



KIRKLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 W South St, PO Box 347, Kirkland, IL 60146-0347

www.kirklandumc.org Phone:815-522-3546

December 2025

Happenings



Pastor's Corner

ADVENT SERIES

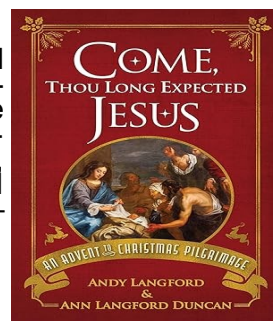


Our Advent Series, Joy to the World: Heaven and Nature Sing, is a worship and series that uses the hymn "Joy to the World" as its central theme to explore the meaning of the Advent season. You are invited to join us this Advent Season as we focus on how the incarnation of Jesus brings Joy and a sense of praise throughout all creation, inspired by the hymn's lyrics. You can join us each Sunday at 10 am, in person, or online via Facebook live or Zoom.

ADVENT CLASS

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" is a grace-based Advent Study. The authors invite you on an Advent-to-Christmas pilgrimage to draw closer to Jesus and to invite others to join you on the journey. Traditional Scripture readings and acts of worship reveal anew the treasures of God's grace for all people. As we travel this pilgrim road, we will encounter stories and lessons from: the prophets Isaiah, John the Baptist, and John of Patmos; the first disciples Mary and Mary Magdalene; the first witnesses—angels, shepherds, Simeon, and Anna—and grace born in Bethlehem.

See page 8 of the newsletter for more information on the class



Christmas in Kirkland KUMC Events

Saturday, December 13

Kirkland United Methodist Church | 300 W South Street| Kirkland



COOKIE EXTRAVAGANZA

WHEN: Saturday, December 13 from 1 to 5 pm

WANT TO HELP OR NEED INFO: Contact Connie Worden 815-721-1605



LIVE NATIVITY

WHEN: Saturday, December 13 from 4 to 6 pm

WHERE: Franklin Township Park
Corner of 3rd and South Streets, Kirkland

WANT TO HELP OR NEED INFO: Contact Eric Mede

**SEE PAGE 7 OF THE
NEWSLETTER FOR
MORE DETAILED
INFORMATION
ON THESE EVENTS**



CRAFT VENDORS

WHEN: Saturday, December 13 from 1 to 7 pm

WANT TO HELP OR NEED INFO: Contact Diane Parrish

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

All are invited to join us for our Christmas Eve service,
Wednesday, December 24th at 7 pm.
300 W South St, Kirkland
Service will be available in person,
and online via Facebook live and Zoom



December



Liturgists

7 Bret Collins
14 Jack Myers
21 Eric Mede
24 TBD
28 Lori Finkle

Children's Time

7 Pastor Dee Mede
14 Pastor Dee Mede
21 Marian Collins
28 Lyn Exner

Audio Visual

7 Clare Hay
14 Bret Collins
21 Lyndsay Myers
24 TBD
28 Bret Collins

Greeters

7 Brian & Lora Stevens
14 The Furlough Family
21 Larry & Connie Worden
24 TBD
28 Ruth Aves & Lyn Exner

Ushers

Sally Bruch & Eric Mede

Birthdays

December

5 — Holly Way
21 — Jack Myers

Trustee's Corner

The trustees will set up the Nativity scene in Franklin Park after Thanksgiving to be displayed during the Christmas in Kirkland event on Dec. 13.

Come by and say hello, our nativity will be up and running from 4—6 pm



December Calendar

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Dec 1 | AA | 8:00 pm | Basement |
| Dec 2 | Food Pantry/Clothing Closet | 12 to 2 pm | First Lutheran Church |
| Dec 3 | Advent Class | 6 to 7:30 p | Basement & Zoom |
| Dec 4 | Ad Council Meeting | 7:00 pm | Meeting Room |
| Dec 7 | 2nd Sunday of Advent Worship | 10:00 am | In Person, FB Live & Zoom |
| Dec 8 | AA | 8:00 pm | Basement |
| Dec 9 | Food Pantry/Clothing Closet | 12 to 2 pm | First Lutheran Church |
| | Knitting | 12 to 2 pm | Basement |
| Dec 10 | Advent Class | 6 to 7:30 p | Basement & Zoom |
| Dec 13 | Cookie Extravaganza | 1 to 5 pm | Basement |
| | Live Nativity | 4 to 6 pm | Franklin Township Park |
| Dec 14 | 3rd Sunday of Advent Worship | 10:00 am | In Person, FB Live & Zoom |
| Dec 15 | AA | 8:00 pm | Basement |
| Dec 16 | Food Pantry/Clothing Closet | 12 to 2 pm | First Lutheran Church |
| Dec 17 | Advent Class | 6 to 7:30 p | Basement & Zoom |
| Dec 21 | 4th Sunday in Advent Worship | 10:00 am | In Person, FB Live, & Zoom |
| Dec 22 | AA | 8:00 pm | Basement |
| Dec 23 | Food pantry/Clothing Closet | 12 to 2 pm | First Lutheran Church |
| | Knitting Ministry | 12 to 2 pm | Basement |
| Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Service | 7:00 pm | In Person, FB Live & Zoom |
| Dec 25 | Christmas Day | All Day | Office Closed |
| Dec 28 | Worship | 10:00 am | In Person, FB Live, Zoom |
| Dec 29 | AA | 8:00 pm | Basement |
| Dec 30 | Food Pantry/ Clothing Closet | 12 to 2 pm | 1st Lutheran Church |
| Dec 31 | New Years Eve | All Day | |

**Pastor Dee will be on vacation December 25—January 7.
The office will still be open during normal business hours
Tues—Fri 9 am to 12 pm**

Church Leadership

Ad. Council Chair

Diane Parrish

Finance Chair

TBD

Secretary

Clare Hay

Treasurer

Lori Finkle

Financial Secretary

Clare Hay

Men's Ministry President

Bret Collins

Women's Society Co-Presidents

Vicki Maveus

Clare Hay

SPRC Chair

Bret Collins

Trustee Chair

Peter Bramm

Worship Chair

Larry Worden

Education Chair

Peter Bramm

Lay Leader

Food Pantry and Clothing Closet
First Lutheran Church
510 South Street, Kirkland IL 60146
815-522-3886

Tuesday's 12-2 pm

If special help is required, please call
815-978-2147.

Food Pantry Report for the 4 week month of
October
144 Households Served
566 Persons served, 180 were Children

Have something you'd like to add to January's Newsletter? It can be news you have to give, or maybe there's something you'd like to know more about... email the church office and we'll work on getting it added.

Deadline for submissions is
Friday, December 19



We are worshipping in person, and online via Facebook Live & Zoom, Sundays @ 10am. Please contact Pastor Dee for the zoom link, 224-805-9513



Mission Sunday:
December 14

Local Mission:

Jubilee Center

Broad Mission:

Saturday's Kids Club of Centennial
 #60000201

Worship In December

| DATE | SERMON | SCRIPTURE |
|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| 7th Communion Sunday | JOY TO THE WORLD HEAVEN AND NATURE SING 2nd Sunday of Advent "Repeat the Sounding Joy: Loving Joy" | Matthew 3: 1-11 CEB |
| 14th | JOY TO THE WORLD HEAVEN AND NATURE SING 3rd Sunday of Advent "Make the Blessing Known: Unabashed Joy" | Luke 1: 46b-55 NLT |
| 21st | JOY TO THE WORLD HEAVEN AND NATURE SING 4th Sunday of Advent "Make the Nations Prove: Peaceful Joy" | Matthew 1: 18-25 NLT |
| 24th | JOY TO THE WORLD HEAVEN AND NATURE SING Christmas Eve "The Lord Has Come: Living Joy" | Luke 2: 1-20 NLT |
| 30th | JOY TO THE WORLD HEAVEN AND NATURE SING 1st Sunday of Christmas "Wonders of His Love" | Matthew 2: 13-23 CEB |

TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat was a huge success! We welcomed well over 200 children, along with their parents, friends, and pets. Eric Mede encouraged participation from community members, local businesses, and first responders. We had over 30 stations, including trunks, mini-tractors, large construction trucks, antique cars, golf carts, fire department vehicles, and police cars. We also had a calf and costumed goats, sheep, and dogs. Eric and I want to thank his volunteers—Peter Bramm, Brian Stevens, and Weston Bramm—who helped organize, set up, and take down the event. We appreciate everyone who volunteered at the stations and all who supported the distribution of 200 gift bags by Kirkland UMC.





Kirkland Food Pantry Annual Thanksgiving Dinners



On Monday November 17, 2025, 102 Thanksgiving dinners were delivered from the Northern Illinois Food Bank. The holiday meal included a 10 to 16 lb. Whole Frozen Turkey or 4-6 lb turkey Breast, a box of fixings, a 5-pound bag of potatoes and a can of sweet potatoes (thanks to the generous folks at the Red Brick Inn). On that Monday, 81 of those dinners were distributed in a "Turkey Drive Thru". Thank you to the volunteers who loaded the cars and a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who donated money that allowed us to purchase the meals.

If you or someone you know needs assistance providing food for their household, the pantry is open every Tuesday from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. We can help at other times if there is an emergency need for food, call 815-978-2147.



THANK YOU to everyone who donated Lip Balm in October! There were 406 tubes of lip balm! They were very much appreciated by the families who received them!



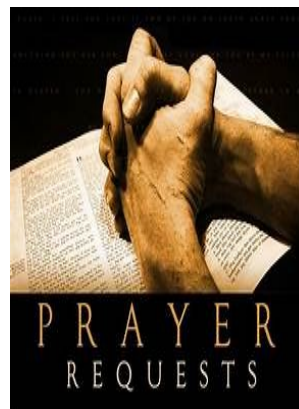
During the month of December, we are taking a break from Item of the Month collections for the pantry. Please support the Fire Department Christmas collections.

Donating with the PayPal Giving Fund

When you donate to the church using the PayPal Giving Fund, PayPal does not withhold any fees from your donation.

It's a great option to ensure that we receive your entire donation.

*However, unless you **check the box next to** "Share my name and email with this charity." PayPal does not tell us who made the donation. Please **always check that box** so that we can acknowledge your gift and say thank you!*



•Ed Davis
•Alicia Ross
•Jessica Yeager Stark
•The Family of Kristin Butz



The Kirkland United Methodist Women's Society

Look for updates in a future issue



Methodist Men

Meet every
3rd Saturday
@ KFR.

~ SAVE THE DATES! ~

Advent Class Online — December 3 — 17

It's Time to sign up for the Advent Study "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus." A roadmap for pilgrims seeking Jesus. Books are \$13.00 and should be here soon. Kindle books are available on Amazon. Class begins Wednesday, Nov. 26, 6-7:30 PM, in-person and/or on Zoom. Due to a generous donation, we can now do hybrid classes.

Cookie Extravaganza and Live Nativity—Saturday December

See the next page for full details.

HELP WANTED

We are blessed to hold Christmas Eve Service, Wednesday, December 24, at 7 PM. We need volunteers to help make this service a truly welcoming and wonderful event. If you are willing to be a liturgist, AV tech, greeter, usher, or acolyte, please sign up in the sanctuary or narthex, or contact Pastor Dee at pastordeemed@gmail.com.

Memorial Garden Update

Marian Collins has been caring for our church garden for some ten years now. She has had some help along the way from Connie Worden for a few seasons, and others here and there. Somebody who's has been a church member longer should probably write about the origin and history of the space. While the original dedication of the garden was probably grand and hopeful at the time, the sustainability was perhaps not taken into account.

Marian has grown to enjoy her solitary time keeping up the garden. Some things have been added over the years and some things have been removed. Last January, we had the large honey locust tree trimmed for probably the first and last time. Locust trees are not ideal. Some arborists would even call them weed trees. Several service berry shrubs were removed and two large burning bush.

While serviceberry shrubs are typically lovely, native, showy plants, they were old and not doing well in the garden and had to go. Burning bush, on the other hand, is an invasive species that outcompetes native plants. Invasive plants, insects, fish and animals affect wildlife habitats and ecosystems. The two that were removed were also not doing well and Marian was happy to see them go. Two burning bush remain in the garden, but they were way overgrown and have been trimmed down to something more manageable. It's possible the trimming was done too late in their lifespan and too aggressively, but time will tell. This species continues to be popular for their bright red color for a few weeks in autumn.

The old crab tree that was in the middle of the garden was also removed last January. It had beautiful, little, pink spring flowers, but that was about it. Crab trees are also not ideal. It's a stubborn thing and continues to try to grow back through little sprouts (called suckers) coming through the roots. Marian will not allow this!

Several other large shrubs have been cut short over the past summer and fall. They are not invasive, but they had been allowed to grow out of control over time and were too tall to manage efficiently and safely. Where the crab tree and another burning bush once were, grass has been planted. Without a reliable water source, the grass was hard to keep up, but it's growing and will get stronger next spring. Marian plans to expand that grassy section while keeping all the showy perennial flowers that everybody loves. This small section of grass has made the garden a little easier for Marian to manage and she thinks she has a few years left in her.

**Ad Council Meets
November 6**

**Donating is as easy as
taking a picture:
Kirkland UMC's QR code
for donations
Or visit
www.kirklandumc.org**

SCAN ME



Christmas in Kirkland KUMC Events



Saturday, December 13

Cookies!

They will want to accept



It's time to get ready for our Cookie Extravaganza! This is when our church family, other community members, and folks who just love to bake all cooperate for the ultimate bake sale during Christmas in Kirkland, December 13, 2025. The proceeds from the cookie sale go to the church for new and ongoing improvements.

Help spread the word to everyone that the Cookie Extravaganza is a perfect place and time to get a wide variety of ready-to-go treats for the holidays!

Here's what bakers need to know:

Bake your favorite holiday cookies so they are fresh for the bake sale which takes place from 1 to 5 p.m. Additional goodies donated in the past are fudge, mini-loaves, cheesecakes, Chex mix, biscotti and more.

Have your contributions at the church no later than 9 am, December 13.

There may also be an option to drop off the day before.

Here's what bake sale patrons need to know:

Cookies are plated for a colorful variety and can be purchased in one, two and three dozen options; priced at \$6, \$12, and \$15 respectively. All other baked goods are priced separately. The busiest time is right at 1:00, but there's always plenty to choose from, so no need to rush.

Helpers/Volunteers:

We need assistance in plating the cookies (sounds fun!) and helping during the sale.

How about a two-hour shift? Still have questions? Or want to volunteer?

Call Connie Worden: 815-721-1605

Live Nativity

We're looking for a few good men...wise men that is! Also a couple Mary's, Josephs, Angels and Shepherds!

We're looking to add more to this year's nativity.

Perhaps some live animals (you'll have to come see for yourself!)

Our Live Nativity will be located in Franklin Township Park alongside the other Christmas in Kirkland activities.

Because we are looking to run from 4 to 6, and it's usually pretty cold,

we hope to have two sets of each character.

Sign up sheet is available and you can see Eric Mede for more details.

Even if you aren't going to play a part, we'd love to see you, so come on by and say hello!



ADVENT CLASS

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As we travel this pilgrim road, we will encounter stories and lessons from: the prophets Isaiah, John the Baptist, and John of Patmos; the first disciples Mary and Mary Magdalene; the first witnesses—angels, shepherds, Simeon, and Anna—and grace born in Bethlehem.

This 4-week study that began on Wednesday, November 26, from 6 to 7:30 PM,
Will continue through Wednesday, December 17.
Class can be attended either in person or on Zoom.

Sign-ups are available in the church sanctuary and narthex,
or contact Pastor Dee at **pastordeemed@gmail.com**.

Books are \$13 and available at the church (while supplies last),
or can be ordered through Cokesbury.com or Amazon.

