



# Kenilworth @ Work!

## January 2025



*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*

### The Season of



Epiphany is on January 6 and is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came

from the East to worship to the Christ child. God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ.

The word "epiphany" (from the Greek *epiphaneia* or *theophaneia*) means "appearance" or "manifestation" of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god.

For Christians, Christmas marks the coming of God to us; Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity. The Christmas stories of the birth of Immanuel declare the divine entry; Epiphany extols the revelation of God to the world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

I wonder if Jesus  
celebrated a New Year  
or timeless,  
as he was,  
he let it slide  
from one day to the next.  
Did he mark  
the passing of the miles  
as he set his face towards Jerusalem?  
And what are we expecting  
from this life ahead of us,  
full of the mystery of days,  
and the dreams of winter nights,  
that give way  
to the soft hush of spring  
and the Cross?



Wishing all of you at Kenilworth a  
very Happy New Year filled with  
every Joy and all Blessings,  
Pastor Susan

In our celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany we rejoice in the dawning and the arising of Light in darkness ... Epiphany not only discloses the Savior to the world but also calls the world to show forth Christ, to be witnesses to God's true Light. The timeless mystery of the incarnation, God in flesh, leads us forth to show and tell of Christ as God's gift of grace and salvation for all persons. Some call this ongoing epiphany the work of Christmas.

An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship, PC-USA (Geneva Press 2003 p.94-95)

A Prayer for Epiphany: God of endless light, you sent a star— rising from darkness, guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy. Let the splendor of your dawning light grow in us and in all the world until the whole creation shines with your glory; through Jesus Christ our light. Read *Matthew 2:1-12*

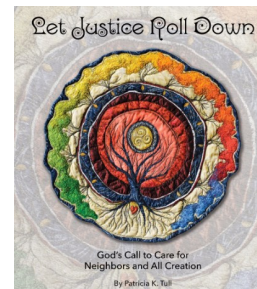


# Kenilworth Presbyterian Women - Saturday, January 18

Meeting 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am

This year's year's Bible study "Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation" continues in January with Lesson 4 dealing with Water Justice. Louise will lead the Bible Study.

Main idea of Lesson 4: Water is so essential, and its presence and absence so impactful, that both Scripture and contemporary events reflect its multidimensional effects on human life.



*For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. Isaiah 44:3*

*But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream. Amos 5:24*

Here's a link to bonus comments about lesson four from Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull, author of the Bible study:  
<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/2024/10/07/let-justice-roll-down-lesson-four/>



## "Hot Topic" Discussion Group, Wednesday, January 22 7:00 pm

Join us for a lively discussion about gun control on Wednesday, January 22, 7 pm at the home of Rick and Barb. Carol will lead the discussion based on an online article about gun deaths. Read the article online at:

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/states-with-the-highest-gun-death-rates>

The article contains an interactive map with gun death details. A printed copy is available at the church. Please let Barb know that you plan to attend. Thank you. Becky



The annual meeting of the Kenilworth congregation will be held following worship February 16, 2025.



## KENILWORTH MISSION COMMITTEE December Collection Drive for Transition Projects

Kenilworth's newly-formed Mission Committee chose Transition Projects as KPC's Christmas mission for 2024 which has delivered life-saving and life-changing assistance to some of Portland's most vulnerable residents.

Our donations will be used in warming shelters providing warm clothing, blankets, and hand warmers, to name a few, to the houseless in this cold weather. Pictured are three bags delivered to one of their offices by the Votrobecks.



### January Birthdays



Camren Hudson	6
Sharese Jewel	24
Robert Griffen	24

*"We thank our God every time we remember you. In all our prayers for all of you, we always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4"*



### Groceries 4 Grout in December

Even with the slower holidays the numbers are astounding. We did our best to replace *Imperfect's* produce by ordering (sometimes overwhelming amounts) from the Oregon Food Bank. Excess brussel sprouts were welcomed at *Urban Gleaners*. We availed ourselves of hundreds of pounds of meat gleaned from *City Team Ministries* (a homeless shelter on Grand Ave). Our clients were happy! Our pantry is a feature in the January 2025 issue of *The Bee* (a newspaper serving southeast Portland). It was a busy month and I'm sure I've forgotten something and someone. Thanks again for being the energy in making our families safer and more secure!

Laura Schaefer, director

### People served

- 1,344 people from 383 households
- 27 Wednesday deliveries
- 14,474 # total groceries received**
- 10,716 # Oregon Food Bank
- 1,695 # New Seasons - Woodstock
- 1,200 # City Team Ministries (estimate)
- 682 # QFC - Moreland
- 76 # purchased
- 105 # Other Donations



### Volunteers

- 291 Hours
- 32 People

### Christmas Gifts 4 Grout

We delivered several carloads of Christmas gifts and wrapping supplies to Grout Elementary School in December. The gifts were unwrapped so that parents could select and wrap their own gifts for their children. Teacher Sharese reported that the parents were very excited and pleased with the project. Thank you, Kenilworthians, for your generosity. Becky



### Stuffing Christmas Stockings

Kenilworth's Presbyterian Women's group plus Paul were invited back to Fort Kennedy for their annual stocking stuffing event for Veterans around the area. This year we were given different tasks but of equal importance to the goal of stuffing 400 plus stockings.

Carol and Louise were put in charge of sorting mountains of donated men's underwear into tidy stacks of like sizes. Paul and Nancy stuffed stockings for a local shelter with veterans. Louise was also assisting with organizing boxes of donated coats on hangers and shoes with like sizes. Nancy rolled tons of socks and Paul was asked to help with packaging finished stockings into boxes.

We were joined this year by ROTC high schoolers who were very energetic and made us laugh with their antics. Nancy Youngs



## Session Highlights December 15, 2024



- Session approved the tuition rate increase proposed by the preschool parent board.
- The Mission Committee reported only one rent and two utility bills were subsidized in December.
- The local portion (25%) of the Peace and Global Witness Offering has been donated to the Groceries-4-Grout mission project.
- December 20, the electrical upgrade (was) completed preparing the way for replacement of the older oil furnace with a heat pump HVAC system for the Sanctuary and basement fellowship hall in January.
- The Properties Committee is responding to requests to upgrade security for the church building and grounds. Security cameras, lock systems, and lighting improvements designed to most effectively support and protect all of the building users are being considered.
- Oregon Environmental Protection Agency is promoting federal grant applications to improve security efforts for non-profit organization's buildings.
- Tri Phase Electrical has delivered the upgrade kits still needed to convert the fluorescent fixtures above the Sanctuary suspended ceiling to LED fixtures.
- The Nominating Committee is seeking a candidate/s for the position of Corporate President of KPC. Volunteers may contact Jonathan Jewel or Karl Berger.
- Pastor Susan requested, and Session and Presbytery COM-NE approved, a reduction from 60% to 50% (half-time) job description for her 2025 Covenant extension. In addition she will have relief from one Sunday's preaching responsibility each month.
- Session and Presbytery COM-NE also approved Pastor Susan's nomination of Rev. David Jewel to serve as KPC Parish Associate for 2025. Rev. Jewel will provide emergency pastoral care at Pastor Susan's request and he will lead Worship services six Sundays in 2025 beginning January 19 when Pastor Susan is away for continuing education.
- Rick will be seeking volunteers to preach at least five other Sundays in 2025, parishioners are encouraged to volunteer. Sunday, February 23 will be the first opportunity. The common lectionary includes Genesis 45: Joseph forgives his brothers because they were carrying out God's plan to sell him into slavery, and Luke 6:27-38: Love your enemies...love your neighbor as yourself. Assistance is available if you're inspired to present the morning message.
- Presbyterian Women of Kenilworth will lead Worship for the Gifts of Women Sunday in March.
- Bright Sunday will be celebrated April 27, 2025.
- Session approved Katie Essick's request to transfer her membership to Westminster Presbyterian of Portland.
- Session removed five inactive members from the KPC membership roll.
- The proposed narrative request for renewal of KPC's Earth Care Congregation certification for 2025 was approved by Session.
- The Annual meeting of the congregation of Kenilworth Presbyterian Church will be conducted following Worship February 16, 2025.
- Annual written reports of church activities in 2025 are due in the office **ASAP. Please!**
- A 2025 weekly Lenten Dinner Series is being planned for 2025 each Thursday evening beginning March 13 through April 10. The themes will come from the book *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms*.
- A special Ash Wednesday service will be held Wednesday evening March 5, and a special Communion service will be conducted Maundy Thursday evening, April 17.
- The next Session meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Sunday, January 12, 2024 in the fireplace room.

Rick Votrobeck, Clerk of Session



## BARB'S NOTE-ABLE NOTES

# The Four Purposes of Music in Worship



from the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida - the Bishop's Blog

Music serves some distinct purposes in our lives and especially within our Christian tradition. Here are four:

**1. Music teaches us the gospel.**

Hymns and spiritual songs take our faith and compact it. In fact, the melody and phrasing of the music makes our faith memorable. Before we hear a word of scripture read or preached in the service, we have already taken in page after page through our singing. Hymns and other forms of music instruct us in the Good News, touching our hearts as well as our minds.

**2. Music connects us to God in unique ways.**

The purpose of music goes beyond mere instruction, however. In many ways, it allows for a direct connection with God in ways sermons can't or don't. Singing allows a part of our hearts to speak to God in a way that doesn't happen as we hear the spoken word. Have you ever noticed? Something incredible happens when we sing. You can feel it when you sing alone, but most especially when you sing as part of a community, a congregation in worship. Something awakens not only in the heart of each person, but also in the collective heart of the body of Christ, connecting us to each other and to God in the deepest part of who we are. Singing as a part of Christian worship is so much more than mere mental exercise. God created us to communicate with the very depths of our spirit, and singing is a way we can accomplish this in a profound and meaningful way.

**3. Music allows us to express our love to God with our whole being.**

Scripture commands us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deuteronomy 6:5). This verse emphasizes the entire body, not through outward actions, but devotion and love. Singing is one of the ways in which we express our love towards God with our whole being. We engage every part of our being in worship to God. Worshiping through music changes and transforms us. It inclines our hearts to God in ways other forms can't accomplish. Worship strengthens us, convicts us, builds us up, and even restores us. In other words, when we sing and devote our whole selves to God, something godly happens within us.

**4. Music as worship fulfills God's command.**

Throughout scripture, we're commanded to sing. Within the Psalms (prayers set to music, the hymnal of the Old Testament) we read, "I...go around your altar, O Lord, proclaiming thanksgiving aloud," (Psalm 26:6-7 ESV); "Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!" (Psalm 93:5 ESV); "Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!" (Psalm 100:2 ESV).

God calls us to sing praise to the Lord and to sing in his presence. The New Testament affirms this call. Paul urged the Ephesians (and us) to "be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:18-20 ESV).



Has God used music in worship to touch your heart and life in a special way? I'd love to hear about it.

**Wishing all a Happy and Healthy 2025!**

Musically yours, Barbara Votrobeck





## GREEN TEAM REPORT

# Ten Ways You're Using Your Dishwasher All Wrong

Your dishwasher has one job: to transform a kitchen full of dirty plates, bowls, cups and utensils into racks full of sparkling clean dishes. But to get that result each time and over time, you need to make sure you are using your dishwasher correctly – and many of us don't. Our bad habits can inhibit a lot of the functions in our dishwasher.

To get your dishes clean and prolong the life of your appliance, avoid these common dishwasher mistakes.

1. **Failing to check the labels.** Make sure an item is dishwasher-safe before turning on the machine. These items should be handwashed: wooden items including utensils with wooden handles and cutting boards, stemware, knives and blades, and delicate glass items.
2. **Pre-rinsing:** Avoid the temptation to turn on the tap and run a scrub brush across your dishes before stacking them in the dishwasher. Although 75 percent of people admit to prerinsing their dishes, according to a 2020 survey from dishwasher detergent producer Finish, the practice can backfire. Your soap needs those little food bits and sauces to bind to. And skipping the prerinse doesn't just save time; rinsing the dishes before loading the dishwasher uses up to 20 gallons of water, according to Energy Star – and that's before you even power on the machine. Even if the food is caked on, using the "rinse" feature on the dishwasher uses far less water than running the dishes under the tap to soften and remove excess food.
3. **Skimping on the scrape.** However, you shouldn't skimp on scraping your dishes before loading the dishwasher. Scrape your dishes. Your dishwasher isn't a garbage disposal. Scraping the chunks of food left on your plate can prevent foods from clogging the dishwasher, leading to expensive repairs.
4. **Improper loading can interfere with cleaning.** Put silverware in the flatware baskets or racks; spatulas, serving spoons and other large utensils should be hand-washed, not laid in the top rack, according to Cornell. Water pressure will shift those items and, if the utensils fall, they can block the spray arm ... and if something's blocking that, you're only going to be washing a handful of dishes for the entire duration of the wash cycle.
5. **Overloading the appliance.** Don't treat your dishwasher like a Tetris game and try to stack and balance as many dishes as possible on the racks. Whenever you overload a dishwasher, the first thing you'll notice is that your dishes have a lot of soap scum or haze. It's because too many dishes prevent the dishes from getting enough water flow to fully rinse them off."
6. **Putting detergent in the wrong place.** Powder or liquid dishwasher detergent goes in the dispenser, but there has been some debate about where to place detergent pods, but the best advice is to dishwashing pods in the dispenser.
7. **Ignoring the filter.** Most people don't realize the dishwasher has a filter. It's under the bottom rack of the dishwasher, and it needs to be cleaned. Just pop it out, rinse any food debris and scrub it with a wire brush (no soap required) to remove calcification before replacing the filter.
8. **Washing dishes by hand.** Washing a sink full of dirty dishes isn't just a lot of work; it's bad for the environment. Using the dishwasher is often quicker and easier than handwashing dishes. As a bonus, dishwashing can help you save water and energy, making it a more eco-friendly choice. In fact, doing the dishes by hand uses up to 27 gallons of water compared to just three gallons with an ENERGY STAR-rated dishwasher. Over the lifetime of the appliance, handwashing costs \$3,200 more in energy and water use.
9. **Running it half-full.** It can take a while to dirty enough plates, bowls and utensils to fill the dishwasher, especially if you live alone. Rather than running a half load, wait until the machine is full. Regularly running half loads means you're running twice as many cycles than necessary, which will eventually wear out your dishwasher faster, and it can also waste water, making dishwashing less eco-friendly.
10. **Grouping utensils together,** separating forks, spoons and knives into their own baskets to make it easier to put them away when the cycle is complete—but dishwasher experts disagree. "You should mix up the utensils to prevent them from nesting. If they overlap with each other too much, it's harder for the water to get in and wash them properly.

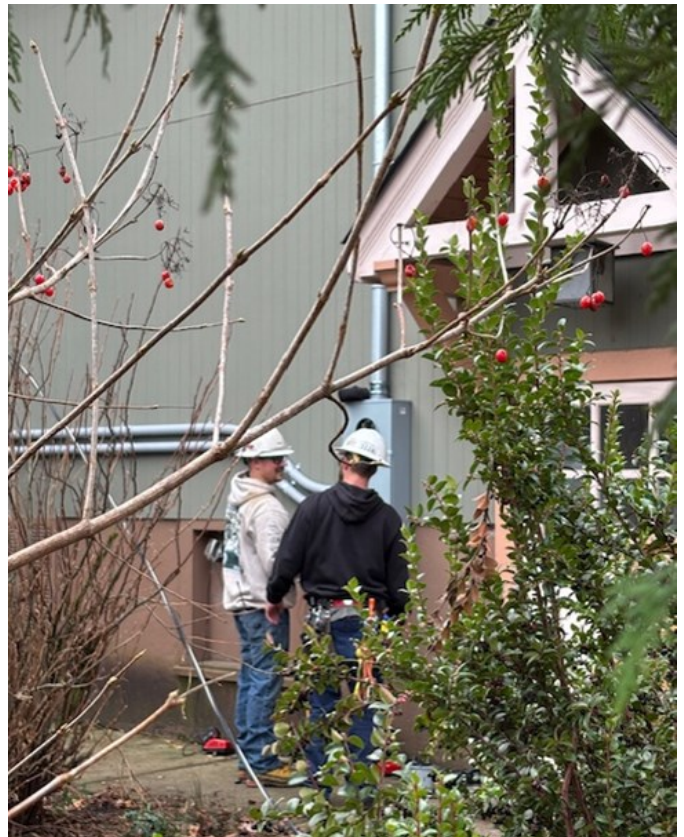
Extracted from an article by Jodi Helmer, for AARP, published November 25, 2024.



## Electrical and HVAC \* Status Update

\* Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, our electrical contractor (Red's Electric) working with Portland General Electric completed the swap-over to an upgraded electrical service for the church. This \$20,000 upgraded service increases the available electrical current from 200 amps to 320 amps and was paid for from general givings in savings. This upgraded service now feeds two new electrical service panels in the downstairs' utility rooms. The upgraded service and panels will allow for the installation of a planned 5 Ton heat pump expected in January of 2025 and will ready us for further electrical improvements in the future such as solar. Jonathan



PGE crew connecting the new meter base to the church.



PGE installing a larger transformer.



Red's Electric switching the electrical service from the old panel to the new ones.

## Christmas Eve Worship at Kenilworth



*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6*



Kenilworth Presbyterian Church  
4028 SE 34th Ave  
Portland, Oregon 97202  
503-235-3977

[kenilworthpc@gmail.com](mailto:kenilworthpc@gmail.com)

