

-Anonymous

"If God is your copilot, swap seats."



2025



A Christ-centered, inclusive and loving community

Homecoming @ Kennewick First UMC

September 7



Sunday School 9:00 ~ Worship 10:00 a.m.

Students & teachers, ages pre-school through adults. Bring your backpacks to worship to be blessed & tagged with love.

> Commissioning our Sunday School Teachers & Youth Leaders. Cherry on Top: Ice Cream Sundaes for all during fellowship.

Youth Group 4 - 6 p.m.

Youth & Leaders, Parents & Sibs Ice Cream Sundaes Remix & Informational Meeting



Note: Sunday School and Youth Group registration forms are available on the church website. Updated information for all children is essential.

Adult Sunday School Class



Jim Deatherage and

Bob Kelly will lead a study of "The Case for Grace – A Journalist Explores the Evidence of Transformed Lives" by Lee Strobel beginning on Sunday, September 14. The class will start at 9 a.m. and end at 9:45 a.m. It is anticipated the class will run through November 16. The book is available on Amazon for \$12.46 in paperback or \$7.99 on Kindle. Please email Bob at rkellyzx@gmail.com to enroll in the class.

Lee Strobel writes a compelling and highly personal account about grace, focusing on God's transforming work in the lives of men and women today. There is never too much Grace!!

Tri-Cities Food Drive

Please continue to support the "Help our Kennewick Neighbors campaign" as you are able! The seven most requested/needed products identified by the Tri-Cities Food Bank are peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, tomato sauce, soup, canned fruit, canned vegies, and cereal. Bring your donation to the collection point in the entryway by September 7. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Thank you!



It's Nominations Time

Mark your calendars. Our annual All Church (Charge) Conference is scheduled for Sunday, November 23, at noon. Yes, there will be a potluck between worship and the meeting, but first things first: we need nominations so we can elect officers for the 2026 year and beyond.

Administrative Teams: Finance, Facilities, Staff Parish Ministries, Nominations, and Trustees. People serving on these teams are generally elected for 3-year terms; changes in life circumstances permit ending a term early. Most of our people have been serving far longer than three years -- thank you for your commitment! But, they are ready to step down. They leave big shoes to fill, but perhaps you will fit them well.

Programmatic Teams: Worship, Welcome & Caring, Education, and Missions & Advocacy. These ministry teams have been re-forming to guide our ministries for quality, effectiveness, and joy! These ministry teams also consist of multiple sub-groups that have specific foci while coordinating with the related groups. Worship includes music, worship arts, seasonal planning, liturgists, ushers, multi-generational efforts, and more. Welcome & Caring includes worship & fellowship hosts, security, ushers, Lay Shepherds, Prayer Chain, and the new Silent Twelve. Education includes children, youth, adult, library, and multi-generational events. Missions and Advocacy will include Soul Soup, Food Bank, refugees, land acknowledgement, and all kinds of related needs as they touch our hearts. Serving in these ministries has no time definition.

To what is God calling you? How will you give back by loving God's work in Kennewick, Washington, through Kennewick First UMC? As the chair and currently sole member of the Nominations Committee, I need your help. Thank you for completing the "I have skills to share" bulletin inserts. They will prove very helpful.

Please pray, then contact me to volunteer where your heart will be fed by serving alongside Jesus.

Pastor Shirley



We Are Hiring!

Your Staff Parish Ministries Team (SPMT) and Church Council Leadership Team have had a busy summer. With the departures of multiple members of our staff, a hard look at our financial situation, and the desire to position our church to move well into the future, we have been creative and strategic in re-writing our staff positions. The new Ministry Leader and Volunteer Coordinator will work two-thirds of the hours formerly worked by Starlite, Claressa, and Cynthia combined to help all of us serve the God we love by doing the ministries of this church together. The Administrative Assistant will take on most of the tasks formerly accomplished by Cheryl, along with some performe by Claressa and Amberly, especially the needs of social media and communication. Some of the tasks Cheryl was doing will go back to their appropriate committees. You are welcome to read these two job postings at https://www.kennewickfirst.com/.

Help me today, Father, to submit my agenda to your perfect planning.

—John Sherrill



en Busy h Autumn Ahead For UWF Supporters

Fall activities for our UWF will kick off at 9 a.m. Saturday, September 6, with a **Holly Daze** workshop.

Every Saturday after than until bazaar day, October 19, the crafters will meet to finish up projects.

You are invited to take part in making Holly Daze as captivating and fun as possible thus helping UWF support many local and worldwide missions. Co-chairs Susan Sandmeier and Darryl Vaughn welcome last-minute craft ideas,

At the September workshops, attendees will assemble packaged food, such as cookie mixes. Those who are donating packaged items, including cocoa mixes, are asked to check with Susan or Darryl.

Wide-mouth quart jars, garden produce, baked goods, and apples for pies will be needed in the coming weeks.

The wonderful **prayer shawl knitters and crocheters** will also meet that first September Saturday morning in the reception area at church. Annie Baker and Janet Shelton, coleaders of this esteemed group, will provide yarn, instructions, and a warm welcome.

Updates on all **UWF** projects will be shared at the general **fall meeting** for members and supporters at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 24, in the Susanna Wesley Room.

An engaging program will be presented by Julie Hooley, and President Kathy Wertman will oversee business discussions.

Sharing gifts will be Soul Soup supplies – bottled water, one-gallon zip bags, small boxes

of fruit juice, and pop tarts. Joy Fellowship will provide treats and decorations.

Joy Fellowship members will gather at 7 p.m., Thursday, September 11, at the home of Kathy Harris. Chair Debie Britton gladly will provide more information about Joy's circle of friendship.

Another opportunity for women of the church is the **UWF Book Club**, which meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m., often at Barnes and Noble. For variety, sometimes a different location of coffee shop is selected. Of course, all are welcome to come.

The next book the club will read is "Our Missing Hearts" by Celeste NG, part of. the United Women in Faith's reading program. Each year there is a new UWF book list covering a variety of subjects, both fiction and non-fiction.

Books can be signed out of the UWF section in the church library. Often the Mid-Columbia Libraries will also have copies. Books can also be purchased from a retailer or from bookshop.org/shop/faith.

Reading lists are available to look at in our Kennewick First library, or online at: uwfaith.org/read. Questions? Contact Darryl Vaughn at 509-460-9339 or email her at davaughn55@gmail.com.

The wonderful books in UWF's Reading Program are catalogued in four areas: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth.

Nationally, UWF has received the **Mosaic Grant** to support its climate justice campaign. The award of \$100,000 will be important in the work for climate justice and to address environmental damages. UWF encourages all who value climate justice to join in their work for a safer, more equitable world.

BENEFITS OF A UNIFIED BUDGET IN RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS "ONE CHURCH, ONE BUDGET"

A unified budget system, in which all fundraising and expenditures are coordinated and approved centrally, offers several significant benefits for religious organizations:

1. Encourages tithing and generous giving

- When a church operates with a unified budget, members understand that their contributions support all aspects of the church's mission and ministries.
- This clear connection between giving and mission can inspire greater generosity and discourage designated giving that might detract from the overall church vision.

2. Builds trust and transparency

- A unified budget promotes transparency, demonstrating to members that funds are being managed responsibly and are aligned with the church's priorities.
- Openly sharing the budget can counter skepticism about how contributions are used and foster a greater sense of ownership among the congregation.

3. Improves resource allocation and strategic planning

- A unified budget enables church leadership to strategically allocate resources to ministries and programs that best align with the church's vision and mission.
- It facilitates planning by providing a comprehensive overview of financial resources and allows for better forecasting of income and expenses.

4. Reduces turf wars and promotes unity

- A unified budget can help eliminate disagreements and competition among different ministries vying for limited resources.
- It promotes a sense of unity by demonstrating that all church activities are working together towards a common goal, mission, and vision.

5. Streamlines financial management and reduces administrative burden

- Managing a single budget (General Fund) is generally less complex and time-consuming than managing multiple designated funds.
- This can free up staff time and resources, allowing them to focus more on ministry and less on administrative tasks related to fundraising and accounting for separate funds.

6. Easier to adjust and adapt

- A unified budget offers greater flexibility to adjust to changing circumstances or unforeseen needs.
- Changes can be made more easily to the overall budget, rather than having to modify numerous individual accounts or designated funds.

In conclusion, a unified budget system is a valuable tool for religious organizations, promoting financial transparency, strategic resource allocation, and a stronger sense of community among members, all contributing to the fulfillment of the church's mission and vision.

(Continued next page, "One Church, One Budget")

"One Church, One Budget," continued)

Now we will look at our own budget structure for comparison to the above system. We currently have four distinct budgets:

1. General Fund

- These are funds that members give/tithe in general, not designating to a specific mission.
- These funds are used to pay for the day-to-day operations of the church, parsonage, and office, staffing and benefits, as well as all missions of the church as needed.

2. Transitory Fund

- These funds are designated to a specific mission and legally can only be used for that designated mission.
- We currently have 33 of these types of funds, which creates a lot of administrative work and limits the church's ability to pay for other missions or needs.

3. Memorial Fund

- These are funds given "in memory" of a person or persons, without specifying where the money is to go.
- We cannot arbitrarily designate these funds where they are needed without checking with the family of the memorialized person or persons.

4. BMR Fund (Building, Maintenance, Repairs)

• These funds are designated but kept separate from Transitory, as they are for capital projects and expenditures, which may or may not be depreciated.

As you can imagine, maintaining four budgets is time consuming and can be quite confusing and overwhelming at times. It is the desire of your Finance Ministry Team and Leadership Council to move to a unified budget system. These teams have been actively working on cleaning up and streamlining the Transitory Fund and attempting to free up the memorial funds by reaching out to the appropriate families. Moving to a unified budget system would involve only one fund, the General Fund.

Within our own UMC connection, UMCOR has moved from designated funds to a modified unified budget system. They have "domestic giving" and "international giving" now. Following is a possible example of why they needed to change: people were giving to the "Houston, Texas floods" a few years ago, so those funds could only be used for flooding relief in Houston and could not be used for relief in the current "Hunt, Texas floods."

We hope that our church members understand the need for this budget change and will pray for the best outcome. We realize that this will involve a change in how we give to the church, transitioning from designated giving to unified giving to the General Fund, but we feel this will help us to make better decisions and keep our church from operating at a deficit.



BUDGET DEVELOPMENT FOR OUR CHURCH

The benefits of a unified budget have been discussed elsewhere in this Clarion. Your church leaders are currently laying the groundwork for this improved method of budgeting and bookkeeping. Now, we want to present to you information on developing our church budget.

We are not changing the way we go about developing the budget for the church. What is changing is the way we fund church activities, moving away from funding under different buckets of money to instead one bucket of money. We would still have fundraising for special projects, but that needs to be prioritized to align with the church's operating strategic mission. These changes are necessary to address the current deficit in our operating budget. For the past few years, our church has been operating on a deficit budget. This is not sustainable; that is why there is a need to change.

The concept of the unified budget is to encourage members to first give monetary gifts towards the operating budget. This will allow us to pay for our church's regular ministry activities, such as worship and music ministry, Sunday school program, apportionments, regular building maintenance and repairs, pastor pay, office expenses, and other supporting staff salaries. Apportionments are monies we send for denominational support and ministries beyond our local area. We encourage you to refrain from setting aside lots of money for special projects that cannot technically be used to pay for the church's main ministry activities. Fundraising for special projects or major capital improvements would be handled at the time of need.

According to the United Methodist Book of Discipline, the rule book of the UMC, the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team is responsible for raising enough money to fund the mission and ministry visions of the church, as approved by the church council. It further describes the job of the finance team as follows:

All financial askings to be included in the annual budget of the local church shall be submitted to the finance team. This team shall compile annually a complete budget for the local church and submit it to the church council for review and adoption. The finance team shall be charged with the responsibility of developing and implementing plans that will raise sufficient income to meet the budget adopted by the church council. It shall administer the funds received according to instructions from the church council.

It is important to note that it is the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team's responsibility to raise all monies for church ministry and operations, or a subgroup that it creates.

We, as a church, need to decide whether we want our stewardship activities to be driven by our church fundraising outcomes or by our ministry vision. The first does not align with the Book of Discipline, while the latter does.

Budget-Driven Stewardship: The Finance Ministry Team establishes an operating budget, determining the budget for each ministry area as well as the overall operational budget, all dependent on our fundraising outcomes. The various ministries and mission areas then must conform to the budget given to them or raise the necessary funds.

(continued next page, Budget Development)

<u>Ministry-Vision Stewardship</u>: The church staff, ministry teams, and lay leaders submit their requested budget to the Finance Ministry Team (this is what we currently have been doing). The finance team then quantifies the costs of those requests, along with ALL the projected associated operating expenses of the church, including apportionments.

Q & A

Many of you have reached out to church leaders with questions on this new budget approach. We will do our best to address them here.

- 1. Will there be an open meeting to explain the budget? Yes, but please be patient. Currently, your church leaders are volunteering overtime to handle the current budget deficit and staff changes. Until we can schedule an informational meeting, we are offering these articles to share important information. We will continue to collect your questions so we can answer them all. Leadership Council meetings and Finance Ministry meetings are open to all who want to come and observe. Questions on a particular matter would be addressed only if time allows after normal agenda matters have been completed.
- 2. Will there be a motion to approve this new budget? In church governance, the Finance Team writes the budget, which is presented to the church council as a motion for approval.
- 3. Will church members be able to vote on this new budget? No. Per the UMC Book of Discipline, it is very clear that the Finance Ministry Team is responsible for developing, reviewing, and maintaining the budget, and the Leadership Council approves it. This is our practice. At our All-Church Charge Conference every fall, church members are elected to serve on our administrative teams and to act in the best interests of the church's ministries.
- 4. **Will I lose my budget for my ministry?** No. Each ministry team that requires budget monies will still submit their budget requests like they have been doing.
- 5. Can we still do designated giving? Yes, but please understand that designated gifts may limit the church's ability to meet our operational expenses, thus affecting the church's ability to carry out our ministries, mission, and vision.

Your church leaders have been prioritizing and making very difficult decisions in order to keep our church doors open; thus, the need to rely on volunteers in the meantime. Your leaders love our church as much as you do and are cutting back in certain areas so that our bills can be paid. We hope these are temporary cutbacks and ask for prayers for positive change and outcomes in their efforts.

The Finance Ministry Team will be sending out soon a summary of our operating financial results for 2025. If you have more questions, please reach out to the Leadership Council or Finance Team so that we can address them in another Q & A session, as above.

Together with you in Christ, Your Leadership Council and Finance Ministry Team



Leadership Council Meeting

Sunday, September 14

11:30 a.m., 90-minute session

Church Leadership Council meetings are open to all. Members of the church have a voice when acknowledged by the chair; only elected members of the Council have a vote.

Items for discussion must be on the agenda before the meeting begins; last-minute items are welcome only if time allows.

Contact co-Chairs Cory Manley or Bob Kelly to get your topic added to the agenda. One-week notice is required to add to the agenda.

Cory's email: camanley@live.com Bob's email: rkellyzx@gmail.com

Save the date!! September 28 at 11:45 a.m., right after church, Julia Friesbie, Executive

Planned Giving Workshop

Director of the Faith Foundation (formerly Northwest United Methodist Foundation) will help guide people of faith in preparing a plan to provide for the people and ministries they love with a view on tax efficient methods. This workshop is for anyone who has an interest in tax efficient ways to give both now and in estate distributions later. There is no cost for this workshop and there will be a light lunch served to start the workshop off. Sign up at church on Sunday or call the office (509) 582-2163. This workshop is being sponsored by the Finance Committee. If you have questions, contact Bob Kelly at rkellyzx@gmail.com.

SOUL SOUP

We continue to see a growing number of guests for dinner each Thursday – the past month we have averaged about 100 meals each week, even at the start



of the month when some of our guests have some money. In addition to new faces from those living on the street, we are seeing more families with small children seeking a meal. Most of the families, but not all, have housing but are food insecure especially in the later parts of the month. Rising food costs are exacerbating the problem for many. Keep us all in your prayers and stop by any Thursday between 5 and 6 p.m. for a look for yourself.



Holy Daze Pie Baking

The great bakers of the church will get together Friday, October 3, in the church kitchen to create apple pies for Holly Daze sales.

Won't you come help? Contact Debie Logan for details.

The Nominating Committee will meet soon to suggest a United Women in Faith board for next year, Call Reneé



Wilhelm to volunteer or make suggestions for officers.

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September Worship Series God's Recreation

9/7 God's Recreation in Ordering Chaos

Students, bring your school backpacks for a blessing.

9/14 God's Recreation in Storms and Promises

Everyone, bring 1-2 stems of flowers or greens from your yard, or favorites from a florist, to be arranged in the chancel before worship starts.

9/21 God's Recreation in Critters

Everyone, bring stuffed animals or large figurines/statues for display use in worship. You may take yours home after. New stuffed animals may be brought and later given to the quilt ministry.

4 pm Blessing of the animals—A short and sweet worship event and individual blessing for each pet. Bring your pet on leash, in carrier, or in a photo.

9/28 God's Recreation in Humans

Everyone, for a slide show of beautiful people, by September 21 send us a head & shoulders photo of you, your family, or your ministry team. Text Pastor Shirley or email office@kennewickfirst.com

10/5 God's Recreation in Sabbath Rest

Everyone, bring a decorative pillow for display use in worship.



James Weldon Johnson



James Weldon Johnson was born in 1871 in Jacksonville, Florida and died in 1938 at the age of 67. He led a remarkable life. He was an author, an educator, a lawyer, a diplomat, songwriter, and civil rights activist. He composed the lyrics for "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" as well as several Broadway musicals.

He was appointed by the Theodore Roosevelt administration as U.S. consul

in Venezuela and in 1909 in Nicaragua. He was the first African American professor at New York University and later taught at Fisk University. He also received honorary doctorates from Talladega College and Howard University. In 1987 he was the first African American to be admitted to the Florida Bar exam. Seeking admission to the state bar he had a two-hour long oral examination, and he later recalled that one of the examiners, not wanting to see a black man admitted, got up and left the room.

But what he was most known for was his writing, including poems, novels, and anthologies collecting writings of black culture. In 1927 he published his own poetry in a collection entitled "God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse." This important work included "The Creation," which explores and depicts that black folk tradition from Johnson's point of view.

All Church Camp-Out Wrap Up

During the weekend of August 15–17, sites 35–41 at the Boardman RV Park and Marina were occupied by KFUMC families. During the weekend, we enjoyed swimming at the aquatic center, s'mores, crafts, visiting, and our very own "Taco Crawl." Apparently, there was a tie between the Collins and Bement families...but because the vote was taken by the children who are all under the age of 10, the trophy was awarded to the Bement family due to the culinary likeness of a Taco Bell style taco...basic! After cake and homemade ice cream, the children and teens had a glow parade (with glow sticks) through the park and entertained us with a glow in the dark dance



party! Sunday morning after worship, everyone packed up and headed home. Shout out to Michelle Hare who brought the crafts and ginormous marshmallows that we roasted and to everyone for making your favorite culinary delights for the Saturday night taco feed...we were truly full to overflowing!



The Buy-a-Brick Fundraising Campaign kicks into gear again! This campaign will help offset the cost of the church beautification project.

The Buy-a-Brick committee members will have a paver campaign day on September 14, where you may place your order for an engraved paver (brick)

to be permanently installed in the Kennewick First UMC courtyard. If you are unable to be present on the 14th, you may order a brick through the office during office hours, and forms are available in the entryway and on the website. You may pay with cash or check, through PushPay, or by credit card.

You are invited to purchase a paver to commemorate someone — a living or deceased family member or friend, or even yourself or your family! The bricks are all one size with the same font (lettering). There are assorted icons that can be added to mark a special event such as baptism, wedding, or membership date, etc., for an extra fee. The cost of each 6 by 12-inch paver is \$200; an icon is an additional \$25. The pavers will be laid in 2026, but the campaign is beginning now to help raise the funds needed to start the front courtyard project.

Funds raised will be used for both the church beautification project and future facilities projects. This project will add to the beauty of our neighborhood and will help those who see and enter our building feel the holy presence of God.

Questions? Call Cynthia at 509-551-4388 or Reneé at 509-308-2627.



Kennedy Taggares	1-Sep
Richard Kerkow	2-Sep
Lindsay Keel	3-Sep
Sherry Arnold	4-Sep
Rebecca Hildman	4-Sep
Julianne Large	5-Sep
Geneva Nevius	5-Sep
Alice Bennett	6-Sep
Deanna Dreier	7-Sep
Brenda Shine	9-Sep
Halley Becker	10-Sep
Barry Merrill	10-Sep
Conner Westvik	10-Sep
Nicholas Haberling	11-Sep
Jasmine Urban	11-Sep
Robert Basche	14-Sep
Tyler Whitney	14-Sep
Lynn Bateman	15-Sep
Annie Baker	16-Sep
Daisy Buchholz	16-Sep
David Miller	16-Sep
Cheryl Nixon	16-Sep
Bethany Dauncey	18-Sep
Karen Pfeiffer	19-Sep
Matthew Denise	21-Sep
Garrett Simmelink	23-Sep
Michael Dean	24-Sep
Jim Koschik	24-Sep
Brad Bement	25-Sep
Ayra'Zonna Kennedy	25-Sep
Wesley Leathers	25-Sep
Brielle Marquardt	25-Sep
Angie Merlot	27-Sep
Jared Haeg	28-Sep
Kaitlin Hagen	29-Sep
Steven Meline	30-Sep



Ethan Collins	1-Oct
Hannah Mowry	1-Oct
Adam Berg	3-Oct
Ema Bruce	4-Oct



Please pray for those in need of healing, comfort, and encouragement . . .

Karen Irwin, Marion Sundvik, Lloyd Leathers, Dorothy Lyle,

Rita McElroy, Peggy Snyder, Etta Ballard, Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, and our District Superintendent, Rev. Daniel Miranda

. . . and for those grieving the loss of a loved one.

Buddy Fish, Nancy's husband, passed on August 19. A memorial service is being planned by Nancy and her sons; time and date to be announced later.

On July 27, **Joan Osborne** peacefully entered life eternal. Joan was a longtime member of Kennewick First, having joined in 1953.

Jim Choate entered eternal life on June 29. We were blessed to get to know Jim when he married one of our beloved parishioners, Eve (Andrews), who passed in 2023.



Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Psalm 34:8

Kennewick 1st United Methodist Church 2 South Dayton Office: 421 W. Kennewick Avenue Kennewick, Washington 99336

Sunday Morning Schedule Sunday School for all ages 9 a.m. Sanctuary Worship at 10 a.m. Nursery provided

September Office Hours 9 a.m. – noon., Monday – Friday

www.KennewickFirst.com

Facebook.com/KennewickFirstUMC



WUMY SEPTEMBER 2025



	22	S .		97	5	T I
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS 9:00 AM YOUTH GROUP 4-6 PARENT AND YOUTH INFORMATIONAL MEETING	, ice	9 Tream Social: Trovided but siblome and have ice meeting. This is and we may fin	ings are welcom cream at the e	ne to end of	u can't go b	ack and
ICE CREAM SOCIAL 14 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM	15	16	17		nge the beg ou can star	
PRAISE BAND MEETING 3:30 FOR THOSE INTERSETED YOUTH GROUP 4-6PM GAME NIGHT GUEST DEVOTION				you	are and Ch the er	
21 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM YOUTH GROUP 4-6 9 SQUARE IN THE AIR GUEST DEVOTION	22	23	24	25		C.S. LEWIS
28 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM YOUTH GROUP 4-6 PM ICE BLOCKING MEET AT CARMICHAEL HILL AT 4:00 BRING AN OLD TOWEL AND WATER BOTTLE, ICE BLOCKS WILL BE PROVIDED		We w Thaye no tr bring	lco ill be meetin r Dr, Richland ansportation an old towel	e Blocking N g at 4:00 at d, pick-up at from the ch and water b be provided	Carmichae 6:00. Ther urch. Make ottle; ice bl	Hill 620 e will be sure to ocks will