

# THE CLARION

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



*A Christ-centered, inclusive and loving community*

Hello, Kennewick First UMC! We are so excited to invite you to join our new digital Bible study library! RightNow Media is a digital Bible study resource that offers over 20,000 resources for individual spiritual growth and spiritual growth within groups. If you would like access to over 20,000 Bible study resources, please follow these steps:



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Visit our Reopen Church website and register for "RightNow Media Invitation" to receive an invitation to join RightNow Media: <https://reopen.church/r/yYVuCLi4>

Once you have registered on Reopen Church, church staff will send you an invitation email to register for RightNow Media

In your RightNow Media invitation email, click on the **Get Started** button

Create your RightNow Media profile

Explore and feed your soul!

*Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.  
Psalm 119:105*



Chuck Smith, our sound technician, has put together two Christmas memories DVDs for our watching and listening enjoyment! If you would like one or both of these wonderful DVDs, please call or stop by the church office and we will get them to you! A CD of Christmas music performed by our praise band and Margo is also available. There is no charge for the CD or DVDs. The church number is 509-582-2163.

The DVD titled "KFUMC Christmas Bazaar" is a copy of the 2020 Christmas pageant featuring several children and youth from the church. It's a fun and creative rendition of the Christmas story!

The second DVD, titled "KFUMC Christmas," is filled with beautiful Christmas music featuring Sherry Arnold, Kurt Conrad, Rob Stafford, Amberley Almarode, Margo Cox, and Jill Berg.

The CD is filled with Christmas classics by our praise team and some beautiful piano music by Margo Cox.

Thank you, Chuck, for sharing your talents and time with all of us!!





Well, we made it through 1/12 of 2021. Sometimes you take wins where you find them!

Each January I have a bit of a ritual I do that includes cleaning and uncluttering. I clean out the emails from my inbox that advertise deals on auto and motorcycle parts and ads that say “you’d be crazy not to buy...” I get out the shop vac and suck out the old french fries that have petrified under my car seat. I consolidate notes from various meetings and events that are spread out over several notebooks and put them in files. And usually, I spend some time reflecting on where I’ve been in the last year. But to be honest, reflecting on 2020 has been difficult. Don’t get me wrong, the learnings of the last year are HUGE! But like many of you, I find that there is nothing to compare the last year with, at least not in my 52-year journey on this planet. So, for the last few weeks I have just taken a moment to take a deep breath and say to myself “I made it!”

There are markers that I use, like tearing the page off a calendar or taking the wrapping off a 2021 desk calendar and placing it on my desk, that give me a sense of starting fresh. I know that there are plenty of challenges that didn’t magically disappear at midnight on December 31. Things like the threat of violence and the injustice that still rages around race and gender and finances, health and disease, and climate and the ecology we share. But, call me an eternal optimist if you like . . . I believe those markers give us a chance to reset, rethink, and look ahead with a sense of hope. If nothing else, the recognition of the problems we face gives us an opportunity to work for a tomorrow that is better than today.

As I was compiling notes, I came across some I had taken years ago from a class I took at George Fox Seminary taught by Dr. Len Sweet. In his lecture, he mentioned a practice that was observed by monks in a monastery he visited. The monks would meet with the leader of their order and have a conversation about how they were doing in specific areas of their spiritual and personal life. One question that I recorded in my notes, starred and underlined three times, was this: “What have I done to create beauty?” I think of scriptures like “Then God saw every-

thing that He had made, and indeed it was very good” (Genesis 1:31) or “How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news” (Isaiah 52:7) or “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8).

As I ponder the idea of beauty, my mind first jumps to things I see with my eyes, but the saying “beauty is in the eye of the beholder” is very true. Seeing a custom built Ducati motorcycle can make my heart skip, while others just smell fuel and rubber. When I was a child my parents dragged me to a church event in which Ken Medema was the guest musician. Ken is blind and the way he created beauty was not in the things he saw but the music he composed. Seeing him smile and play and create was a thing of beauty . . . for him and for me, though I was just a kid. (Here is a link to one of my favorite Ken Medema clips <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfZzABXhjjc>)

In the last few years, I have rediscovered beauty that comes in the form of poetry. Many of us watched Amanda Gorman deliver a poem at the inauguration with tears in our eyes. I regularly point my Web browser to several poetry sites, and I wanted to share some lines with you from poems I’ve read that point to beauty in the year ahead: “a world where body armor ads don’t fill my social media screens” . . . “Could kindness become the norm in a world spinning in turmoil” . . . “I dream of donning masks only to be followed by ‘trick or treat’ at grandma’s house.” \*\*

I pray that as we strive to be a church that helps everyone love God and their neighbors, we will see *and experience* the beauty that comes from a God of peace, justice, and love. Here’s to a beautiful year ahead my friends!

Pastor Mark

\*\*Selected excerpts from poems found at <https://www.npr.org/2021/01/28/960688815/this-is-our-dream-a-crowdsourced-poem-to-inspire-hope>



January 2021

Dear Fellow Members in Christ,

The communities of the PNW Conference have experienced unprecedented damage in 2020 from flooding and wildfires. The Disaster Response program has been engaged across the Pacific Northwest to support survivors in need and assist communities on their path to recovery. This wouldn't have been possible without your extremely generous donations to the PNW Conference #352 Disaster Response and Wildfire Fund.

Your donations, in combination with multiple grants from UMCOR and AmeriCares, have helped address survivor needs and facilitate the recovery of affected communities. Our current priority is on reuniting families in safe and secure shelters for the winter as we prepare to support rebuild and recovery needs in the new year.

2020 has been challenging to engage in safe and compliant service missions. In spite of this challenge local churches have excelled at supporting survivors through distribution of hygiene kits, cleaning kits, school kits, grocery/gas cards, and ash sifter kits. Next year we anticipate more opportunities for rebuild missions in the impacted communities.

We feel privileged to work with the generous donors and volunteers of the UMC. On behalf of the PNW Conference, thank you for your support.

Blessings,

*Dana and Kathy*

Dana and Kathy Bryson  
PNWUMC Disaster Response Coordinators  
[brysonpnw@gmail.com](mailto:brysonpnw@gmail.com)  
509-539-2978

*We're so proud to be members of such a mission - Central Church!*



Alan Rogstad, the Executive Director of the Camping Board of Stewards (CBS) at the Conference, has shared the following year-end observations and financial data with the CBS Board that I will

share with you.

Financially, the 4 camps in the Conference ended the year in much better shape than was anticipated back in March when the gravity of the pandemic set in. The CBS members are extremely grateful to all who have donated money, time, and talent to keep the camps ready to reopen when that time comes. As we look to 2021, it will be key to keep up this level of support.

Revenues for the year 2020 were substantially lower than revenues for 2019 due largely to the absence of summer camps. Income was 82.79% off for Indianola; 58.98% for Lazy F; 49.96% for Ocean Park; and 59.73% for Twinlow. Collectively, the 4 camps received \$1,104,119 or 64% less revenue in 2020 than in 2019.

One bit of positive news is that there will be a new round of PPP funding. We have been told that Key Bank will be opening the process for applications soon, and Alan will submit an application when possible.

Please keep our camps in your prayers, and if you can make a gift to any of the camps, please do so. 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 Lazy F 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*

## A New Year of Motivating Books



Pat Walker is sharing exciting news for all who enjoy reading!

For UMW's Reading Program in 2021, Pat has selected more than 20 new books that range from novels to biographies to spiritual topics.

### **Titles include:**

Beyond Loneliness  
Women Rise Up  
Overcoming Grief to Finding Joy in the Journey  
The Hate U Give  
Gum Moon, a novel of San Francisco Chinatown  
Right Here, Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness  
They Call Me Guero: A Border Kid's Poems  
Cinderella Liberator  
Not Your Princess: Voices of Native American Women

There are many other titles as well. For those with limited time to spare, Pat points out that a good number of books are quick, easy reads.

She will gladly talk to you about the new selections and also some great ones from last year. Call her at 585-5170 or email [wclempat@aol.com](mailto:wclempat@aol.com). Usually the books are available in the church library and will be again one of these months. Until then, Pat will arrange for you to get the books you want.

UMW's Reading Program is a valued tradition that encourages social action, spiritual growth, nurturing neighbors, and developing leaders.



JR. & SR. UMY  
BLUEWOOD SKI DAY



With the help of their parents and families, the United Methodist Youth are going to meet their youth group leaders at Bluewood on February 20 to enjoy a day of fellowship, skiing, and sledding with one another! Please keep the youth, their families, and their leaders in your prayers as they prepare for the Bluewood Ski Day, travel to and from the mountain, and enjoy the day with one another. Thank you to all of the parents and families who are making this day of fellowship possible for the youth!



## 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, February 21, and Sunday, February 28, at noon!**

If you have not yet received the Zoom link for Funday 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



Ash Wednesday is  
February 17.



Soul Soup continues to serve a sack lunch type dinner each Thursday that includes a hot dish or sandwich. We continue to hand out blankets, sleeping bags, and tarps; gloves; hats; and hand warmers. Numbers had declined but are now

returning – serving 40 to 50 meals per week again.

In 2020, we served about 1800 meals – down from 2019 when we could serve a full meal in the Fellowship Hall. But Soul Soup is an important food and fellowship ministry and one of only a few to continue to serve the homeless regularly this past year. Thank you for continuing to support your church which allows a ministry like this to continue. Soul Soup would not be possible without our facilities!

## Leadership Council Members 2021



Our Leadership Council members include Jill Berg, Lay Leader/Chair; Dana Bryson; Rich Nelson; Kathy Bryson; Dave Hare; Mary Lynn Arter; Kristi Thien; Jim Deatherage; and Pastor Mark McMur-ray.

The Council meets quarterly and started off the year with a Zoom meeting on January 30. We hope by our next meeting in April we will be able to meet in person! In addition to the quarterly meetings, in February the Leadership Council will be participating in a webinar, 'Future Church Summit,' a guided planning retreat for becoming the congregation of tomorrow. Please keep the leadership in your prayers as we seek to lead the congregation through this time of separation and into a post pandemic world.



## The Joy of Seeing Each Other

Yes, it was through Zoom and computers, but UMW members were able to meet and share ideas and concerns

January 27, thanks to the tech skills of Susan Sandmeier.

There were broad smiles on the computer screens as many friends saw each other for the first time in months.

At this cheerful online get-together, 21 women learned details of the 2021 UMW budget and shared plans for renewing workshops for Holly Daze.

Both Susan and Darryl Vaughn, the Holly Daze co-chairs, are optimistic that there will be ways this October to reproduce the physical bazaar at church, at the same time planning for an online presence.

Thanks to their extra efforts and the work of UMW supporters, enough funds were raised last year by a smaller, online Holly Daze to meet UMW's financial goals for missions. Of course, dues and financial gifts by church women were equally essential.

Mary Gadeken reported on cutlery sales, which she is managing for UMW. She has a good inventory available and is filling orders. Give her a call. Again, all funds raised through the cutlery sales go for various UMW missions and church projects, such as supporting the youth.

It was announced that several dozen bags of Pepiot's Bean Soup are available at the church office. This is another UMW fundraiser, started by the wonderful Pepiot family many years ago.

Prayer shawls of various colors are also available in the church office.. These warm wraps are created by members of our church and are free. In "normal" times, Pat Walker meets with her committee and assistants Janet Sheldon and Annie Baker to share yarn and patterns. Now, they work and pray over their handiwork at home and then the shawls are blessed at church.

Kathy Wertman, our UMW president, expressed gratitude to all who support the many UMW projects, including participants in fundraisers and the talented contributors and crafters. Mary Lynn Arter and treasurer Kathy Harris also received thanks for keeping track of all the communications and transactions.

Su Mayfield gave a devotion at the meeting on God's caring.

A new project was presented by secretary Phyllis Koschik. Greeting cards, based on the nativity scene at 2020's Christmas online church service, will be produced and offered in packs of six. Look for more details soon.

Micki Perry gave an update on the next General Conference for the United Methodist Church, currently scheduled for August 29 to September 7, 2021. It is possible the hundreds of delegates will meet online rather than in person.

A program for the February 24 Zoom meeting of our UMW unit was discussed. It was suggested that Janice McIntyre be invited to give her talk on birds.

Meanwhile, the KFUMC women will continue to support Grace Clinic, My Friend's Place, Second Harvest, Chaplaincy Health Care, the Union Gospel Mission, our own youth activities, UMW national missions, and other service projects throughout the world.

Nationally, UMW leaders deplored the attack on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., and they urge members to offer prayers for the nation and to unite across political perspectives to uphold the nation and democracy. UMW, committed to peaceful assemblies and protests, strongly opposes any attempt to subvert the results of the country's elections.

UMW also supports the United States re-joining the Paris Agreement on Climate. Because the U.S. has only 4% of the world's population but emits a quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, the U.S. must make stronger commitments to protect the environment.



## THE COST OF LOVE

By Cynthia Bement

The Christmas clearance shelves emptied out weeks ago, and the store shelves are now filled with chocolate hearts, boxes of conversation heart candy, cute stuffed animals, and flowers. Valentine's Day is just a few weeks away! Americans spend, on average, \$150 each to express their love to their sweethearts on this day. Flower shop employees work around the clock filling beautiful aromatic orders to be delivered February 14. Roses are the most popular flower for the season with 250 million produced for the day. Approximately 58 million pounds of chocolate will be purchased in the week leading up to Valentine's Day. About 21% of shoppers will give jewelry for the holiday, spending a total of \$5.8 billion. Typically, Valentine's Day is big business for restaurants; this year, with the pandemic and the restrictions in place, very few couples will enjoy dining out, and restaurant take-out will be the choice for many couples this year. Sweethearts will exchange 190 million cards, spending \$1 billion to say "I Love You" in beautiful sentiments created by the writers at Hallmark. Amazing, isn't it?

Valentine's Day can be lots of fun and is a great opportunity to spend time with and express your love to the one, or ones, you care so much about. I confess I do enjoy when Randy comes through the door with some Baum's chocolates for me, which is a special treat! I'm pretty sure that he appreciates coming home that day to the wonderful smell of pot roast or lasagna wafting through the house, too!

I have noticed, though, that, while they celebrate Valentine's Day, couples in years-long committed relationships tend to celebrate their love every day of the year. Their love for one another is evident, day in and

day out, not just when February 14 rolls around. I have witnessed ongoing patience, loyalty, grace, compassion, generosity, honesty, and hope in couples who have been together many decades. Their love is a sacrificial love, a picture of the Lord's love for us.

Valentine's Day was inspired by at least three different saints who were named Valentine. A look into their lives teaches us that the feast day that bears their name actually has little to do with romantic love, but everything to do with sacrificial love for the church and the Lord. These men were all persecuted for their faith, beaten, scourged, and decapitated. Jesus says in John 15:13 that "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." Jesus and the three Valentines all understood the love that leads to a life given for the sake of others.

The Saints Valentine are commemorated by one day set aside each year to celebrate love with each other, but Jesus Christ left us eternal life . . . a love that never ends, a love from God that we experience every day! I hope you remember how much you are loved by God every day and celebrate that love by expressing it to others and the Lord daily! And on Valentine's Day—whether you are in a romantic relationship or not—I hope you choose to show your love for another with a kindness that comes from a heart that is on fire for the Lord . . . for I think the real cost of love isn't in the money you spend on candy or flowers—it is in the offering of oneself to another.

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.*

John Wesley



# february BIRTHDAYS

Richard Nelson	1-Feb
Lili Westvik	1-Feb
Chuck Smith	2-Feb
James Canada	3-Feb
Matt Kaiser	3-Feb
Steve Tucker	4-Feb
Kathleen Ritter	4-Feb
Mark Hawley	5-Feb
Jason Elvik	5-Feb
Anita Cochran	5-Feb
Kookie Graham	6-Feb
Amy Basche	6-Feb
Mary Jansen	7-Feb
Ryan Bannworth	7-Feb
Earl Pfeiffer	8-Feb
Cheri Baker	8-Feb
Eric Berg	8-Feb
Darlene Brazell	9-Feb
Mandy Simmelink	9-Feb
Maia Canada	9-Feb
Lauren Davis	10-Feb
Debie Britton	13-Feb
Joanna Puryear	13-Feb
Izaiah Canada	14-Feb
Donna Parkes	17-Feb
Donald Board	18-Feb
Matthew Marquardt	18-Feb
Geoffrey Helton	23-Feb
Micki Perry	24-Feb
A.J. Foster	25-Feb
Emery Tenney	25-Feb
Cory Manley	26-Feb
Doris Brown	29-Feb
Peggy Snyder	28-Feb

## Early March Birthdays

Richard Meilink	1-Mar
Becky Phillips	3-Mar
Altha Perry	4-Mar
Brooke Kaiser	4-Mar

*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, Peggy Snyder, Gweneth Russcher,  
Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, and our District  
Superintendent, Rev. Joanne Coleman Camp-  
bell.

*. . . and for the families and friends whose loved  
ones have joined the Church Triumphant . . .*

**Rita Shuck** crossed into eternal life on  
January 6 surrounded by her family. Her  
spunky wit and caring heart will be missed!  
Rita is survived by her husband of 60 years,  
Ron; children Kim (Mike) Boice and Chris  
(Roxann) Shuck; and grandchildren Tyler, Hai-  
ley (Kyle), Jason, Colton, and Kayla, as well as  
great-grandsons Kaiden and baby Lane.



## 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](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