

THE CLARION

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



december

2024

*A Christ-centered, inclusive
and loving community*

Kennewick First UMC



Christmas Eve Services December 24

You are invited to join your friends and family at Kennewick First on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child! Two services will be offered this year.

The service at **3 p.m.** will feature the Children and Youth Christmas pageant, including Time with Young Disciples and the Silent Night candles.

Our **5 p.m.** service will include Communion with the Silent Night Candles.

The nursery will be open and staffed during both services.

Come rejoice together!

Clap Your Hands! Holly Daze Encore Coming December 8

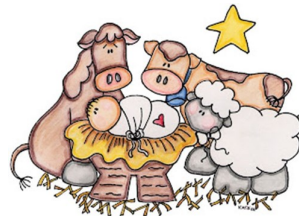


The joys of the season will get a head start December 8 at Holly Daze Encore. This event for church members and friends will be held following the 10 a.m. service.

This is a chance to purchase hand-crafted items, baked goods, and bean soup for gifts and for parties.

Our wonderful bakers should bring in their treats on Saturday, December 7. And many thanks! Remember, your support for this endeavor will benefit the many non-profits and missions that UWF supports.

The Children and Youth present...



The Tail of the Talking Animals

By Cynthia Bement

Christmas Eve at the 3 p.m. service

(the first half of the service is pageant and the second half will be a traditional service)

Long ago, and even today in Europe, the story is told of how all the animals in the world speak at the stroke of midnight on Christmas Eve. With their newfound power of speech, the animals rejoice at the birth of Jesus, born humbly in a manger and surrounded by animals. Come and experience the telling of this tale by our children and teens on Christmas Eve!

Office Closures During Christmas Week



December 24—office will
close at noon

December 25—closed all day

January 1—closed all day





Nativities on Display

**Sunday, December 22
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

We hope that the Nativity Set Display Event, hosted by our church, will help to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas by bringing together our congregation and the wider community in a meaningful and inspiring way. This event will showcase a diverse collection of nativity sets, each representing the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ and the joy of the Christmas season. Our intent is to provide a serene and contemplative environment where visitors can reflect on the significance of the Nativity and the love, hope, and peace that it symbolizes. Along with that, we wish to create an opportunity for fellowship and connection among our church members and the broader community, strengthening bonds and fostering a sense of belonging. We desire to highlight the rich cultural diversity within our church and community by featuring nativity sets from various traditions and backgrounds, celebrating the universal message of Christ's birth. Please come and share in the joy and festivity of the Christmas season through the beautiful and creative displays that are sure to bring warmth and delight!

Please bring your Nativity set to share for display on Saturday, December 21, from 9 – 11 a.m.

Enjoy viewing the Nativity sets on Sunday, December 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please retrieve your Nativity set on Sunday, December 22, from 2 p.m. until finished (approximately. 1 hour).

We are looking for folks who can be present during the event to provide hospitality, replenish coffee, bring cookies, and most importantly, share your Nativity Set. **Please call the church office to let us know how you can support this inspirational event (509-582-2163).**

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Join us for our Blue Christmas Service, a gentle and contemplative gathering to offer comfort and hope during the holiday season.



**December 19, 2024
6:30 p.m.**

Kennewick First United Methodist Church

Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors

Free Breakfast

December 8 at 8 a.m.



Join us for Cereal Sunday and activities on the second Sunday of each month. All are welcome!

**There will be no
Children or Youth
Sunday School on
December 29. Have a
wonderful Christmas
and New Year!**

*"Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation"
(Psalm 25:4-5, NRSV).*





Both my daughter's-in-law have been pregnant this year, so I've watched both their households make room for a new arrival. Cupboards and closets have been rearranged. Skinny children's car seats replaced the standard ones so three children will fit in the car. Both my sons shuffled their professional workloads so paternity leave could fit on their calendars. Everybody's hearts stretched to love the babies even as they grew in their mother's wombs.

It has been a year of anticipation and of challenges. Babies cost money, so pennies got pinched. Babies take a toll on mothers' bodies, so naps were honored and time for healing given. Babies interrupt meals and sleep and everything else, so adjustments in family practices are required. Everyone gives extra effort, makes more sacrifices, and experiences the precious moments that come with new life.

As we anticipate the arrival of Christ child this Christmas, anticipate Housing the Holy.

This Advent season we will hear from the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and "make room in the inn." Part of caring for our neighbors, and ourselves, means filling the lonely and frightened spaces within us with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

December 1: Hope	"Making Room"	Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:4-5
December 8: Peace	"A Place at the Table"	Baruch 5:1-5, Philippians 1:9-11
December 15: Joy	"How Much is Enough?"	Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 3:10-14
December 22: Love	"A Room with a View"	Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46-55
Christmas Eve: Christ	"The Inn"	Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-7 [8-20]
December 29:	"Dwelling"	Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

I look forward to worshipping with you at The Inn as we prepare for and welcome the Holy, for surely our God will bless us with divine presence and light.

Peace & Joy to you and yours,

Pastor Shirley



KFUMC Single Senior Support Group

December 5 at 10 a.m.

Kennewick Flower Shop & Tri City Coffee Company
604 W. Kennewick Ave, Kennewick

Whether you are widowed, divorced or have always been single, we would like to invite you to gather with other Seniors from our church to share life's joys, concerns, and faith. The group meets monthly and informally at the Kennewick Flower Shop...which houses the Tri City Coffee Company where you can purchase a cup of coffee or the like. May this be a place where friends gather to lend encouragement, laugh, and share stories with each other. *We will not be meeting during the months of January and February, due to the cold and possible inclement weather.*

LIFT

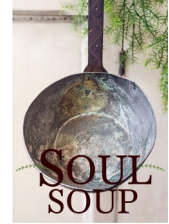
Living In Faith Together



Each Wednesday evening from 6–7 p.m., women gather in the Youth Chapel to hear a devotion, read and study scripture, share faith stories, and pray together. We began meeting in September 2023 and will continue through the program year. Each week is led by either Peg Puryear, Reneé Wilhelm, Michelle Hare, Cynthia Bement, Sheryl Dyer, or one of the women in attendance. We each bring the devotional word in our own unique way, and the Spirit has been faithful, present, and at work in all of us gals in the circle! The group meets in the evening so that those who work can attend, so we respect the start and end time. Please join us any Wednesday at 6 p.m. ... remembering our 3 B's...Bible, Beverage, and Bifocals (if needed)! **We will not gathering for LIFT on December 25 or January 1.**



Soul Soup



Soul Soup is continuing to serve lots of hungry people, including some families with smaller children. We continue to see new faces, particularly those living on the street. One of our regular guests, Kathy, called to ask if she could bring birthday cake and ice cream for everyone to celebrate her mother's 80th birthday. She did, and there were two tables of her extended family there to celebrate, including a granddaughter and two of her children from Alaska! Kathy is wheelchair bound and gets to Soul Soup via Dial-a-Ride. She has attended Soul Soup for several years – we sometimes forget that our guests have the same interests, goals, and needs as we all do. Sharing a birthday celebration with a loved one, family, and friends is a common thread that binds us all.

Keep us all, guests and volunteers and this ministry in your prayers.



Rock-A-Thon January 18–19

The Jr United Methodist Youth will once again be rocking the night away on January 18–19, 2025. The youth

rock each year to raise money to help fund their activities for the coming year, with your help!

The money is raised through the pledges of their church family, friends, teachers, and grandparents/aunts/uncles. They'll begin making calls this month from their own or their parents' phones seeking those pledges. When you receive a call asking for your support, please be patient, as they are young! Also, take the opportunity to ask them about what they enjoy most about their UMY activities!

Thank you for your support of our young people!



Message from your Lay Leader

Extravagant Generosity

The recent worship series of Extravagant Generosity had a very profound effect on both Cory and me. We had discussions after each weekly letter was received about how we spend, how we prioritize, and how we give. We went as far as creating an Excel personal budget, something we haven't done for quite some time. Once the budget was completed, we could easily see where we could improve our spending habits.

Also, during this four-week series, God was nudging me to learn more about John Wesley and our church. Little did I know just how relevant this was to Pastor Shirley's worship series! I checked out two books on John Wesley from our library (*3 Simple Rules* and John Wesley's *Message Today*), borrowed The Other Phyllis's *A Century of Faith 1902-2002* book on our church, and then re-read Max Lucado's book titled *It's Not About Me*. Cory then read the books after me. We were surprised by how Wesley's teachings are still relevant today.

In his *Message Today*, Wesley addresses the use of money. He encourages us to: 1) Gain all that you can; 2) Save all that you can; and 3) Give all that you can. In gaining all that you can, we are to do so without harming ourselves or others. To save all that you can, we are to spend responsibly, not paying more than what something is worth, or buying things we don't need. To give all that we can, we are to keep just what we need to take care of ourselves and our family, then give the rest "to do good unto all men," giving to the poor, needy, and sick.

Max Lucado states in his book, *It's Not About Me*, that all that we have is from God, so we should give all that we have to the glory of God. We are not to use our wealth to show off or to raise ourselves above others. We all have heard the phrase "keeping up with the Joneses," and we all probably know someone who lives that way. Don't fall into the trap of spending more than you have on things that you don't need to impress people you don't even know.

After reading our church's centennial history book, we were both so humbled by the faith and actions of prior members. What an amazing history our church has. I encourage you all to re-read your copy, if you have it. I don't know if a copy is in our library for you to check out, but I do have a photocopy of the book if anyone is interested in reading it or getting their own photocopy. Please let me know. In our history, the church survived through WW1, The Great Depression, and WW2 through the hard work and dedication of its members. One member even leveraged his farm to pay one of the mortgages on the church so that they didn't lose the church. Now *that* is extravagant generosity!

Some time ago, the church's purpose statement was "Fostering Generation of Christ's Disciples." Our church is comprised today, in part, of four, five, even six generations. To honor our former members, do we not have the responsibility to continue this legacy for future generations to come? Both Cory and I were so moved by our founding members' and subsequent generations' dedication to this church, that we have decided to add a bequeathment in our wills for KFUMC.

We are truly blessed by all that God has given us, and we are committed to give all that we can to the glory of God.

Audrey Manley, Lay Leader
almanley1@gmail.com



UWF To Raise Their Voices To Spread Christmas Cheer

Bring out the holly—UWF's Christmas celebration will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 11, in the Susanna Wesley Room! Sherry Arnold and her friend, Donna, will lead all in singing and rejoicing.

The Rev. Shirley DeLarme will install our 2025 UWF officers, and Joy Fellowship will bring treats for all. The sharing gift will be for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

UWF's Woman of The Year Is Beloved Kathy Wertman



Kathy's wide-spread support for United Women in Faith goes back years and is inspiring.

At church on November 17, she was recognized for her dedication and service by being chosen for our 2024 Woman of the Year. Her leadership was essential during Covid, when the women of the church were not permitted to meet. Thanks to her and other caring UWF members, the group survived and thrived.

Not wanting to jeopardize the importance of many missions, Kathy guided projects through Zoom meetings and email communications, and worked tirelessly to rebuild our membership.

She attends every Holly Daze workshop throughout the year, helps make apple pies, and the week before our annual bazaar, helps set up, price baked goods, clean-up, and assists with the Sunday sales. Kathy also is a reception coordinator.

In an unofficial role, she and her husband, Shorty, give rides to members who can no longer drive, and they help at Meals On Wheels.

Without a doubt UWF, was thrilled to recognize Kathy Wertman for the blessing she is in our lives and for the gifts of her time, talents, financial support, prayers, and being a witness of her faith.

Congratulations, Kathy!



Ron Shuck Receives Recognition Award

This year, UWF wants to honor a wonderful supporter outside our United Women in Faith membership—Ron Shuck. The 2024 Special Recognition Award is Ron's for services which benefit everyone who attends Kennewick First.

Ron is often the first person that attendees come in contact with at church each Sunday morning. His warm smile and cheery greeting are sincere and genuine, making all feel welcome and special. After the service, Ron shows the same graciousness in helping members exit and wishing them a good week.

This wonderful Kennewick First member served as one of our van drivers who transported members to services when they could no longer drive. He continues to offer his help in any possible way, such as bringing apples for pie baking; donating walnuts from his trees to those baking goodies for Holly Daze; and helping clean up after the bazaar, especially by moving equipment and furniture.

UWF is grateful to Ron for his support always, and for his witness of Jesus' love to all.

We appreciate you, Ron!





Angelica Amegashie	1-Dec
John Harden	1-Dec
Wyatt York	1-Dec
Noelia Haberling	7-Dec
James Marquardt	7-Dec
Valiant Alderson	9-Dec
Betty Baumann	10-Dec
Cal Method	10-Dec
Ryan Angelo	11-Dec
Annika Noel Tenney	11-Dec
Audrey Manley	12-Dec
Erica Ewing	13-Dec
Holli Simmellink	13-Dec
Joseph Buchholz	14-Dec
Ty Haberling	14-Dec
Thomas Yount	14-Dec
Carol Kerkow	15-Dec
Marcus Wertman	15-Dec
Reneé Wilhelm	15-Dec
Sean Holloway	17-Dec
Christopher Whitney	17-Dec
Claressa Elvik	18-Dec
Robert Kuch	18-Dec
Ryan Miller	19-Dec
Shirley DeLarme	22-Dec
Kathleen Bryson	23-Dec
Mike Thien	23-Dec
Colin Wertman	24-Dec
Claire Phillips	26-Dec
William Parkes	28-Dec
Marie Duncan	29-Dec



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



Aggie Mowry, Karen Irwin, Lloyd Leathers, Dorothy Lyle, Eddie Kenoyer, Jaime Hildman, Rita McElroy, Joan Osborne, Buddy Fish, Peggy Snyder, Etta Ballard, Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, and our District Superintendent, Rev. Daniel Miranda.



Patricia “Patty” Hornberger, 92, went on to life eternal on November 7, 2024. She was born in Crown City, Ohio, and lived in the Tri-Cities for 54 years. Patty was a retired kindergarten teacher at Westgate Elementary School. A service of Remembrance was held on Friday, November 22, at Life Tributes.

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Our dear friend, **Patsy Hull**, entered eternal life on Wednesday, November 27. Patsy, who was 96, was a member of our church in past years. Such a beautiful lady, who always had a smile for everyone! Her gentle spirit will be missed.

A Night of Remembrance will be held on Friday, December 6, from 5–6:30 p.m., at Hawthorne Court in honor of those residents who passed during 2024, including Patsy. If you wish to honor Patsy with your presence, please RSVP to (509) 783-8313 as soon as possible.

Let us reverently bow before the holy Child whose innocence restores to [humankind] its ancient glory; and let us pray that he may be formed in us, the hope of glory.



—C.H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*



UPDATE FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ. I wanted to update you all on a couple of items.

First, the HVAC unit was replaced for the Susanna Wesley Room on Friday, November 15. Yay, that room is warm and cozy again! The cost of the new unit was approximately \$18,000.

Second, the estimated start date for the sewer line repair and rerouting is Monday, December 2, 2024, and the contractor estimates work will be completed on Monday, December 9, 2024. As a result, the front courtyard and steps will be completely blocked during this time. Also, please be prepared for extra truck traffic and noise during this week of construction, and plan accordingly for any activities at the church.

While a group of us were raking leaves and pruning bushes at church last Saturday, it was exciting to see the painted lines across the front plaza showing where the contractor will be tearing up the concrete to reroute the sewer line. Finally! After all this time, we are seeing signs that the project is finally on its way.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Blessings,

*Cory Manley, Chair
Leadership Council*



“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.”

—Hamilton Wright Mabie

Use the gift!

At Christmas, God sent his Son to live among us. But he doesn't want us to be passive recipients of that precious gift. Consider these challenges for the season — and for the new year ahead:

“He became what we are that we might become what he is.”

—*Athanasius (4th century)*

“When Christ entered our world, he didn't come to brighten our Decembers but to transform our lives.”

—*Rich Miller*

“Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man. Why wait for a call when you have a command?”

—*Robert Hughes*



Kennewick 1st United Methodist Church

2 South Dayton

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday School at 9 a.m.
Sanctuary Worship at 10 a.m.
Nursery Provided

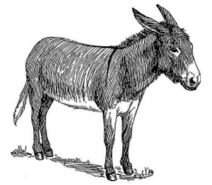
Church Office Hours

Monday–Thursday
8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.
Friday, 8 a.m. to noon

www.kennewickfirst.com
facebook.com/KennewickFirstUMC



UMY December Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Sunday School 9am</i> <i>Pageant Practice 9:30am</i> Bowling 4-6pm <i>Praise Band 3-4pm</i> Please Bring \$5	2	3	4	5	6	7 Lighted Boat Parade 6:30—8:30pm <i>Dress in Warm clothes</i> <i>Meet at the Church</i>
8 <i>Sunday School 9am</i> <i>Pageant Practice/Praise Band 9:30am</i> No UMY (went on Saturday)	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 <i>Sunday School 9am</i> <i>Pageant Practice 9:30am</i> Christmas Party & Dinner 5-7pm Wear an ugly Christmas Sweater Bring a wrapped gift \$10 & under	16	17	18	19 Praise Band 5-6pm	20	21
22 <i>Sunday School 9am</i> <i>Pageant Practice 9:30am</i> Praise Band 3-4pm Pageant Dress Rehearsal 4-5pm Gingerbread House Decorating 5-6pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 3pm—Pageant <i>Participants Arrive by</i> <i>2:30pm</i> 5pm—Service	25	26	27	28
29 <i>No Sunday School</i> Movie & Game Night 3-5pm Please RSVP by the 18th of December.	30	31				<p>“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16</p> <div>Parade</div>