

KCC Chronicle

KEIZER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

“Proclaiming Christ’s Love, Building Community,
Meeting Human Need”

E-mail: 1963kcc@gmail.com
Website: www.keizerchristian.org

Phone: (503) 393-6843
Find us on Facebook!

JANUARY 23, 2025

CONTENTS

Worship Services	1
Thank You Musicians	1
Pastor’s Moment	2
Blessings and Concerns	3
Coffee Fellowship Time	3
Unsung Heroes	4
Men’s Group	4
Bible Study	4
Recycling	4
Birthdays/Anniversaries	4
February Servers	4
Keizer Community Dinner	5
Food Bank/Core Foods	5
Giving Totals	6
Volunteer Opportunity	6
Reception-Betty Bartlett	6
WeekMonth of Compassion	7
Upcoming Sermons	8

WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship Services are held in-person and live on YouTube at 10 AM each Sunday. The YouTube link for each service will be sent out in the bulletin and also posted on Facebook and the KCC



Website. You can always watch our services on our YouTube channel here:  **YouTube**

THANK YOU MUSICIANS

Thank you to Elizabeth Costales, Choir singers, Chime Choir members and our faithful guitar players Troy and Mike. Did you notice the Praise Band was growing? Thank you to our new musicians, Sipo Amwere (drums) and Ryell Lepe (cello) for joining us. They are both in the Salem/Keizer Youth Group that meets at First Christian Church on Thursday nights. Thanks also for Kim Free for transporting them to church.

See more under **Unsung Heroes!**

NEWSLETTER

Previous editions are available on the website at:

[<NEWSLETTER>](#)

Look for the next newsletter on **February 27th**





Pastor Erik Free

Email:

pastorfree@keizerchristian.org

Cell Phone:

(503) 501-7682

Office Hours:

Tuesday – Friday

9 am to 1 pm

Afternoons by appointment

PASTOR'S MOMENT

With the holidays firmly ensconced in our rear view, we find ourselves confronting the dreary chill of winter. We are stuck in the midst of it with



nothing to look forward to but the months-away respite of Spring. There are certainly things to enjoy; playing in snow, skiing, staying bundled up and warm inside. We cannot deny that with the season comes a certain sense of dreariness and sometimes foreboding. Those gray, foggy days can really bring us down, can't they?

And yet, . . . this season also encourages us to slow down, to rest, to listen and hear the earth whispering to us when all the ever-present noise is dampened by a thick layer of snow. To listen when the quiet is broken by laughing children celebrating the blessing of the illusive "snow day". Every crunch of their feet through the frosty white-scape a reminder that even as life seems to slow down and become dampened by cold, that renewal is happening underneath. There is a cycle of life at work here, in the gray days and the cold dampness, that makes the green joy of Spring and the buzzing activity of Summer possible.

We need this slow time. We need the encouragement of cold to remind us how good warm is; to remind us that God has ordained all things to function in cycles; cold and warm, gray and green, Summer and Winter, life and death. Neither is good nor bad, but they represent the fullness of creation together. Living here in the Pacific Northwest, we are no strangers to the dreariness of a rainy winter. We also regularly enjoy a verdant Spring and Summer with forests to explore and waterways to enjoy. Our own lives are not so different. Times of hibernation and slowing down serving to recuperate us for the times of activity ahead. God calls us to appreciate each season for its worth.

Pastor Erik

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,"

~ Isaiah 55:10

BLESSINGS AND CONCERNS

To include Blessings and Concerns on the weekly email sent out on Tuesday, please send us an email at 1963kcc@gmail.com or call in your information to the office by Sunday evening. If you would like a printed copy of Blessings and Concerns, please contact the office.



- ♥ I could use all the thoughts and prayers as I am in the process of interviewing for two Masters programs at OSU. These programs are for school counseling and clinical mental health counseling. Paige Blair
- ♥ Pray for healing and recuperation for Kathee Moore, who came home sick from their visit to family over the holidays.
- ♥ Pray for those affected by the Southern California fires. Pray for the safety of all the Marion County for crews who have gone to help, especially our own Dan Brown.
- ♥ **UPDATE** on Chuukese church prayer concerns: Uncle Akinino has improved. They were told to prepare for his passing but he survived heart surgery and is showing improvement. He's still in critical condition at Salem but they are now planning for his recovery. Lil Amari has had some miracles. Their car was hit by a speeding drunk drive after church on a Sunday night on Lancaster. Her grandmother suffered a broken hip, and is recovering in Salem hospital. Amari was sent to Portland and initially found to have no brain activity. She regained brain activity but was suffering from a brain bleed. She had surgery last week and is in a more stable condition, but still in a coma. Our Chuukese family are celebrating the blessings received and ask for continued prayer for the recovery process.
- ♥ Please pray for our Janitor, Carmelo Gonzalez, and his family. Carmelo's mother has been very ill and he was visiting her in California during the holidays when she passed away. His mother's wishes were to be buried in Mexico and the family is now going through the process of working with the embassy to make that happen. Prayers for strength and patience for the family during this process and that the necessary documents are approved.
- ♥ There will be a reception for friends of Betty Bartlett, who passed last month. It will be held at Salem Evangelical Church on Thursday, February 6, 2025 from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Please join us for a potluck luncheon. Sandwiches will be provided by Music Box Angels, guests may bring a salad or dessert.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME

We are in need of Coffee Hour Treat Providers. Thank you to those who have signed up to bring treats for Coffee Fellowship Time. We have tried to make it easier for setup and have the Secretary prepare the coffee, drink table items, silverware, plates, and napkins.



The treat provider is responsible for bringing treats, setting them out on the tables, starting the coffee pot and hot water, and cleanup of the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen when done. Please sign up on the sheet on the Fellowship Hall door. If you have any questions, feel free to call the office.

UNSUNG HEROES



In addition to those mentioned on Page 1, we want to thank those who have shared their talents with us during special sharing time recently: George Lewis, Sipo Amwere, Cindy Cheuvront, and Peggy Young.

MEN'S GROUP

Men's Group will be meeting at Route 99 for our next meeting on **February 1st** Men's Group continues to meet every other Saturday for a no-host breakfast. All men are welcome!



BIBLE STUDY



We have begun our new study on "Angels." Pastor Erik has the materials for our new study. We meet on Thursdays at 11 am, in the church library. Everyone is welcome!

RECYCLING—BOTTLES, CANS, INK, TONER

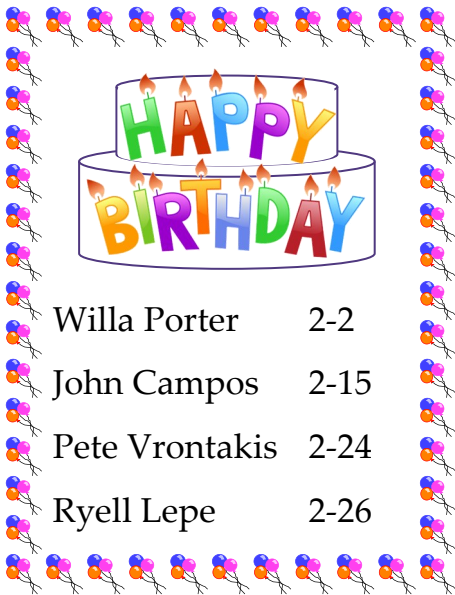


2024 was a GREAT year! We raised \$850 towards our Church Camp Scholarships. Thank you to everyone for bringing in your bottles and cans. This is a year-round

fundraiser and all funds go towards Children's Summer Camp scholarships. Also, if you participate in the green bag bottle drop for your personal use, you are able to donate some of those funds to KCC online! If you have any questions, please see Laurie Costales.

NOTE: Please make sure that all items have OR 10¢ on them and that they are rinsed out. Also, please do not crush them as we don't get credit for crushed ones or those missing their bar codes.

We are still turning in used ink cartridges and toners. The funds for those are used to buy craft and office supplies for special children's events like Fun in the Field.



- Willa Porter 2-2
- John Campos 2-15
- Pete Vrontakis 2-24
- Ryell Lepe 2-26

THOSE SERVING NEXT MONTH

The following people will be serving next month. If you would like to serve, please let the office know, there are many possibilities!



	PRAYER PRESIDER	USHER
2/2	Ed Query	Dena Query
2/9	Mike Ryan	Christa Ryan
2/16	Troy Costales	Vicki Zielinski
2/23	Nancy Dalrymple	Don Kaehler

KEIZER COMMUNITY DINNER



The next Keizer Community Dinner will be held on **Wednesday, February 26th** from **4:30-6:30 pm** at **St. Edward's Catholic Church.**

Food Bank Core Foods

Canned · Frozen Fresh · Repack

- ◆ Canned Protein
- ◆ Cold Cereal
- ◆ Mac & Cheese
- ◆ Vegetables
- ◆ Shelf Stable Beans
- ◆ Rice
- ◆ **Peanut Butter-16-18 ounce**
- ◆ Tomato Products—can/jar
- ◆ Shelf Stable Dairy
- ◆ Tuna
- ◆ Soup
- ◆ Flour
- ◆ Fruit
- ◆ Pasta
- ◆ Eggs

Be sure to check expiration dates!

Fresh Produce is always welcome!

We are also in need of cardboard boxes for the pantry food. The increased number of clients has increased our need for these boxes.

Medium size boxes (8" up to about 24") are best. Please remove your name and address from the boxes and bring them to the office.

Thank you!



Editor's Note: Monetary donations to KCC for support of the Food Bank have allowed us to supplement our pantry boxes with tuna for the last eight out of nine months. **Thank you for your generosity!**

KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK



On December 31, 2024, Crossroads Fellowship became the new owner of the Faith Lutheran building. KCFB looks forward to having a great new partner in fulfilling our commitment of feeding the hungry in our community. We are also grateful for their commitment to housing KCFB.

January and February are vacation months for us because our serving nights fall on national holidays. Our next serving night is March 17th.

We continue to need peanut butter, mac and cheese, tuna or any canned meats, cereal and soup. Any food donated will be taken to the Food Bank even if we aren't scheduled to serve.

Pam Elliot

GIVING TOTALS

The December total giving was \$14,684.10 of our \$12,136.00 monthly budget. The 2024 year-end total was \$127,857.05 of our \$145,632 annual budget, giving us a shortfall of \$15,774.95 for the year.

Thank you to everyone who contributes and keeps our church alive. It also allows us to support the many charities and other programs in the region.

If you are unable to attend service, you can give online through the secure giving portal [<HERE>](#) or mail a check to the office "Attention: Financial Secretary."

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

January to date	
<u>General Fund Offering</u>	
1 st week	\$ 1,217.30
2 nd week	3,320.59
3 rd week	7,884.84
4 th week	
Total for Month	\$ 12,422.73
Mo Budget	\$ 12,115.00

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

B A R A K A

ENGLISH



Volunteers Needed

Salem Alliance Church has a heart to extend the love of Jesus to refugees and immigrants. We believe that the Church is called to be at the forefront of welcoming global neighbors to our community, learning from them, and walking alongside them as they establish a new home in Salem. Our ministry to refugees & immigrants is called Baraka, which means "blessing" in a variety of languages.

Baraka English classes provide a warm, relational environment for refugee and immigrant women to learn English and build community. Childcare is provided for kids from birth through age five. We have 100 women from 17 different countries and over 40 kids in our program.

We are looking for ladies to bless our global neighbors by volunteering as teaching assistants or childcare workers

Baraka English Classes are Tuesday and Thursday
from 9:30am-12:00pm
@ Salem Alliance Church
555 Gaines St NE, Salem, OR 97301

Contact : Nicki Scholz  nscholz@salemalliance.org  503-339-7654

RECEPTION FOR FRIENDS OF BETTY BARTLETT

There will be a reception for friends of Betty Bartlett, who passed last month. It will be held at Salem Evangelical Church on Thursday, February 6, 2025 from 11:30 am to 1 pm.

Please join us for a potluck luncheon. Sandwiches will be provided by Music Box Angels, guests may bring a salad or dessert.



WEEKMONTH OF COMPASSION

Each year, KCC participates in the Week of Compassion fund drive during the month of February. This is over and above any amounts on our pledge cards and is a great way to support those in need when we can not physically be there to help them. Week of Compassion is committed to working with local resources to provide aid in times of crisis and natural disasters. Many times, this help is available months after the events occur.

There are various ways to participate in our annual giving drive. You can write a check or give cash with “Week of Compassion” on the memo line or giving envelope; give online through our portal here: <https://www.continuetogive.com/>; or putting money in the giving boxes that will be available beginning January 26th.

There are posters and flyers giving more information on this offering available on the Narthex table. Below is a calendar that could be a fun way to give a bit each day with different activities listed.

Bring your box back to church on Sunday, February 23rd and let’s see how much we have collected!



Week of Compassion HEARD AND SEEN GIVING CALENDAR



	SUNDAY THEME - PHIL 4:8-9	MONDAY DOMESTIC DISASTER	TUESDAY REFUGEES	WEDNESDAY INTERNATIONAL	THURSDAY HOME & LIVELIHOOD	FRIDAY FOOD, WATER, HEALTH	SATURDAY LOCAL CHURCHES
WEEK 1	<p>"... whatever is true, honorable, just, whatever is pure, pleasing, commendable..."</p> <p>Get a Special Offering Coinbox (or jar or can). Give 1 unit to start!</p>	<p>Week of Compassion partners help families build homes after disasters.</p> <p>Give 1 unit for each home you've lived in.</p>	<p>In 2024, almost 100,000 new refugees arrived in the United States.¹</p> <p>Give 1 unit to provide medical and legal assistance.</p>	<p>Climate change impacts farming, health, food and water worldwide.</p> <p>Give 1 unit to help local farmers learn the best ways to care for their crops.</p>	<p>1 in 10 people in the world goes to bed hungry every night.⁵</p> <p>Give 1 unit for every meal or snack you eat today.</p>	<p>Week of Compassion global partners provide special care to moms after birth.</p> <p>Give 2 units for a new mom and infant you know.</p>	<p>Christmount hosted a BBQ & Bluegrass appreciation night for volunteers in western North Carolina.</p> <p>Give 3 units to celebrate our national conference center.</p>
WEEK 2	<p>"...if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."</p> <p>Give 2 units, for things that are excellent and praiseworthy.</p>	<p>In 2024, there were 24 'billion dollar disasters' in the United States.¹</p> <p>Give 1 unit to encourage disaster preparedness.</p>	<p>February 2025 marks 3 years of war in Ukraine.</p> <p>Give 3 units to provide assistance for war refugees.</p>	<p>The 2025 Bulletin Insert tells a story about after-school programs.</p> <p>Give 1 unit for those in your family going to school.</p>	<p>More than 2 billion people worldwide lack access to basic sanitation.</p> <p>Give 1 unit for each bathroom in your home.</p>	<p>Almost everyone in the world (99%) breathes air that contains high levels of pollutants.⁷</p> <p>Give 1 unit to help provide clean air technology.</p>	<p>Disciples in Puerto Rico are installing solar panel systems in local churches.</p> <p>Give 1 unit in gratitude for Santuarios de Luz!</p>
WEEK 3	<p>"Keep on doing the things that you have learned, received, heard & seen in me,"</p> <p>Give 1 unit for something great you heard or saw today.</p>	<p>Children's Disaster Services volunteers care for kids after disasters, shootings, and other trauma.</p> <p>Give 1 unit for each child (or grandchild) in your family.</p>	<p>By mid2024, almost 123 million people were forcibly displaced globally.²</p> <p>Give 2 units to support refugee resettlement.</p>	<p>Through Global Ministries, Disciples & UCC work together to care for siblings in the Middle East.</p> <p>Give 2 units in honor of ecumenical partnership.</p>	<p>In the U.S. 7 million more affordable housing units are needed for low income families.³</p> <p>Give 1 unit for each bedroom in your family's home.</p>	<p>1 in 5 households in the U.S. are affected by food insecurity.</p> <p>Give 1 unit for each meal you ate today.</p>	<p>How does YOUR church help local neighbors in need?</p> <p>Give 1 unit for every ministry you can name!</p>
WEEK 4	<p>"...and the God of peace will be with you:"</p> <p>Take a minute to pray for peace. Give 1 unit as another act of prayer.</p>	<p>Almost 1800 U.S. tornadoes were reported in 2024.⁴</p> <p>Give 2 units for disaster readiness and response.</p>	<p>A 2025 Mission Moment tells of a church helping a family set up their new home.</p> <p>Give 1 unit to help churches like this do more good work.</p>	<p>Listening to local leaders is part of every disaster and refugee response.</p> <p>Give 1 unit in honor of a local leader you appreciate.</p>	<p>Clean water is critical for healthy communities, and often hard to find.</p> <p>Give 1 unit for each water faucet in your home.</p>	<p>More than 3 million migrant workers are employed on farms in the U.S.</p> <p>Give 3 units in thanks for those who bring food to our tables.</p>	<p>Week of Compassion is about abundance and generosity.</p> <p>Give all the units you want to add to close out this offering!</p>

Sources: ¹National Centers for Environmental Information; ²NOAA Storm Prediction Center; ³USAFacts.org; ⁴UN High Commissioner for Refugees; ⁵World Food Program USA; ⁶National Low Income Housing Coalition; ⁷World Health Organization; ⁸USDA Economic Research Service



KEIZER CHRISTIAN CHURCH
6945 Wheatland Road NE
Keizer OR 97303

SERMON SERIES

Epiphany Series: A Light to Enlighten the Nations, cont.

“For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” These lines from the Song of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32) speak of the season of Epiphany, the light of Christ for all the world.

Seeing Jesus born in Bethlehem, dedicated at the temple, and baptized in the River Jordan, it’s easy to focus on his life as a first-century Jew. But the audacity of the gospel is that the light shining in Jesus shone far beyond Israel to illuminate the whole world.

January 26 – Sermon: “A Mission to Light Your Way” Luke 4:14-21

We define Jesus’ mission, and our own.

February 2 – Sermon: “Hometown Boy” Luke 4:21-30

Jesus’ good news for the world isn’t a threat, but an invitation.

February 9 – Sermon: “Called and Sent” Luke 5:1-11

We hear and accept our own call to be part of Jesus’ work.

February 16 – Sermon: “Fullness and Emptiness” Luke 6:17-26

Only by emptying ourselves will we experience true fullness

February 23 – Sermon: “Unlimited Love” Luke 6:27-38

Jesus’ unconditional love opens the boundaries of our love.

March 2 – Sermon: “Listen to Him” Luke 9:28-43a

Don’t box Jesus in; shine His light for all to see.