

THE CLARION

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



An Old Fashioned Christmas Block Party & Hometown Holiday Parade

December 7 from 10:30 am-2:00 pm

Downtown Kennewick will come alive Saturday morning when the Hometown Holiday Parade begins at 10:30. Our KFUMC bus and walkers will help welcome Santa to downtown while also sharing our church's rich heritage here in Kennewick.

Then, from 11-2, make plans to spend some time welcoming our neighbors to KFUMC with cinnamon roll bites, a cup of wassail, and friendly conversation. There'll be something for everyone: from live music in the sanctuary to activities for the kids in the Fellowship Hall ~ all while being serenaded by strolling carolers. Top the time off with a visit from Santa and caroling together from 1:30-2:00.

Invite your neighbors and take some time to fellowship with old friends and new at the Hometown Holiday Celebration on December 7. If you would like to serve or participate in the parade, contact Sherry Arnold at 542-0226 for details.



A Christ-centered, inclusive and loving community

Christmas Eve Worship

Two services will be offered on Christmas Eve at Kennewick First at 4 and 7 pm.

The 4 pm candlelight service will be oriented toward families with younger children.

Our handbell choir will perform at both services, and the choir will sing at the 4 pm service.

While communion will not be offered during either worship service, Pastor Mark will be available to offer the Eucharist to anyone who wishes to partake after each service.



Please plan to join us on December 15 at the 10:30 am service for our Christmas cantata. This year's offering is a Celtic Christmas Celebration titled "Have You Heard?" with familiar

Christmas carols as well as familiar Christmas texts set to beloved Irish and Welsh tunes. The Chancel Choir has been hard at work and is eager to share a beautiful morning of music in celebration of our Savior's birth! We hope to see you there! This would be a wonderful time to invite a friend. Have YOU heard? Jesus is born!



Hi friends,

During the Tuesday night Cornerstone class I was leading this fall, we were watching a series of theatrical portrayals of stories from scripture, as written and performed by Ted Swartz and Lee Eisleman (two of my favorite storytellers!). We were watching a scene that the duo created about the prophet Jonah handing in his resignation letter to God after the whole Nineveh... swallowed by a whale... “thing.”

In the midst of the scene, God says to Jonah “I’ve invented this new thing; it’s called psychiatry.” To which Jonah says, “sounds expensive.” As the scene unfolds, God continues, “I want you to pretend you’re me . . . talk to me like God would.” Jonah balks at the idea and says he can’t do that because “I don’t understand you, I don’t get what you are doing . . . sometimes you seem so far away.” The scene is heartwarming for me because as it plays out, it becomes hard to know if Jonah is talking as God or as Jonah. In the scene, God listens as Jonah says the line . . . “sometimes you seem so far away.”

Although it is a scene that is based on an Old Testament story, it so subtly gives me a new insight into the reality of Jesus, or at least the notion of the “incarnation,” to use a churchy word . . . God becomes human and walks with us to bridge that chasm that has kept us from experiencing God!

During the season of Advent, we as a church celebrate that God is no longer far away. Not because we long for a closeness to God, but because God longs to be close to us as well! That’s the miracle of this season . . . a deep, abiding realization that God crossed time, space, and all boundaries to become human, in the frailness of a child, born in a backwater village without fanfare or riches, because sometimes WE seem so far away.

I hope in this season of joy and expectation that we call Advent, we are renewed by the good news that God wants to be close to us! I hope it’s a miraculous and wonderful season of Advent, friends!

Pastor Mark



Family Gingerbread House Decorating Party!

Sunday, December 8
from 3-4:00 pm

Ida Payne Fellowship Hall
Hosted by: Cindi and Cynthia

Please join us for a sweet afternoon of fun! We will provide the bases, graham crackers, and frosting, but need you to bring colorful candy treats to share with the group for decorating (think spice drops, dots, M & Ms, red hots, kisses, sprinkles, small candy canes, etc.). Looking forward to seeing what kinds of homes all of our cookie architects build!

Cornerstone Christmas Extravaganza



Tuesday, December 17
6 pm

Please join the fun as we share dinner, make crafts, send Christmas cards, & go caroling.





Second Chance at Holly Daze Crafts, Cookies December 8

Holly Daze Encore, featuring homemade crafts and cookies, will be Sunday, December 8, before and after church services.

Those contributing cookies, and hopefully there will be many, should bring their batches to the kitchen on Saturday, the 7th. Susan Sandmeier, Darryl Vaughn, and their committee will assemble platters of mixed cookies. Please mark on cookies what they are and any special ingredients, such as nuts.

Crafters and artists work all year for this UMW event that benefits many local and international missions. Holiday decorations, needlework, ceramics, and woodwork will be offered. Pepiot's delicious Bean Soup Mix, which makes a great Christmas gift, will also be available.



M&Ms will not meet in December; the next get together will be held on January 20. Our program that day will feature Joe Lusignan who will be telling us about the Young Marines. (If schools are delayed or closed due to weather, we will not meet.)

We wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy and Safe New Year.



UMW to Mark Holidays Wednesday, December 18



At their Christmas meeting on December 18, UMW members will install 2020 officers, reflect on the past UMW year, and take up an offering for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

All women of the church and their friends are invited to attend and see the value of UMW. Special treats will be provided by Tuesday Morning Circle at 10 am in the Susanna Wesley Room.

The slate of officers to lead UMW in 2020 will be Kathy Wertman, president; Eddie Kenoyer, vice president; Phyllis Koschik, secretary; Kathy Harris, treasurer; Pat Walker, program resources; Su Mayfield, spiritual growth; Nancy Russell, membership; Micki Perry, education; Eddie, social action; and Bonnie Taylor, sunshine.

Joy and Tuesday Circles will help with Old-Fashioned Christmas on December 7. UMW members taking the first shift should arrive by 10:30 am to bake cinnamon rolls. Eddie Kenoyer will bring in a special candle that enhances the cinnamon aroma in the air. UMW members will also welcome visitors to the celebration. There will coffee, water, and a kettle of Micki Perry's wassail to maintain.

Live from Kennewick First . . .

SNL **It's Saturday Night
Life!**
December 14
6 pm, Youth Chapel

Message by Chris Becker
Music by The Saturday Night Players



December Funday Dates!

3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are welcome to join Rachel and Mikayla for an afternoon of devotion, fellowship, games, crafts, and of course, fun! We will meet together on December 1 and 15.

We are back downstairs! Please come and check out our space and say hello. Thank you to all who helped get the basement fixed and back together, and thank you to all who put up with the “mess” we created the last few months. We are not 100% done but we are functional again. Praise be to God!



Jr. High Rock-a-Thon

Just a heads up! The Jr. High Rock-a-Thon is on January 18 and 19. The Jr. Highers will start making their Rock-a-Thon calls at the beginning of January to ask for donations for the Jr. High youth program.

Butter Braids are Almost Here!

Thank you for ordering Butter Braids and supporting the Jr. and Sr. High youth programs at Kennewick First! The youth will begin delivering these goodies on or after December 11. If you ordered at the church office or at the Holly Daze Bazaar, we will contact you on or after December 12.



Donations under the New Tax Law

Many of us have found that with the new tax law and the higher standard deduction, it is more difficult to claim charitable contributions on our tax return. For those of you who are interested, an informative article was recently published by Paul Hansen of HFGTrust (our own Ty Haberling’s company). The article discusses several options:

1. Bunching donations by calendar year,
 2. Use of a Donor Advised Fund (DAF), and
 3. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs).
- The article is found on the internet at <https://www.hfgtrust.com/charitable-donations-maximizing-your-tax-benefit-under-new-tax-law/>.

If you should elect to use one of these methods for supporting our church programs, please alert the Finance and Stewardship team as it could impact our cash flow projections in a particular year.

Thank you for your stewardship!

*Rich Nelson,
Team Leader*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”



What is the Community Ministry Team Doing?

The Church Council has adopted a Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Belief Statement that they believe reflect our church and its parishioners, as well as what they discern as God's call for this church. The Council's expectation is that all of the ministry teams will use these statements to guide their work.

Here is what our Council has adopted over two retreats in the past 12 months, and the Community Ministry Team is working to match our activities to these statements:

Vision: We are a Christ-centered inclusive and loving community.

Mission: We serve through our gifts.

What is our Why at KFUMC?

We are a Christ-centered inclusive and loving community *because* -----

- Everyone is a beloved child of God and can experience God's Spirit, and
- Jesus invites us to be a spirit-filled community and calls us to use our time, treasure, and talents to bring about a world that reflects the reign, justice, and grace of God.

How do we live our vision and Why? We do it through:

1. Worship – personal and corporate
2. Service – personal and corporate
3. Spiritual Growth – personal and corporate
4. Friendship

At this point in time, our local focus is helping iMPACT Compassion! Center meet the needs of community members who are fighting their way out of poverty, homeless-

ness, dependency, and despair through counseling and support commitment until success is achieved. Sherry Elvik is the champion for iMPACT for our Team and provides us with opportunities to support iMPACT with items needed to support clients. Watch the bulletin for a list of needs.

A special thanks to all who donated items for the personal care kits that Peggy Puryear took with her to UMCOR West in late October and for supporting Peggy with your prayers. Peggy was one of several volunteers from local churches to support UMCOR's work in Salt Lake at the distribution center in making kits to support those impacted by disasters in the United States.

For Christmas, we are exploring ways our church might assist the Boys and Girls Club (our new neighbor) in their work with kids and families from the neighborhood.

We are also exploring how our church might be of support in the community in the event of a disaster. How do you see our church's involvement? Share your ideas!

Looking globally, Susan Sandmeier has established connections with Louise Kienzle of Hermiston who leads a mission effort in Kenya. We are exploring ways to refocus our Koins for Kenya revenues from the sale of our free trade coffee, chocolate, and tea. More to come!!

Finally, where do you connect and volunteer in the community? Is this just good work on your part or is it a direct result of a call you have discerned from God?

Team Members: Bob Kelly, Susan Sandmeier, Mickie Perry, Pat Walker, Kathy Bryson, Sherry Elvik





John Harden	1-Dec
Hollis Morris	2-Dec
Margaret Beesley	2-Dec
James Marquardt	7-Dec
Noelia Haberling	7-Dec
Matthew Shoop	8-Dec
Val Alderson	9-Dec
John Cochran	9-Dec
Betty Baumann	10-Dec
Annika Tenney	11-Dec
Audrey Manley	12-Dec
Ty Haberling	14-Dec
Thomas Yount	14-Dec
Joseph Buchholz	14-Dec
Marcus Wertman	15-Dec
Sean Holloway	17-Dec
Chris Whitney	17-Dec
Alice Loomis	21-Dec
Ron Baker	23-Dec
Joyce Scott	23-Dec
Kathy Bryson	23-Dec
Mike Thien	23-Dec
Colin Wertman	24-Dec
Claire Phillips	26-Dec
Carol Hardacre	28-Dec
Sydney Koschik	30-Dec



We would like to introduce you to our new Office Assistant...

Cherie Miles comes to us through Service Alternatives and works from 9:00-10:00 am every Thursday. Please feel free to stop by the office and welcome her, however, keep in mind that she is sight impaired and can't see you. Cherie and her husband Brian have been married 31 years and have two sons. She has worked at a daycare and Lighthouse for the Blind in Seattle. In her spare time, Cherie crochets, and she is an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

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

Eve Choate, Ron Baker, Shelby Faught, Peggy Snyder, Carol Hardacre, Jordyn Andrews, Kirk Higginson, Juli Reinholz, Anita Knight, Joan Osborne, Pat Phillips, Terry Simmelink, Jennifer Bateman, Donna Troxel, Norma Williams, Don Meyers, Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, and our District Superintendent, Rev. Joanne Coleman Campbell.

Robert Scott, husband of Joyce, passed away on Friday evening November 22nd at home surrounded by family. Please keep Joyce and the rest of the family in prayer.

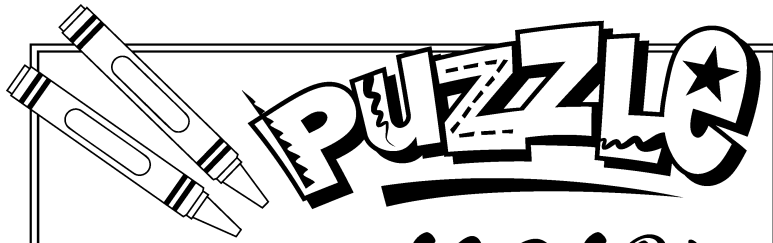
Thank You! Thank you, UMY!

On November 10, I heard a strange rumble outside my door. Lo and behold, I looked out and spied our Big Bus parked across the street. Suddenly, 17 young people and their leaders piled out with rakes/bags/"grabbies" in hand and descended on my lawn. Laughing and chattering, they started raking and bagging. A loud screech brought all to a halt. Rachel (the fearless one!) had scooped up the casualty of a traffic accident (squirrel). When she started breathing again, everyone got back to work!

Within 40 minutes, my lawns were beautifully clean! Cookies, cider, and hugs followed, and then they were gone.

We have a great bunch of kids at our church. We are so very blessed! Next time you see one or more of them, please let them know how thankful we are for all the projects they do!

Gratefully,
Shirley Miller



Symbols of the *season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.



shepherd's staff _ □ □ _ _ _ _ □

tree that keeps its leaves _ _ _ _ □ _ _ _ _

shines to lead the way _ _ _ □

green for eternal life, □ _ _ _ _ &
red for Jesus' blood _ _ _ □ □ _ _

sounds to announce □ _ _ _ _
good news

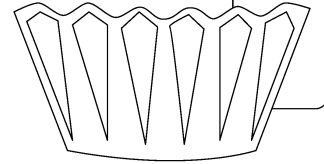
has no beginning or end _ _ _ _ □ _

Th□□ks b□ to □od fo□ □is
indesc□□ba□ le gif□!

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Light the way

Make some Christmas candles to remember Jesus, the Light of the world.



What you need:

- Unlined white notecards
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Yellow tissue paper
- Mini muffin liners
- Clothespins

What you do:

1. Roll a notecard from side to side into a "candle" tube. Secure with glue.
2. Insert a piece of tissue paper "flame" in one end.
3. Glue the other end to a muffin liner. Then glue the liner to a clothespin.
4. Repeat to make many paper candles. Pin them to the branches of a Christmas tree.

Answers: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath.
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV



First United Methodist Church
Office: 421 W. Kennewick Ave.
Kennewick, WA 99336

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Kennewick 1st United Methodist Church

Corner of W. Kennewick Ave. and
S. Dayton Street
Office: 421 W. Kennewick Avenue
Kennewick, Washington 99336
(509) 582-2163

Worship Schedule

Sunday Services at 9 and 10:30 am
Sunday School at 9 am
Nursery provided
Handicapped Accessible

Church Office Hours

8:30 am - noon and 1 - 4 pm
Monday through Thursday

8 am - noon on Fridays

www.kennewickfirst.com
facebook.com/KennewickFirstUMC



Holly

Holly was first used by pagans to decorate for the festival of Saturnalia. When Christians began celebrating Christmas in honor of Christ, they adapted that decorating practice to reflect Jesus' life and death. Holly's pointed leaves symbolize the crown of thorns and its red berries symbolize Christ's blood shed on the cross. Because holly thrives and its berries retain their brilliance even in harsh winter conditions, non-Christians saw it as a symbol of eternity — which is fitting for Christians as well.

**Upcoming
DEADLINE**

January 2020
Clarion articles will be
due on
December 20.