



# Kenilworth @ Work!

## January 2026



*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*



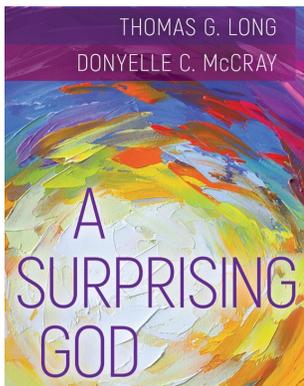
### BARB'S NOTE-ABLE NOTES



When reading our Advent devotions, we encountered a devotion I'm going to share with you here.

**WHEN WE SING** from [A Surprising God](#) by Thomas G. Long and Donyelle C. McCray

*Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 12:5-6*



Not long ago, I was doing some research and came across a recording of Henri Nouwen. I thought it contained a lecture but when I pressed Play, I was awed to hear him singing. There was something arresting about the purity of his voice. The song, "Ubi Caritas," seemed to come from the deepest part of his being - as if no one was there to hear the song but God. Only others were present. Before long, Henri was leading his audience in song. They sounded reluctant at first, but Henri kept coaching them, urging them to sing from the center of themselves. Even on the recording I could sense the energy shifting in the room as they sang. As their attention fastened on God, the sound became heavy and spacious and consuming. If Henri hadn't intervened to curb the song, I suspect the group could have sung for an hour or more.

Song is the soul's mother tongue and favored mode of expression. Somehow our convictions and longings surface and deep truths that hover at the edge of consciousness seep out. Usually only the simplest words are nimble enough to initiate this flow. The French mystic Madeleine Delbrel suggest that a spiritual unlocking takes place; music enchants us out of ourselves and enlivens us in the process. Whatever the mysterious workings, what is clear is that we are creatures of adoration. Song serves as a crucial way of knowing God and ourselves and a conduit for divine energy. Hidden dimensions of God's joy become available to us when we sing, and the Lord's presence feels more palpable.

When we've lost our way or feel pummeled by despair, the Spirit soothes us or even emboldens us through song. This happened so often for Bernice Johnson Reagon during the civil rights era that she described the protests in Albany, Georgia, as a "singing movement." Singing "This May Be the Last Time" steeled protestors before demonstrations and singing "We Shall Overcome" and "This Little Light of Mine" stirred them during marches and in the aftermath as they sat in hot jail cells. A fitting song would rise in one person's heart and soon the whole group would be borne up by its power.

Hildegard of Bingen goes so far as to say we never stop singing. She says our beating hearts and rhythmic breath form part of the musical score of creation. We raise a song with chirping birds and crashing waves and with stars that bellow like tubas in the dark. The universe rings with God's praise, "Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel." (Isa. 12:6)

Wishing all a Happy and Healthy 2026!

Musically yours, Barbara Votrobeck



## Kenilworth Presbyterian Women

### Bible Study & Meeting, Saturday, January 17 10:00 am



This year's Bible study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*, continues with Lesson 5: The Gift of the Woman Who Was Poor. The main idea is "Joy in Christ is more than happiness; it can change challenging circumstances into faith-filled, even joyous times." Carol will lead Lesson 5.



*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." Mark 12:41-44*

### SOUPER HOT TOPIC: Wednesday, January 21 5:30 pm

Recently, I shared an article about the benefits of singing for your health with the KPC choir members.. At our December Souper Hot Topic, Some of them thought it would make a great discussion for the January get-together.



The article points out the following benefits:

- f* Boosting the brain
- f* Improving heart rate and blood pressure
- f* Reducing pain
- f* Boosting immune function
- f* and many more

Please join us Wednesday, January 21 at 5:30 pm for soup, salad and dessert followed by a stimulating discussion. You will find the sign-up sheet for attendance and dinner contributions in the Fireplace Room. Here is a link to the article, or you can ask me for a copy. <https://tinyurl.com/ydbvceym>  
Barb Votrobeck

### Support Kenilworth Community Preschool



### Hot Lips Pizza

Pizza Party for a Cause  
2211 SE Hawthorne St  
Tues, January 6 4-9 pm



15% of sales donated to KCP.

Henry Higgins  
Bagels on Foster  
6420 SE Foster Rd



Mon, February 9 7 am - 3 pm  
15% of sales donated to KCP.

Thank you for your support.

**Bottle Drive**

Help Support the Kenilworth Co-Op Preschool!

How to Participate:

- Grab a Blue Bag & QR Sticker
- Fill with Empty Containers
- Drop at any BottleDrop Location

**BottleDrop Give**

Kenilworth Community Preschool

Thank you for supporting us with your donation!

[KenilworthCPS.org](https://KenilworthCPS.org)

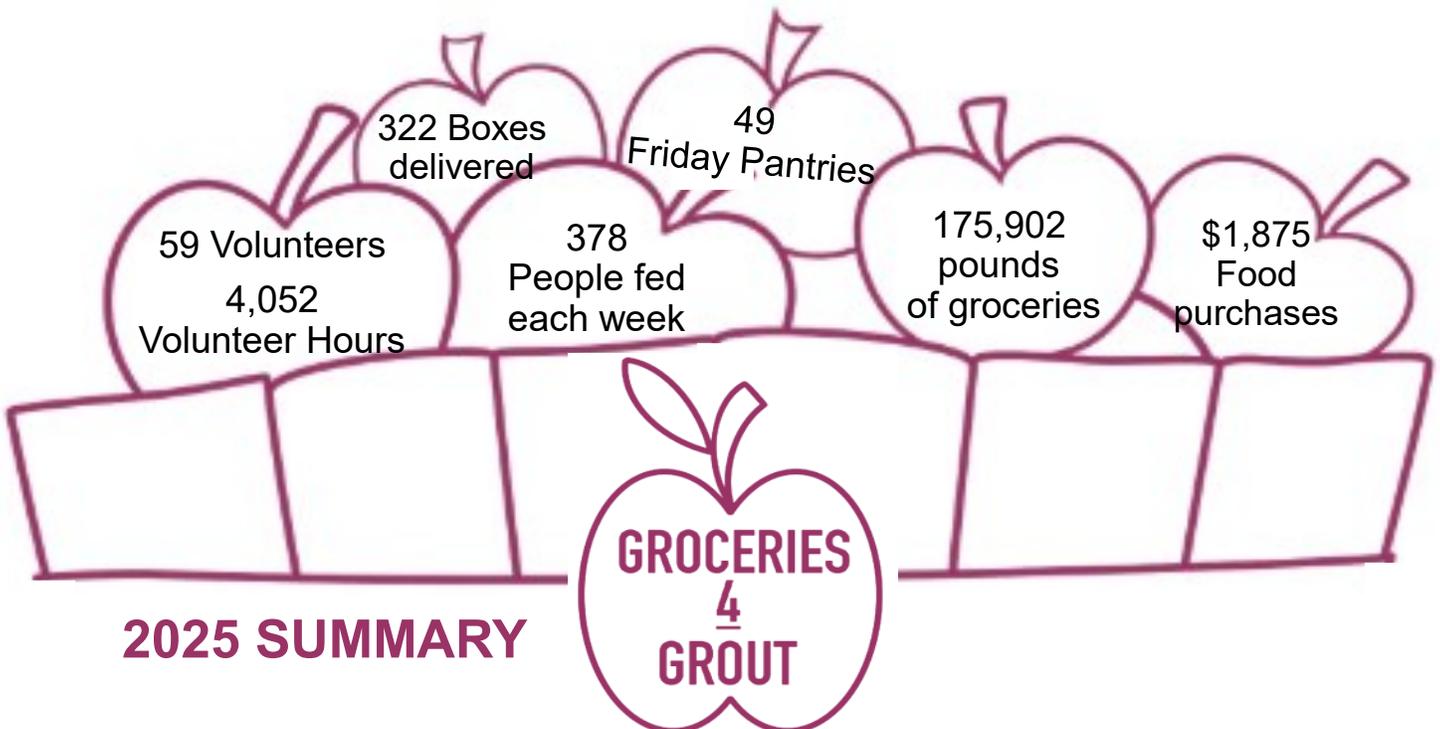


## Session Highlights December 21, 2025



- Financial reports showed November income exceeded expenses by \$2,548. Most expenses were in line with budget projections. As expected electricity will exceed budget projections, but heating oil expense is over \$1,200 under.
- Mission Committee requested \$1,000 of support for utilities expenses for one family.
- Properties committee transferred over 100 gallons of furnace heating oil from the underground tank to the temporary storage tank for heating the education wing. They estimate less than 15 gallons remains in the underground tank.
- Session approved purchase and DIY installation of a new door lock and a motion activated flood light for the north entrance.
- Session voted to approve the Preschool Board’s request to increase tuition expenses approximately 5% for 2026/2027. Enrollment fee will increase to \$445, and students attending twice a week will pay \$195/month. For three day/week attendance, monthly tuition will increase to \$285.
- Session agreed to offer a meeting space for a two-week Summer Art Camp.
- Beginning in January the fireplace room will be offered for a Brownies Girl Scout Troop to meet one or two Sunday afternoons each month.
- Paul Youngs and Edith Starling will complete their current terms as Ruling Elders at the Annual meeting, February 15, 2026. Paul and Edith are seeking nominees to fill those open positions for the next three years.
- The Session agreed to promote all of the PC(USA) special offerings in 2026.
- Rev. David Dornack has accepted a call to serve as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian of Portland. Rev. Suzan Ireland has been appointed to serve as Temporary Moderator for KPC beginning in January.
- The January Session meeting will be scheduled for January 18, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.
- Weekly pulpit supply:
 

December 28	Rev. David Dornack
January 4	Pastor Shela Sullivan
January 11	Rev. Tim Winslea
January 18	Pastor Shela Sullivan





**GREEN  
TEAM  
NEWS**



**Sustainable New Year Resolutions**

The start of a new year is a good time to reflect on the energy and intention that you'd like to bring into the new year. It's a great opportunity to take stock of your daily habits—and think about how you can be more sustainable over the next 12 months.

A word of advice? Keep it simple. Your resolutions don't need to be grand to be impactful. Just like a carefully planted tree, the seeds you sow today, with patience and consistency, can grow into something larger and more meaningful than you might imagine.

1. **Use Less Plastic:** From food packaging to everyday items, plastic is everywhere. Resolve to bring a reusable bag when you go shopping, carry a refillable water bottle, and be a more discerning consumer when it comes to the materials used to produce and package items.
2. **Eat Less Meat:** Industrial animal agriculture is a top cause of global deforestation. Besides its hefty environmental footprint, agricultural clearing cuts deep into wild places that were previously inaccessible. This leads to habitat loss, land conversion, loss of ecosystem services, and more. So give veggies a chance and get your animal products from a local farmer if you can.
3. **Walk More:** This year, consider walking, biking, or using public transit whenever you can. It's a great way to get some light exercise and gain a new perspective on your daily route. Think of it as a chance to help the environment and save money!
4. **Support Local Businesses:** Small businesses help power local economies and, by extension, the local governments that depend on the tax dollars they generate. So the next time you have a purchase to make, shop around locally first. You'll be putting food on a local family's table and reducing your own carbon footprint by not having items shipped from thousands of miles away.
5. **Minimize Waste in One Area of Your Home:** If going completely zero-waste feels overwhelming, try focusing on one part of your home, like the kitchen or bathroom. Reduce plastic, create DIY cleaning and body care products, and swap out single use products like plastic wrap and paper towels.

Extracted from a blog by Meaghan Weeden, December 18, 2025 on <https://onetreepanted.org>

**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!

<b>January Birthdays</b>		Camren Hudson	6	<i>"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"</i>
		Sharese Jewel	24	
		Robert Griffen	24	



## Presbyterian Special Offerings

For many years, the PC(USA), our denomination, promoted and collected four special offerings during the year. Perhaps the one you are most familiar with is the One Great Hour of Sharing, which is promoted during Lent. Each offering benefits a specific cause. The Presbyterian Church (USA) has decided to roll the Pentecost offering into the Joy Offering beginning in 2026.

Let's look at the three special offerings that will be promoted in 2026.



**The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** will be interpreted during Lent and received on Palm Sunday and/or Easter Sunday. The causes it supports include disaster; hunger; poverty; climate change; and immigration, migration and refugees.



**The World Communion Offering** will be interpreted beginning Labor Day weekend and received on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October. Interpretation will include a Season of Preparation, which seeks to cultivate forms of reconciliation encountered when Christ gathers all of God's people to the Table of Grace around the corner and around the world. Causes and distribution include grants issued to other councils of the Church reflecting the values of the World Communion Offering and causes described as reconciliatory, including racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.



**The Christmas Joy Offering** will be interpreted and received during Advent. It will support children-at-risk, youth and young adults, leadership development for people of color, Presbyterian-related Schools and Colleges Equipping Communities of Color, and servants of the church in need through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

Churchwide Special Offerings will be reviewed every six years, considering the Special Offerings' role as tools of engagement with lower councils of the Church and with recipient programs and ministries. It will also include the consideration of new or different Special Offerings purposes and structures.

In the past, the congregation kept a portion of what is donated to be used for local projects. Now, rather than retaining portions of special offerings, congregations and mid councils will apply for grants to support causes important to them. That could result in access to more funds for smaller congregations and mid councils.

These offerings are an opportunity for us to support the mission of our church beyond our local area. When the time comes, we hope that you will be prayerful and generous. Thank you.

## Stuffing Backpacks and Stockings at Fort Kennedy in December

Kenilworth Presbyterian Women (KPW) volunteers Carol, Edith and Nancy helped Fort Kennedy stuff backpacks and stockings on December 13. We also delivered 6 cases of canned goods from our food drive plus a donation from G4G pantry. We were able to stuff twelve backpacks and Christmas stockings for the homeless veterans in our community.

One of the volunteers helping out was an addiction counselor who works with the homeless at Central City Concern (CCC). She mentioned that socks would be so helpful for the men & women who come to her office. So the KPW women decided to have a sock drive starting in January to donate to the CCC office. The drive will be called "Stock Pot for Socks" and a stock pot will be located in the narthex if you would like to donate socks for those in need. Nancy



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## Fellowship of the Least Coin



At every meeting of Kenilworth Presbyterian Women (PW), the tinkling sound of coins dropping into a small, metal, globe-shaped bank can be heard. The coins are being donated to the Least Coin Offering. At the December PW meeting, the donations to this offering were dedicated.

So what is The Fellowship of the Least Coin? FLC was created in 1956 when Shanti Solomon envisioned a prayer movement that would be global, ecumenical, accessible and rooted in the pursuit of wholeness for all people.

Women around the world were encouraged to prayerfully donate the smallest coin of their country. When these coins are joined together, they can do wonderful things.

In 2024, FLC issued \$52,000 in block grants, \$48,000 in project grants, \$3000 in scholarships, and \$8000 in emergency grants. These grants mobilize and empower women around the world.

- \* Support for widows in Kenya and Camaroon and women in church leadership
- \* Human rights of girls and women in Japan and the Philippines
- \* Shelter for Ukrainian refugees in Europe
- \* Sewing for immigrant women in the United States
- \* Healthy food for indigenous children in Canada



The KPC PW are generous and often donate nickels, dimes and quarters, as well as pennies. In 2025, we donated \$31.00 to FLC and \$241.60 since 2020. Thank you PW.

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

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

