

Kanapaha Times
Monthly Newsletter of Kanapaha
Presbyterian Church



December 2025

Join Us...

Sunday Morning Worship 10am in Sanctuary

Bible Study 11 am, Tuesdays December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.

Note from Pastor...

31 Days till Christmas!

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him'. John 1: 9- 10 (ESV)

In this publication of our December newsletter I would like to take the opportunity to wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour. We hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter.

This time of year is one of deep joy for Christians but can also be a very difficult time for many older people, Christian or otherwise, for whom missing a loved one is felt much more at this time. A recent survey found that 7 out of 10 widowed people often feel more lonely over Christmas than at any other time of year. Maybe you know someone who would welcome a visit, or an invitation for a cup of tea or meal. Or maybe there is a nursing home nearby, where there are residents with no family, who would welcome a visit.

Our newsletter Bible verse reminds us that the Lord Jesus is the light of the world. As we celebrate and worship Him afresh this Christmas, share the light of the Lord Jesus with everyone but look for those who are particularly lonely or vulnerable at this time of year. They need to see the light of Christ in you even if they don't proclaim to be Christian. God's love and light is for all.

Offer a smile as you pass by. A brief "Good Morning", or even commenting on the weather, can brighten someone's day. It may even lead to conversation or an eventual friendship. By God's grace, and in God's timing, it can lead to someone seeing the light of the Lord Jesus, shining through us, as we intentionally engage with our older neighbors.

But in all things you do, live as a believer should. Be grateful, kind, interested in others more than yourself, serving, generous, forgiving, and always mindful of what God, through Christ, has done for sinful people like us and continues to do through those who are willing. In this way you please God and become both blessed and blessing to others. The true light resides in you. Shine on.

Pastor Michael

(Thank You All.)

Thank you to all the church family who stayed after worship on 11/23 to decorate the sanctuary. You are very much appreciated. And, as Pastor Michael says, we also are thankful for all who "had a mind" to help!! There will be continued work by others, who have already volunteered, to decorate the tree and hang more wreaths.

Thank you and have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Congregational Care Fund

Several years ago, Kanapaha Presbyterian had a designated fund called the Deacon's Fund and contributions were requested when funds were running low or had all been dispersed. Since we do not currently have a Board of Deacons, the fund is administered by the Worship and Nurture Committee. It is now known as the Congregational Care Fund.

The Congregational Care Fund is designated money in our yearly budget for church members who need assistance with one specific need. It may be an unexpected medical bill or non-covered prescription, a utility bill, a house or car repair that is a onetime expense. We have a few hundred dollars in the fund currently and have had no recent requests for help. In a time of financial concerns for many of us, it seemed appropriate to describe the Congregational Care fund again.

The policy was established to helping with a one time expense and includes these things:

-person requesting assistance is a church member -this is a onetime request that does not need to be paid back

-the Worship and Nurture Committee approves the request and it remains private -the payment manager/church can not write a check you/the member. KPC can pay your doctor or GRU or other business having been given a copy of the bill.

**This part of the policy is to protect the church when our books are audited. It is hoped that if you qualify for and need assistance from the Congregational Care fund, you will contact Pastor Wood or Elder moderating the Worship and Nurture Committee. The funds are in the budget and are there to be used when needed.

CHRISTMAS AUCTION DECEMBER 21st 11 AM

The Annual Christmas Auction at Kanapaha Presbyterian Church is back! Coming up on Sunday, December 21st at 11 AM in Memorial Hall, there will be lots of yummy pies, cakes, cookies and other goodies to bid on - and also gift items! Just in time for your Christmas entertaining! The Auction will be conducted once again by our Mystery Auctioneer with a Visiting Elf in tow. We'll have lots of fun! Invite your family and friends to come!

All proceeds benefit Kanapaha Church! Kanapaha Church is located at 6221 SW 75th Terrace, just west of the Shands Emergency Room on SW Archer Road. The auction will be in Memorial Hall. Cash or checks only. Hope to see you there! Thank you!!



Missions

Colleen Harrell Memorial Thanksgiving Baskets

The mission committee is grateful for the many donations for the Thanksgiving baskets this year. The donated turkeys and hams were so generous. The buckets were overflowing with all the food goodies donated. We received \$380 in helpful cash donations. Two corporate donations from Publix and Trader Joe's helped to round out the boxes. With these generous offerings, we were also able to give Pastor Michael and Nilda, church secretary, a box with a turkey and a ham. We had a little money left over and was able to assist a church member.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

7 "If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. 8 You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.

The KPC family has stepped up and met the need. Thank you.

Christmas Joy Offering—This is one of the Special Offerings that KPC supports every year.

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



Family Promise

KPC has supported Family Promise for many years. Below is their request for support during the Christmas Season.

Season greetings from Family Promise of Gainesville! It is again the time of year where we work to help our families enjoy a Merry Christmas in tough times by putting together their wish lists! To give to our families this holiday season, please consider purchasing an item or items from the links below. I will continue to send out both links with our shelter updates. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

[Family Promise Christmas 2025 Wishlist 1](#)

[Family Promise Christmas 2025 Wishlist 2](#)

New Members
Jackie Chandy





Ellie	Rosenberg	December 09
Jenny	Walter	December 09
Mike	Kirkman	December 17
Ethan	Dixon	December 18
Jackie	Chandy	December 21
Mark	Jamerson	December 21
Meda	Bahlke	December 23
Helen	Hyatt	December 26

CONGRATULATIONS JEREMY!

East Side High School Graduating Senior, Jeremy N. Wicks has been accepted to the prestigious Culinary Arts Institute Bachelors Degree Program on the New York Campus for the September 2026 entry date. We are proud of your achievement and are looking forward to the great things you will accomplish on your journey.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2, 9, 16, 23	Tuesday	Bible Study 11am
December 14	Sunday	Hanukkah begins at Sunset
December 17	Wednesday	Session MTG 6 pm
December 21	Sunday	First Day of Winter
December 22	Monday	Newsletter Deadline
December 24	Wednesday	Christmas Eve Services 7pm
December 25	Thursday	Christmas Day (Office Closed)
December 26 Jan 2	Friday	Pastor's Study week
December 28	Sunday	Magic Penny
December 31	Wednesday	New Year Eve





Kanapaha Presbyterian Church

EST. 1859

Elders

Rev. Michael Wood	Pastor	
Bill Behlke	Administration & Finance	Class of 2028
	Buildings & Grounds	
	Cemetery Management	
Karen Kirkman	Special Projects & Promotions	Class of 2025
	Church History & Cemetery Management	
Janet Phipps	Worship & Nurture	Class of 2025
	Children's Education	
	Clerk of Session	
Nilda Alicea - Secretary		