



Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian Church



December 2019

God Is With Us . . . Always

One Worship Service in December
Sunday, December 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
9:30 a.m.

followed by

Advent Study – “The Light of the World”
Sunday, December 1, 8, 15, 22
10:30 a.m.



Advent Dinner with Music by Northwest Groove
Sunday, December 8
5:30 p.m.

Invite Family and Friends ~ Bring a Potluck Dish to Share
Advent Litany and Lighting of Candles ~ Singing of Christmas Carols
(If you would like to come and need a ride, let Pastor Vonda know.)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 24
7:00 p.m.

We'll celebrate our Savior's birth with music and scripture and
conclude with everyone singing “*Silent Night*” by candlelight.

Merry Christmas!

Worship God, Grow in Faith, and Be in Service with All.
~ Our Mission Statement ~

Notes from the Pastor's Pen . . .



Christmas means many different things to different people. But if you condense the many meanings of Christmas down to just one simple truth, you'll always end up with just four words, God is with us. John Wesley's last words were, "The Best of All, God is with us." Nothing could be more true. They are the only four words that can bring meaning to our Christmas celebrations.

For the person struggling with a diagnosis they never wanted to hear, because of Christmas you can know that God is with you. For the couple moving into an assisted living facility because they can no longer care for themselves and must rely on the care of others, because of Christmas you can know that God is with you. For the one who lost their job, and now worry how to pay the bills, because of Christmas you can know that God is with you. For the person seeking real truth in a world filled so full of half-truths and outright lies, because of Christmas you can know that God is with you.

Boiled down to its very core, the message of Christmas is that we are not alone. We never have been. We never will be. Because God wrapped himself in human flesh, stepped out of eternity and into time, and chose a cave in Bethlehem to communicate one simple and abiding truth, God is with us. Remembered and lived out, those four words have the power and beauty to change every waking moment of our lives. They become the source of the joy the angels said would be for all people.

So, as each day of Advent passes by, may you pause to remember that God has come and is still coming to be with you. Make room in your life to remember that and this season will be what it is meant to be in your life.

Notes from Pastor (Cont.)

I hope this helps you remember what is important during this busy season. No matter what is going right or wrong in your life, God is with you. It's our job to help others see that God is with them as well and has come for them too.

I hope you will join me each Sunday during Advent as we look at the joy of Christmas and remember that God is with us, always.

I'll look for you in church!

Pastor Vonda

Advent Dinner Features Northwest Groove

**Sunday, December 8
5:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**



~ Invite Family and Friends ~

~ Bring a Potluck Dish to Share ~

We're combining our Advent Dinner and Music for the Soul this year for a special Advent Gathering. We'll enjoy wonderful Christmas music by Northwest Groove, share in a meal together, light Advent candles and have a wonderful time singing Christmas carols.

If you would like to take a table in the Fellowship Hall and decorate it including five candles, please sign-up as soon as possible with Pastor Vonda.

DayTrippers to Attend A Victorian Country Christmas in Puyallup



Thursday, December 5

**Meet in Church Parking Lot
9:00 a.m.**

Cost:

Adults – \$10.50

Over 62 – \$9.50

You will experience the sights, sounds, and food of a Victorian Country Christmas and have the opportunity to shop in over 500 stores.

We'll be traveling in the church van which is limited to 12 people. Let the Church Office know if you would like to go. We will share in the cost of fuel. Other expenses are the responsibility of each person.

Poinsettias to Benefit Camperships

This year the Campership Committee is selling live poinsettias to raise funds for our camping ministry.



They are in a 6-inch pot with 5+ blooms and are selling for \$15 each. These plants will be available for you to pick up and take home on December 5.

Order your poinsettia Sundays after worship or by calling the Church Office. If you would like one of these poinsettias to be in memory or honor of someone, a sign-up sheet will be available for you to write down the first and last name of the person(s) you are remembering or honoring.

We will still be using our lovely "fake" poinsettias in church to decorate the sanctuary for Advent.

Family Fun Night - Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 18

5:30 p.m. – Dinner

6:00 p.m. – Activities

Fellowship Hall

All are Welcome!

Invite a Family Member, Friend, Neighbor

Craft and Activity Fun Including:

- Cookie Decorating
- Singing Christmas Carols with Ukulele Accompaniment
- Christmas Photos with a "Special Guest"



Kid's Sunday School Christmas Party

**Sunday, December 22
9:50 a.m.
Upstairs Education Room**

All Children and Teens Invited!



The Christmas Story with

**~Crafts~
~Games~
~Refreshments~**

"Helping Hearts and Hands" Tree

Please open your hearts and help decorate our "Helping Hearts and Hands" tree this Christmas season with winter-weight hats, gloves, scarves, and socks. All sizes are needed for boys and girls AND for men and women.



The "Helping Hearts and Hands" tree is located in the Narthex (Lobby). You may bring your items and place them in the baskets below the tree. The items will be delivered to local charities for further distribution.

Darylan Johnson is the coordinator of this ministry, and if you have questions, please talk to her.

Advent: the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. In our celebration of Christ's birth, it is the beginning of a new church year upon His birth; the mass on Christ's day and celebrating with and in Him.

In preparation of the joy of His birth and coming into our lives, it is also a time for a rebirth of our lives and love in Christ and how we can live and love in Him and with others. We each have traditions in our families, with friends, community, and of course, our church.

Going back again to my days in retail and the set-up to Black Friday and the ensuing 'holiday season,' there were times that 'making the season' was 'making the sales.' I worked with my staff to celebrate and share together and with customers to make the bookstore a good place to be in. My faith in Christ and the 'reason for the season' helped me keep to it most of the time even in its stressful times.

Let us look to and celebrate a new year in Christ!

*Gary Jackson,
Lay Leader*

Christmas Gift Bags for Youth in Need

The Greater Northwest Area of United Methodist Churches has been asked to participate in helping children at Echo Glen Children's Home and at Naselle Youth Camp receive a wonderful Christmas by providing bags of gifts. Our goal is 25 bags.



Please bring the items to the Church Office. It is not necessary to buy all the items. Buy one or all, buy multiples of one of the items, etc. We will have the Christmas bags and just need the items to fill the bags.

Here is a list of items requested for the bags:

- 1-Board Game, Card Game, or Dominoes
- 1-Pair Man-Size Gloves
- 1-Adult Coloring Book with Colored Pencils
- 1-Package of Shampoo and Conditioner
- 1-Package of Peanut-Free Candy (Skittles Type)
- 1-Note or Card of Encouragement (No personal information, do not seal envelope)

The kids tend to be young men of color (50%) and range in age from 12-18. They might have learning disabilities or be under educated.

Thank you for helping the young people in need have a Merry Christmas.

FISH Food Ministry

The next scheduled days to prepare and distribute food to people will be on:

Thursday, January 2
Friday, January 3
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Laurie Hall

If you are interested in helping prepare and distribute food to those in need, please contact Bette Aanderud at 360-577-0095 or Pat Faires at 360-423-7874.



FISH Food Needed:

- Peanut Butter
- Cereal
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Spaghetti
- Canned Tomatoes
- Hunts Pasta Sauce (traditional)
- Canned Fruit (Applesauce, Peaches, Pears)
- Canned Vegetables (Corn, Peas, Green Beans)
- Top Ramen

Donation Baskets in Room 12

On November 12 and 13, we served: Families—70, Adults—128, Children—81 for a total of 209.

Thank you to the following volunteers: Bette Aanderud, Ted Castaneda, Pat Faires, Michelle Hamilton, Mike Jenkins (Emmanuel Lutheran), Peggy King, Luis Luna (Ted's friend), Jeanne McDonald, Vonda McFadden, Judy Payton, Todd Sadler, Peggy Skeahan, Colleen Walker.

Family Fun Bowling Night Coming in January



Wednesday, January 8
Dinner at Church – 5:30 p.m.
(Pizza & Beverages Provided)
Leave for Triangle Bowl – 6:00 p.m.
(Return to Church – 7:30 p.m.)

Cost: \$4.00 per person

All are Welcome!

Changes at KUMPC Including New Email

There have been some changes recently here at KUMPC including installing:

- Cameras that monitor our property
- Wi-Fi throughout the building
- New phone service

Our email address has also changed to:

NEW EMAIL
kelsoumpc@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office.

Join the Ukulele Club

Meets Wednesdays
10:00 a.m. – Noon
Fellowship Hall



Everyone is Welcome!

The Cowlitz Ukulele Association, or COWUKA for short, is now meeting here at the church. If you have questions, please talk to Trudi Gross at 360-425-0083 or email grossenuf1@gmail.com.

Crafter's Club News

2020
New Date and Time
First Saturday of
Every Month
9:00 a.m. – Noon



We have the first two Saturdays of 2020 planned. They will be:

Saturday, January 4
Fabric Boxes
Heather Donnelly, Instructor

Saturday, February 1
Round Table Topper
Diane Manasco, Instructor

Crafter's Club evenings have been fun and productive, but when we tried a Saturday morning workshop to make aprons for all Bazaar workers, it seemed to fit more people's schedules. Therefore, in 2020 Crafter's Club will be held on the first Saturday of every month. It just so happens that Men's Breakfast also meets the first Saturday of every month – no problem, that should make it easier for some of us to remember!

We plan to sew things to sell at the Bazaar next year, but we are open to suggestions. Is there something you would like to learn how to make? You may request that as the next month's project. Most projects will involve sewing, but if you don't sew that's OK; we will have things you can do to help the project along. Also, if you would like to sew your own project instead of what is planned that month, great! Bring it, sew it, and share with the rest of us. That's how we get new ideas.

I hope to see many of you at one of these events.

--Linda Redmond,
Crafter's Club Coordinator

Wedding Anniversaries

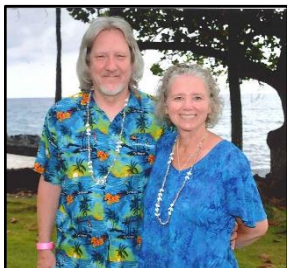


Larry and Gwyn Gross will celebrate their 69th Wedding Anniversary on December 14.

Les and Marline Czarnecki will celebrate their 61st Wedding Anniversary on January 1.



Tom and Vonda McFadden will celebrate their 27th Wedding Anniversary on January 2.



Remember In Prayer

Tom Gates, Lolita Hare, Rob Redmond (Harvey and Linda Redmond's son), and our children we sponsor at Jamaa Letu Orphanage in the Congo: Betty, Joseph, Leon, Ruth Kashala, Ruth Mukuna, Suzane, Willy, and Yanick

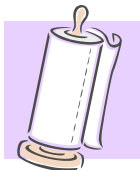


Our Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Christy O'Brien and family at the loss of Christy's mother, Barbara O'Brien, on November 2.



Emergency Support Shelter News



"Item of the Month"
~ Paper Towels ~

Donation Baskets in Room 12.

Backpack Buddies

Our Backpack Buddies ministry to Barnes Elementary School helps feed children who are at risk for hunger over the weekend during the school year. Food needed:

- Peanut Butter and Jelly (in plastic containers)
- Chili
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Canned Tuna
- Canned SpaghettiOs
- Spaghetti
- Canned Spaghetti Sauce
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Fruit Cups (applesauce, peaches, etc.)



Donation Baskets in Room 12.

Fellowship Hall Floors Being Refinished

**Monday, December 2
through
Friday, December 6**

The Fellowship Hall floors are being refinished. Access to the Fellowship Hall will be blocked off, and you will be unable to enter the church through those doors. If there's something you need to get from that area, please do so before Monday, December 2.

December Birthdays

9 Helen Larson
10 Anne Hill
12 Darylan Johnson
17 Kaiah Wilson
20 Giuliana Viscuso
21 Scott McRae
22 Piper Donnelly



Attendance

Sunday			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>1st Service</u>	<u>2nd</u>
11/03/19	10	92	57
11/10/19	8	86	50
11/17/19	5	57	72
11/24/19	7	74	57
Music for the Soul		47	

Wednesday		
	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Adults</u>
11/06/19	13	7
11/13/19	13	6
11/20/19	8	7
11/27/19	No Activities (Thanksgiving Break)	

Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian Church
206 Cowlitz Way
Kelso, WA 98626-3411
Phone: 360-423-7480 / Fax 360-425-1121
Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (M-F)
Daycare Hours: 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (M-F)
E-mail: kelsoumpc@gmail.com
Website: www.kelsoumpc.org
Facebook: Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian Church
Rev. Vonda McFadden, Pastor
Parsonage: 360-423-3514 / Cell: 360-393-2843
Pastor's E-mail: pastorvonda@gmail.com
Rev. Greg and Rev. Laurel Moore, Music Directors
503-556-8131

Advent Worship Schedule in December

9:30 am ONE Worship Service
9:50 am Kid's Sunday School
10:30 am Advent Study

Sunday Schedule (Sept-May)

9:00 am Contemporary Service
9:20 am Kid's Sunday School
11:00 am Traditional Service
10:00 am & 12:00 pm Fellowship Time

Wednesday Schedule (Sept-May)

5:30 pm Children's Ministry
6:15 pm Praise Team Practice
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Christmas 2019



Greetings in Christ!

As we approach the Advent Season, many of us will be preparing for company. The holidays are a wonderful time and often bring distant friends and family together for quality time to celebrate the coming of our Lord. Many of us are anticipating a lot of joy, laughs, and great food. Tables will be set, and houses adorned with shining lights and many shades of green, red, and white. The glowing Christmas trees reminds us of the tree of life who is Christ.

What is it about this season that draws people together? The Bible tells us that Jesus' birth brought many people together. The shepherds in the field hurried over to witness the baby Jesus lying in the manger (Luke 2:15). It even brought wise men from foreign lands to witness this miracle of the divine child (Matt 2:1).

There is indeed something powerful about Jesus that binds us all together when we gather in his name to celebrate his birth. Christians have been doing this from the beginning, as the scriptures say: "And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:46-47)

Therefore, in this spirit, KUMPC will be hosting our annual Advent Dinner on December 8 at 5:30 p.m. Come and join us for a night of music, food, fun, and fellowship as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ and share in the meaning of this Advent Season.

You are also invited to attend worship at 9:30 a.m. during the month of December and our Advent study, "Light of the World," immediately following worship.

On December 22 and Christmas Eve, we will receive a special Christmas Offering that will benefit Family Promise of Cowlitz County. Family Promise is helping families in our community find housing, jobs, training, and they are providing a stable living space for those families while doing so. Our giving will help support these families. Thank you in advance for your generous giving this Advent Season.

Blessed Advent,

Pastor Vonda

Bazaar Thank You



Congratulations and thank you to everyone who helped with our 80th Annual Joyous Holiday Bazaar on November 9, 2019. Last year after the Bazaar, we decided to have monthly Craft Nights. The purpose was to share and learn and fellowship while preparing items for the Bazaar. It has long been a dream of mine that everyone working the day of the bazaar would be identified not only by their nametags but also by their matching aprons. I mentioned in passing about the aprons and that became the task for our monthly craft making program. A group of us got together one Saturday morning and started sewing. Pastor Vonda and Heather, Linda Redmond, Diane Manasco, and Peggy Skeahan each sewed many more aprons at home.

Not yet “old hat” in my responsibilities as chairperson, I truly appreciate and value the help and input of several people who I’d like to acknowledge – Marilyn Strange, Kathy Williamson and Judy Ainslie. These women have unselfishly given of their time and talents. Our secretary, Judy Early, and our “old” custodian, Dale Bruton, and new custodian, Heather Donnelly, are just the best! I delighted in the support from my new friend and new church member, Peggy Skeahan, as well as Pat Faires, who generously helped with set-up as well as take down. Lynne Davis, Nancy Heaton, Dolores McDonald and Laurel Moore, though not having specific jobs, were awesome multipurpose “floaters.” Additionally, Haylee Donnelly fulfilled two needs as she helped out with the Bazaar, and then she prepared a report for school about her experience volunteering. These women cheerfully helped wherever needed – such wonderfully valuable “human resources.” Marilyn Bruton also helped with set-up. Thank you!

I ask for blessings over the missions we support and over all Bazaar workers and especially my family for their unending love and support.

Though the Bazaar is billed as United Methodist Presbyterian **Women’s** Group as sponsors, there are some men who made great contributions to the success of our big event. Dick Graham works in his shop all year long on projects for the Bazaar, and he nearly sold out this year. John Simpson and Rod Nelson served as “Security.”

Pastor Vonda and her daughter, Heather Donnelly, prepared a wonderful new menu this year. Kitchen servers were Bette Aanderud, Pat Faires, and Helen Larson. Thank you for all your efforts. Pastor Vonda works so hard on so many fronts, and all one has to say is “make it so,” and she will do her best. Thank you, Vonda, you are much appreciated and a wonderful chef!

It goes without saying that there is no “I” in the word team, so I’d like to acknowledge the following people for their efforts as Booth Chairs:

Bazaar Thank You (Cont.)

Bakery – Trudi and Tirzah Gross

Bankers – Judy Ainslie and Kathy Williamson

Boutique – Peggy Skeahan, Nancy Heaton and me (Tanya)

Candy – Shirley Simpson with Mary Duhamel – A huge thank you to Judy Ainslie and Kathy Williamson who made nearly all the candy for this booth.

Children – Pam Dickey with Piper Donnelly

Collectibles – Maryanne Wainwright

Gift Baskets – Beth Wills and Shirley Whyte

etc. – Annette Nelson with Amy Nelson Evernden and Tanya Nelson. A surprise helper was our granddaughter, Julia.

Kitchen and Food Prep. – Pastor Vonda as kitchen “manager” with Heather Donnelly and Dolores McDonald

Textile and Fiber Arts – Linda Redmond with Jacq Christensen and Anne DeFrancisco

Luncheon Set-up and Servers – Anne Hill and hubby, Jim, did the set-up, and her Luncheon Hostess Team consisted of Mary Duhamel and Cherie Rapp.

Cashier – Fiina Fowler and Marilyn Strange

Music/Sound System – Greg Moore expertly set up the sound system and provided lovely Christmas music which added a nice touch to enhance our “Christmas ambiance.”

Publicity – Ann Hanson

Wood Crafts – Dick Graham

Additionally, it goes without saying that Dale Bruton was indispensable as far as setting up and taking down everything for the Bazaar as well as washing dishes, Thank you, Dale!

Obviously, this grand event wouldn't happen if it weren't for all the wonderful donations of items to sell. Most of the items reflect many hours in lovingly creating them. One of the beautiful things about the Bazaar is the fellowship among those involved as well as the many people who came to the Bazaar. Thank you so much one and all for your efforts in making this wonderful event so successful. If anyone needs reimbursement, please get a voucher from Judy in the Church Office, and turn it in ASAP so that we can determine our profit. Remember, if you've kept your receipts, your donations are tax deductible.

Lastly, and not forgotten, is my wonderful husband, Rod, who works behind the scenes helping with anything I need – including preparing meals so I can continue working on a project, cleaning up my messes, doing housework, and giving me grace prn. I am truly blessed.

I truly apologize if I have inadvertently omitted anyone.

Our Crafter's Club will continue next year in January where someone will demonstrate a craft. Besides being a women's fellowship, we hope to have some new items for next year's Bazaar as well as getting a head start on next year. Linda Redmond and Beth Wills are chairing this new endeavor.

God Bless You All!
Tanya Nelson