

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, December 3: Kennewick Downtown Parade, Ride in/or walk by our
KFUMC Bus, 9 am**

**Sunday, December 4: Live Worship Service, 10 am in the Sanctuary
Live stream available at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/PiratesoftheColumbia>

Sunday, December 4: Holly Daze Encore, 11 am, SWR

**Sunday, December 4: Gingerbread House Building,
11:30 am, IP**

**Wednesday, December 7: Pastor Mark's Bible Study In Person or on Zoom ,
11 am**

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/96778398043>

Sunday, December 18: Children and Youth's Christmas Pageant, 10 am

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services, 4 & 7 pm

Saturday, December 3rd the Downtown Kennewick Hometown Holiday Parade is happening. Once again Kennewick First will be driving one of our "Chubby Buses" along the parade route, down Kennewick Avenue through Downtown Kennewick. Parade watchers will be 2 or 3 deep along the sidewalks; Kids will be in a mad dash to grab candy (where else but at a parade is it acceptable to eat candy off the street!?) and folks from the neighborhoods in Kennewick will gather to celebrate this special time of year together. It is such a great thing that our church chooses to be part of these celebrations! I often forget that a beautiful sanctuary, that is nearly a century old and holds such a special place in our hearts, can be very intimidating for many people. When we sing carols, when we share candy, when we laugh and smile and shake hands, part of that intimidation melts away. When we meet people in such a way... as neighbors and friends... with an invitation to join us for a Children's Pageant or for a Christmas Eve Service, that big building with stained glass becomes less of an intimidation and more of a place where neighbors meet to sing and worship, to laugh and smile, and connect with the God of Love.

As people of faith in Jesus we are challenged to live in such a way that reflects God's love... in a sense...to be "little Jesus's" With that in mind, I am so often reminded that God chose to become human, to walk with us, to talk with us, to be part of this mortal life as a way to invite us into a relationship of peace, love and forgiveness with God. Rather than wait for us to come to Him, He chose to love us first and meet us where we were and are. After all, that moment when God became human is what we celebrate on Christmas. In a very real way when we participate in our community as welcomed friends and neighbors, we reflect the same love that reaches out to the world.

I hope that if you are downtown for the parade, you will cheer and wave as our bus and our kids come by, and you will help us make friends in our community and show the world that we are real people, who serve a real God who loves us all!

Pastor Mark

Downtown Kennewick Hometown Holiday Parade, **Saturday, December 3rd**

One of our buses, which will be driven by Ron Shuck, will be in the parade! It will be decorated by all of you who show up at 8:30 am at the church tomorrow!

Decorations are being provided by Sherry Arnold, so just come and be extra hands to help decorate, and then feel free to ride in the warm bus during the parade...or walk and hand out peppermints! **Bonus for getting there early is the ability to park in the church parking lot (we are lending our parking lot to all the parade participants, plus the streets will be closed off early.)** Children who are participating need to be at the church by 9:30 am to get into costumes to promote the Christmas pageant.

All Together For Advent

For this special season of Advent we are bringing us all together in Worship to celebrate. Because of the special music, pageants, bells and traditions we share at Kennewick First we will be all gathering at 10 am

during Advent to worship together. The 9 am Service will resume in January.

Holly Daze Encore

Did you miss the Holly Daze Bazaar in October? Do you need gifts or baked items for the holidays? Holly Daze Encore will return **this Sunday, December 4th after church services**. This is a special sale just for church members and friends. United Women of Faith (previously United Methodist Women) use the profits from the October and December events to fund local, national, and international missions. Congregational support of this bazaar will help fund youth activities, camperships, Grace Kitchen, and Grace Clinic, to name just a few. Thank you to those who help United Women of Faith in this endeavor.

Gingerbread House Building Sunday

Sunday, December 4th at 11:30 am following worship services, in Ida Payne Fellowship Hall, each person will get to assemble their own **Christmas Cottage** made from pop tarts, frosting, and candy!!

Graveside Service for Louise Hafer

Long-time member Louise Hafer passed away on 11/28/22. There will be a graveside service at Desert Lawn on Saturday, December 12th at Noon officiated by Pastor Mark.

Cookie Donations Needed

we are in need of cookie donations for the children's pageant on Sunday, December 18th. Cookies can be delivered to the kitchen the morning of the pageant, prior to 9:45 am.

Christmas Pageant News

We are having a Christmas Pageant this year! It will be during the **10:00 AM service on December 18th with a dress rehearsal on December 17th at 10:00 AM**. If your child wants to participate, we have parts to fit everyone's needs. Please call the church office or email starlite@kennewickfirst.com for more information. You can also inquire with Jackson McMurray (Pageant Director), Sierra Hogg (Assistant), or Starlite Buchholz.