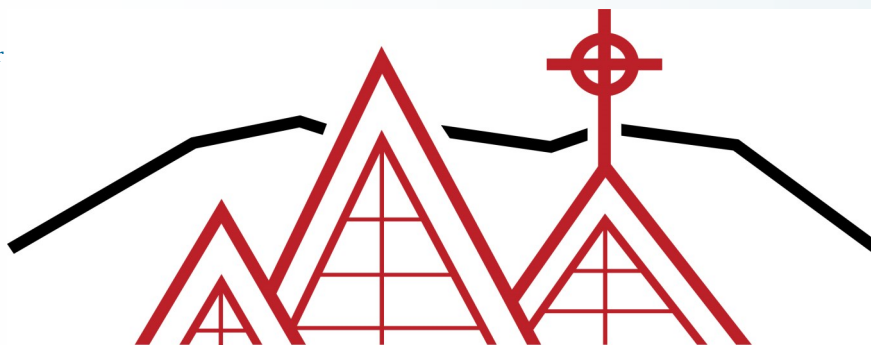


December
2023



Kunéix Hídi Northern Light United Church

The mission of Kunéix Hídi Northern Light United Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ through God-centered worship and people-centered ministry.

400 West 11th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1512
(907) 586-3131
office@khnLuc.org
Christina's office hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Minus lunch hour

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Sunday Worship

11:00 am in person and via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/398434443>

By phone+1 253 215-8782 Meeting ID: 398 434 443

Rev. Dr. Charles Ensminger, Pastor
pastor@khnLuc.org

khnLuc.org
(907)586-3131

Advent with Bonhoeffer

Existing in Advent is a difficult prospect for Christians. Much of that has to do with the fact that Advent doesn't *sell* very well. Christmas certainly does. But Advent? Like the Season of Lent, we don't always like living with a faith that calls us to repentance, reflection, and perhaps deep reconsideration of ideas. Christmas without the season of anticipation is very much like Easter without Holy Week. There is weight and meaning to that which leads up to Christmas and that is the season of Advent. I find that I am often reminded of the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (and if you don't know who he is, I would certainly encourage you to do a little digging on that name - I also mentioned him last month). Bonhoeffer wrote, "We have become so accustomed to the idea of divine love and of God's coming at Christmas that we no longer feel the shiver of fear that God's coming should arouse in us. We are indifferent to the message, taking only the pleasant and agreeable out of it and forgetting the serious aspect, that the God of the world draws near to the people of our little earth and lays claim to us."

Inside this issue

Sunday Sermons.....	2
Advent Season.....	2
Longest Night Service.....	3
Christmas Eve.....	3
Taizé Service.....	4
Thanksgiving at United Methodist Camp.....	5
Consider Serving on an Elected Committee.....	6
Another Successful Bazaar.....	7
New KHNLUK Cups.....	7
Annual Congregational Meeting..	7

Sermon Series

Advent is upon us. In December I will be following the Lectionary through Christmas. What does it mean to be those who speak of “God drawing near” in Advent and, eventually, in Christmas? How do we react to such an idea? The scriptures provide a variety of stories in which the people speak of God drawing near, and so I invite you to join us as we listen and respond to the idea of the pending arrival of Christ.

December 3rd, 1st Sunday in Advent Isaiah 64:1-9 The Plea

December 10th, 2nd Sunday in Advent 2nd Peter 3:8-15a The Threat

December 17th, 3rd Sunday in Advent John 1:6-8 The Voice

December 24th Christmas Eve Day Luke 1:26-38 The Announcement

December 31st Christmas Season John 1:1-18 The Reality

Advent continued

In a time and age in which our world, so vehemently polarized, Advent is the reminder that, as Bonhoeffer wrote, “God travels wonderful ways with human beings, but he does not comply with the views and opinions of people.” More to the point, “God loves the lowly.... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in. God is near to lowliness; God loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken.”

God loves those who are marginalized. And we clamor over each other so often to not be excluded. But as we fight to be included, fight for power, and see group after group be described as outsiders, foreigners, wicked, least, and lost, we find that the heart of Advent and the idea of the Christmas spirit elude us.

“Who among us will celebrate Christmas correctly? Whoever finally lays down all power, all honor, all reputation, all vani-

ty, all arrogance, all individualism beside the manger; whoever remains lowly and lets God alone be high; whoever looks at the child in the manger and sees the glory of God precisely in his lowliness.” God moves among us, but as Jesus says about the Kingdom of God, it has drawn near but we have failed to see it. And perhaps that might be why we miss Advent: we are running to Christmas so hard that we fail to take the journey that God calls us to walk. Despite our misadventures, our anger, and our penchant for hate I, with Bonhoeffer and, I hope, you as well, “believe that God can and will bring good out of evil, even out of the greatest evil.”

To do so, God calls us to faith, action, and a confidence in the abiding presence that is untamable and yet is merciful and giving. May our faith carry us forward as we slow down for Advent.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Charles

Join Us for Services this Advent Season

December 3, 11:00am – First Sunday of Advent

December 10, 11:00am – Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 7:00pm – [Taizé Service of meditative music and light](#)

December 17, 11:00am – Third Sunday of Advent and Christmas Pageant

December 21, 6:00pm – Longest Night Blue Christmas Service

December 24, 11:00am – Fourth Sunday of Advent Service with lessons and carols

Bring Christmas cookies to share after the service.

December 24, 6:30pm – Christmas Eve Service

Pre-service music by Aurora Strings.

Worship with communion at 7:00pm.

Longest Night Service

On Thursday, December 21st at 6:00 we will be having a special evening service called The Service of the Longest Night. The Service of the Longest Night is a special service whose primary purpose is to offer support and community to each of us in our times of struggle. This is a service for anyone who has ever had to walk through those dark nights of the soul. There is nothing wrong with experiencing grief – in fact, we need to experience it to get through it. And this service is for all who have known what it means to have a broken heart.

John Claypool, in his book *Tracks of a Fellow Struggler* uses the term the “fraternity of the bereaved” to describe those who have experienced loss (of any kind, I would add). The truth of the matter is: eventually, we are all a part of that group. The Service of the Longest Night is for that group – from those who have just joined to those who have been a member of that group for a long, long time. Because the point of this service is not to deny your pain, but to offer an idea that is near and dear to the Christian faith: support.

The Service of the Longest Night is hard to describe, but Daniel Benedict Jr. (at the umcdiscipleship.org website) wrote this: “I attended the service intent on praying for several friends who had recently lost jobs and several who were experiencing grief. As the service progressed, I began to be aware of a sense of loss in my own life that needed to be named. Without forgetting those I had come to pray for, I was carried in seeing beyond my sense of isolation and loneliness to stand with the church to remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us.”

My invitation is for you to consider joining us for the Service of the Longest Night on December 21st, in the Sanctuary. Come to find support, come to pray for those who are having a difficult time, or come to pray for your own situation. Know that you are welcome, and that we are in this together.

Pastor Charles

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is on Sunday the 24th. Two services in one day – that sounds crazy! But it is the reality of the situation, and so we will have service that morning and a special service of music and communion that evening. I hope that you will be able to join us for both of these special services.

Poinsettias

We will decorate the chancel of our church with Poinsettias for the Christmas season. If you would like to donate a cost of a Poinsettia, please send \$15 to the church office (check payable to NLUC with poinsettia in the memo line), and if it is given in honor or memory of a loved one, please include the name(s). The names will be printed in the orders of service on Christmas Eve. Those donating poinsettias may take them home after worship on Dec. 24.





Taize' Advent Service

Sunday Dec 10 ~ 7:00 pm

*At Kuneix Hidi Northern Light United Church
400 W 11th St ~ Downtown Juneau*



- **SONGS**

Meditative singing that repeats over and over

- **CANDLES**

Candle lighting to aid in our prayer

- **REFLECTION, PRAYER & MEDITATION**



What does Taize' mean; A simple meditative form of worship for all Christian Faiths.



Thanksgiving at the Methodist Camp

We continued our tradition of a Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner at the Eagle River United Methodist Camp. Jane's been going out to camp for Thanksgiving for over 35 years. We enjoy a roaring fire, singing around the piano with Jacque, and lots of good food! The whole Barnhill family came out to spend Thanksgiving Eve in the Gotschall Cabin. Their special way of preparing turkey this year was deep-fried turkey bits with 4 different spices. Esther & Mark Millea have a tradition of bringing a fabulous red cabbage dish. Cindy Ensminger brought along a turkey stuffing dish while Sherrie Myers brought along mashed potatoes in a great little dish that kept the potatoes hot until serving. Several people thought the Barnhill's fresh cranberry sauce was the best they had ever had. We enjoyed a couple pumpkin pies from the church bazaar. Be sure to join us for Thanksgiving next year and come join us at camp anytime during the year!

Here are links to a couple videos:

Come Ye Thankful People Come
Singing at Camp Thanksgiving 2023
With Jacque Farnsworth
<https://youtu.be/9iS73SSoSxs>

We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing
Singing at Camp Thanksgiving 2023
With Jacque Farnsworth
<https://youtu.be/VUpPxmCuuA>



Consider Serving on an Elected Committee!

The Kūnéix Hídi Nominating Committee is looking for members to serve on various elected committees. The combination of new and experienced members serving on these committees allows our congregation to function in a responsible, fulfilling manner. However, this combination also requires everyone to take a turn at being on a committee.

Below is a list of our congregation's various committees and their responsibilities. Please look these over and decide on which of these you would be willing to serve. If you have questions, concerns, or just need more information, obtain that information from a member of the Nominating Committee (listed below).

Church Council Kūnéix Hídi's Board of Directors. Responsible for Church finances, policies and procedures; generally overseeing the overall functioning of our Church (as advised by the various standing committees) as well as our Church's relationship with the Presbyterian Church, USA and United Methodist Church.

Committee on Property and Management The physical well-being of the church building and manse.

Deacons Hosting church events, especially when food and/or beverages are required; as well as preparing communion Providing members with individual support and assistance when requested.

Social Justice and Service Creating awareness and support for church programs of social justice and outreach.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee Serve as a link and liaison between the pastor and congregation.

Here are our current needs:

5 Council	2 SPRC	3 Deacon	2 CPM	2 SJSC
4 class of 2026	2 class of 2026	3 class of 2026	2 class of 2026	2 class of 2026
1 class of 2024				

Committees typically meet once a month for an hour or so and often involve follow-up activities of a volunteer nature, as appropriate. Each of the above committees have a half to full-page detailed description in the KHNLUC Bylaws. Thus, the above descriptions are "bare bone."

For more information about any specific committee, please contact their current chairs, (who are: Council: Jim Alter; CPM: Duff Mitchell; Deacons: Kristi Peel; SJSC: KJ Metcalf and George Partlow; SPRC: Jeff Hartman) or members of the Nominating Committee (Barbara Searls, Marianne Mills, Laura Doogan, Maxine Richert, Jim Alter, Jane Ginter, Andi Story, and Pastor Charles).

Another Successful CCW Bazaar

The Community of Christian Women concluded its annual Bazaar last month and we extended a BIG THANK YOU to all who were able to participate. We appreciate you all—you helped make the Bazaar another success. We'll have more news at a later date detailing the amount of funds raised during the auction and at the lunch on Saturday November 18th.

A big thank you also goes to those who offered merchandise for auction and/or for sale. There were more than 350 items to choose from by 34 donors.

It was so much fun to finally return to an in-person lunch; it seems that folks had a keen desire to meet, eat a hot meal together and visit. Thank you so much to all those who prepared delicious soups, breads and pies.

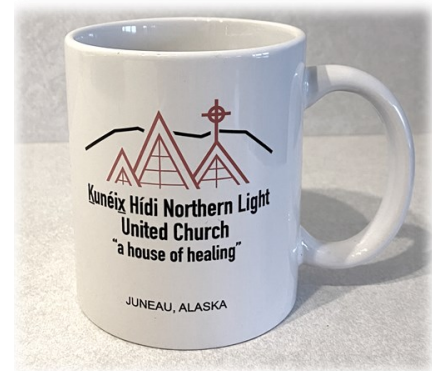
On a date to be determined in January, CCW will meet to review and discuss our options for donations to causes that support children, women and families. Until then, please accept our heartfelt appreciation for helping to make our Bazaar a rousing success



Just in time for Christmas!

Deacons will be selling the new KHNLUC cups after the December 3rd and 10th church services. Cups are \$10 each and proceeds will go to the food security fund.

Exact change is appreciated or make checks payable to “KHNLUC” and write “Deacons” in the memo line. Thank you!



Congregational Meeting January 21

Our congregation will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 27 after worship. All are welcome to attend.

Thank yous

Many people and groups are involved in making sure things happen at KHNLUC. Each month we would like to recognize some of those individuals and groups for their special services. Special thanks to:

*those who served as Liturgists: Laura Doogan, Jeffrey Hartman, Carol Barril, Margaret MacKinnon

*those who served as Greeters/ushers: Geoffrey Alter, Karen Dillon, Bob Coghill, Rosson Family

*Those who provided flowers: Anne Standerwick, Elizabeth Wheeler, Denise Carroll, Jane Ginter

*Mary Borthwick, Karen Dillon, Marianne Mills, John Pugh, Carol Barril, Pat Gorman, Jan and Don Kussart, April Rezendes and Jim Alter for their help in counting and recording financial gifts received by Kunéix Hídi Northern Light.

If you have a suggestion for a thank you, call Christina at the church office, 586-3131 or e-mail her at office@khnLuc.org.

Sign Up!

You can be an important part of what makes our worship together a good experience.

Our web site, <https://khnLuc.org/>, offers a section where you can help with worship. You can also tell Christina to sign you up if you prefer not to use the computer.

Everyone is invited to be part of our worship service.

The liturgist reads the scripture and helps lead the service with the pastor. [Sign up to be the liturgist.](#)

You can serve as liturgist if you worship with us via Zoom.

The ushers greet people before the service, pass out bulletins, pass the offering plate, and assist with the prayers and announcements from the congregation. [Sign up to be an usher.](#)

The altar flowers are provided by the congregation. [Sign up to provide flowers for worship.](#)

You can provide flowers even if you worship via Zoom. Flowers can be brought to the church before Sunday if that is more convenient for you. Ask Christina for the new key code to enter the side door on A Street.

We encourage you to think ahead and plan to help out. Pick a special day for providing flowers to honor a loved one. Maybe sign up once a month to be liturgist or usher.



2	Natalie Norberg
3	Jan Blankenship
4	Erika Partlow
9	Ryan Elisoff
11	Eve Reckley
13	Charles Ensminger
	Ryan Story
15	BJ White
20	Lorna Kent
	John Pugh
	Gary Lehnhart
	Melody Millard
	Randy Peterson
21	Ryan Doogan
	Finn Peterson
26	Denise Carroll
	Bob Herman
	Sophia Elisoff
28	Jean Overstreet
	Andy Rosson
31	Bob Millard

DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>3 11 Worship in person & via Zoom</p> <p>3 Bach Society Concert</p> <p>5:15 Youth Group</p>	<p>4 5 Mendenhall Melodies Concert</p>	<p>5 12 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons</p> <p>5:30 Nominating Committee</p>	<p>6 5:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>7 10 Weekend Food Bags</p> <p>6 Mudrooms Rehearsal</p>	<p>1 7:30 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>8 7:30 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>15 7:30 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>22 7:30 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>29 7:30 Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>2 8:30 Vets for Peace</p> <p>10:30 Al-Anon</p> <p>8 Bach Society Concert</p> <p>9 10:30 Al-Anon</p> <p>16 8:30 Vets for Peace</p> <p>10:30 Al-Anon</p> <p>23 10:30 Al-Anon</p> <p>30 10:30 Al-Anon</p>
<p>10 11 Worship in person & via Zoom</p> <p>5:15 Youth Group</p> <p>7 Taizé Service</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 10 Finance Committee</p> <p>12 Al-Anon</p> <p>12 Juneau Hikers</p> <p>2:30 Violin Lessons</p> <p>Glory Hall Chili</p>	<p>13 5:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>14 10 Weekend Food Bags</p> <p>5:00 Cookie Decorating</p> <p>5:30 Council</p>		<p>20 5:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>17 11 Worship in person & via Zoom</p> <p>12:15 Deacons Meeting</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 12 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons</p>	<p>20 5:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5 CPM</p> <p>6 – Longest Night Blue Christmas Service</p>		
<p>24 11 Worship in person & via Zoom</p> <p>5:15 Youth Group</p> <p>6:30pm – Christmas Eve Service</p> <p>Pre-service music by Aurora Strings.</p> <p>Worship with communion at 7:00pm</p>	<p>25 Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday</p>	<p>26 Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>12 Al-Anon</p> <p>2:30 Violin Lessons</p>	<p>27 5:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>28</p>		
<p>31 11 Worship in person & via Zoom</p> <p>5:15 Youth Group</p>						