



*"The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we rejoice." (Psalm 126:3)*



*A Christ-centered, inclusive  
and loving community*



## Christmas Eve Worship

### 3:00 p.m. Birthday Party for Jesus Worship

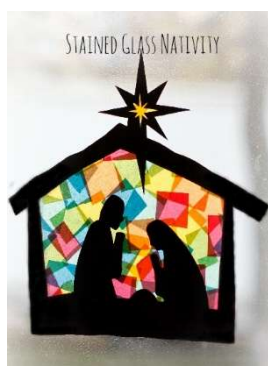
This 45-minute, child-friendly worship experience includes the Christmas story, holy scripture, carols, and candles. Guests are invited to bring favorite non-perishable food items for the food bank as a gift for Baby Jesus. Monetary gifts are also welcome.

### 5:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Worship

Carols, Scripture, Holy Communion, and Candlelight are highlights of this traditional service that centers us in the sacred and healing presence of the Holy Christ Child.

*Our Christmas Eve offering will be shared, half with our neighbors through the local food bank and half with the operating budget for our many ministries.*

The nursery will be open and staffed during both services. Come rejoice together!



## Advent Workshop December 7, 4–6 p.m.

A multi-generational event of crafting, fellowship, and refreshments. Plan to bring grandchildren and nibblings, and friends of any age.

Projects include nativities, gingerbread, photobooth, hot chocolate, and more, all in a cheerful atmosphere of music, laughter, and cooperative joy.



# Blue Christmas Worship Service

**Thursday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m.**

A contemplative evening worship, open to all who are experiencing loss, hardship, or simply need a moment of peace during a busy season. Acknowledge these feelings in a place of comfort and hope, surrounded by grace.

As the Christmas season draws near, many of us look forward to the joy, music, and celebration that comes with it. Yet, for others, this time of year can be difficult—a season marked more by grief, loss, or loneliness than by joy and festivity. In the midst of the twinkling lights and merry songs, those who are struggling may feel out of step with the world around them.

The *Blue Christmas* service—sometimes called "The Longest Night"—is designed to be a space of reflection and gentle encouragement. With scripture, prayer, and soft music, we gather to honor the sadness that can accompany the season, while also leaning into the promise of God's presence with us—Emmanuel—even in the darkest nights.

This is not a service of answers, but one of companionship and hope. Whether you're grieving the loss of a loved one, facing health challenges, navigating strained relationships, or feeling overwhelmed by the demands of life, you are not alone. Come as you are. Bring your burdens. Receive peace.



## Christmas Treasures!

Kennewick First will be hosting two Bells of the Desert concerts this Advent season. These are sure to be outstanding musical presentations to bring joy to your holiday!

[Friday, December 12, 2025](#)

[7 p.m.](#)

Kennewick 1st United Methodist Church  
421 W Kennewick Ave Kennewick, WA 99336

[Saturday, December 13, 2025](#)

[3 p.m.](#)

Kennewick 1st United Methodist Church  
421 W Kennewick Ave Kennewick, WA 99336

## Advent-Christmas Worship Series

### *What Child IS This: Beyond the Lullaby*



November 30	Advent 1: “King of Kings” (Hope)	Lamentations 3:46-57 and Luke 2:1-5
December 7	Advent 2: “The Silent Word” (Peace)	Luke 1:5-25; 57-80
December 14	Advent 3: “Son of Mary” (Joy)	Luke 1:26-56
December 21	Advent 4: “Enthroned by Love” (Love)	Matthew 1:18-25
December 24	Christmas Eve: “The Babe”	Luke 2:1-19
December 28	Sunday After Christmas: “This, This...”	Matthew 2:1-12

This Advent-Christmas Season, we will look “Beyond the Lullaby” into the difficulty of the socio-political-economic context that shaped the identity and story of the birth and life of Jesus. One of the most beloved carols we know, “What Child Is This?”, came into focus as a way to do what the carol does—ask and answer the question of Jesus’ identity. It is set to a tune that offers the minor key of pathos, and so we will lean into it as we deal with the difficulties of the story’s context. The Good News is that God chose to enter our trauma-filled world in order to know us, tend to us, teach us how to be in these times.

Pastor Shirley will be reading *The First Advent in Palestine*, by Kelley Nikondeha, as she prepares her sermons. The book is available on Amazon and by special order at your favorite bookstore if you want to read along.



#### **The church office will be closed these days during the holidays:**

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve, beginning at 12:00 noon

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day, all day

Thursday, January 1, New Year’s Day, all day





Dear KFUMC,

As we enter the holiday season,

we, as part of His blessed Body of believers, reflect on Our Heavenly Father's faithfulness amid the growing crisis of displacement. And we recognize that the needs are staggering – and urgent.



Over 123 million people have been forced to flee, searching for safety, food, shelter, and medicine. All while federal funding and infrastructure to support humanitarian work around the world has been decimated. For too many families around the world, survival has become a daily battle.

**And yet, there's hope, because we've seen God's church – partners like you - step into this darkness.**

This year, more than maybe any other, we have been overwhelmed by the bold love and tangible generosity of our local church partners.

When historical funding pathways were cut off – **you showed up.**

When families were left without critical support and lifesaving resources – **you stood in the gap.**

You walked alongside refugees and immigrants in the Tri-Cities area – **and it's made such a difference.**

Thank you for the ways that your church partnered with World Relief Tri-Cities this year, it did not go unnoticed!

*(Ephesians 4:16: From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.)*

Gratefully,

Robb Rennix, Church and Community Engagement Coordinator

*KFUMC gave \$420 of food gift cards for use by refugee families.*



***Help Your Neighbors Campaign***

The Tri-Cities food drive emphasis for November will continue into December with holiday foods, such as stuffing mix, canned pumpkin, cranberry sauce, green beans, and corn. The last delivery to the Kennewick Food Bank was a total of 218 pounds. Thank you, KFUMC congregation!

*Dear Lord,*

*You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope.*

*In the glorious name of Christ, we pray.  
Amen.*



## ***UWF Holly Daze Encore December 7***

Ho, Ho, Ho! The Holly Daze Encore, one of Santa's favorite Christmas events, is coming to church on Sunday, December 7, after the worship service.

This fun event will offer wonderful holiday treats, decorations, and stocking stuffers. The famous Pepiot Bean Soup will be available, as well as rugelach, a favorite of many. You're invited to grab a cup of coffee and browse the many possible gift offerings and holiday foods.

A Holly Daze workshop will be held at 9 a.m., Saturday, the 6th, to set up for the joyous Encore. **Please bring baked goods in at that time.**

Sponsored by our UWF unit and chaired by Susan Sandmeier and Darryl Vaughn, funds raised at the event will support non-profits in the community, nationwide, and worldwide. Contact Susan or Darryl if you have questions or suggestions.

The next week, on Wednesday, December 10, at 10 a.m., UWF will celebrate Christmas at church with a great musical program, presented by Sherry Arnold and her friend Donna Kunk.

As part of the festivities UWF officers will be installed. We are all grateful to those who have agreed to serve.

The sharing gift will be for our Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and JOY Fellowship will provide refreshments.

Nationally, UWF believes that love can change the world for the better. Thanks to the giving by our members and others, programs are advancing that equip women leaders, protect our planet through climate justice initiatives, and create opportunities for children and youth to thrive.

**Joy Fellowship** will meet at 2 p.m. Thursday, December 11, in the home of Deb Reeve.

*Joy!*

You are encouraged to carpool as there is limited parking at Deb's!

Please join us—you will be most welcome. Call chair Debie Britton with questions.



### ***The Angels' Song in Three Words***

On the very first Christmas Eve, frightened shepherds were suddenly surrounded by light and music. A choir of angels filled the night sky, singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14, KJV).

Nineteenth-century pastor Charles Kingsley reflected on how those three simple words — glory, peace, and good will — still capture the meaning of Jesus' birth and the hope it brings.

*Glory.* God's glory isn't shown in dazzling displays of power but in humility and mercy. The baby in the manger revealed God's greatness by stooping low, forgiving, and showing love.

*Peace.* True peace is more than the absence of conflict. It comes when we follow God's example of selflessness, giving up pride and selfish ambition to live in harmony with one another.

*Good will.* God's good will toward us is a gift that transforms our lives. Through Jesus, God invites us out of selfishness and sin into a life marked by love, kindness, and community.

The angels' song wasn't meant only for shepherds long ago. It still sings to us today, calling each of us to live in glory, peace, and good will.



## Living In Faith Together

### Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. — Prayer Chapel

Each Wednesday evening from 6–7 p.m., women gather in the Prayer Chapel for fellowship, scripture, devotion, prayer, and to share faith stories. The group meets in the evening so that those who work can attend, and we respect the start and end time so that everyone gets home at a reasonable time.

Please join us for this mid-week pick-me-up with your church “lady” friends!

*Please remember your 3B's: Bible, Beverage, and Bifocals (if needed)!*

***Note: LIFT will not meet on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve.***

This past month has seen a significant increase in visits to Soul Soup by those needing a meal. We had a new record for meals served at 120, and Carol Allenbaugh served 186 meals at one Sunday feeding. We have three families with small children attending with regularity. As food costs rise, food insecurity is also rising. We have had two new volunteers join us — what a wonderful addition to our fellowship and service! Please keep us all in your prayers.



*Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas.*

—Dale Evans

The 10-week adult Sunday School class studying the book “The Case for Grace” by Lee Strobel has ended.

It was a great way to understand the workings of grace in the lives of different people who faced varying life challenges. A good, inspirational read—you should try it!



## Pave the Way

The deadline to order the first installment of Pavers will be Sunday, December 14, 2025. Installation of the pavers will likely take place in the Spring of 2026.

Orders may continue beyond December; however, orders not received by the 2025 deadline will be installed at a later date.

Thank you for your support of this project



## Christian symbol

**POINSETTIA** — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.





Angelica Amegashie	1-Dec
John Harden	1-Dec
Wyatt York	1-Dec
Margaret Beesley	2-Dec
Ava Hooley	6-Dec
Noelia Haberling	7-Dec
Matthew Shoop	8-Dec
Val Alderson	9-Dec
Betty Baumann	10-Dec
Rylie Dean	10-Dec
Harold Method	10-Dec
Ryan Angelo	11-Dec
Annika Noel Tenney	11-Dec
Audrey Manley	12-Dec
Erica Ewing	13-Dec
Holli Simmelink	13-Dec
Joseph Buchholz	14-Dec
Ty Haberling	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
Alice Loomis	21-Dec
Shirley DeLarme	22-Dec
Kathleen Bryson	23-Dec
Mike Thien	23-Dec
Colin Wertman	24-Dec
Claire Phillips	26-Dec
Lauren Horan	28-Dec
William Parkes	28-Dec
Marie Duncan	29-Dec
Sydnie Koschik	30-Dec

#### EARLY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Daoud Kuwa	01-Jan
Laus Anglou	01-Jan
Brian Millar	01 Jan
Gigi Amegashie	02 Jan
Pete Baumann	04 Jan



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

Jane and John Hunt,  
Vic and Deb Reeve,  
Ashley DeLarme, Wilma  
Muncey, Kookie Graham.

For those in our community who have lost employment due to circumstances beyond their control, please relieve them of worry and uncertainty and give them hope and trust in the Lord.



*And pray for those grieving the loss of a loved one.*

Joe Edmund Sproul, 94, entered eternal life on November 16. He is survived by his wife, Erna, three children and their spouses, as well as several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Joe's service was held on November 24 in Lewiston, Idaho. Please lift Erna and her family in prayer.

Kennewick 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Church Office Hours  
9 a.m. – noon and 1 – 3 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

[www.KennewickFirst.com](http://www.KennewickFirst.com)

Facebook.com/KennewickFirstUMC



# UMY DECEMBER 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM YOUTH GROUP 4 TO 6 ADVENT WORKSHOP COOKIES AND CRAFTS FAMILY EVENT, ALL AGES PRAISE BAND 3:00	8 	9	10	 12/14 IS OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY. PLEASE BRING A \$5-10 GIFT FOR THE EXCHANGE	12	13
14 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM YOUTH GROUP 4 TO 6 CHRISTMAS PARTY AND GIFT EXCHANGE. DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED DRESS IN YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS PARTY ATTIRE PRAISE BAND 3:00	15 	16	17			
21 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM YOUTH GROUP 4 TO 6 UGLY SWEATER CHICKEN RUN COME IN YOUR BEST UGLY X-MAS SWEATER	22 	23	24  CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 3:00 AND 5:00	25 CHRISTMAS	26	
28 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL NO YOUTH GROUP	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE			