



# Kenilworth @ Work! December 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*

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING November 30 - December 21



Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.

**WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**

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## SPECIAL DAYS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

- Sundays, Dec 7, 14, 21 Advent Worship led by Rev. Michaela Drummond
- Thursday, Dec 4 Threshold Brewing Benefit for Kenilworth Community Preschool 4 -9 pm
- Sunday, Dec 7 Caroling for our Homebound Friends 2:00 pm
- Saturday, Dec 13 Creston Kenilworth Neighborhood Dumpster Day
- Saturdays, Dec 13 and/or 20 Fort Kennedy Stocking Stuffing
- Sunday, Dec 14 Christmas at Kenilworth 3:00 pm
- Tuesday, Dec 16 Toastmasters International Speech Contest & Table Topics Contest 6 pm
- Wednesday, Dec 17 Souper Hot Topic 5:30 pm
- Saturday, Dec 20 KPW Bible Study & Meeting 10:00 am
- Sunday, Dec 21 KCP Cookie Exchange during fellowship time
- Wednesday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve Worship 7:30 pm



### Christmas Eve Worship

A Service of  
Nine Lessons  
and Carols

*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.*





# BARB'S NOTE-ABLE NOTES

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS

Advent is here and Christmas follows close on its heels. We will be busy.



\* December 7 at 2 pm we invite all to join us in caroling for our shut-in neighbors. We'll start at Reedwood Post Acute on SE Frances. Then we'll travel to Odd Fellows on SE Holgate to sing with Shirlee Ebert and Allison Williams. Those who have time can enjoy pizza afterwards.

\* December 14 is Christmas at Kenilworth at 3 pm. A special lunch will be held at our Fellowship Time. We look forward to hearing from KPC and Creston-Kenilworth Neighborhood musicians. We will all be singing favorite Christmas carols for the finale. Contact me if you have special music you'd like to perform.

\* December 24 is the culmination of our celebration. Christmas Eve worship will be at 7:30 pm. It will again be Nine Lessons and Carols.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy 2026. May we find Peace on Earth.

Musically yours, Barbara Votrobeck

### Support Kenilworth Community Preschool



**Threshold Brewing  
Fundraiser & Raffle**  
403 SE 79th Ave

**Thursday, December 4 4 - 9 pm**  
10% of sales donated to KCP.

### Hot Lips Pizza

**Pizza Party for a Cause**   
2211 SE Hawthorne St **PIZZA**

**Saturday, January 6 4 - 9 pm**  
15% of sales donated to KCP.



Thank you for your  
support of our  
November Wreath Sale.



**Dumpster Day, Sat, Dec 13**  
**KPC Parking Lot 10 am to 1 pm**

The CKNA will take anything except tires, construction debris (although wood from fencing would be fine), and liquid waste. Please support the CKNA by getting rid of your junk that day. **NO CHARGE.**

KPC Liaison to CKNA  
Barbara Votrobeck

### Calling Santa's Elves!, Saturdays, Dec 13 and/or 20

Fort Kennedy is looking for volunteers to help with stuffing stockings for veterans. They will have two dates Saturdays, December 13 and 20 starting at 10 am. Please let Nancy know if you are interested in going, Parking is limited so we will carpool.



**Sunday,  
December 7  
2 pm**

### Christmas at Kenilworth

Sunday, December 14 3 pm

You are invited to join the KPC community and Creston-Kenilworth neighbors for an afternoon of holiday music.



### December Birthdays

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 1 Thessalonians 1:1



You're invited to an evening of inspiration and impromptu speeches at Fortunate 500 Toastmasters.

### International Speech Contest & Table Topics Contest

Tuesday, December 16 6 pm KPC Fireside Room

Free for guests

You may attend this event in person or online:

<https://bit.ly/4ieaaK6>

### SOUPER HOT TOPIC:

Wednesday, Dec 17 5:30 pm



The topic for December is guaranteed to stimulate lots of discussion. It is something that is currently happening to all of us. Yes, ALL OF US. We are aging....getting older.

The question is "What is the best way to approach this aging process?" Or perhaps, "Is there something we should be doing now to help us age well?"

The discussion is based on an article from the Summer 2025 issue of the AARP magazine about two women with entirely different life perspectives that lived over 100 years each. A copy of the article is available in the Fireplace Room. Please sign up to let us know how much soup to make. Dinner is served at 5:30. The soup is Beef Barley Soup, accompanied by bread, salad and dessert. We adjourn to the fireplace for the discussion. Please join us for a lively discussion.

### Kenilworth Presbyterian Women Bible Study & Meeting,

Saturday, December 20



This year's Bible study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*, continues with Lesson 4: The

Prodigal Child, the Eldest Child and the Devoted Parent. The main idea is " God offers grace and love, not because of what we do, but because of who we are— beloved children of God." Becky will lead Lesson 4.

### KPC Cookie Exchange Sunday, December 21 during Fellowship Time



You are invited to bring 4-5 dozen cookies to exchange and taste.

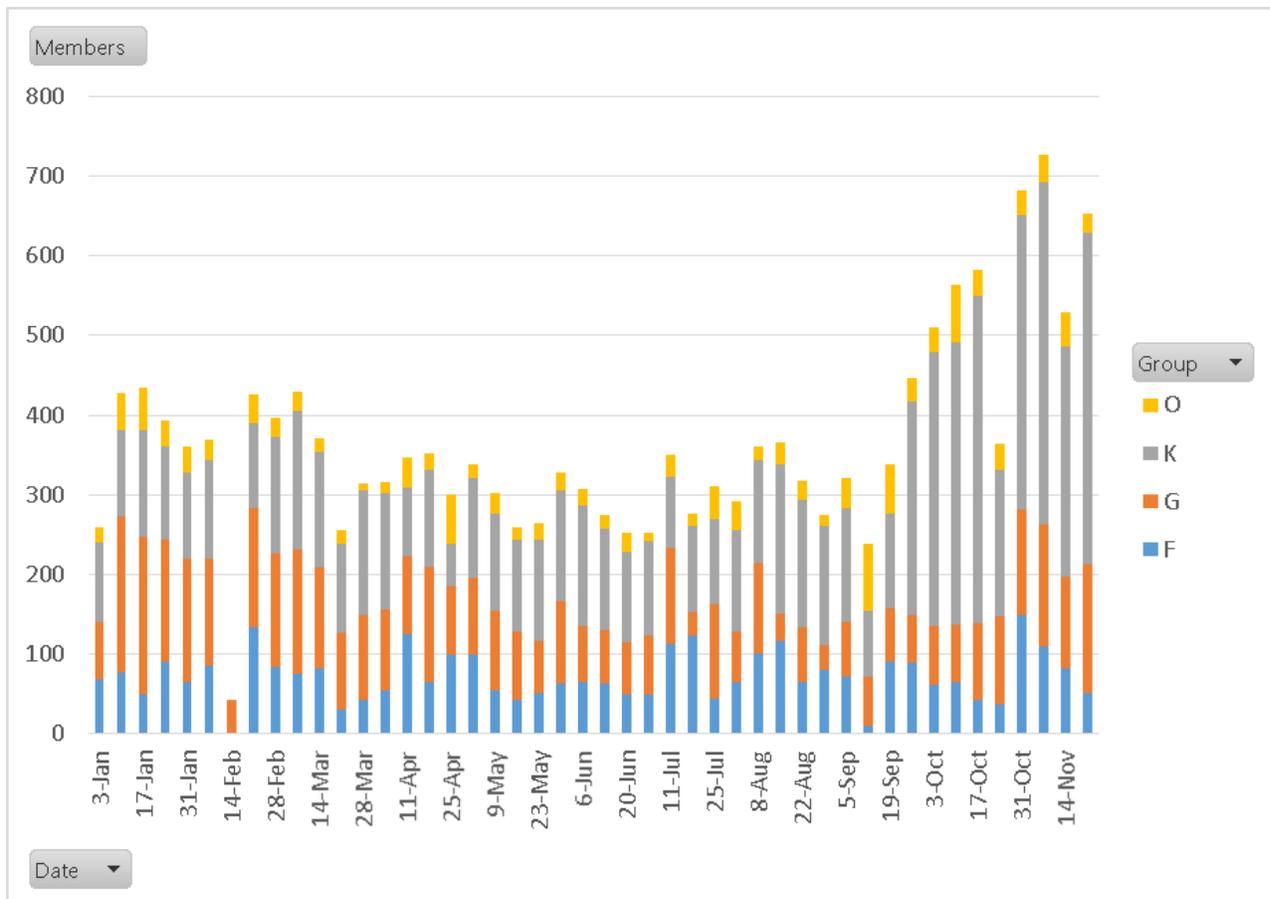


We made it through both the government shutdown and suspension of SNAP benefits. Now we wonder if and when the numbers will return to the prior average of about 300 family members. The wider community continues to respond with food & monetary donations, offers of volunteering and donations of produce to OFB. I am working with a volunteer to get a G4G website up and going so more information is available to the community online.

Early in November a group of the Friday-afternoon volunteers participated in our first Volunteer Symposium. The work on issues will continue over the next few months. Issues discussed included:

- Clients receiving more than one number for entrance
- Communication with non-English speakers, additional signage
- Equitable limitations on certain groceries so everyone is offered the same amount.
- Additional equipment like canopies with weights and posts & ropes to create assembly areas
- Closure of the entire parking lot to autos
- Extension of the pantry ‘hour’ to accommodate the increased number of clients

Laura Schaefer, director





## Session Highlights November 16, 2025



- Financial reports showed September expenses exceeded income by \$2,764. Most expenses were in line with budget projections, however the Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium was nearly double budget projections and budget projections for electricity were also too low. September mission expense was \$1,647.
- The second floor thermostat was re-energized, and the fire extinguishers have received their annual inspections. Clogged roof gutters have led to basement water encroachment twice this month.
- Creston/Kenilworth Neighborhood Association is sponsoring a Dumpster Day to be conducted in the KPC parking lot December 13, 2025.
- Christmas in Song will be held December 14, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. Talented performers should contact Barbara Votrobeck.
- The annual Session Records Review was completed by Clerks of our Presbytery's churches on October 29, 2025.
- Session authorized the continuation of English as a Second Language (ESOL) classes in the fireplace room in 2026.
- Properties Committee was asked to consider lighting solutions for our parking lot at night.
- Session approved a \$100 increase to the 2026 Partnership Giving Pledge to the Presbytery to \$1,200.
- 2026 Per Capita will remain at \$50/member. KPC's assessment for 24 members will be \$1,200.
- 2026 Red Cross Blood Drives will be conducted Feb 26, May 28, Sep 17, and Dec 3. The Red Cross Blood Drive scheduled for Dec 4, 2025 was canceled due to a clerical error in the Red Cross Office.
- The Welsh Society of Oregon will hold the annual Christmas Tea at KPC Dec 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Session authorized use of the Sanctuary for their music program.
- Weekly pulpit supply:
  - November 23 Rev. Michaela Drummond
  - November 30 - December 21  
An Advent Series by Rev. Michaela Drummond
  - December 24 Barbara Votrobeck
  - December 28 Rev. David Dornack



Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

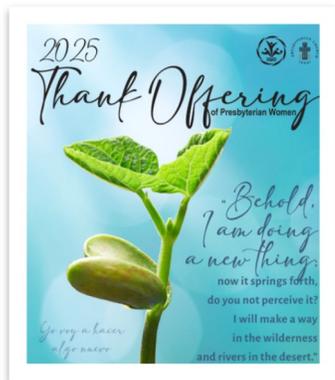
At prayer circle, there is always a story about what is happening around the country in Presbyterian churches, etc. This week's story ended with a prayer that we all thought was very meaningful and would like to share with the Kenilworth community.

"May God bless you with discomfort with anger at injustice, with tears to shed for those who mourn, and with just enough foolishness to believe you can make a difference in this world."

Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana



## Presbyterian Women 2025 Thank Offering



Kenilworth’s 2025 Thank Offering was dedicated on November 16. We are ecstatic to report we received \$580! This exceeds 2024 by \$22.94 making it our second highest offering. In 2022 we took in \$639.20.

We are very grateful to all who opened their hearts to this offering.

Recipients include:

- \* Hope Housing Collaborative in Centralia, Washington
  - \* Sleep in Heavenly Peace in Omaha, Nebraska
  - \* Buckhorn Children and Family Services in Campton, Kentucky
  - \* Lynchburg Daily Bread Safe, Healthy Food for All in Lynchburg, Virginia
  - \* St. Peter’s PC Church and Community Kitchen in Spencertown, New York
  - \* First Jamaica Community and Urban Development Corp. in Jamaica, New York
  - \* Lagniappe Ministries Leadership and Vocational Skills Lab in Sheridan, Wyoming
  - \* Roanoke Justice Ministries Leadership Development for Racial Equity in Lexington, Virginia
  - \* Community Garden Kitchen of Collin County Training Program for Foster Care Youth in McKinney, Texas
- Blessed be the generosity of KPC!



## GREEN TEAM NEWS How to Have a ‘Green’ Christmas: How to show extra care for the environment during the season of celebration.

Christmas doesn’t have to be a burden on the planet. With a little effort and imagination, we can reduce the environmental impact of the holiday season.

Here are some ideas to help celebrate the season while caring for the earth.

- Buy less: Some holiday gifts fill a practical need and need to be bought new. But many gifts are really gestures of thoughtfulness. You can give more while spending less.
- Simplify the ‘gift-go-round’: Draw names for gift giving or have a gift exchange. My very large extended family did a Yankee gift exchange. Everyone brought a wrapped gift. We drew numbers and opened gifts in that order. This exchange included stealing, and family collusions, and has been a family tradition for many years.
- Buy smart: think ‘green’: Look for locally made gifts. Check out Christmas Craft Fairs and the Saturday Market
- Choose gifts made from recycled sources
- Give ‘battery-free’ gifts: According to the EPA, about 40% of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Discarded batteries are an environmental hazard. Even rechargeable batteries find their way into the waste stream eventually.
- Avoid children’s toys that promote violence: Remember the theme of Christmas is “Peace on Earth.”
- ‘Re-gifting’ is okay: Re-gifting makes perfect sense. If you receive something you really don’t need, look for ways you can reuse this gift by passing it on to someone who can use it.
- Connect with nature: What a great time to start a family tradition of spending time in natural or time protecting and preserving nature for the future.



Have a very “Green” Christmas, 2025.

The Green Team, R. Jewel

Extracted from Earth Easy website:

<https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/how-to-have-a-green-christmas/>

**Good things can begin at Kenilworth**

More than three years ago, Kenilworth provided space for a special Afghan feast. Approximately \$7,000 was raised to help Afghan refugee Ahmad Jawed and his wife and six young children. They had fled Afghanistan and arrived in Portland in October 2021. They endured many hardships along the way, but are thankful to be in Portland.

Jump forward to September 2025, when Jawed realized his dream of having his own restaurant in Portland. The “Heart of Kabul” is located on Powell Blvd. at SE 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue.



In November, after reading several versions of the classic story, the KCP kids worked together to make Stone Soup.



Today our kiddos worked hard to chop veggies for our annual Stone Soup Day!



All November long we spend time reading different versions of Stone Soup



We also talk about the importance of taking care of our friends and the other people in our community.

**Stone Soup**

A traveler came, with naught to show,  
But a pot and a stone from long ago.  
Into the water, he put the stone,  
"A stone soup!" he said, his voice clear and low.

A woman came near, with a carrot so bright,  
"A carrot would make it a wonderful sight."  
A farmer brought chicken, a cook brought the bread,  
"It's a wonderful soup!" everyone said.

Each ingredient shared, a generous hand,  
A feast for the villagers, all through the land.  
They learned that together, a small seed they'd sown,  
Could grow to a banquet, more than they'd known.



All of the chopped veggies are cooked together in two big pots to feed all of our kiddos and their families.

Let me tell you, it smelt and tasted amazing.



We all gather together to eat our Stone Soup. And spend an hour in community with each other!



The Presbytery at its October meeting decided to write a letter about the current situation in Portland. The letter was sent to the mayor, the governor and other officials.



**Presbytery of the Cascades**

245 S Bancroft, Suite D  
Portland, OR 97239

October 28, 2025

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Presbytery of the Cascades, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), representing 80 Oregon congregations and seven in Southwest Washington adopted a resolution to communicate our support to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Oregon Governor, the Mayor and Chief of Police of Portland, in their request that the federal government not send National Guard troops to Portland.

The mobilization of the National Guard in Oregon is not required because Portland is not burning, nor is it unable to maintain order as its residents peacefully support those who are vulnerable, voiceless and refugees in our midst.

Oregon is home, not a military target. This is an abuse of power and a misuse of the military, which should not be taking over our communities. We join our voices with people across the state, across the political spectrum and from diverse faith communities in peacefully opposing this abuse of power.

We follow the example of Jesus, the one scripture teaches is committed to compassion, peacemaking, and nonviolence. Violence has no place in our politics or our communities. Any military takeover of any Oregon community violates our right to govern ourselves, interferes with local law enforcement's ability to fulfill their duties, and drains taxpayer resources that could be better spent elsewhere.

We pray for an America where people are safe in their neighborhoods, are free to speak their minds, and can live without fear of government retaliation, not one where our military is turned against our own communities.

In Christ's Peace,

The Reverend Paul Belz-Templeman  
Stated Clerk, Presbytery of the Cascades



## BASE YOUR WINTER ADVENTURE AT ZEPHYR POINT

Nestled on the shores of Lake Tahoe, our cozy, affordable cabins offer the perfect winter retreat – a place to rest, reconnect, and revel in God’s creation.

This season, choose a stay that warms both heart and soul – save on lodging, enjoy the beauty of Tahoe, and support a Presbyterian ministry that’s been welcoming guests for over a century.

With Heavenly Mountain (10 minutes), Diamond Peak (33 minutes), and Sierra-at-Tahoe (40 minutes) ski resorts all within close range – plus snowshoes available to hire from us directly for local hiking – you can max out on adventure by day, and enjoy the serenity of this sacred space by night.

Ski Tahoe and experience the Spirit of Zephyr Point:  
Practically placed. Perfectly peaceful. Proudly Presbyterian.

[ZEPHYRPOINT.ORG/CABINS](https://ZEPHYRPOINT.ORG/CABINS)

775-588-6759



Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center is a ministry of the PC(USA). Our facility, on the east shore of Lake Tahoe, includes two conference centers, youth summer camps, private cabin rentals, and experiential and educational programming throughout the year. We invite all to experience God through education, exploration, and inspiration.



“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.*

Presbyterian Church USA 2023

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