

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 8th
Sunday Live Worship, 10 am, Sanctuary
<https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>
(Click the "LIVE" link in the tool bar to see recent worship services, as well)

Sunday, December 8th
Holly Daze Encore, 11 am, Susanna Wesley
(See Details below)

Sunday, December 11th
LIFT Bible Study, 6 pm, Youth Chapel
No meeting on December 25th or January 1st

Thursday, December 19th
The Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service,
6:30 pm
Outside, Weather Permitting

Sunday, December 22nd
Nativity Scene Show Case, 11 am - 2 pm, Overflow
Room
(See Details below)

Tuesday, December 24th
Children's Christmas Pageant, 3 pm
(with Silent Night candles)

Tuesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Worship, 5 pm
(with Communion & Silent Night candles)

Dear Friends, Extravagant Generosity is an Expression of Your Heart

Thank you for your participation in this Fall's worship series *Extravagant Generosity*. Together we explored the generous gifts of God through the community we call Kennewick First United Methodist Church. We celebrated our church, the things and people we love about it, and the great ministries we do to grow our faith and to reach beyond our walls to serve God's people in the world. Thank you for being part of that.

On November 3 we received your pledge cards as a promise of your gifts to God. The names and numbers printed on those cards represent the commitments and love the members of this congregation give to God through the time, treasure and talents that you give to the ministries of this church.

Thank you to those who completed a pledge card; it helps with our planning. You might be interested in these numbers:

For 2025

51 pledge cards show \$270,714 are pledged toward the 2025 operating budget, which is 50.1% of what is needed for the estimated 2025 operating budget of \$534,029

Generally

125 individuals/households give annually

455 members belong to our congregation

76 members are inactive, in addition to those named at Charge Conference; inactive members give no time, treasure, or talent, yet desire to remain on our rolls.

These are scary dollar numbers for an organization that operates mostly on donations from its participants. This is not a sustainable situation, and it makes ministry planning difficult. There are certainly givers who give without pledging, and their generosity is appreciated. Unexpected gifts and income from investments are also helpful, although investment income is better suited to special projects instead of operating expenses.

Again, thank you to those who prayed about and made a commitment to the ministries we do together of this church. It is not too late to add your commitment and estimate of giving. As you know, the church rarely turns away monetary gifts and always finds good ways to use them! Blank pledge cards are still available through the office and on the table next to Sunday's worship bulletins.

In fact, the end of the calendar year can be a great time to check your tax status, to see if you would benefit from more charitable giving or to see if you have a required minimum distribution looking for a home. Your gifts to the church create win-win situations for you, the community, and the church.

Please add your prayers to this budgeting process. Pray for the decisions your leaders will be making to guide us forward. Pray for your own giving, that it doesn't strain your resources, and that it doesn't diminish the work of God we are called to do.

Peace,
Pastor Shirley

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 NIV.

12/8
"A Place at the Table"
Pastor Shirley DeLarme
Scriptures:
Baruch 5:1-5
Philippians 1:3-11

Holly Daze Encore

Holly Daze Encore is coming! On Sunday, December 8 at 11 am come support United Women in Faith while shopping for Christmas. Items available will be home-made baked goods, hand-crafted items, and Pep's Bean Soup.

Blue Christmas/Long Night Service

There will be a Blue Christmas Worship Service on Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 pm. The service will be held outside (weather permitting.)

Nativities on Display

- Please bring your Nativity set to share for display: Saturday, December 21 from 9 - 11 am
- Enjoy viewing the Nativity sets: Sunday, December 22 from 11 am - 2 pm
- Please come retrieve your Nativity set: Sunday, December 22 from 2 pm until finished (approx. 1 hour.)

Financial Gifts

The last day of the year to contribute to 2024's funds is Monday, December 30th.

Pep's Bean Soup for Sale

Pep's Bean Soup is for sale in the church office for \$9.00/bag.

Church Office Staff Meetings

The Church Office meets for a Staff Meeting the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 10 am - Noon. The office is closed 10 am - 1:00 pm on those days.