

THE CLARION

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



*A Christ-centered, inclusive
and loving community*

Rushin' to the Lord



April
2024

Senior High Dessert Auction 2024

Our Senior UMY group is working hard to prepare for their annual dessert auction! Mark your calendars for:

April 14 at 1 p.m.
Ida Payne Fellowship Hall
Kennewick First UMC

We are raising money for our 2024 Mission Trip to Storm Mountain Center in Rapid City, South Dakota, where we will be helping with general maintenance and up-keep at the camp.



Please come to the church prepared to pool your money with the folks at your table to choose a dessert to share together. Gluten-free desserts will be an option. We will also have some other exciting items to bid on!

When you get to the fellowship hall, please look for your host or table number, however, if you haven't yet been placed at a table, we will be happy to seat you at one.

If you are not able to attend but would like to give to this important mission opportunity, please mail a check or use the push pay system through the church and mark the memo section "Sr UMY Mission Trip." We appreciate all donations, including desserts, so please let Claressa know if you are interested in making a dessert!

In addition to luscious desserts, we have a few larger donations that will be sold in a live auction toward the end of the event.

- ♥ A three-night stay at WorldMark Resort on the beach in Long Beach, Washington, September 16 through 19. (These dates are firm!)

Donated by Cory and Audrey Manley.

- ♥ Two nights at a Cowlitz River cabin in Packwood, Washington – Dates can be arranged to work with their current reservations, \$300 refundable deposit will be needed from the winner.

Donated by Danielle Rhodes.

- ♥ Two nights in Pinehurst House at Twinlow Camp and Retreat Center – Non-summer weekend.

Donated by Twinlow Camp and Retreat Center

- ♥ Dinner for 6 at Tagaris Winery

Donated by Kristine Taggares



We look forward to welcoming you and your friends to this annual event. Your willingness to help us out in our fundraising efforts makes it possible for us to reach out to help others in Christ's name!



For almost 16 years, **Amberley Almarode** has been the music ministry leader at

KFUMC. Now Amberley and her sons are moving to Hope, Arkansas, to join Marshall in his new ministry there. While we will miss her many contributions to our worship services, we are happy for the Hope church, which will benefit from her gifts.

We will bid a fond farewell to Amberley during 10:00 worship on **April 28** and during a reception afterward. There will be a gift tree in the entry area where you can pin notes of appreciation and well wishes, as well as any money or gift cards you may want to share with Amberley and her family. You won't want to miss this special Sunday!

KFUMC Single Senior Support Group



Thursday, April 4, at 10:00 a.m.
Outside the Roxy Theatre
at Rockabilly Roasting
101 W. Kennewick Avenue



Roller Skating Party



Save the date for an end-of-year Roller Skating event, June 2 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Richland Rollarena. This will be an all-church, family, and friend event.



All-Church Campout August 16—18

Mark your calendar for the All-Church Campout at the Boardman Park Marina, Friday—Sunday, August 16-18.

Contact the church office to make your reservation. Cost is \$125 for the weekend.

Questions may be directed to Cynthia.



Spring Retreat Wrap-up

Our youth enjoyed a relaxing Spring Retreat at Lazy F Camp, outside of Ellensburg, March 15-17. They spent time in the Word, in fellowship, and in service to each other. Everyone pitched in cooking and praying, and we all enjoyed the spring warmth and clear skies!

CHURCH LIBRARIAN NEEDED



We are looking for a volunteer who would like to run the Church Library. This person will catalog, organize, and file books, as well as maintain the files on who has checked out books and when (if) they are returned.

If you are interested in volunteering for this activity, please contact the church office at 509-582-2163.



Dying to Live with Him

By Cynthia Bement

As I call on folks and the conversation moves towards the dying process, death, and aftercare, I sometimes hear “We are not having (or didn’t have) a service or gathering for my (me) _____ (family member) because they (I) don’t (didn’t) want one.” We feel a deep need to honor the last wishes of those we love, so when that person tells us they don’t want any kind of gathering, we respectfully let them go with no fanfare. I do believe that there is great satisfaction in honoring the vision of your loved one, even when that vision does not include a service. Yet, family members have shared with me the sadness at the lack of closure because there was no service and they don’t feel they were able to “officially say goodbye.”

Recently it seems as though our church has held memorial services almost weekly for our brothers and sisters in Christ, and each has been lovingly planned by clergy, volunteers, and the family to reflect and honor a life well lived for the Lord. From the music to the scriptures, message, and eulogy, these services have given us an opportunity to give thanks to the Lord for the lives we have gathered to celebrate as well as for our own lives and the promise of the resurrection. Our job as the body of Christ is to show up to support the family and to bear witness to our faith with hope. Nothing makes me think of eternity more than attending a celebration of life service and pondering my own mortality. I am grateful for the opportunities that I have been given to help honor my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and parent after they departed this earth. Never easy, but always healing and positive...to me. I know that I, and others as well, have felt the love of God through our church community on some of those dark days. The shortest scripture verse is John 11:35, *Jesus wept*, and this was at the death of his friend Lazarus. Jesus feels our pain with great compassion. In verse 44, Jesus calls Lazarus out of the grave and breathes life back into him again. His story wasn’t over, and our death isn’t the end of our story either. May we all remember that eternal life is worth celebrating, and as believers we have a great message of hope in Jesus Christ that is worth hearing again and again...let it be told at your service someday. *For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him!* 2 Timothy 2:11

I would encourage preplanning your service, including writing down favorite hymns, songs, and scriptures you would like included. If you don’t wish to have a service, consider allowing your family to honor and celebrate your life in a manner that is healing for them — and let them know! We have a questionnaire in the office that may be helpful.



Congratulations to **Kevin Alley** who was awarded the Crystal Apple Award for Excellence in Education! Kevin received the award during a ceremony on March 7, where he was joined by his family and colleagues; Cynthia was also in attendance, representing his church.

Kevin is a teacher for the Columbia Burbank school district, both a football and baseball coach, owner of Back Alley BBQ, an avid Eastern Eagles supporter, and wonderful husband to Kara and daddy to Marley and Buzzy...proud parents are Rick and Cindi Glazier and Grandma Karen Alley!

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



Catered Lunch Set By UWF April 24

United Women in Faith will celebrate spring with a special meal Wednesday, April 24, in the Susanna Wesley Room, beginning at 10 a.m. Amanda Lorraine will present a program on the fantastic work of Grace Kitchen, followed by this local mission catering lunch for all attending.

The sharing gift will be donations for Grace Kitchen, which empowers and employs women out of poverty in the Tri-Cities.

Jennifer Daven shared copies of the Kitchen's menu at the March unit meeting.

Our Book Club, headed by Darryl Vaughn, will meet after the April session. Why don't you sit in? The latest book that club members are reading is [Saving Us](#) by Katherine Hayhoe.

President Kathy Wertman will also have exciting updates to share about the invitation luncheon Saturday, May 18, in Ida Payne Hall. All women of our church, UWF units in Seven Rivers District, and friends at First Presbyterian will be invited. Our own UWF members are asked to bring salads to share. The array of dishes is always a tantalizing joy. Please bring your favorite!

This annual May event was cancelled during Covid, making this year's luncheon extra special, as friendships will be renewed and new ones formed. Also anticipated is the presentation of a video of Jacquie Sonderman portraying Susanna Wesley.

In other news, three babies are receiving special spoons from UWF, Cheri Baker has announced. The newborns are Ava Marie Hooley, Elizabeth Elvik, and Cameron Ebberts.

A Holly Daze workshop will be held on Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to noon. in

the Susanna Wesley Room. All are welcome to join in crafting and bringing ideas for new projects. Currently, Holly Daze supporters are working on hand-sewing and stuffing garlands made of felt; painting wooden turkey feathers to insert in pumpkins in the fall; and finishing up stuffing seasonal pillows.

Chairs Susan Sandmeier and Darryl Vaughn thank all for coming and sharing in supporting this chief UWF fund-raiser. Proceeds go for numerous missions world-wide and locally, including Second Harvest, Union Gospel Mission, Grace Clinic, My Friend's Place, and missionary Kathryn Parker.

Also, on the morning of April 6, prayer shawl knitters are expected to get together in the Welcome Area at church. Need a pattern? Contact Pat Walker. She's helped others make shawls for years.

Joy Fellowship will meet April 11 at 7 p.m. in the home of Cheri Baker. Contact chair Debbie Britton if you have questions.

Our UWF board will meet Tuesday, April 2, at 10 a.m. in the Susanna Wesley Room. Serving with Kathy are Phyllis Koschik, Kathy Harris, Pat Walker, Su Mayfield, Cheri Baker, Micki Perry, Lori Butler, and Bonnie Taylor. They welcome your ideas for activities and service.

Want more info on UWF activities? Check out the bulletin board in the church's Welcome Area. Micki Perry, our education coordinator, has posted maps of all UWF missions world-wide. Also, copies of *Response* magazine are available in the church library. Shelves of UWF novels and inspirational books are there, too, for checkout.

UWF strives every day to nurture women so they can impact local and global communities.

Members work for justice, to change unfair policies and systems, and address racial, gender, and economic inequality.



Molly Kittson	3-Apr
Jeffrey Varzandeh	4-Apr
Christiaan Barcot	4-Apr
Dee Ann Yount	5-Apr
Bethany Ahrend	5-Apr
Sherry Elvik	6-Apr
Terry Milton	6-Apr
Debra Reeve	6-Apr
Merrienne Door	9-Apr
Kaylee Klages	11-Apr
Kathryn Thien	13-Apr
Loretta Curley	14-Apr
Kathy Harris	14-Apr
Mercedes Haberling	14-Apr
Paige Kaiser	14-Apr
Vic Reeve	16-Apr
Brooke Canada	18-Apr
Bill Mandell	20-Apr
George Block	24-Apr
Nancy Russell	25-Apr
Bob Kelly	27-Apr
Kathy Wertman	30-Apr
Eva Walker	30-Apr
Isabelle Howard	30-Apr



Anakin Elvik	1-May
Linda Tucker	2-May
Lynnaie Wright	2-May
Debra Williamson	2-May
Brandon Elvik	5-May
Patrick Bannworth	5-May
Mikayla Mason	5-May
Joshua Troxel	5-May



PRAYER eelist

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, Dorothy Lyle, Larry and Karen Barcot, Eddie Kenoyer, Tim Anderson, Jaime Hildman, Ron Baker, Rita McElroy, Joan Osborne, Jennifer Bateman, Buddy Fish, Peggy Snyder, Etta Ballard, Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, and our District Superintendent, Rev. Daniel Miranda.



Opal Ruth Smith, 101 years

young, entered life eternal on March 21. We remember Opal for her many years of faithful worship attendance, as well as for being Norma Williams' longtime sidekick in teaching adult Sunday school. In her later years, she resided at Hawthorne Court, and though she was nearly blind, she participated as much as she could and listened to the Bible daily on a cassette tape player. Godspeed, friend.



The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*

Following the ‘Perfect Fool’

Theologian Frederick Buechner, who died at age 96 in 2022, explored how the “foolishness of God” (see 1 Corinthians 1:25) compares to human wisdom. He pondered the safety stickers that warn, “The life you save may be your own.”

“That is the wisdom of [humans] in a nutshell,” wrote Buechner. “What God says, on the other hand, is ‘The life you save is the life you lose.’ In other words, the life you clutch, hoard, guard and play safe with is in the end a life worth little to anybody, including yourself, and only a life given away for love’s sake is a life worth living.”

Buechner continued, “To bring his point home, God shows us a man who gave his life away to the extent of dying a national disgrace without a penny in the bank or a friend to his name. In terms of [human] wisdom, he was a Perfect Fool, and anybody who thinks [they] can follow him without [being] something like the same kind of a fool ... is laboring under not a cross but a delusion.”



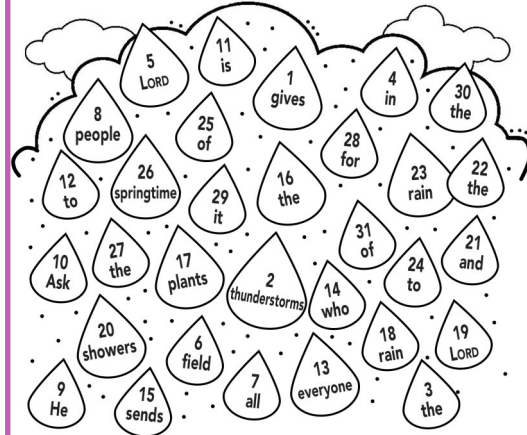
What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. “Love one another as I have loved you.”
- B. “Peace be with you.”
- C. “The last shall be first and the first shall be last.”
- D. “I am risen!”

Answer: See John 20:19, 21.

Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



10 16 5 28 18

_____ ;

4 22 26

29 11 3 19 14 15

_____ .

27 2

9 1 20 31 23

12 7 8 21 17 25

30 6 24 13

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants in the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Kennewick 1st United Methodist Church

2 South Dayton
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Sunday Morning Schedule

Nursery Provided
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
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