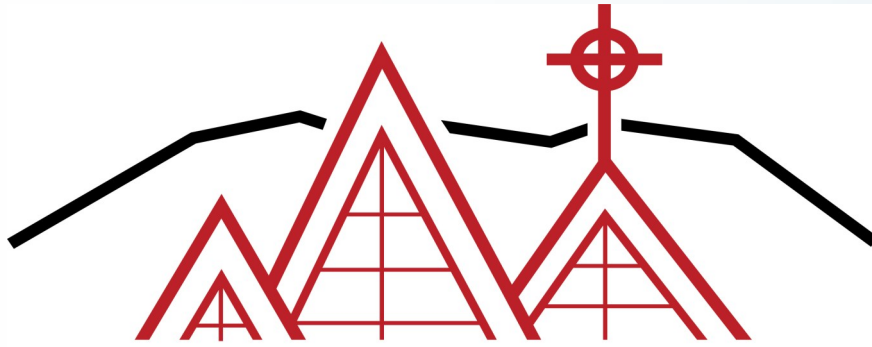


February
2025



Kunéix Hídi Northern Light United Church

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

Sunday Worship

10:00 am in person and via Zoom

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

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

Scan this code to donate now



*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

Rev. Dr. Charles Ensminger, Pastor
pastor@khnLuc.org
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Facing the Future

In the book of Jeremiah there is an oft quoted verse that states, "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)

This verse is in the context of Israel's having been conquered by the Babylonians. There is a sense of dread and hopelessness that surrounded the political landscape and the people feared God had abandoned them. Thus, Jeremiah brings welcome words to the people on God's behalf – simply to know that there *is* a future was uplifting. To declare that God is looking to give a future *with hope* was amazing!

That's because then, as now, the future is often viewed through dystopian lenses and without hope. I heard an interviewee on a talk show once answer the question of "how are things going?" with the answer, "Well, once I gave up hope, things smoothed out."

That kind of hopelessness is powerful, addictive, and contagious. And when the Christian faith becomes infected with it, it is downright crushing.

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Special points of interest

- Bible Study
- Permanent Endowment Funds Matching Challenge Announced for 2025!
- Dinners at the Glory Hall

Sermon Series

In January, we began the Season of Epiphany which lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is March 5th.

So, as the Epiphany season continues, I will continue to focus on the challenge of Epiphany: what might it mean to come to a moment of profound realization personally or as the church? What can this season provide for us as we struggle to *be* a follower of Christ? I would add that a book that influenced some of my thinking on these particular sermons was a book by Jacques Ellul called *The Subversion of Christianity*. Some of his ideas and themes have been utilized in the writing of these sermons.

February 2nd Matthew 5:13-16 The Way in the Darkness

February 9th James 3:13-18 Eppur Si Muove!

February 16th Ephesians 5:8-14 Eyesight to the Blind

February 23rd Pastor Charles out of town

March 2nd Matthew 2:1-12 Another Way: The Magi Revisited

Facing the Future continued

Yet, as Jürgen Moltmann wrote in his book *Theology of Hope*, “What would become of us if we did not take our stand on hope, and if our heart did not hasten beyond this world through the midst of the darkness upon the path illuminated by the word and Spirit of God!” What would become of the church if we had no hope? How could we offer that which we did not have?

Two answers. First, we have to be able to speak to the hopeless without condemning their hopelessness. We have to be *with* people in the darkest times. Second, we have to walk in the darkness, but we also have to walk with a light that comes from faith. That faith is a gift to offer – a light in the darkness. Billy Joel once sang it this way: “They say that these are not the best of times, but they are the only times I have ever known.” The church must learn how to *be* in the face of the future and in the face of hopelessness as Jeremiah did for the people of Israel in their time of crisis.

Therefore, we are to be *here*.

The task before us this year is to learn, teach, and understand what it means to be *present* as we move into the future. We

are going to be working to consider new ways of ministry and what we can do to be more effective in our outreach, our worship, and in bringing the Good News of God’s grace to the communities around us.

But before we even get to that, I would suggest that we take a moment here at the beginning of the year and offer a prayer that is attributed to St. Francis and truly reflect on what it is for which we pray:

Lord, make me an instrument
of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me
sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master, grant that I
may not so much seek to be
consoled as to console;
to be understood as to under-
stand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we re-
ceive;
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are
born to eternal life.

Amen. So may it be!

Pastor Charles

Disaster Response Overview, February 13th, all invited!

This is a Conference-wide Zoom to get a glimpse of what people will be learning during the Winter Learning Event the following week, where participants will receive a full day of training called Connecting Neighbors. The webinar will begin at 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 13th. Host a watch party with your congregation.

Zoom link to participate

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/98063086233>

Participant guide

<https://files.constantcontact.com/fb262dbb001/25261e9c-78a6-47ab-a557-b8ecab57c236.pdf?rdr=true>

Moderator's January Report

At the last Council Meeting (1/9/25), several action items were approved including ordering printing of the 50 year history of KHNLUC written by Margaret McKinnon. We celebrated the 50th year anniversary on 9/22/24 at which time former Pastor Phil Campbell was approved as Pastor Emeritus. Dates for the neighborhood party (June 1) and Sandy Beach picnic (8/24) were also approved pending Pastor's availability. On February 13, Council will also approve other dates for 2025. Note approved Council minutes are posted on the bulletin board.

Council also reviewed annual reports submitted by committees for the upcoming Annual Meeting (which was 1/19/25).

Jim Alter was thanked for his service on Council (he had served 2 3-year terms, the max allowed). Susan Bus, Sherrie Myers and my first terms were ending and we agreed to being nominated to serve another 3-year term.

On January 12, Pastor Charles led a visioning session after Sunday Service with a potluck brunch. On January 16, the Native Ministries Committee held a visioning session at a potluck dinner with members of the Native Community. A report on this visioning session is in the newsletter.

The annual meeting of KHNLUC was held on 1/19 following the Sunday service and brunch served by the Germaines and others. Superintendent Kristi McGuire officiated the annual meeting (recording secretary Maxine Richert). All committee reports were presented and some committee chairs provided brief summary and answered questions. The Pastor reviewed the visioning process and work with the Ketchikan church. The Treasurer reported that more was contributed than budgeted. Action items included the salary of Pastor, the Nominating Committee report, and the membership report were approved. Accountability questions were answered. The cooks were thanked!!

This is my last report as a new Moderator will be elected at the February meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Maxine Richert

Bible Study

We will begin an in-person Bible Study on Sunday, February 2nd. Come and join us in Memorial Hall at 4:00 for a time of study, conversation, and fellowship. If you can't join us in person, a Zoom version of the study will take place on Wednesday nights at 6:30 beginning on February 5th. All are welcome!

Permanent Endowment Funds Matching Challenge Announced for 2025!

The Permanent Endowment Funds were created in 2021. The Akiyama family has generously offered another challenge match for donations to the Permanent Endowment Funds. They will match donations of up to \$14,500 for the Program fund and \$14,500 for the Capital Projects fund. All donations from December 1, 2024, through November 30, 2025, will count toward the match.

Please consider contributing this year to grow these funds that will help sustain KHNLUC programs for many years to come.

Margaret MacKinnon,
Treasurer

Native Ministries Visioning Potluck Event

On January 16, 2025 Native Ministries Committee members met with invited guests from the Native Community to get their ideas on visioning the remodel of the Rev. Dr. Walter Soboleff Hall. Pattie Adkisson organized the event and contacted people to attend but had a trip that prevented her attending. Other members present were: Barbara Searls (Chair), Freda Westman, Pastor Charles, Judy Ramos, and Maxine Richert. Judy Ramos (for those who don't know her) is from Yakutat, a professor of Alaska Native Studies at UAS, and has advised the National Museum of the American Indian in NYC on their renovations.

Menu: Barbara cooked a delicious chicken adobo and rice (a Filipino dish but a favorite among SE Alaska Natives who have many different ways of cooking this dish). Freda delighted us with a fresh herring egg green garden salad (another Tlingit delicacy) with rolls brought by Elsie, and Maxine offered 3 desserts to choose from: bread pudding, cherry pie and pear/mango tart.

Our guests were: Janet Soboleff Burke, Royal DeAsis (he participated in the Apology and is a former Memorial Presbyterian Church member), Patty McNeil (she participated in the Apology and was also a MPC member) and her daughter Jessica Isturis, Fran Houston (head of the Aak'w Kwaan Tlingit), Marcello Quinto (leader in the Native and Filipino community who often caters special events using KHNLUC kitchen), Elsie Westman, and Harold Westman (both attend KHNLUC).

Our visioning discussion was lively with ideas offered by all. Janet Burke made a generous offer to donate items that belonged to her father that would fill a display case. All of the ideas will be submitted along with previous visioning discussions held by the congregation and other committees. Renovation of the Dr. Soboleff Hall is part of the Reparations and an important goal of KHNLUC to reflect Dr. Soboleff's ministry, make the church more welcoming to the Native Community, to the congregation and community organizations that utilize our church.

Alaska United Methodist Conference Winter Gathering: Being Well Together

Thursday, February 13, 2025 Conference-wide Zoom: Disaster Response Overview

Join in a watch party to get a glimpse of what will be covered in the Winter Gathering Event: Being Well Together. Time and zoom link to be announced.

Our church will be participating in the Alaska Conference sponsoring Winter Gathering: Being Well Together

The purpose of this gathering is to address the urgency of climate change in Alaska through preparation and response and to practice stewardship and interdependence as we live into the kingdom of God.

Tentative Agenda (February 20 – 22): Devotion; Introduction to Environmental & Community Wellness; UMVIM Session 1: Connecting the Dots with Volunteers; Media Training for Pastoral Leaders

Devotion; Nonviolent Resistance & Strategies of Non-compliance Training ;UMVIM Session 2: Called to Service w/ Teams & Partnerships

Alaska Native Heritage Center: Athabascan Ceremonial House for Connecting Neighbors training and ANHC tours





New Members Rosemarie, Nancy, Carol, Pastor Charles



Dinners at the Glory Hall



One of the ways Northern Light shares at Juneau's emergency shelter and soup kitchen, is providing a meal on the third and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The second Tuesday menu is chili and the fourth is spaghetti. Many members and friends participate in this effort by shopping for food, donating funds, cooking, serving the meals, and sharing fellowship with Glory Hall patrons.

A sign-up sheet for food, cooks and servers can be found on the church webpage under

“Serve”. Food marked "Glory Hall" can be left in the church kitchen/refrigerator or taken to the Glory Hall kitchen by 2:30 p.m. the day of the meal (food costs can be a donation or reimbursed by the church office).

The cooking crew begins preparation at the Glory Hall at 4:00 p.m. and Dinner is served at 6:00. The servers can then share the meal with others eating at the Glory Hall. Many in our congregation provide faithful help and are always eager to share this experience with new volunteers. There is always someone there who has done it before and knows the ropes.

Thanks to the many who participate in this important ministry of food and fellowship! If you would like to be part of this ministry you are encouraged to sign up on the website or contact the church office, office@khnluc.org.

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: Frances Graham, Lucy Wall, John Doogan

*those who served as Greeters/ushers: Patsy Wright, Laura Doogan, Sherrie Myers, Jane Ginter

*Those who provided flowers: Elizabeth Wheeler, Denise Carroll, Sherrie Myers, Margaret MacKinnon

*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 a liturgist on the sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall or call the office.

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 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.



- 1 Bobi Trani
- 3 Jason Hope
- 5 Rob Becker
- Tim Lash
- 7 Jean Ann Alter
- 9 Henry Akiyama
- 10 Olivia Miller
- 15 Sue Deems
- Chloe Likins
- 16 Edith McHenry
- 18 Dori Germain
- 22 La Creatia Wilson
- 25 Leon Shaul
- 26 Su Alexander
- 28 Frank Coenraad

FEBRUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 8:00 Vets for Peace
2 10:00 Worship 4:00 Bible Study 5:15 Youth Group	3	4 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons 6:00 Orpheus Project Rehearsal	5 10:00 Finance Committee via Zoom 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 Mudrooms Rehearsal	6 10:00 Weekend Food Bags 6:00 Orpheus Project Rehearsal	7 7:30 Men's Breakfast 2:30 Violin Lessons	8 7:30 Orpheus Project Concert
9 10:00 Worship 2:00 Orpheus Project Concert 4:00 Bible Study 5:15 Youth Group	10	11 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons Glory Hall Chili 7:00 Mudrooms	12 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Bible Study	13 10:00 Weekend Food Bags Conference-wide Zoom: Disaster Response Overview. Time and zoom link to be announced 5:30 Church Council 6:30 Chosen Watching	14 7:30 Men's Breakfast 2:30 Violin Lessons	15 8:00 Vets for Peace
16 10:00 Worship 4:00 Bible Study 5:15 Youth Group	17 Church Office Closed	18 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons	19 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Bible Study	20 10:00 Weekend Food Bags 5:00 Committee on Property Management 6:30 Chosen Watching	21 7:30 Men's Breakfast 2:30 Violin Lessons	22
23 10:00 Worship Deacons Meeting 4:00 Bible Study 5:15 Youth Group	24	25 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 Al-Anon Glory Hall Spaghetti 2:30 Violin Lessons	26 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Bible Study	27 10:00 Weekend Food Bags 6:30 Chosen Watching	28 7:30 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Healing Task Force 2:30 Violin Lessons 5:00 Juneau String Ensemble Rehearsal	