

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **JUST FOR INFORMATION:**

The church office follows the Kennewick School District for school closures or delays in weather conditions. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

**Sunday, February 16th**

**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)*

**Monday, February 17th**

**Church Office Closed for President's Day, All Day**

**Wednesday, February 19th**

**LIFT Bible Study, 6 pm, Youth Chapel**

**Sunday, February 23rd**

**Sock Sunday**

**(See Details Below)**

**Saturday, March 8th**

**Eddie Kenoyer's Memorial Service, 11 am,  
Sanctuary**

**(Reception to follow in Ida Payne)**

**Saturday, April 12th**

**Sr. UMY Dessert Auction, IP, 2-4 pm**

## Friday News 2/14/25

Snow is in the forecast.

I spoke with my father last night. He lives just south of Buffalo, NY. That area on the southeast end of Lake Erie has experienced 44 consecutive days of snow since January 1, 2025. That does not count the storm in December 2024 that brought 44+ inches of snow. That is a lot of snow by most people's measurements, although it is not the snowiest area in the United States, or even NY State. That dubious honor goes to Ft. Drum

You and I have been experiencing snow off and on for nearly two weeks now, although not in great enough quantities to do much playing. Late-starts at school have brought joy and distress to students and parents respectively, and the necessity of driving on icy roads increases the anxiety of many. Our own Jim Foster slipped on the ice and broke his leg—prayers are needed, of course.

Since more snow is predicted Thursday through Saturday this week, I thought to distract us from our cold woes by thinking about winter in the Holy Land and in the Bible. In Israel today snow can delay school and foul traffic in Jerusalem, although this is rare, and a snowstorm only happens on average every 7 years. There is a ski resort on Mt. Hermon where snow can remain on the highest slopes most of the year (Jeremiah 18:14).

In the scriptures snow is used in symbolic and metaphorical ways, or poetic ways—all of which say more with fewer words.

Sometimes snow names the part of the calendar year when something happened, the time of snow, thereby also signaling the special needs of the season (1 Chronicles 11:22). Snow is used to emphasize how a wise and prepared person can face even a challenging winter (Proverbs 31:21). And snow is a reminder that potential danger is lurking, biding its time until the floods come with the thaw (Job 6:16).

Snow is used to describe leprosy, a symbol of disease, a state of being unclean, or being in sin (Numbers 12:10, Exodus 4:6, 2 Kings 5:27). The whiteness of snow symbolizes purity, or cleanliness (Psalm 51:7), and of having been forgiven (Isaiah 1:18). Snow, like rain, is also given credit for the life-giving properties of watering the earth (Isaiah 55:10-11) and

refreshing life, such as when used in drinks following a season of labor (Proverbs 25:13).

Snow is also used to indicate status and power. Those who live in privilege and wealth, who do not labor outdoors, have pale skin white as snow (Lamentations 4:7). But hair white as snow indicates age and wisdom, especially God's (Daniel 7:9, Revelation 1:8). Snow shows God's power, since God is in charge of where and when it snows, and how much (Psalm 148:8, Psalm 147:16, Job 37:6). Like Job, most of us have not ever seen the great storehouses of snow at God's disposal (Job 38:22), nor the great storehouses of everything else God intends to share with us.

Notice how most of these biblical references are from the Old Testament. Beside the reference in the first chapter of Revelation to John, the only other New Testament reference is found in Matthew 28:3, when the garments of the risen Christ are described as being white as snow. In this case, white indicates holiness, divinity, and life!

When you look out your window at the snow, what if you saw God's holiness and provision for you, instead of all the possible problems that could arise. I know that is easier to do if you can stay home, but most of us must venture out into the world quite regularly, and whether or not it is snowing, there are risks, *AND* there is God with us in the midst of things. God is with us, providing for us, guiding us in our own preparations for whatever is next, forgiving us when necessary, refreshing us when we will receive it.

As I finish writing this, already the snow has begun to fall. There is a beautiful peace unfolding as it gently blankets the world. However, I know snow will bring challenges to many. So, if you are in a position of comfort, pray for others. Then dig out your bible and look up the references mentioned above. See how much you can expand your bible knowledge about snow, and anything else God will reveal! And above all, trust God's holiness and power to be with you in the midst of it all.

Pastor Shirley

**2/16**

**"Rejoice in that Day"**

**Pastor Shirley DeLarme**

**Scripture:**

**Luke 6: 17-26 (NRSVUE)**

**Sock Sunday**

Please bring both men's and women's socks for Soul Soup people on **Sunday, February 23rd.**

**God's Fellows**

This is a small group of men who read devotional material and connect it with their own lives and faith. They meet every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.

**Pep's Bean Soup for Sale**

Pep's Bean Soup is for sale in the church office for \$9.00/bag. You can also buy a bag with corn bread mix for \$12.00/each.

**We are running low!**

**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.

**Deadlines**

**The Monday before the following Sunday is the deadline for any announcement posted in the Sunday Bulletin. The Thursday before the following Friday is the deadline for any announcement posted in the Friday Email Letter. Thank you.**