org/>; and, LazyF at <https://lazyfcamp.org/>). Or, you can support all of the camps with a gift to Camping and Retreat Ministries (mail a check to C&R Ministries, P.O. Box 13650, Des Moines, WA 98198).

*Bob Kelly*



"THE VIRGIN WILL  
conceive  
and  
GIVE BIRTH  
to a  
son,  
AND THEY WILL  
call him  
IMMANUEL"  
(which means "God with us").  
MATTHEW 1:23, NIV



## Mary's Abnormal Year *by Cynthia Bement*

Lately, I hear people say such things as, "this year has been crazy," "I'll be happy when this year is over," "I'm so tired of not knowing what is coming next," "so hard to make plans," "too many mandates," and "I wish everything could just go back to being normal." The coming season has me wondering if Mary, the Mother of Jesus, thought or said some of these very same things.

Mary was living the kind of small-town Jewish life that would have been typical around 4 BC when her life was turned "topsy turvy." She was a young lady in good standing in her community, but was suddenly faced with accusations of adultery when she became pregnant while not yet married. As we read the Christmas story found in the Gospel of Luke, it is filled with happenings that are not typical, and likely were not expected by Mary, Joseph, their family, and their community. Consider some of the unexpected and unnatural events of Mary's abnormal year:

- \* An angel appears to Mary . . . scary!
- \* She becomes pregnant by way of the Holy Spirit (she was a virgin).
- \* Joseph, her intended husband, was also visited by an angel who tells him to stay with Mary and raise the Christ child.
- \* Mary is sent away during her pregnancy . . . to visit her older aunt who is also pregnant . . . ironically an angel visited her Uncle regarding their pregnancy, too!
- \* When Mary is "great with child," she must travel 80 miles with Joseph due to the census decree.
- \* While she is out of town "registering," she goes into labor . . . this is why OBGYN doctors today do not let their full-term patients travel!
- \* Due to the census, the city is full. No guest rooms are available anywhere.
- \* They are given a place of shelter near where animals are also sheltering . . . options are slim!
- \* Mary has baby Jesus, wraps him in cloths, and lays him in the feeding trough . . . she is resourceful!
- \* Here come the angels again . . . appearing to the shepherds telling them of the Messiah.
- \* Magi follow a very bright star to visit the baby bringing costly but unusual gifts . . . although they are symbolic, they make sense and are helpful in the future.
- \* Afraid that King Herod would kill Jesus, Joseph was alerted by God in a dream to flee to Egypt where they would be safe. They are obedient and relocate, becoming refugees.

What an incredible servant of God in an incredible time! She was just a teenager, and though she had to have been troubled or afraid at different times during her abnormal year, she humbly accepted the task and the new life direction that God gave to her and to Joseph. The character of beloved Mary can be found in her song, the Magnificat (Luke 2:46-55). She knows that if she trusts in the Lord **who is in control**, then she will be blessed . . . a beautiful reminder for us today and every day! Mary had it tough and she *was* tough! Mary was ridiculed, possibly shunned, and could have been stoned to death due to circumstances not of her choosing. While her year was challenging, she kept her faith and was obedient and hopeful. She trusted God when people were against her, and she trusted the people who God put in her life. Mary's remarkable year brought sacrifices, change, heartache, mockery, and fear. But most importantly, it brought forth Jesus, the Savior of the world.

As you reflect on this year and this season, I hope you'll reflect on the lessons from Mary's unusual year and ponder the ways that God is asking you, like he did Mary, to trust and obey him. May you see the light in the midst of the abnormal, peace in the midst of the chaos, hope in the midst of fear, and love in the eyes of each other . . . maybe this year was about opening our eyes to the mystery of God and the miracles then and now.



## **DECEMBER** Birthdays

John Harden	1-Dec
Hollis Morris	2-Dec
Margaret Beesley	2-Dec
James Marquardt	7-Dec
Noelia Haberling	7-Dec
Valiant Alderson	9-Dec
John Cochran	9-Dec
Betty Baumann	10-Dec
Annika Noel Tenney	11-Dec
Audrey Manley	12-Dec
Holli Williams	13-Dec
Erica Ewing	13-Dec
Ty Haberling	14-Dec
Thomas Yount	14-Dec
Joseph Buchholz	14-Dec
Carol Kerkow	15-Dec
Marcus Wertman	15-Dec
Sean Holloway	17-Dec
Christopher Whitney	17-Dec
Michelle Botu	19-Dec
Alice Loomis	21-Dec
Ron Baker	23-Dec
Joyce Scott	23-Dec
Kathleen Bryson	23-Dec
Mike Thien	23-Dec
Colin Wertman	24-Dec
Claire Phillips	26-Dec
Marie Duncan	29-Dec



### Early January Birthdays

Pete Baumann	4-Jan
Kara Morris	5-Jan
Karen Alley	5-Jan
Deana Harden	5-Jan

## IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

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

Ron Baker, Evelin Choate, Don Hildman, 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.



Our good friend **Linda Lamberd** entered eternal rest on Wednesday, November 25. She is survived by her husband, Darryl, sons Shawn and

Adam and their wives, and her grandchildren. We'll miss her smile and giggle! Please keep her family in prayer.

A procession through town in Linda's honor is scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 2020, starting at 1 pm at Mueller's Funeral Home. A small graveside service will follow for the immediate family.

In lieu of flowers, her family has requested that donations be made to Kennewick First United Methodist Church in her honor.

Cards may be sent to: The Darryl Lamberd Family, 4011 W 3rd Avenue, Kennewick, WA 99336 (please, no phone calls or food at this time).



# FUNDAY

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to join Rachel and Gracee on Zoom for an afternoon of devotion, fellowship, games, crafts, and of course, fun! **We will meet together on Sunday, December 6, at 12 PM for our regular Funday meeting, and on Sunday, December 13, at 5 PM, we will meet for the All-Church Gingerbread Making event.**

If you have not yet received the link for Funday or the All-Church Gingerbread Making event or know someone who would like to register for Funday, please call the church office at (509)582-2163 or email Rachel at [rachel@kennewickfirst.com](mailto:rachel@kennewickfirst.com)

We are so excited, see you soon!

In Christ's Love,  
Rachel & Gracee

## UMY GIFT EXCHANGE



To celebrate Jesus, the greatest gift we have ever been given, the United Methodist Youth have received special permission to gather together in the church's grassy area for a socially distanced Christmas party! In lieu of our traditional UMY Christmas party with a gift exchange and dinner, the youth and leaders will be mailed a little spending money and the name of another person to shop for. On December 20, the youth and leaders will bring their wrapped gift for their assigned person, and we will exchange gifts and have a time of prayer and devotion together. Please keep the UMYers and their youth group leaders in your prayers as we celebrate the Christmas season together!

*Butter Braids  
are Almost  
Here!*

Your Butter Braid orders will be arriving at the church on Thursday, December 10!

To practice social distancing, the youth will not be delivering the Butter Braids. Instead, **Rachel will be outside the garage in the church parking lot with your Butter Braid order on December 10 from 5-7 PM.**



Please wear a mask and stay in your car. You will need to get your Butter Braids to a freezer as soon as possible after picking them up so they do not begin to thaw!

Thank you so much for your ongoing love, prayers, and support of the Kennewick First UMY. We hope that you enjoy your delicious Butter Braids!

Blessings & Joy,  
Rachel and the Jr and Sr UMY



**THANKS  
FROM THE  
HEART**

In this time of so many negative stories, let me bring you a very bright tale!

On Sunday afternoon, November 15, more than 20 young ladies and gentlemen (with their special leaders and equipment) "swarmed" my lawns. In 20 minutes, there was not a leaf left!

Not only did they do a great job, they seemed to have fun doing it, TOGETHER.

We are privileged in our church to have such thoughtful and caring persons. Take time to say Thank You every chance you get. It makes a difference!

*Shirley Miller*



## UMW Looks Forward To Resuming Activities

UMW will cap off a challenging year with gratitude for what our members were able to accomplish during 2020, including two mini bazaars online, reaching out to others, taking part in the World Thank Offering on December 1, and planning for the future, for which we have a great deal of hope.

Key to that future is the willingness of current UMW officers to continue to serve, beginning with Kathy Wertman as president.

Others are Eddie Kenoyer, vice president and social action; Phyllis Koschik, secretary; Kathy Harris, treasurer; Pat Walker, program resources secretary; Bonnie Taylor sunshine correspondent; Su Mayfield, spiritual growth coordinator; Nancy Russell, membership; and Micki Perry, education.

Also serving are Darryl Vaughn and Susan Sandmeier, Holly Daze chairs; Mary Lynn Arter, Facebook monitor; Ruth Anderson, Dorothy Block, and Connie Boice, kitchen coordinators; and Phyllis Koschik, Salad Supper coordinator.

The yearbook is produced by Dorothy Block, Phyllis Koschik, and Marian Sundvik.

Wedding receptions are arranged by Ruth Anderson and Marlene Jelsing. Marlene also serves with Helen Mitchell to plan memorial receptions. Of course, at least a dozen UMW members assist them.

Actually, all UMW members take part in many activities throughout the year, and hopefully 2021 will allow them to meet regularly again.

Meanwhile, UMW sisters stay in touch by email, phone, and online, including getting national UMW news about various mis-

sions to help women and children around the globe. What UMW does NOT support are programs that discriminate based on faith, ethnicity, race, or gender.

That's because UMW uses Luke 4:18 as a model: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

For 150 years Methodist women have advocated and worked for peace and justice, education, the rights of children, human rights, and farmworkers' rights. With God's blessings, 2021 will enable UMW to expand those services.



"If we do not set aside time to focus together on what God's word tells us about the promise of Christ, on Christmas morning we can find ourselves surrounded by mounds of torn gift wrap, our laps full of presents, but with hearts that are empty and unprepared."

—Nancy Guthrie

### **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**

8:30 am - noon and 1 - 4 pm  
Monday through Thursday  
8 am - noon on Fridays  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY