

# 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

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*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@khnuc.org  
Christina's office hours  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Minus lunch hour

Rev. Dr. Charles Ensminger, Pastor  
pastor@khnuc.org  
[khnuc.org](http://khnuc.org)  
(907)586-3131

## A Reminder

I recently read that the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church, the conference through which I am appointed to Alaska (which covers East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia and a small portion of northwest Georgia), brought together a resolution to oppose Christian nationalism and encouraged the United Methodist denomination to “educate itself on the ‘societal and spiritual dangers’ of the ideology.” (this quote is from the Chattanooga Times Free Press, July 26, 2025).

Good for them. I am proud of Holston for making such a resolution.

However, I am also a bit troubled by the fact that a local conference needs to recommend education *against* the ideology of Christian nationalism. Shouldn't that just be a given? I mean, doesn't following Jesus *mean* we strive to live by his teachings? Isn't “Christian” supposed to be a title given to those who strive to follow Jesus the Christ?

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### Special points of interest

- August Sermon Series
- Bob's birthday
- Youth Group
- Family Promise
- Presentation to Vinton Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School of Iowa
- Birthday Celebrations
- Donations for tractor for ERUMC

## August Sermon Series

8/3 Acts 2:42-47

The Locker

8/10 Hebrews 6:13-18

Above All

8/17 2nd Corinthians

5:14-21

Estrangement and

Grace

8/24 Colossians 1:3-6,

9-14

Further On

8/30 Isaiah 57:14-16

The Breath of God

## A Reminder continued

Yes, but apparently the title applies only until one's political views don't align with Jesus. Then we often tend to default to our political leanings. Jesus' example and teachings become less important as we find ourselves swept away by other voices that tell us that faithfulness *means* faithfulness to the political party or caucus or project ideology or racial view and so on. The other voices tell us that true faith doesn't question the state, the media, or the church.

Beware institutions that cannot abide scrutiny.

Thus, when I read that Holston passed its resolution, I found that I felt a mixture of joy and concern. Holston was, in my opinion, reminding the denomination of the work that the denomination *should already* be doing.

As a denomination, we *should* be against those ideologies that misappropriate the faith for the sake of the so-called "Christian" nationalism, racism, and violence. Not only this, but we *should* be opposed to larger issues such as warfare and genocide.

Well, in fact, the denomination *has* already declared such. In the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, there is a succinct and important section called "The Social Principles" (Part V of the Book of Discipline, as posted here: [Social Principles: The Political Community](#))

[UMC.org](#)) which contains the following:

In keeping with international laws and ordinances, we vehemently protest the use of torture, slavery, genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression by any government and call for the strictest international sanctions to be imposed in such cases. While we do not believe churches should affiliate with particular political parties, we do encourage churches to speak out boldly on social issues from a Gospel perspective. We further believe churches have a right and a responsibility to educate and equip their members to be effective advocates for justice in the wider world. (¶164a)

The church deplores war and all other forms of violent conflict and urges the peaceful settlement of all disputes. (¶165f)

It's already in the books. So, it seems odd to me that a Conference needs to make a resolution for the denomination to state that which it already claims.

Then again, perhaps it isn't that odd.

As people of faith, we find that we must continually work towards being a faithful people who strive to hear Jesus' call

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## A Reminder concluded

in our lives. That may have to do with the fact that Jesus' voice isn't the loudest. It doesn't call for atrocities on behalf of a political ideology. It doesn't boast.

Jesus has power. The example he offers, however, is of a power that is reserved; a power that is compassionate, and a power that is kind.

The narrative of Jesus also reminds us that what Jesus brought to the world was a power that the "powerful" sought to crucify, fearing it was a threat to the status quo.

I wonder: is the power of Jesus still that terrifying?

Probably. Perhaps especially to those who would seek to abrogate Jesus for the sake of gain. Jesus is, it seems, popular when people need votes, but he isn't too popular when it comes to developing social policies.

So, perhaps what the Holston Conference did is something we might all need to consider: remember what it means to follow Jesus. Or, in other words, remember who we *already* should be.

Good for them.

Peace.  
Pastor Charles

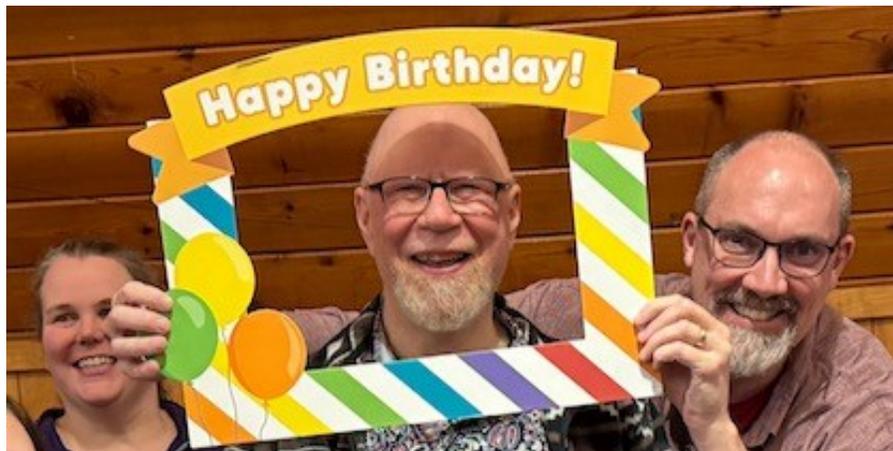
## Bible Study

We will be wrapping up our Bible Studies this month (we will resume in the fall!) We have two more weeks in person and online. We meet on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 in Memorial Hall for an in-person study and, if you can't join us in person, on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 via Zoom (same study topic!).

## BBQ at Sandy Beach Log Cabin after Worship

August 24, 2025 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

We'll have another BBQ this summer on Sunday, August 24, at the log cabin shelter at Sandy Beach. Come to church at 10 a.m. in your picnic clothes, then join us at Sandy Beach after church. Hamburgers, hotdogs and fixings will be provided. Bring a dish to share. (no glass)



(Also accompanied by six youth of the youth fellowship, but not pictured due to Safe Sanctuary practice!)



Ellie Wall baked this cake and the youth group presented to me Sunday for my birthday, along with an offering of heartfelt cards.

— feeling loved at [Kunéix Hídi Northern Light United Church](#).

Bob Coghill



Family Promise Juneau (FPJ) has finished its summertime stay at K̄unéix̄ Hídi Northern Light Church. We had one family stay at KHNLUC from June 11<sup>th</sup> through July 27<sup>th</sup> but KHNLUC only provided meals and hosted for four days in June. Other faith communities and FPJ Board members were hosts for the other weeks.

We would like to thank the following people for providing meals, setting up and dismantling cots and mattress, vacuuming the two large Preschool rooms, cleaning the Preschool refrigerator, and laundering sheets, mattress covers, blankets and towels:

John Doogan, Carol Barril, Cherry Eckland, Jim, Jean Ann and Kathryn Alter and Kathryn's son Lautaro, Anne Standerwick, Rebecca Easton, Susan Bus, George Partlow, Linda McCargar and a number of anonymous laundry elves. A special thank you to Judy Morley who not only provided the family's first meal but also realized they might be cold at night those first few weeks in June and loaned us five of her beautiful quilts.

The national Family Promise is changing its model from using churches for overnights to what is called static site shelter. FPJ is in the process of finding a single location to host families overnight, provide a day center and office space. Contributions of \$100 to \$1000 are especially needed now.

Financial support for FPJ is always welcome. Try the easy on-line option through Family Promise Juneau website. <https://www.familypromisejuneau.org/donate>

*FPJ has enrolled with the PayPal Giving Fund. They will now receive 100% of your donations with no fees taken out.*

Call Family Promise Juneau: (907) 586-0160  
Or mail check to: PO Box 32775, Juneau, AK 99803

Or you can contact: Linda McCargar, K̄unéix̄ Hídi Family Promise Coordinator @ 971-241-0534 or [ducky6670@gmail.com](mailto:ducky6670@gmail.com)

The 2024 Bazaar was a great success and the Community of Christian Women met in early 2025 to decide how to spread the proceeds among various causes. We decided to leave some funds available in case additional needs are identified.

Now is the time to spend the remainder. Please join us after church Sunday August 10th for a short meeting to help us make this decision. We don't have a huge amount, but we can do have some good. Have questions -- contact Carol Barril.

## A Word of Thanks! (adapted from a Facebook post from Juneau Housing First Collaborative (JHFC) – Forget-Me-Not Manor )

We have officially begun welcoming our new tenants into the 28 newly constructed units at Forget-Me-Not Manor. This project helps our neighbors and our community to be healthier and safer. This program increases housing stability, provides safety, and creates dignity and better quality of life for individuals who have experienced homelessness for many years.

JHFC is so grateful to K̄unéix Hídi Northern Light United Church (KHNLUC) for their invaluable generosity! Thank you for always helping us, from funding and supplies to beautifully handmade quilts.

JHFC is also grateful for the generous donation of hand-

made pillowcases made by Capitol City Quilters.

Again, thank you to everyone involved in making Forget-Me-Not Manor become a home to so many.



## Presentation to Vinton Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School of Iowa

Several weeks ago Pastor Charles received a request from Pastor Hans of Vinton Presbyterian Church for KHNLUC to make a presentation on the Tlingit Culture and KHNLUC's work to make the church more welcoming to Tlingit people. The Native Ministries Committee (Barbara Searls, Chair) volunteered Maxine Richert and Judy Ramos to make Sealaska Heritage age appropriate videos available during VBS (ages preschool to 4th grade) and a 15 minute presentation on the last day. Judy drew on her experience as a professor at UAS in rural studies and own childhood in Yakutat. Maxine drew on her work with the Apology to Dr. Rev Walter Soboleff. The email from Pastor Hans reflects the impact on the audience that included teachers and parents and the donation to KHNLUC.

From Iowa:

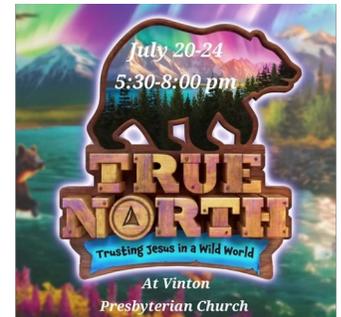
What a wonderful partnership with The Wesley United Methodist Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church from Sunday, July 20 to Thursday, July 24. Bible School on their adventure to True North was so exciting and fun

for all of the children. The organizers should be so proud of the background and spiritual guidance that they provided. Many thanks to all that participated in making VBS a great success this year.

Pastor Hans also stated, "Thank you for your presence at our VBS! I think the otherness of your culture and the problems mainstream society had in accepting it made an impression on the little ones, but even more so on the adults. Considering this was a first, it was a real success!"

Pastor Hans Poetschner  
Vinton Presbyterian Church

Vinton Presbyterian VBS also collected \$500 as a "token of acceptance and Christian love" for our church. What a great event!



## KHNLUC Youth Group Escaping for Alaskan Crepes!

On a sunny Sunday evening, the KHNLUC Youth Group, with Pastor Charles, leader Kristy Germain, leader Bob Coghill, parent Andy Rosson, and Jane Ginter walked from the church to the Alaskan Crepe Escape for a treat. Amid tourists and locals, we enjoyed a treat in the food truck park.

Despite vacations and summer camps, the Youth Group continues to meet. In August, there will be a lock in at the church. It remains to be seen if much sleeping will be done.

We thank the congregation for their support. Various people contribute meals and activity funds. The Youth Group is open to Middle and High School age youth. We meet at 5:15 pm Sundays for two hours of bible reading, sharing, a meal and games.



## Michigan Volunteers Coming to Camp!

For the third year in a row, 17 mission volunteers from Cole Methodist Church and Melvin Methodist Church in Michigan are coming to Juneau to volunteer at the Eagle River United Methodist Camp.

Don Cramer – handyman/carpenter assistant  
Julie Cramer – yard work/carpenter assistant  
Eddie Lawson – carpenter/landscape/plumber/electrician  
Erica Lawson – yard work/carpenter assistant/paint  
Will Lawson – yard work/carpenter assistant/paint  
Zach Lawson – yard work/carpenter assistant/paint  
Justine Lawson – welder and carpenter  
Jeremy Fox – carpenter/handyman – do almost anything  
Mike Johnson - carpenter/plumber/electrician  
Harry Tice - carpenter/landscape/plumber/electrician  
Diane Tice - cook  
Joe Leonard – full time professional artist/carpenter  
John Loutzenhizer – artisan - craftsman  
Cole Cramer - handyman  
DJ Cramer – internet specialist  
Shelley Lepien – yard work/paint  
Ray Lepien – handyman and skilled in bulldozing equipment

Here's some of the many tasks these volunteers have accomplished in previous trips to Juneau:

- Deep clean vents in lodge kitchen above oven
- Replace rotting skirting around managers cabin (especially north/east sides), consider insulated panels for winter heat retention
- Replace rotting siding on managers cabin (especially north/east sides)
- Replace slippery plywood sump cover adjacent to ADA ramp at Gotschall cabin
- ADA wheelchair ramp at Maier cabin hand railings need reinforcing, surface is slippery, ramp is in direct line of roof snowfall
- ADA wheelchair ramp at Gotschall cabin, hand railings need reinforcing, surface is slippery
- Repair exterior light above women's/laundry entrance to bath house
- Repair toilets, one on men's side and one on women's side
- Replace Bunchberry cabin roof
- Rebuild rotten portions of lodge main entrance roof
- Replace Nagoonberry exterior light
- Replace/repair Gotschall firepit benches and one roof that was damaged by heavy snow
- Treat on-demand water heater not hooked up? Loose connections
- Install Heat Pumps
- Ventilation redesign needed in bath house, mold problem keeps returning. No way to keep things dry during periods of high use
- Repair leaking sink/drain in women's side of bath house. Middle sink leaks constantly and drain manifold leaks
- Replace sink fixture in girls' bath house
- Replace lodge kitchen single pane windows
- Install new flooring in pantry in lodge

## Michigan Volunteers continued

These mission volunteers are paying their own way to Juneau. They arrive on Tuesday, August 12 and return on Thursday, August 21.

Can you help by?

- Loan some cars/vans/trucks?
- Take them out in a boat?
- Take them on a hike?
- Tickets on the tram, museum, or?
- Meet this group, have a meal, help with tasks?
- Meet airport Tuesday August 12 Delta [DL2878](#) at 6:11 pm.?
- Help get to the airport Thursday, August 21 Delta [DL2169](#) at 7:05 am.?

Let us know by contacting the church office at 907 586-3131, [office@khnLuc.org](mailto:office@khnLuc.org), or board members John Doogan 907 723-3310, [laurajohndoogan@gmail.com](mailto:laurajohndoogan@gmail.com), Nico Bus 907 209-2162, [nicowbus@gmail.com](mailto:nicowbus@gmail.com), or Jane Ginter 907 209-8185, [ginteralaska@gmail.com](mailto:ginteralaska@gmail.com).



## Donations for the Tractor for Eagle River United Methodist Camp



I am thrilled to report that we have surpassed our goal of raising \$8,000 for the purchase of the John Deere Tractor.

We raised \$5,310 from 8 donors and Alan Akiyama matched those donations by \$5,310 to bring us to a total of \$10,620. I have written thank-you notes to all.

We can use the amount over \$8,000 to cover paying for insurance, perhaps buying some extra items for the tractor, or to help build a storage area for it.

Thanks to all who donated and to all who support the work of the camp!

You can still make a donation to the camp by clicking on the DONATE button on the web page;

<https://www.methodistcamp.org/>

Thanks so much! And thanks especially to Bruce and Judith Morley for making this generous offer to the camp!

- Jane Ginter  
Secretary, ERUMC

## 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, George Partlow, Carol Barril, Kristy Germain

\*those who served as Greeters/ushers: Jane Ginter, Natalie Norberg, Nico & Susan Bus

\*Those who provided flowers: Susan Bus, Maxine Richert, Elizabeth Wheeler, Kristy Germain

\*Mary Borthwick, Karen Dillon, Marianne Mills, John Pugh, Carol Barril, Pat Gorman, Jan and Don Kussart, April Rezendes, Patsy Wright 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](mailto: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 even 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.



- 1 Mike Story
- 3 Dale Wygant
- 7 Janet Kussart
- 9 Carissa Irwin
- 12 Mary Borthwick  
Jane Ginter  
Pat Gorman
- 13 Jennifer Lemen  
Sarah Ginter
- 16 Corey Wall
- 17 Emily Wall
- 19 Dominique Morley
- 20 Peggy Metcalf  
Frisco McGuire
- 21 Peggy Barnhill  
Lexi Hills
- 25 Sue Lium
- 27 Alex Pastorino
- 31 Berni Hein  
Lydia Krauss

# AUGUST 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 7:30 Men's Breakfast	2 8:00 Vets for Peace
3 10:00 Worship Financial Visioning Meeting & Potluck after worship 4:00 Bible Study 5:15 Youth Group	4	5 12:00 Al-Anon 5:30 Juneau Pride Chorus	6 10:00 Finance Committee 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Bible Study Online	7	8 7:30 Men's Breakfast 4:00 Wedding Rehearsal	9 2:00 Wedding
10 10:00 Worship CCW Meeting 4:00 Bible Study 5:15 Youth Group	11	12 12:00 Al-Anon Glory Hall Chili	13 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Bible Study Online	14 5:30 Council	15 7:30 Men's Breakfast	16
17 10:00 Worship 5:15 Youth Group	18	19 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons	20 5:30 Chancel Choir	21 10:00 Weekend Food Bags 5:00 Committee on Property Management	22 7:30 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Healing Task Force 2:30 Violin Lessons	23 10:00 Coming to the Table 12:00 Orpheus Project Rehearsal
24 10:00 Worship Picnic at Sandy Beach 2:00 Orpheus Project Recital 5:15 Youth Group	25	26 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons Glory Hall Spaghetti	27 5:30 Chancel Choir	28 5:30 Native Ministries Potluck	29 7:30 Men's Breakfast 2:30 Violin Lessons	30
31 10:00 Worship 5:15 Youth Group						