

# THE CLARION

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



*A Christ-centered, inclusive  
and loving community*



On Thursday, **November 16, at 7 PM**, we will gather at the church for our annual **Charge Conference** meeting. Our 2023 gathering will be a hybrid meet-

ing, allowing participants to attend in person at the church or by connecting via the Zoom platform.

Join us for the yearly business of receiving the membership reports, establishing our Pastor's salary, hearing a presentation from our Bishop and District Superintendent, and hearing what is happening beyond Kennewick First and in the greater Pacific Northwest Annual Conference.

*Should you choose to attend via Zoom, the link to the meeting will be published as the date gets closer.*

Do you wish to become a member of KFUMC? Are you not ready for that commitment, but would like to explore what being on the membership rolls means or what makes the United Methodist denomination different from other faith communities?



If so, please plan to join Pastor Mark on **November 5** following worship, when he will host a **new member class** in the Susanna Wesley Room.

If you are interested in attending this class, please call the church office at 509-582-2163. A simple sandwich lunch will be provided and class materials will be available, so it will be important for us to know how many plan to attend.



## KFUMC Single Senior Support Group

Thursday, November 2, 10 AM  
Kennewick Flower Shop  
604 W Kennewick Avenue



2023

## Quarterly Fall Potluck and Celebration

**November 12**  
11:15 AM to 12:15 PM



Each quarter, we at KFUMC host a potluck as a way of establishing friendships among those of us who call KFUMC home. On November 12 after the 10 AM Sunday worship service, we will gather to celebrate the ministries and programs that mean so much to us and to the community around us. The church will supply the turkey, potatoes, and stuffing for the lunch. If your last name begins with the letter A-H, please bring a salad to share. Bring your favorite side dish to share if your last name begins with I-S, and if your last name begins with T-Z, please bring your favorite dessert to share. Come and share a meal with old friends, make some new ones, and hear about the work our church is doing to celebrate together, serve those around us, grow in our faith, and create meaningful friendships!



## Help Decorate the Church for Advent

Join us after the 10 AM worship service on **Sunday, November 26**, to decorate the sanctuary, with the traditional Advent seasonal décor. We will divide into smaller groups to hang banners, put up the Christmas tree and wreathes, and get the sanctuary and other areas of the church building ready for the season of Advent. Afterward, we will order the "traditional" after set-up pizza lunch for those who wish to stay. Please join us to help get our church building ready for the wonderful season of Advent!



Dear Members of Kennewick First United Methodist Church,

You have not heard from me recently concerning the finances of our church. However, our church has entered a period where our member giving has not kept up with the programs that we offer. Our General Fund giving is \$64,000 lower than our budgeted amount through the first three quarters of the year. Some of this is due to the negative impact of COVID on our attendance and on our reduced giving the past couple of years. In spite of this, we have maintained our strong programs for youth, Sunday school, community service, and worship. Unfortunately, we have had to access reserves to keep these programs operational.

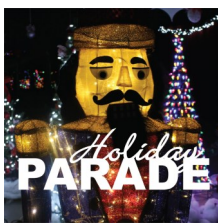
I encourage you to prayerfully examine your personal giving to help us reach the giving levels that existed prior to COVID. We need your help. Remember that our operational expenses also suffer from the impacts of inflation. Thankfully, we have not had to use a pledge program for several years because the congregation has voluntarily recognized the need for financial support of the church programs.

While our church buildings are beautiful, they are 100 years old, requiring increases in maintenance and repair. In addition to the building maintenance, many of you listened to Bob Arnold's presentation about the sewer problem and necessary repair that will impact the north-east corner of the church. While addressing that imminent problem is most important and will be completed first, we will work in stages thereafter to improve the public appearance of what used to be the main entrance to the church. Because this will be a major project, we will be asking for your special support in this effort. More detailed cost information on this major project will be provided once we have secured bids from contractors.

We appreciate your attention to these important issues of our church.

Blessings,

Rich Nelson, Team Leader  
Finance and Stewardship Ministry



**The Downtown Kennewick Holiday Parade is Saturday morning, December 2.** The bus from Kennewick First will be in the parade, and we are

looking for a couple of families who want to walk the parade route. We hope to dress a few of our children/youth in pageant costumes as they walk the parade route to help us advertise for our Christmas Eve services this year!

If you or your family would like to participate, please contact Starlite Buchholz at the church office or email her at [starlite@kennewickfirst.com](mailto:starlite@kennewickfirst.com).

Thanks to everyone for your support of our youth during the UMY Butter Braid and Advent calendar fundraisers!

**Advent calendars** will continue to be available for purchase in the church office until they are sold out. Cost is \$5 a calendar. Your continued support allows us to continue to provide opportunities for an engaged youth group.



**Butter Braids** will be available for pickup on November 9. If you purchased one or more of these wonderful pastries,

look for a postcard in the mail with pickup times.

## Message from your Lay Leader

On Sunday, October 8, Cynthia spoke with our young disciples about regretting our actions and how God has a big eraser to erase our mistakes and make our sins go away. The very next day in Monday's newspaper comics was a cartoon of two yellow pencils on a dinner date. The female pencil had a full eraser with a pretty pink bow, but the male pencil had no eraser left. And he was saying, "I know I've made a lot of mistakes in my life. Okay, I've made a LOT of mistakes in my life".

Coincidence? I used to think that . . . before I found total faith in God. One of the faith-based books I read was about coincidence vs. 'a sign from God'. The author said he did not believe in coincidences. He believed that similar events were a sign from God, that God was speaking to us in those events. We just have to open our eyes, ears, and heart in order to see or hear Him. I recall thinking about this and wondering . . . is it true? Then I started to think of current and past events in my life that I thought were coincidences. Then I remembered certain times of coincidences that reflected what was going on in my life at the time. I still was not sure though. So, I started to pay attention to the occurrences in my life that I would have thought were coincidences. Boy, was I surprised! Things would occur around the time that I was praying or talking about a particular subject or person. Then something would happen about it. An example: I had been overdue in calling my stepdad to see how he was doing. I kept reminding myself to call him when I had a moment. Guess what? A few days later my stepdad called me and said he hadn't heard from me in a while and wanted to check to see how I was doing.

So, back to Cynthia and erasers and the cartoon . . . The week prior to this event occurring, I had been praying to find a topic for my next Clarion article for November's issue. I couldn't think of one. After hearing Cynthia's presentation to the young disciples and then seeing this cartoon in the newspaper the very next day, I knew this was not a coincidence. I knew that God was giving me a sign for a topic to write on.

Ever since I stopped believing in coincidences and instead began recognizing them as signs from God, I have felt so much more secure in my life and my faith. To know that God speaks to me so often, whether good or bad, is so comforting. He really is with me all the time. And He is with you, if you will just remember to keep your eyes, ears, and heart open to His "Signs".

Audrey Manley  
almanley1@gmail.com

### **We're thankful for you!** Trunk or Treat Candy Donations



Thanks to EVERYONE who donated candy for our UMY Trunk or Treat activity on October 29.

Over 5,000 pieces of candy were donated and handed out that evening to the children of our community!

The youth would not be able to host this community event without the help of their church family. We appreciate you all!!!

### **Fall Festival Wrap-Up**

Our 2nd Annual Fall Family Festival on October 15 was fantastic! I want to give a shoutout to Sandollar Farms for hosting us and giving us a wonderful tour of their farm. They invited us to feed the alpacas and see the studio where they make many wonderful goods using the alpaca wool. We also enjoyed some fall snacks and a Veggie Tales story. Our youth worship team led us in worship and prayer at the end. I can't wait until our 3rd Annual Fall Family Festival!

*Claressa Elvik*



## ***Women Friends to Gather With Joy and Gratitude***

Celebrating Thanksgiving will come early for UWF members and friends at Kennewick First . . . Wednesday, November 15, to be exact.

That day they will come together at a 10 AM unit meeting in the Susanna Wesley Room to thank God for a year of sharing, caring, and creating.

Setting the mood for gratitude at the upcoming meeting, Pat Walker will lead a discussion on why our UWF members collect coins all year to support World Thank Offering, which benefits families in communities here and in many nations.

Oh yes, don't forget to bring your small Offering Boxes and contributions to the meeting! The nickels and dimes add up and help many.

Also, a slate of proposed 2024 officers for UWF will be presented for members' approval. Treats will be provided by Joy Fellowship, and, of course, president Kathy Wertman will preside.

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Without doubt, the most wonderful UWF creation this fall was Holly Daze, staged October 21. Thanks to many caring helpers and generous attendees, the event raised lots of cash to support many great missions.

Holly Daze co-chairs Darryl Vaughn and Susan Sandmeier appreciate all the volunteers who were involved in set-up, take-down, luncheon preparations, clean up, baking, sewing, crafting, harvesting, greeting, and cashiering.

Besides benefitting local and world-wide projects, the combined efforts of the many cheerful helpers made for a fun-filled and friendship-building bazaar.

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Earlier in November, Joy Fellowship will meet at 7 PM on Thursday, November 9, at the home of Cheri Baker. Call Chair Debbie Britton for details.

Throughout the month, members who want to fill their "free" time are encouraged to read the new books on the UWF shelves in the church library and take part in the new book club, organized by Darryl Vaughn.

Or, those with knitting needles or crochet hooks can join Pat Walker in making the beloved prayer shawls. Need a new pattern or yarn? Contact Pat.



Ladies, could you use a mid-week LIFT? Our Women's Scripture Study continues to meet on Wednesday evenings from

6 to 7 PM for a time of devotion, scripture, and prayer. This is a casual drop-in gathering so feel free to come when you can. Bring your 3 Bs—Bible, beverage, and bi-focals!

Note that the group will not meet on November 21, the night before Thanksgiving Day.

If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia at [cynthia@kennewickfirst.com](mailto:cynthia@kennewickfirst.com) or at 509-582-2163 or Peggy at [Puryear.peggy@gmail.com](mailto:Puryear.peggy@gmail.com).

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"Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way."

—Native American saying





## ***Expect the Unexpected***

*By Cynthia Bement*

**“Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” *Isaiah 43:19***

Oh, we of little faith! The scriptures are filled with the promises of God, and yet we often trudge through our days forgetting what our God is able and willing to do. We exhaust ourselves with worry over how “we” will make things happen, forgetting to lay our concerns at the feet of our Lord in prayer and simply ask. If we, the body of Christ, come together humbly asking for “things” that would glorify God, then why would it not be so?

Our church, Kennewick First UMC, has been through many changes over the years and has weathered them all! People have mortgaged their farms, given their savings, endowed their estates, and given freely so that the church at 2 South Dayton Street in Kennewick could be a place of love, worship, community, refuge, graduation, study, and peace for over 100 years: a beacon of light in downtown Kennewick. Many have given throughout the years, because they believed in what God could do through this valuable faith discipline. Our faith is built upon believing that which we can’t see with our eyes; this is the challenge of trusting in the Lord. Yet we have a daily reminder of what the Lord can do: we live in the desert with the beautiful Columbia River running through it to hydrate us and the land. The Isaiah scripture isn’t saying “if you have your ducks in a row” or “if you have enough money” or “if all of your programs are vibrant”. It says “I WILL DO a new thing”. We can trust Him to keep this promise.

I’m wondering if we are ready for the “new thing that is going to spring forth” at Kennewick First? I read this verse with excitement, enthusiasm, and hope for the future of our church, and I pray you are inspired to give thanks for what the Lord has done and to give thanks for what is next to come! Below are some simple prayer requests that I invite you to pray with me in November and beyond. Let’s learn to expect the unexpected, imagine the unimaginable . . . and be in awe of how our loving and creative God will act!

- ♥ Pray for our church community
- ♥ Pray for the church staff
- ♥ Pray for the Tri Cities, our state, nation, and world
- ♥ Pray for the opportunity for children to experience the love of Jesus through us
- ♥ Pray for our church family to grow
- ♥ Pray for strength and resources to keep up with our aging building
- ♥ Pray that our eyes are open wide to the “new road in the wilderness”
- ♥ Pray for the Love of Jesus to continue to change hearts and the world!



**LENTEN**  
*Booklet*

Thank you to all the members who graciously agreed to write a meditation for our Lenten Booklet 2024. There are 47 meditations in all . . . from Ash Wednesday (February 14) to Easter (March 31).

All meditations must be received by December 1. The booklet will be distributed on Sunday, February 11, at the 10:00 AM worship service.

*Phyllis Koschik, Editor*



Dallon Hare	2-Nov
Paige Phillips	2-Nov
Aurora Hooley	3-Nov
Lloyd Leathers	5-Nov
Cyndi Glazier	5-Nov
Christian Tenney	5-Nov
Ruth Anderson	6-Nov
Mike Zabel	7-Nov
Joline Board	10-Nov
Connie Boice	11-Nov
"Shorty" Wertman	12-Nov
Ann Schmel	16-Nov
Brandon Elvik	17-Nov
Aggie Mowry	18-Nov
Nicole Loomis	19-Nov
Craig Mayfield	21-Nov
Lee Simmelink	23-Nov
Megan Austin	23-Nov
Jane Hunt	24-Nov
Randy Bement	24-Nov
Kayla Ebberts	24-Nov
Mary Lynn Arter	28-Nov
Mona Miller	28-Nov



John Harden	1-Dec
Wyatt York	1-Dec
Angelica Amegashie	1-Dec
Margaret Beesley	2-Dec



*Delight thyself also in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*  
*Psalm 37:4 KJV*

**PRAYER** *Please pray for those in need of healing, comfort, and encouragement and for those who are grieving the passing of loved ones . . .*

Aggie Mowry, Lloyd Leathers, Dean Mitchell, Dorothy Lyle, Larry and Karen Barcot, Eddie Kenoyer, Tim Anderson, Jaime Hildman, Joyce Norman, Ron Baker, Diana Sundvik, Rita McElroy, Joan Osborne, Pat Phillips, Jennifer Bateman, Buddy Fish, Peggy Snyder, Etta Ballard, Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, and our District Superintendent, Rev. Daniel Miranda.



Jolene Kuhns passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 15, at the age of 89. Jolene had been a member of Kennewick First for over 50 years.

Please keep her family, including sons Brad and Murray, and daughter, Brenda, and her friends in your prayers. A memorial service was held October 28.

#### **Kennewick 1st United Methodist Church**

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

#### **Sunday Morning Schedule**

Nursery Provided  
 Adult Sunday School at 8:30 AM  
 Children and Youth Sunday School at 9 AM  
 Chapel Worship at 9 AM  
 Sanctuary Worship at 10 AM

#### **Church Office Hours**

Monday—Thursday  
 8 AM to Noon and 1 to 4 PM  
 Friday—8 AM to Noon



[www.kennewickfirst.com](http://www.kennewickfirst.com)  
[facebook.com/KennewickFirstUMC](https://facebook.com/KennewickFirstUMC)

Articles for the December 2023 Clarion will be due **November 20**. Thank you for your timely submissions!



# November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Sunday School 9am</i>  <b>Capture the Flag</b> 4-6pm Wear Tennis shoes and warm dark colored clothing!  Praise Band 3pm	6	7	8	9 <b>ButterBraid Pickup!</b> <b>Watch Remind and Facebook for the details!</b>	10	11
12 <i>Sunday School 9am</i>  All Church Potluck Lunch 11:15am <b>Rake and Run 12:30-3pm</b> Wear your red KFUMC shirt and tennis shoes and bring work gloves and a rake if you have one. (If you don't have one, we will get you one before leaving.)	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 <i>Sunday School 9am</i>  <b>Leader's Choice 4-6pm</b> Come see how zany your leaders can be.  Praise Band 3pm	20	21	22	23 	24	
26 <i>Sunday School 9am</i>  <b>Advent Decorating 11am-1pm</b> <b>This is a family event after church, not a UMY event. Please come with your youth :)</b>	27	28	29	30		