

# Beacon

**Connect with Blaine!**

2 Christmas Worship Services! 8 Bazaar Thank Yous  
14 November & December 2024 Calendars

November-December 2024 • Vol. 45, #8 • [blaineonline.org/beacon-news](http://blaineonline.org/beacon-news)

**Thank you,  
Bazaar volunteers!**

**Rev. Karen:  
You are not alone**

**Sign-up now:  
Thanksgiving Meals  
and Giving Tree  
2024**

**Give Thanks...  
with a  
Grateful Heart!**

**Spiritual Formation: Celebrate Thanksgiving**



**Order your  
Poinsettias!**

**Blaine Youth Group develops  
Thanksgiving leadership this season**



**Blaine Memorial** United Methodist Church



3001 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South • Seattle, WA 98144  
206-723-1536 • [blaineonline.org](http://blaineonline.org) • [blaineoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:blaineoffice@yahoo.com)  
Instagram: [@blaineumc\\_seattle](https://www.instagram.com/blaineumc_seattle) • [onrealm.org/blainememorial](http://onrealm.org/blainememorial)

## Announcements



Thanksgiving Meals and Giving Tree • See Dates, see pages 6-7

**Mashed Potatoes Work Party**  
 Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024  
 After fellowship, Lee Activity Center

**Kimball Elementary  
 Food Delivery**  
 Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024, 10:00AM

**Giving Tree**  
 Sunday, Nov. 17- Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024

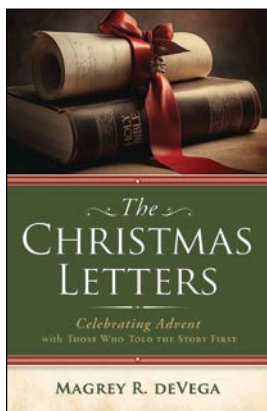
**Giving Tree, Wrapped Gifts Due**  
 Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024

### New Advent Book Study

This year's recommended Advent study book for your small groups is "The Christmas Letters" by Magrey R. DeVega. We have copies in the Church Office. Paperback Book: \$17.00 and Leader's Guide: \$17.00.

You're also welcome to purchase the book online at Cokesbury or Amazon.com.

Here's a brief description of the book:



*"Hear from 'those who told the story first.'"*

*You may or may not know the story of your birth. If you do, there is something special about hearing your origin story again and remembering how it all began for you. That's why we observe Advent: to celebrate how it all began for us. In "The Christmas Letters", Magrey DeVega invites you to hear about the miracle of Christ's birth from those who first told the story. The letters in the New Testament, known as the Epistles, contain the first attempts by the church to understand and celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation. They point us to the origins of what we believe about Jesus, fully human and fully divine. By spending time with these holy, ancient words this Advent, you'll come to know the meaning of Christ's coming like never before.*

Read the New Testament letters, Romans, 1 John, Philippians, and Colossians as your first Christmas letters of the season and find within them an invitation from God to deepen your understanding of the Incarnation and embrace a fuller commitment to Jesus Christ.

### NJAUMC Caucus Advent Study Group • Tuesdays, beginning November 26

Members of the NJAUMC Caucus have put together an Advent study based on "The Christmas Letters". All NJAUMC churches are invited to attend the study. The facilitators are US Navy Chaplain the Rev. John M. Miyahara; Pastor Brian Lee from Simpson UMC in Denver, Colorado; Rev. Ki Choi from Centenary UMC; and Rev. Karen Yokota Love from Blaine Memorial UMC. The meeting dates are Tuesdays 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17 from 6:30pm-8:00pm on Zoom. You don't need to read the book to join the group.

### The Greening of Blaine

**Saturday, Nov. 30, from 9:00am-12:00pm**

The Worship Committee invites everyone to participate in making wreaths, swags, and garlands for decorating the church's campus through Advent and Christmas. No prior experience is needed. Come learn how to craft the greenery and to grace the Sanctuary. Bring clippers or scissors, if you can, to trim cedar fronds and ribbons. There will also be a special project of creating a large paper cutout to hang in the Sanctuary, calling for the shared work of many hands. The work party will be capped by our famous lunch from Fou Lee Deli. Welcome, All! Let the Holidays begin!



### Advent & Christmas Announcements

**Children and Youth  
 Christmas Play**  
 Sunday, Dec. 15, at 10am.  
 All are invited to come to the Lee Activity Center to witness our children and youth perform in a special Christmas Play.

**Blue Christmas Service**  
 Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 7pm.  
 Our Blue Christmas Service provides space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance for those grieving during this holiday season (Livestreamed).

**Christmas Music Sunday**  
 Sunday, Dec. 22, at 10:00am.  
 Christmas Music Sunday will feature jams from our Blaine Memorial Choir, B.U.G.S., young adults, and more.

**Christmas Eve Service**  
 Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 4pm.  
 We will have one Traditional Christmas Eve Lesson and Carols Candlelight Service.

# Poinsettias on the Altar

**A**dvent season is here and it is time to sign up for poinsettias for the altar. You may dedicate a poinsettia in celebration of a person or an event, in memory of a loved one or to honor God's glory. Poinsettias may be taken home after our Christmas Eve services. Each plant is \$12.00.



The deadline for Poinsettia Orders will be Sunday, December 15, 2023.

The order form below should be filled out and mailed to:

**Blaine Memorial UMC**

Attn: Poinsettias  
3001 24th Ave South  
Seattle, WA 98144

You may also fill out this form and place in the offering plate on Sunday after worship service.

*Scan the QR code above to download this form. Please share!*



## Poinsettia Order Form

Please print very clearly

I would like to order \_\_\_\_ (qty.) poinsettia plant(s) for the Christmas season.

Your Name:

Phone:

Check a box

In loving memory of:

In celebration of:

In honor of:

I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$12 per plant)

*(Checks or online payments preferred. Please note "Poinsettias" in the memo.)*

# Senior Pastor Reflection

## October, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas: A Future with Hope

By the Rev. Karen Yokota Love, photos by Kai Yamamoto, Jesse N. Love, et. al.

**A**s I write this letter to you, it's been two weeks after the election results – and I am still processing the election. First of all, please know that you are not alone. Whatever you are feeling or just not feeling for the past weeks, you are not alone. If your heart is aching, you are not alone. If you are in despair, you are not alone. If you are afraid, you are not alone. If you are fired up, you are not alone. If your employment is threatened as a result of the national election, you are not alone.



God is with you - and your Blaine Memorial family is here for you today and in the weeks and months to come. Through worship, youth group, Church School and classes, small groups, fellowship time, prayer, sports ministries, and support of neighbors through our care and social justice ministries, your Blaine Memorial UMC community is here.

Again and again, our call is to love God and love our neighbors. Kin-dom building is a marathon, not a sprint. Countering bigotry, oppression, and injustice is a marathon, not a sprint. There was going to be a lot of work to do no matter who won the election. We have witnessed an election cycle of demonizing and scapegoating, particularly of trans people and immigrants. Misogyny, racism, and cruelty have run rampant. Jesus embodied sacred resistance to an empire mindset, and as followers of Jesus we will do the same. Together we will continue to advocate for policies that protect the beautiful diversity of the human family and advance the common good.

- *We are called by our United Methodist baptismal vows "to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves".*
- *We denounce the use of violence and threats of violence as tools for political gain.*
- *We denounce fear-mongering and scapegoating.*
- *We denounce Christian nationalism.*
- *We denounce willful untruth and slander.*
- *We seek to support peacemakers and a culture of empathy and resilience that does not look to violence for answers.*
- *We seek to uphold the inherent dignity of all people.*
- *We seek to collaborate with ecumenical and interfaith partners in respecting each other's traditions and working together for the common good.*
- *We will continue to support one another and our time to be the community is more important than ever before. God will always be with us and we will continue to do the good work for the common good and for our community.*

If you need to talk, please reach out to me.

### October Celebrations!

This year's Trunk or Treat was a HUGE success! On Sunday, October 27, after church, our parking lot was bustling with excitement with many spooky and fun decorated trunks. Many from our church came out to serve our community by decorating their cars, our BYG served hot dogs, and we welcomed families from the neighborhood.

The result was a safe, welcoming and fabulously fun party! At this year's event we had 12 creatively decorated cars for our guests (big and small) to visit. Most cars included a game or activity for the guests to play, and every car had candy or treats. Themes included Scooby-Doo, Cats, Hot Dogs, Hello Kitty, Cookie Monster, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, to name a few themes.

Thank you so much to Jennifer Lew for organizing this year's Trunk-or-Treat and for all those who gave their time, energy and talents to this event. Your warm hospitality and service is making a difference.



*The Sofronas Family (top) and Lew Family (below) celebrate the harvest spirit at this year's Trunk or Treat event at Blaine Memorial, last October.*

## Thanksgiving and Stewardship: A Future With Hope

This year's Stewardship theme is "A Future With Hope". During November, we're thinking and praying together about how Christian life includes cycles of exile and return. There is exile, there is return, and then there is a third movement: being sent back out into the world for the sake of our neighbors and creation as a whole. It's being commissioned, sent for the sake of God's love and justice, God's future of hope.



Blaine Memorial UMC is a community of return, a place of homecoming. And it's also a community of sending, a place that commissions us as agents of God's love and grace, so that all may experience a sense of homecoming into God's new world of compassion, dignity, and joy. Giving Sunday is on Sunday, November 24, 2024. I've encouraged you to pray on your Pledge Cards that you should have received earlier this month (if you misplaced it, just let us know and we'll email you another!), and plan on joining us online or in person on Sunday, November 24, 2024. With a past so full of grace, our future is full of hope.

Your pledge commitment to Blaine Memorial UMC helps sustain our current ministries and create new ministries as we continue to discern the needs of our members, our community, and our neighborhood. May the Holy Spirit guide you as you pray on what you'll commit to in 2025.



*Advent will be a season of changes in the way we live. What will you reflect on during this time as we await the birth of Jesus? Stay tuned to [blaineonline.org](http://blaineonline.org) for more.*

## Advent Words for the Beginning

As we talk about themes of exile and return during the month of November, in December, we'll talk more about Advent. Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year rushes in. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving — and yet, we feel the weight of many things coming to an end. The world as we know it spins madly onward and there is constant change and the shifting of life that continues. What are the reminders we will need in order to move faithfully through this threshold?

This year's Advent series is filled with blessings, with the words we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season. We imagined the words Mary would speak to her newborn son. What scriptures and stories would she impart to him? What lessons would she teach him as he grew? And so, our weekly themes may feel like the lessons we teach to children, but in reality, these are lessons we continue to learn and relearn as adults. I invite you to enter this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead.

In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. And yet, Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. As we also move through new personal and political chapters, may these words for the beginning renew

### More Aprons on the Way!

Recently, Blaine Memorial received three unexpected gifts of many rice bags. This means that our sewers are fortunate to have more apron kits that need to be sewn together! Unique Anniversary Aprons will become available in December, just in time for your holiday shopping. Stay tuned!



us and remind us of the ways we are called to live out our faith. No matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, let love be your beginning.

Please take a look at the series of announcements for the Advent Christmas season. This year, we are trying something new and we will have one Christmas Eve Service which will have our traditional Christmas music with lessons and carols at 4:00 PM on December 24, 2024. I really hope you can join us this year. I can't wait to celebrate the Advent and Christmas season with you.

Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Advent, Merry Christmas and joy to you as we finish up 2024 together. May your faith walk be blessed with God's guidance through whatever situations you face today. Be the hope!

*The Rev. Karen Yokota Love serves as Senior Pastor of Blaine Memorial UMC.*



Terri Adolfo hangs Giving Tree gift tags for the Blaine Memorial community.



Help support the students of Kimball Elementary by supporting the Giving Tree. gift tags will be available November 17 to December 1.



Delicious Apple Crisp was prepared by the Blaine Youth Group and friends as part of Blaine Memorial's Thanksgiving Meals project.



Our young folks and parents prepared peeled apples to make apple crisp as part of a hearty Thanksgiving meal for Kimball Elementary School families. Sign up now to volunteer or donate, now!

## Sign-up now: Thanksgiving Meals and Giving Tree 2024

By Terri Adolfo, photos by Kai Yamamoto, et. al.

*Support Kimball Elementary School by either volunteering or providing financial support to help meet the needs of our low-income neighbors.*

**T**his year, we are partnering with Kimball Elementary School to provide Thanksgiving meals and Christmas gifts for their underprivileged students and families. To increase our capacity to serve more families, Thanksgiving meals will mostly be store-bought. Like last year, we gathered to make apple crisps and will meet again to make mashed potatoes (see next page for dates). Everyone is welcome -- so please come join us. We are accepting donations to help pay for the meals and ingredients.

The Giving Tree decorated with gift tags will be in the Social Hall from **November 17 to December 1, 2024**. Please reach out to the Church Office to arrange for tag pickups during office hours if you are not able to pick them up after service. Gift tags not taken by Sunday, December 1 will be collected and distributed to volunteer shoppers. If you are not able to take tags but would like to participate or help, we

are gratefully accepting donations.

**Note: please return wrapped gifts with a tag securely attached no later than Sunday, December 8, 2024.**

Kimball Elementary anticipates a greater need from their student community this year due to the increased student enrollment.

Donations for the Thanksgiving Service and the Giving Tree can be made through [blaineonline.org](http://blaineonline.org), text/SMS, cash/check, and Realm. For Thanksgiving meals, please select "BYG" and type in "Thanksgiving" in the memo field. For the Giving Tree, please select "Special Donations/ Other" and write "Giving Tree" in the memo field.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support to help bless those in need in our community!

Contact Terri Adolfo at [locket@gmail.com](mailto:locket@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

*Terri Adolfo is a member of Blaine Memorial UMC, Seattle, Wash.*



## BYG Update

# Help us develop leaders this Thanksgiving!

By Kaylee Yokoyama



### Upcoming Events

**Mashed Potatoes Work Party**  
Sunday, November 24, 2024, after fellowship, Lee Activity Center

**Kimball Elementary Food Delivery**  
Tuesday, November 26, 2024, 10:00AM

**A**s we continue through November, Stewardship Month serves to be a season of reflection, service, and gratitude. When I think about stewardship, I can't help but envision the comforting smell of warm apple crisp fresh out of the oven, the deliciousness of mashed potatoes, and the joyful sounds of the Blaine community coming together. Throughout stewardship month, the Blaine Youth Group focuses on using their skills and talents toward acts of service. BYG continues their tradition of serving Thanksgiving meals to Kimball Elementary families and the youth serve their community through offering their gifts, time, and service.

This season is also a reminder to express our gratitude. As there have been many recent and ongoing changes within BYG leadership, I am grateful for the support and dedication of our wonderful BYG leaders. Their passion for supporting the youth's growth through their mentorship and care for the youth is an example of the stewardship that BYG values and strives to demonstrate.

I have had the privilege of working with these talented and amazing leaders, and I am blessed that BYG has leaders who have stepped up to support the youth and their growth. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the parents and congregation members who consistently support BYG. Your love and encouragement are deeply valued, and I hope we can continue to show our gratitude to our community through meaningful acts of service!

*BYG meets on Sundays at 10:00 AM. We will gather in the Sanctuary for the beginning of worship service before transitioning over to the Nishida Room for BYG time after the children's message.*

*Blaine Youth Group (BYG) is a place where youth (6th-12th grade) are invited into a loving community and celebrated as they are. BYG provides a safe environment for youth to build lasting friendships, grow spiritually, learn acceptance of self and others, express compassion for the world, and develop a love for God. BYG has a space for any person who is interested, and all are welcome.*



*"I like doing the Thanksgiving service project at BYG because it is fun."*  
-Marisa I.



*"Not only do I enjoy spending time with BYG youth while providing meals for Kimball, but I also feel fulfilled knowing that I am supporting students in my community."* -Emma H.



*"Getting the opportunity through Blaine to support the next generation of students in the same community that I grew up in is always one of the most fulfilling experiences I get to participate in at Blaine."* -Aiden Lew



Dai Ichikawa and Jason Lew prepare salmon.



Friends of Blaine Memorial took a break from grilling delicious Salmon at this year's Bazaar.



Roberta Yoshioka, Jackie Sakamoto, and Wendee Ong help fill up pies for Bazaar.



Gail Nomura purchases some fresh vegetables from Jarrett Shirouzu and friend at the Farmers Market.



Volunteers helped make delicious pies for the Bazaar. Featured fillings included apple and blueberry.

## Blaine Memorial UMC Benefit Bazaar Thank-Yous!



By Lesley Okura and Howard Nakase, photos by the Rev. Karen Yokota, Kai Yamamoto, et. al.

This year's Benefit Bazaar could not have been successful without our guests and the teams of volunteers who prepared, cooked, and cleaned during this busy time. Mission Guatemala, this year's beneficiary, will certainly receive a boost in support thanks to the time and talent of our friends and faith community. The leadership of Lesley Okura and Howard Nakase thank you.

Blaine Memorial UMC's annual Benefit Bazaar 2024 is now a footnote in its 120th Anniversary history. Bazaar has many moving parts -- and many leaders and volunteers to make those parts move. The list below is just a fraction of the members, friends, and families that contributed to make this a success. Big thanks to all of you and please forward any additional names to my attention.

I want to thank our committee leaders:

### Tsukemono

- Jim Okura
- Dave Hayasaka



### Grill Pitmasters

- Joe Adolfo
- Jason Lew
- Tim Ikegami
- Howard Nakase
- Steve Sofronas



### Marination Masters

- Steve Sakahara
- Lisa Mar

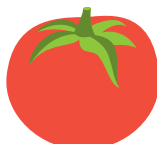


### Rice Head

- John Hodge

### Bazaar Poster Design Team

- Ally Sofronas
- Steve Sofronas



### Farmers Market

- Stacy Shirouzu
- Wendy Yates

### Exceptional Donations

- SK Produce
- Dave Yorozu



### Bakery Sales

- Julie Lock



### Pie and Ohagi Sales

- Terri Adolfo



### Ohagi

- Donna Sekijima

### Curry Crew Leadership

- Tina Fujii



### Vegetarian Yakisoba Introduction

- Howard Nakase



### The Pied Piper Pie-Makers

- Ruth Watanabe
- Tom Yoshioka
- Roberta Yoshioka

### Suno Dog and Beverage Sales

- Kaylee Yokoyama
- Kai Yamamoto
- Kobe Yamamoto
- Blaine Youth Group



### Payment & Processing

- Susan Lee-Yamamoto (who has diligently brought us up-to-speed with payment processing technology again this year)



### Dishwashing, Clean-up and Garbage Detail

- Harry Tang
- Joel Ing



### After Sales

- Lisa Mar
- Collin Ikeda
- Sylvia Wong

### Paper Goods Schleppers & Support

- Ron Nobuyama
- Barb Nagaoka



### Cashiering

- Barbara Nagaoka and George Yates (for handling the cashiering and not giving any change. Thank you for your donations!)

### Take-Out Support

- Dale Watanabe
- Eugene and Kathy Onishi (Thank you for sacrificing your Huskies vs Michigan)



- football tickets!!)
- Arlene Naganawa

### Outstanding Committee Helpmates

The rest of the committee who were outstanding helpmates and handled all our shortcomings and are my best friends:

- Ron Nobuyama
- Barb Nagaoka
- Sally Sekijima
- Anne Arakaki-Lock
- Howard Nakase (your future leader in all things)



### Procurement, All-Around Guy

- Brian Okura

### Recycle/Compost/Trash Monitor

- Pearl Yamamoto



### Administration

- Yuki Sofronas (Thank you for taking care of the many inquiries, the posters and printing, the questions, and all things related to managing the behind-the-scenes activities)

### Compost Guru and Security

- Rev. Karen (Thank you for arranging the composting, security, and for being our support guru)

Additional thank-you's to many others who were recruited, asked, and accepted. I am certain, in their hearts, these volunteers wanted to help build up the contribution toward Mission Guatemala and its education efforts for the children of their country. Our gratitude goes out to our volunteers for Bazaar 2024.

Thank you all for a wonderful community-based event that we have welcomed back at Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church!

Lesley Okura and Howard Nakase served as leadership for this year's Blaine Memorial UMC Benefit Bazaar.



Alma Santos, the Rev. Cruz Santos, Lourdes Tifre, the Rev. Karen, and Rev. Zulma Tifre gather at Bazaar.



Lesley Okura, Tina Fujii, and Anne Arakaki-Lock prepare delicious pies at Bazaar.



(L) Amy Kaminishi, and Pearl Yamamoto prepare filling for blueberry pies. (R) Carol Kastrup helps the team make ohagi.



Jill Fluvog and George Yates with Wendy Yates





# Spiritual Formation Center

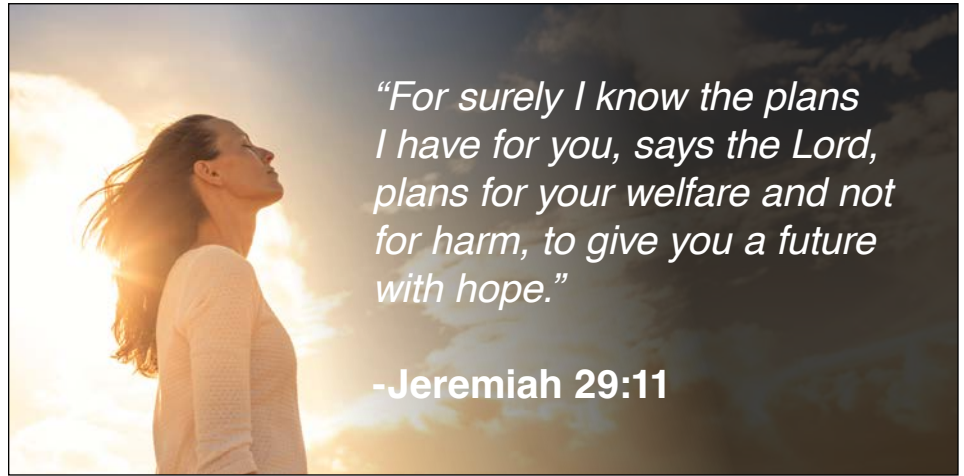
## In Thanksgiving, We Celebrate

By Anne Arakaki-Lock

I was struck by his lesson from Josh Scott's "Context: Putting Scripture in Its Place". Scott reminds me that God wasn't necessarily talking to me individually about an already-prescribed plan, but he was talking about the collective plan and dream he has for everyone. God wants us to partner with Him in love so we all end up flourishing and that there will be justice and hope for all people "on earth as it is in Heaven." This is God's dream.

As I reflect on the past, I have been given a directive to generously share what I personally have and to boldly step out and serve:

- He wants me to help carry out the plan that He has for his world.
- God wants the Blaine Memorial community, transformed by love, to use his resources that we have been stewarding throughout the years, such as our property, our finances, our people talent to work with him to serve "our neighbors" in order for them to flourish as well.



*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."*

**-Jeremiah 29:11**

*How can we build God's kingdom here on earth?*

*"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*

As the Archives Committee has been helping us to remember our rich history and 120 years of blessings, we are thankful for God's faithfulness and we renew our commitment to partner with him to serve our neighbors

down the street as well as abroad. We reflect on ways to continue to use our resources, knowledge and experiences to build God's Kingdom as we worship and give Him all the glory as we celebrate our anniversary.

*Anne Arakaki-Lock is a member of Blaine Memorial UMC*

## Lectionary Readings

### All Saints Day November 1, 2024

*(Sometimes observed on first Sunday in November)*  
Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 • Psalm 24 or Isaiah 25:6-9 • Revelation 21:1-6a • John 11:32-44

### Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 10, 2024

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 • Psalm 1271 • Kings 17:8-16 • Psalm 146 • Hebrews 9:24-28 • Mark 12:38-44

### Reign of Christ Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost November 24, 2024

2 Samuel 23:1-7 • Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18) • Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 • Psalm 93 • Revelation 1:4b-8 • John 18:33-37A

### Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost November 3, 2024

*(If All Saints not observed on this day)*  
Ruth 1:1-18 • Psalm 146 • Deuteronomy 6:1-9 • Psalm 119:1-8 • Hebrews 9:11-14 • Mark 12:28-34

### Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost November 17, 2024

1 Samuel 1:4-20 • 1 Samuel 2:1-10 • Daniel 12:1-3 • Psalm 16 • Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25 • Mark 13:1-8

### Thanksgiving Day November 28, 2024

Joel 2:21-27 • Psalm 1261 • Timothy 2:1-7 • Matthew 6:25-33



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

*As a Church and people who believe in the power of prayer, let us continue to lift up these persons in the joys and concerns that they are experiencing in their lives.*

### Those mourning the passing of loved ones

- **Kenji Onishi**, 97, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 30, 2024. He lived life fully, grounded in faith, with practical optimism and a genuine love and respect for others. Predeceased by his loving wife, Martha, Kenji is survived by his four kids (Rob/Chris, Eugene/Kathy, Phil, and Leann), eight grandkids, one great-grandson, and numerous nieces and nephews. Remembrances may be made to Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church or FIUTS (Foundation for International Understanding Through Students). Kenji and Martha Onishi's public Celebration of Life service will be held at Blaine Memorial UMC on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 1:00PM with a reception to follow in the LAC.
- **Toshiko "Toshi" Okamoto**, 101, a beloved church member, passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 27, 2024 at Nikkei Manor. She is survived by her sister Kachi; her four children Joyce, Susan, John and Sheila; her nine grandchildren; and her nine+ great-grandchildren. A private family Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Remembrances may be made to Keiro NW, Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church or NVC Foundation.
- **Sumiko "Sumi" Kono Yoshioka**, 89, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, September 15, 2024. A lifelong Blaine Memorial church member, she faithfully served as the choir and handbell choir directors, organist and pianist. She was known for her kindness, grace, and was an island girl at heart. Sumi is predeceased by her husband Art; survived by her children • Tom (Roberta) Yoshioka, Ann Yoshioka, Steve (Beverly) Yoshioka, and Lynn (Stephen Cavit) Yoshioka. Sumi is also survived by her grandchildren Misa Yoshioka, Alex Yoshioka, Emily Yoshioka, Caleb Yoshioka, and Maddie Cavit; sister Midori Thiel, sisters-in-law Barbara Kono and Helen Kono, and many nephews and nieces. A public Celebration of Life will be held at Blaine Memorial UMC on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 1:00PM with a reception to follow in the LAC.
- **Sumi Minato**, 103 and seven months-old, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 12, 2024 at Sunrise of Bellevue. She lived a long, fulfilling and active life. Well into her 100's, Sumi's days were filled with activities, friendships and a smile on her face. Predeceased by her husband Howard, Sumi is survived by her children: Michael Minato (Cheryl), Jeanne Yorozu (Kenny), John Minato (Teresa), seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. A family Celebration of Life was held in June.

### Those in cancer treatment or remission

- Jerolyn Yoshihara • Jennifer Lew
- Quy Phi • Nikki Palmer • Chuck Sitkin
- Dean Tsuchida • Katie Tat

### Those with health concerns, recovery

- Kelly Nakata • Pui Chung Ngao Wong
- Greg Ogata • Sam Wakasugi • Alejandro Escalante
- Suma Yagi • Wyman Martin • Madison Kelly
- Marcia Takahashi • Rev. Shigeharu Ago

### Celebrations

- Congratulations to all who are celebrating November birthdays and anniversaries!

### For our United Methodist Church

- We continue to pray for The United Methodist Church's journey through a time of significant change as we navigate new ways to live into that new reality.

### For our community, nation, and world

- Prayers for people as they recover from the cyclone bomb storm in the Pacific Northwest. We pray that people receive power and phone connectivity soon. We are grateful for Puget Sound Energy for working around the clock to restore power. Open our hearts in generosity to all who need help in the coming days.
- Prayers after the presidential election for inspiration of the minds for all people who have committed the responsibility of government and leadership in the US. Give them the vision of truth and justice, that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together. Forgive our shortcomings as a nation; purify our hearts to see and love the truth.
- Prayers for the 420,000 children in the Amazon Basin countries of Columbia, Peru, and Brazil who are affected by water scarcity and a drought made worse by global climate change. We pray for our world's children, that their future and health be protected.
- Prayers for Sudan as it continues to face massacres and extreme gender-based violence affecting over 400 women between the ages of 8-75. In the act of these atrocities, we pray for the many women who have been violated and are so humiliated and traumatized that they have considered ending their own lives.
- Prayers for the people of Israel and Palestine amid the violence and war. We pray for an immediate ceasefire, an end to the violence, and the release of all hostages.
- Prayers for the Ukrainian people, for protection and peace between Ukraine and Russia.

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# November 2024

Visit [blaineonline.org/calendar](http://blaineonline.org/calendar) for updates. The Church Office is open Tuesday-Friday (10am-12pm, 1pm-4pm). If you have questions, please email [blaineoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:blaineoffice@yahoo.com) or call 206-723-1536.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>blaineonline.org</b>				View <a href="http://blaineonline.org">blaineonline.org</a> for more upcoming events!		1 •9am, Pickleball
3 <b>Communion Sunday, All Saints Sunday, Daylight Savings Time Ends</b> •10am, Hybrid Worship •10am, Church School •1pm, Blaine Basketball	4 <b>Church Office Closed</b> •10a, Zoom Yoga •11:30a, Zoom Gentle Yoga •6:30pm, Basketball •7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	5 <b>Election Day</b> •7pm, Choir Rehearsal	6 •Announcements Due •9:00am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen •8pm Zoom Church School Meeting	7 •11:30am, B.U.G.S. Ukulele •7:00pm, Blaine Basketball	8 •1pm, Pickleball •7pm, Volleyball	9 •9am, Pickleball
10 •10am, Hybrid Worship •10am, BYG Gathering •10am, Church School •Thanksgiving Service Project, Apple crisp making after service •1pm, Blaine Basketball	11 <b>Veterans Day Church Office Closed</b> •10a, Zoom Yoga •11:30a, Zoom Gentle Yoga •6:30pm, Basketball •7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	12 •7pm, Choir Rehearsal	13 •Announcements Due •9:00am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen •8pm Zoom Church School Meeting •Clergy Training for Intercultural Competency, Greater Northwest Area, UMC	14 •11:30am, B.U.G.S. Ukulele •6:30pm, Blaine Basketball •7:00pm, Charge Conference with Leadership	15	16 •10am-2pm, Ayame-Kai Holiday Market
17 •10am, Hybrid Worship •10am, BYG Gathering •10am, Church School •1pm, Blaine Basketball	18 <b>Church Office Closed</b> •10a, Zoom Yoga •11:30a, Zoom Gentle Yoga •6:30pm, Basketball •7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	19 •7pm, Choir Rehearsal	20 •Announcements Due •9:00am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen •8pm Zoom Church School Meeting	21 •11:30am, B.U.G.S. Ukulele •6:30pm, Blaine Basketball •7:00pm, Zoom Ad Board	22 •1pm, Pickleball •7pm, Volleyball	23 •9am, Pickleball
24 •10am, Hybrid Worship •10am, BYG Gathering •10am, Church School •Thanksgiving Service Project, Mashed potato making after service •1pm, Blaine Basketball	25 <b>Church Office Closed</b> •10a, Zoom Yoga •11:30a, Zoom Gentle Yoga •6:30pm, Basketball •7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	26 •6:30pm, NJAUMC Advent Study •7pm, Choir Rehearsal •10am, Thanksgiving Service Project, Kimball food delivery	27 •Announcements Due •9:00am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen •8pm Zoom Church School Meeting	28 <b>Thanksgiving, Church Office Closed</b> •11:30am, B.U.G.S. Ukulele •6:30pm, Blaine Basketball 	29 <b>Native American Heritage Day, Church Office Closed</b>	30 •9am, Pickleball •9am-12pm, Greening of the Church



## Holiday Office and Campus Closure

The Blaine Memorial UMC Church Office and the ENTIRE CAMPUS will be CLOSED from **Thursday, December 26, 2024 - Thursday, January 2, 2025**. The Church Office and Campus will open on Friday, January 3, 2025. All groups may resume activities on Friday, January 3. This time away gives our pastoral and church staff the opportunity to spend Christmas and the New Year with their families. Thank you for your understanding and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



**Save the date: January 26, 2025**

**Blaine Memorial UMC's 120<sup>th</sup>-121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Sunday Celebration**



Join us in celebrating the sunset of Blaine Memorial UMC's 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the beginning of the 121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary! Pastors who have served Blaine Memorial throughout the years will join us for worship. We'll also read the names of our church members and friends who (by the end of January 2025) have reached the glorious age of 88 and older. Also, we will read the names of our saints who have passed away in the last year (88 and older). Finally, we will host our famous Blaine Potluck lunch celebration in honor of our beloved congregants age 88+ and Blaine's Memorial's 121 years!

# December 2024

Visit [blaineonline.org/calendar](http://blaineonline.org/calendar) for updates. The Church Office is open Tuesday-Friday (10am-12pm, 1pm-4pm). If you have questions, please email [blaineoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:blaineoffice@yahoo.com) or call 206-723-1536.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> • 10am, Hybrid Worship • 10am, BYG Gathering • 10am, Church School • 1pm, Blaine Basketball	<b>2</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> • 10a, Zoom Yoga • 11:30a, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, Basketball	<b>3</b> • 6:30pm, NJAUMC Advent Study • 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> • Announcements Due • 9:00am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen • 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting	<b>5</b> • 11:30am, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball	<b>6</b> • 1pm, Pickleball • 7pm, Volleyball	<b>7</b> • 9am-12pm, Private Event
<b>8</b> • 10am, Hybrid Worship • 10am, BYG Gathering • 10am, Church School • 11:45am, Girl Scouts • 1pm, Blaine Basketball • Giving Tree, Wrapped Gifts due	<b>9</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> • 10a, Zoom Yoga • 11:30a, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, Basketball • 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	<b>10</b> • 6:30pm, NJAUMC Advent Study • 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> • Announcements Due • 9:00am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen • 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting	<b>12</b> • 8am-4pm, ACRS Club Bamboo • 11:30am, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball	<b>13</b> • 1pm, Pickleball • 7pm, Volleyball	<b>14</b> • 1pm, Martha & Kenji Onishi Memorial Service & Reception
<b>15</b> <b>Christmas Play</b> • 10am, Hybrid Worship • 1pm, Blaine Basketball • Poinsettia orders due	<b>16</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> • 10a, Zoom Yoga • 11:30a, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, Basketball • 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	<b>17</b> • 6:00 Minidoka • 6:30pm, NJAUMC Advent Study • 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> <b>Blue Christmas Service</b> • Announcements Due • 9:00am, Coffee & Prayer w/ Rev. Karen • 7:00pm, Blue Christmas Worship Service	<b>19</b> • 11:30am, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> • 9am, Pickleball
<b>22</b> <b>Christmas Music Sunday</b> • 10am, Hybrid Worship • 1pm, Blaine Basketball	<b>23</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> • 6:30pm, Basketball	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> • 3:00pm, Choir Rehearsal • 4:00pm, Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day, Church Office is Closed</b> 	<b>26</b> <b>27</b> <b>28</b> <b>Church Office is closed, December 26, 2024-January 2, 2025</b>		
<b>29</b> • 10am, Hybrid Worship • 10am, BYG Gathering • 10am, Church School • 1pm, Blaine Basketball	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b> 	<b>Upcoming Events</b> • January 1 (and 2), New Year's Day, Church Office is Closed • January 3, Church Office reopens • January 5, Ozoni Sunday • January 26, Blaine Memorial UMC's 120th-121st Anniversary Sunday			

**Church Office is closed, December 26, 2024-January 2, 2025**



**Blaine Memorial**  
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**Nov-Dec 2024**



## Connect with Blaine!

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### All are welcome here!

Our core belief is that each person is a beloved child of God — whose giftedness we value and whose presence and participation are a blessing to our community, and to the Kin-dom of God in the world.

Blaine Memorial UMC celebrates God’s gift of diversity and values the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more.

We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

### Ministry Staff Team

Senior Pastor  
 Choir Director  
 Church School Superintendent  
 BYG Associate Director  
 Pianist  
 Office Assistant  
 Bookkeeper

Rev. Karen Yokota Love  
 Eugene Onishi  
 Sai Hanaoka  
 Kaylee Yokoyama  
 Kathy Onishi  
 Yuki Sofronas  
 Mimi Mar



### Lay Leadership Team

Administrative Board  
 Staff Parish Relations  
 Board of Trustees  
 Finance Committee  
 Lay Leaders  
 Annual Conference Delegates

Brad Miyake  
 Arlene Naganawa  
 Ron Nobuyama, Brian Okura  
 Bob Sekijima, Gayle Miyake  
 Eugene Onishi, Kathy Onishi  
 Ron Nobuyama, George Yates



**Ways to Give** “Every person must bring a gift in proportion to God’s blessings upon you.” (Deut. 16: 17)

- **Online:** Click the Realm logo at [blaineonline.org](http://blaineonline.org) or scan the QR code on the left.
- **Mobile:** Download the free “Realm Connect” app. Use your sign-in and click GIVING. Contact the Church Office, [blaineoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:blaineoffice@yahoo.com). for a Realm sign-in.
- **Text:** Text BLAINE to 73256. Click the link you receive and follow the prompts.
- **Mail:** Mail a check to: Blaine Memorial UMC at 3001 24th Ave S. Seattle, WA 98144.

