

Kenilworth at Work!

September 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

A Message From Pastor Jenni



What a treat it is to be your pastor and to be preaching again! I hope you enjoy engaging with Scripture as much as I do.

For those who love putting up Christmas decorations early, you'll enjoy our sermon series this fall and through Advent. We'll be using the lectionary, but we'll be looking at the (mostly Old Testament) passages through the lens of "God With Us." For Christmas enthusiasts, we'll use the word "*Emmanuel*."

As I mentioned in last Sunday's sermon, I'm currently reading N.T. Wright's book *God's Homecoming*. In it, Wright traces the experience of God being with us through all of Scripture, and highlights the ways we experience him.

This coming Sunday, I'll be preaching from Exodus 12:1-14. The sermon is titled "God With Us: The First Passover." I hope to see you there!



**You are invited to join the Kenilworth crew
at KPC's annual church picnic.
Sunday, September 20 on the labyrinth 11:30 am**

Burgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share.



BARB'S NOTE-ABLE NOTES



THANK YOU to those who shared their musical talents with us this summer. Our offertories were enhanced by soloists Jerry Fairbanks - Bass, Rick Votrobeck - tenor, Barbara Votrobeck - Alto, and Paul Youngs - Flute. Because of summer vacation schedules, not as many were scheduled. However, my plan is to have solos and small ensembles once a month, if possible, throughout the regular year.

On a personal note, I had a musically fulfilling experience at the Mu Phi Epsilon (professional music fraternity) International Convention in Fort Wayne, IN. I heard wonderfully talented musicians compete for the opportunity to tour and win scholarships and many other concerts and recitals. I also sang in the Mu Phi Choir that performed as the finale for the convention.

Some of you know that I play in the East Metro Community Music Assc. Concert band. We have also started a brass ensemble that rehearses every two weeks, sometimes in the KPC sanctuary. In return, they are planning to play during a worship service this fall.

WELCOME BACK KPC CHANCEL CHOIR! They will begin providing music for Sunday worship on September 6 and begin rehearsals following Fellowship the same day. I'm excited to collaborate with Pastor Jenni on bringing cohesiveness to the service through the music and message.

Musically yours, Barb Votrobeck



American Red Cross Blood Drive at Kenilworth Thursday, September 17 12:30 to 5:30 pm

Help save lives by securing your blood donation appointment. Making and keeping donation appointments helps maintain a strong blood supply for anyone who may need a transfusion. Spark joy for patients in need by giving blood. To schedule your appointment, visit redcrossblood.org Sponsor Code: Kenilworth

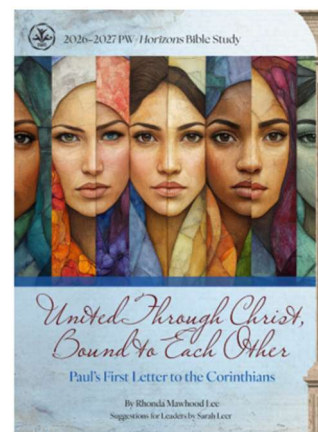
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN 2026-27: United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other Meeting and Bible Study, Saturday, September 19 10:00 am

The Presbyterian Women of KPC will have their first meeting of the 2026-27 season September 19 at 10 am. We will make plans for our mission(s) for the upcoming nine months and initiate our new Bible study on Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. We will ponder the following questions:

1. How can our lives demonstrate our trust in Jesus Christ's victory over death?
2. What do we do when different understandings of the gospel undermine church unity?
3. How can Christians understand gender and sexuality?
4. When conflict arises, how do we deal with it?

The Bible study books are here and have been distributed to those who responded to the email invitation. There is still time to order more, so I encourage all women to join us.

Barbara Votrobeck - KPC PW Co-Moderator



Hot Topic: Wednesday, September 23 5:30 pm

After a hot summer, it is time to gather for some hot food and hot discussion.

The topic this month will be "Vacations." The article to read is a graphic comic that was collected from the Oregonian newspaper over a 3-week span. The discussion revolves around where one might go if they could go anywhere for a weekend, a week, a month or a year. The discussion questions are included with the graphic article so that you can ponder your answers in preparation for the discussion.

The menu this time will be turkey, gravy and mashed potatoes. A sign-up sheet is available in the Fireplace Room. Please sign up to attend and to help fill out the menu for the evening.

KPC Men Looking Forward to Retreat, October 11-13

The men of KPC are invited to gather for a time of fellowship at the vacation home of Rev. David and Rebecca Jewel, located just north of Manzanita, Oregon. The basic plan is for attendees to leave after church on Sunday, October 11, carpooling to the coast. Some may return Monday evening, and others Tuesday morning or mid-day. There is no agenda other than to have some time away and time together. The place sleeps about 8-10 people. Most beds are on the lower level in a dorm like setting. A Sign-up sheet will be in the Fireplace room beginning in September. On it please provide your name and note if you can drive or need a ride.





Session Highlights August 23, 2026



- The Wells Fargo branch bank off Powell on Cesar Chavez will close permanently September 23, 2026. Our corporate officers have opened new accounts at OnPoint Credit Union and the process of closing the KPC Wells Fargo accounts is proceeding.
- Session voted to approve application for an OnPoint Business Credit Card for church use.
- Preschool fall enrollment is currently 10. There is still time for more to apply.
- The Summer Art Camps led by Ms. Serene Greene were a successful new venture for KPC and our community.
- Session suggested Saturday, November 14, 2026 at 2:00 pm as a possible time to schedule Allison Zimmerman's and Marie Wachlin's Patriotic Concert & sing-along at KPC.
- Session received a first draft policy proposal for systematically moving YouTube recordings from the public domain to our private archive. Most worship service recordings would be archived after 6 months with special consideration for recordings of special events.
- Session approved reimbursement of the registration fees for five representatives from KPC planning to attend the Covenant Conversations gathering Saturday, August 29, 2026.
- Pastor Jenni and Rick will register for the September 15 introductory meeting to learn more about the Congregational Cohort: A 9-month guided study dealing with planning for the Christian church's future in our communities in conjunction with the ELCA Lutheran Synod, the United Methodist Conference, and the Conference of the United Church of Christ.
- ABC English classes will resume in the fireplace room Tuesday, September 15 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. The fall term of weekly classes will conclude December 15, 2026
- The weekly Girl Scouts meetings will resume at 1:30 pm on Sunday afternoons except when Session meetings are scheduled in the fireplace room.
- Session approved use of the basement fellowship hall, Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:15 for a newly established Women's Narcotics Anonymous group.
- Karl Berger was newly elected Commissioner to Presbytery for the Special Online Presbytery Meeting August 25, 2026. Rebecca Jewel and Pastor Jenni also serve as KPC Commissioners to Presbytery.
- The next Red Cross Blood Drive at KPC is scheduled on September 17, 2026.
- The annual church picnic is scheduled September 20 following worship, on the labyrinth.
- Choir practice will follow the picnic September 20, and then the regular Session meeting will convene at approximately 1:30 pm.

September Birthdays

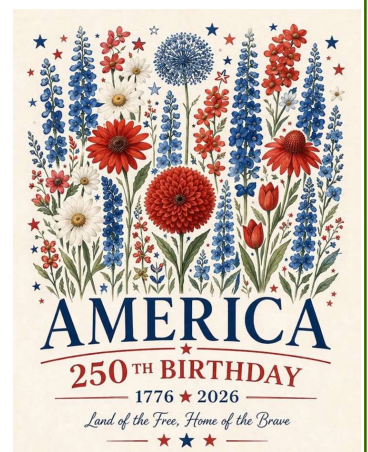


Myles Broberg	13
Laura Schaefer	14
Eve Ramsey	19
Allison Williams	29

Patriotic Concert & Sing-along Saturday, November 14 2:00 pm

You are invited to a celebration of 250 years of United States history with a concert of patriotic piano-organ duets & sing-alongs.

The program includes patriotic favorites like Sousa's "Stars & Stripes," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "America, the Beautiful." We will also recognize those who have served our country in the military, as the service songs are played.



A MESSAGE FROM SESSION



Session member, Karl Berger writes: The beginning of my time at KPC began about 1997. I was just finishing working 7 days a week at a painting job and attending a church of a fellow worker there. Indeed, to again satisfy my journey, another adventure led me to Scientology, Hinduism, Muslim, Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Jewish, Catholic (baptized) and Pentecostal religions. I also worked on a TV relay station of a televised 24 hour church program.

I walked to KPC one Sunday morning from my apartment. That's what started my Presbyterian denomination experience. I was introduced to Reverend Maling and I was here for a few years, before I left for California. I did not return to PCUSA until 2006 in Eureka, CA. I was a member there for a year before returning to Portland when Pastor Hodges was leading the congregation. There were big gaps at times throughout my religious experience when I attended A.A. meetings.

The people have changed at KPC over the years but I wound up here again. Hopefully, until I die. I have settled down and live nearby on Holgate Blvd at Kenilworth Park Plaza apartments. Small miracles are happening in my life over the last 30 years and the biggest all have centered around KPC.

I was absent during the covid years while my wife Dorie was bedridden and eventually passed away in 2022. Having a church family during that time helped me cross that bridge and the passing away of my grandson, Little Dave. I was able to take a grief counseling class from Pastor Susan from Mt. Scott Presbyterian church to get me help.

Fast forward to 2019 has been my relationship with Pastor Jewel and Pastor Susan. I have learned more from them and eventually became an elder. The church has used my services for Groceries for Grout and I still put in some painting and maintenance skills to work around the building.

I get alot of satisfaction being a member of KPC. I have a close friend, Louise Langley, who attends, too. The connection between getting spiritual growth and growing personally has become a reality.



A little clean-up was needed for the labyrinth in front of the church. The weeds had taken over so thank you to Tammy for the loan of the pressure washer. Thank you for the group effort of Paul & Nancy running the washer. Also, thank you to Zulmay who sprayed the weeds that came back barely a week after they were removed.

Did you know that when you need a tree pruned, you should call a beekeeper?

Recently, the apple tree in the garden behind the church went way beyond norm to produce a bumper crop of knobby apples...so many, in fact, that several tree limbs gave into gravity and cracked. Something had to be done. Rick and Alan decided to tackle the problem with Alan's pole saw and some Yankee ingenuity. The situation was challenging, primarily due to a nest of ground bees living near the base of the tree. Alan solved the problem with his beekeeper suit. And the tree was trimmed.





GREEN TEAM REPORT



Hints for Reducing Plastic Usage

Some of these hints are taken from a Hints from Heloise column, Tuesday, August 18, 2026 in the Oregonian. They are worth repeating.

When freezing items, the bags in your cereal or cracker boxes are plastic, and they are thick, resilient and perfect for freezing. Use them to freeze baked goods, meat, etc. Close them with twist ties or masking tape and label them appropriately.

Bring the thin plastic bags for produce back to the store and reuse them. Wash if soiled before reuse. Better yet, make simple bags from old T-shirts or other fabric scraps.

Nuts and many other bakery items come in zip-close plastic bags. Wash and reuse these for lunches and sandwiches.

Save clean jam or small glass jars for small or wet items like grapes, salad or peeled fruit.

Most wastebaskets like the ones in an office or living room don't need plastic bag liners as they aren't used for wet items. For bathrooms or the kitchen, you can use bags that pet food comes in, paper grocery bags that are lined with folded-up newspaper, or bags that come from deliveries and online shopping products. You can cover air holes with masking tape.

For storing food in the refrigerator, try cloth bags, or beeswax cloth to cover open containers. Or top that open dish with a plate.

Save a variety of glass jars for storing things in both the refrigerator or the pantry. Cut the label from the package and tape to the jar. Cut cooking instructions and place inside the jar...just in case you need a reminder.

Are you in need of a reusable grocery bag? Cut the sleeves off an old T-shirt and enlarge the neck opening. Sew the bottom shut. The arm and neck holes become the handles.

Any other great ideas? Share with the Green Team

What Happened at the 227th General Assembly in Milwaukee?

The 227th General Assembly of the PCUSA was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin early this summer. Here are some of the things that happened at that meeting:

- The theme, "Persevering toward Wholeness," moved through the gathering as Commissioners and advisory delegates worshiped, deliberated, prayed, discerned, voted, wrestled with difficult questions, elected new Moderators, and acted on matters that will shape the church's life and witness in the years ahead.
- The new Moderators, the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and the Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer, were elected on the first ballot.
- The Commissioners passed a resolution directing the Moderators to appoint a commission of seven members to review decision-making processes that resulted in the elimination of World Mission and the termination of all appointed mission co-workers.
- The meeting was kicked off with "Healing Not Harm: A Walk to End Gun Violence," a community wide event involving Assembly participants, local Presbyterians, survivors and advocates for prayer and education. There was also a screening of a new documentary on gun violence that is still in production.
- The Commissioners approved 26 proposed amendments to the Book of Order. Most of the amendments seek to reduce the risk of abuse from those in leadership positions in the church. These proposed amendments will be sent to the Presbyteries for approval. Presbyteries have one year to approve. The amendment passes once a majority of Presbyteries have approved the amendment.
- The next GA will be held in Puerto Rico in 2028. It will be the first time the General Assembly has met outside the continental US. The Caribbean island is home to one Synod, three Presbyteries and about 75 PCUSA churches.





Labor Day offers a quiet moment to thank God for our daily work and embrace the gift of rest.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." – Matthew 11:28

We spend most of our year striving, building, and checking off lists. Work is good; God designed our hands to create, serve, and provide. Jesus spent years working with his hands as a carpenter and knows what it feels like to come home tired at the end of a long day. Yet, we often fall into the trap of believing our worth comes only from our output. We tie our identity to our productivity.

Labor Day is a reminder to pause. God does not love us because of our endless tasks or busy schedules. God loves us simply because we are God's creation. Today, let your hands be still. Let your mind let go of the next deadline. Breathe in God's grace, and let the Creator of the universe remind you that you are a beloved child long before you are a worker.

A Prayer for Labor Day: Lord, thank You for the strength to work and the privilege to serve. Today, we rest our tired hands. Remind us that our value does not come from what we accomplish, but from Your great love for us. Heal our weariness, calm our anxious thoughts, and refresh our souls for the days ahead. Amen.

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

kenilworthpc@gmail.com

