



Kenilworth @ Work! December 2023



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

BARB'S NOTE-ABLE NOTES

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"



The songs of the Christmas season comprise some of the finest music known to humans, and this hymn is certainly one of our universal favorites. It was used in Catholic churches before it became known to Protestants. Today it is sung by church groups around the world since it has been translated from its original Latin into more than one hundred other languages. The vivid imagery of the carol seems to have meaning and appeal for all ages in every culture.

The original Latin text consisted of four stanzas. The first calls us to visualize anew the infant Jesus in Bethlehem's stable. The second stanza is usually omitted in most hymnals but it reminds us that the Christ child is very God Himself:

God of God and Light of Light begotten, Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created - O come, let us adore Him

The next stanza pictures for us the exalted song of the angelic choir heard by the lowly shepherds. Then the final verse offers praise and adoration to the Word, our Lord, who was with the Father from the beginning of time.

For many years this hymn was known as an anonymous Latin hymn. Recent research, however, has revealed manuscripts that indicate that it was written in 1744 by an English layman named John Wade and set to music by him in much the same style as used today. The hymn first appeared in his collection, *Cantus Diversi*, published in England in 1751. One hundred years later the carol was translated into its present English form by an Anglican minister, Frederick Oakeley, who desired to use it for his congregation. The tune name, "*Adeste Fideles*," is taken from the first words of the original Latin text, and translated literally means "be present or near, ye faithful."

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant;
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born the King of angels:*

*Chorus: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.*

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy 2024.
May we find Peace on Earth.

Musically yours, Barbara Votrobeck





The session of Kenilworth PC is pleased to announce that their Pastor Search Committee has finished their assignment. We are thankful for their tenacity.

The Rev. Susan McDougall has accepted the part-time position of Stated Supply Pastor. She will serve in a 60% full-time-equivalent capacity (about 24 hours per week).

Susan received her Masters of Divinity from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Susan has served as a hospice chaplain in Colorado and is currently the Spiritual Care Director at Miramont Pointe Senior Living Community on Sunnyside Road in Clackamas. She has given them her 30-day notice. In this transition time she hopes to successfully complete Miramont’s plans for the Holiday season and train her replacement. Susan and her husband David reside in Vancouver, Washington. They have four children and two crazy poodles.

**Advent Craft Event
Saturday, December 9
2 to 5 pm**

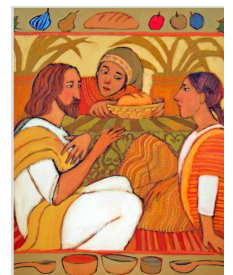


The Advent Craft Event this year will be shared with the Kenilworth Community Preschool families. We will be decorating graham cracker chalets. These are similar to gingerbread houses. There will be lots of white frosting as glue and colorful, edible items to decorate the houses.



If you would like to donate items for decorating the chalets, please bring to the church. Some possible items include mini pretzels, both twisted and straight, animal crackers, skittles or M&M’s, mini marshmallows, Froot Loops or Cheerios, Chex cereals, licorice strings. Check out the candy section at the grocery for clever decorating items. You may also donate large bags of powdered sugar or boxes of Honey Graham Crackers. They have to be the kind that are long enough to make a chalet roof or side. Chalets will be make on Friday, December 8. To help build the chalets, contact Becky. Please join us for a messy but enjoyable afternoon. There will be a sign up sheet in the Fireplace Room.

**Kenilworth Presbyterian Women - Saturday, December 16
Meeting 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am in person or via Zoom
Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts**



The Bible study continues with lesson four, "Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus." The main idea is that "Jesus calls us to value the role of each person in the community of faith." Carol Garner will lead the December Bible study.

December Birthdays



Jonathan Jewel	8
Annette Mandel	8
Louise Langley	27
Caroline Broberg	30

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3



Groceries 4 Grout

We're collecting egg cartons again! Bulk-packed eggs cost less than retail eggs (\$4-5 per 15 doz case). While offering almost 300 dozen eggs a month, the savings adds up quickly.



Brooklyn Action Corp collected 113 pounds of groceries at their November drive. Grout PTA awarded G4G a \$2,000 grant to underwrite the rental of a cargo van each week. This means we're set for the rest of the school year.

It was nice to have a break the day after Thanksgiving. Our plan is to be open every Friday afternoon in December. The PPS-PAT have reached a tentative agreement so we will be at Grout on the 1st and at Kenilworth for the remaining Fridays this month.

People served

919 people from 287 households
39 Wednesday deliveries

12,463 # total groceries received

8,781 # Oregon Food Bank
1,448 # Imperfect Foods
392 # New Seasons - Woodstock
928 # Safeway – Lake Oswego
415 # Other Donations

Volunteers

278 Hours
30 People



Tips for a Sustainable Christmas

Every dollar we spend is a vote for the world we want to create. So here are some tips on how to make your festivities friendlier to our one shared home.

- Presents: think quality not quantity; think less but better.
- Gift an experience: tickets to shows, concerts or events, a homemade coupon book, meal out or give a gift card.
- Think about materials: Look at the materials gifts are made from and keep sustainability in mind. Avoid single plastics items that can't be recycled and look for things like organic-certified food and clothing. Buying second-hand items saves on resources needed to make new products. Vintage clothes and home furnishings, and refurbished technology can make great sustainable gifts.
- Use less packaging: shopping local can help with this. Avoid plastic where possible, and don't forget your reusable bags to carry all your shopping home!
- Test your wrapping skills: Look for cards and wrapping paper made from recycled paper. Avoid plastic ribbon and tape or foil-backed wrapping paper. Choose cards that you can recycle (this means no foil or glitter!). Check out some tape-free wrapping techniques online such as furoshiki. See link at bottom of article. This is a traditional Japanese method of using cloth to wrap gifts. It makes for beautiful, unique, and reusable packaging.
- Make your own decorations. Save yourself some money by upcycling old decorations.
- Don't forget the tree! If buying a plastic Christmas tree, make sure that you're going to reuse it for at least 10 years. Otherwise, it would have been better to buy a living tree from a sustainable forest. Be clear on how to dispose of your tree once the season is over.



Thanks to the following for help in preparing this list:

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/top-tips-sustainable-christmas>
<https://chatelaine.com/living/furoshiki-gift-wrapping-how-to/>



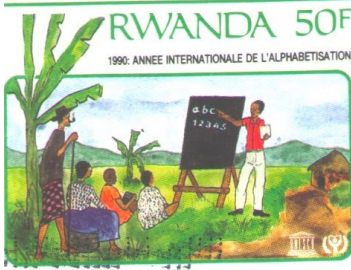
Kenilworth Community Preschool

Happy December Everyone! Looking back November was a busy month! Pre-school families celebrated

the season with stone soup. In class we read stories from many cultures sharing the joy of coming together in community. As PPS teachers were on strike we also served Grout Teachers stone soup made by preschoolers, served by preschool alumni who are now in upper elementary and middle school. The big kids even came down to listen to a stone soup story before their guests arrived.



A full circle event, to embrace the teachers so near and dear to our community. I held conferences and was able to connect one on one with parents about their child. December is another fun month at preschool as we continue to talk about the seasons and celebrate with gingerbread stories. This year we are partnering with the church (shout out to Becky Jewel) for an Advent craft making graham cracker ice chalets on December 9th at 2pm. All families welcome. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year. Kindly, Allisen Hein



Dear Friends at Kenilworth Presbyterian Church,
I hope you are well! Thank you so much for being a part of our These Numbers Have Faces Community!

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a These Numbers Have Faces scholar. Thank you for partnering with me and supporting me through my impact circle. Your encouragement and support mean so much to me.

Thank you for helping me grow as a student and a leader!

Sincerely,

Gloria Iradukunda .





Session Highlights November 5, 2023



- The KPC Annual Session Records Review has been completed. Each year the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery makes arrangements for two clerks of session to exchange minutes and statistical information for review to assure all are complete and accurate.
- One Girl Scout Troop is planning a sleepover event. Session voted to offer the use of a room in the church for this event.
- With one abstention, Session also voted to offer restroom and gathering space for Grout teachers picketing PPS.
- A new revocable license to use the fireplace room Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 pm was approved for an Overeaters Anonymous group
- The PW Thank offering was promoted and collected during Worship services in November, and dedicated November 26.
- Session voted to affirm the accuracy of the email record of their October 24 decision to support a \$100/month reduction of preschool tuition for one family for October, November and December.
- Laura and Becky Jewel will coordinate the annual advent craft party for the congregation and the preschool. Scheduled date to be announced.
- Rick and Katie will work on drafting new anti-harassment and antiracism policies for KPC. Adoption of these written policies for each congregation is a new requirement approved at the 2022 General Assembly.

Session Highlights November 8, 2023

- A special meeting of the Session was called to meet via Zoom at 7:00 pm, November 8, 2023.
- Moderator, Rev. Sue Van Stelle and Elders: Laura Schaefer, Edith Starling, Paul Youngs, Katie Essick, and Jonathan Jewel; and clerk Rick Votrobeck were all present.
- Elder Bob Mandel had regretfully offered his resignation from Session due to Annette Mandel's failing health. The Session voted to accept Bob's resignation with gratitude and appreciation for his many hours of dedicated service to both the Session and the Search Committee.
- The Search Committee reported that following a second interview with the candidate they recommend that the Rev. Susan McDougall be offered the Stated Supply position at Kenilworth Presbyterian Church. Elder Bob Mandel abstained because of his absence from the second interview due to illness.
- The Session voted to offer The Rev. Susan McDougall a one-year covenant to serve as the Stated Supply Pastor for Kenilworth Presbyterian Church at a 60% full-time-equivalent of approximately 24 hours per week with a base salary plus eligible participation in the Board of Pension retirement and medical insurance plans.
- Session assigned Rick and Jonathan to negotiate details of the agreement with Susan if she accepts the offer.



- **November 11, 2023** Susan met with Rick and Jon and accepted the proposal with the exception the Board of Pension Medical plan was replaced with a 403b retirement plan plus pastoral and continuing education expenses.
- **November 21, 2023** The Presbytery Commission on Ministry NE approved the Covenant agreement and the job description to begin Christmas Eve, 2023. **Merry Christmas KPC!**



“Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the

Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God’s new world, yet we praise God who raised the “righteous branch” to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land.

Long-awaited Savior, you are the promise of the prophets, and we are witnesses to your work – vision, movement, healing, music, new life, good news. Enlighten and enliven us, send us out to spread the word so that all may see and hear and know and believe that you are the coming of God, the Messiah. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/advent/>

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