

# United Christian Church, Yakima WA



Growing in Faith, Living in Hope, Serving with Love.

**DEC  
2024**

## From the Pastor's Desk :

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As we approach the beautiful season of December, we are reminded of the abundant gifts that our faith brings into our lives. This month, we celebrate the essence of Christmas, a time filled with hope, peace, love, joy, and charity. Each of these virtues resonates deeply within our hearts, especially as we prepare for the upcoming Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—a cherished tradition that illuminates our spirits and brings us together in worship.

**\*\*Hope\*\*** is the light that guides us through the darkest of times. In a world that often feels overwhelming, the message of Christmas reminds us that hope is not a distant dream, but a present reality through Christ. As we reflect on the birth of our Savior, we are encouraged to hold on to the belief that brighter days are ahead, both personally and collectively.

**\*\*Peace\*\*** is a gift that transcends understanding. In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it's easy to become distracted and anxious. However, the peace that comes from knowing Christ can envelop us like a warm embrace. This Christmas, let us strive to cultivate inner peace and share that tranquility with others. Our Christmas Eve service will be a moment of calm amidst the chaos, allowing us to pause, reflect, and rejoice in the peace that Christ brings.

**\*\*Love\*\*** is the essence of the Christmas story. From the humble manger to the selfless sacrifice of Jesus, we are reminded of the power of love in action. As we gather with family and friends, let us extend that love beyond our inner circles to those in need. Acts of kindness, whether big or small, can make a profound difference in our community.

**Services : Sundays at 10am**

**Bible Study : 8:30am on Sundays**

**317 S 41<sup>st</sup> St : Yakima, WA 98901 : 509.248.6104**

**\*\*Joy\*\*** is contagious, and during this season, we are called to celebrate the joy that the birth of Christ brings into our lives. It's a joy that is rooted not in material gifts, but in the eternal promise of salvation and the relationships we build with one another. Let us rejoice together during our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, as we lift our voices in song and gratitude, celebrating the miracle of Christmas.

Finally, **\*\*charity\*\*** reminds us of our responsibility to care for those around us. As we celebrate this season of giving, let us open our hearts and hands to those who are less fortunate. Our church community has always been a beacon of hope, and your generous contributions can spread love and joy to families in need.

Join us on Christmas Eve as we gather for a heartfelt candlelight service, where we will share in the warmth of community, the light of hope, and the blessings of love and joy. Together, let us create a tapestry of faith that shines brightly in our world and serves as a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

Wishing you a blessed December filled with hope, peace, love, joy, and charity.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Stephen

### Serving This Month :

**Elder :** John

**Servers :**

Sandee

Melissa

### .: Birthdays .:

12/16 : Sue

12/18 : Suzie



### .: Dec 7th WorkDay Meal .:

**Main Dish:** Robin

**Fruit/Salad:** Sandee

**Dessert:** Melissa

## Calendar Highlights :

**Dec 7th (Sat) : 9am Workday and Finance Board Meeting**

**Dec 15th (Sun) : Christmas Potluck (after service)**

**Dec 24th (Tue) : 7pm Christmas Eve Service**

**Dec 29th (Sun) : Cookies and Gift Exchange (after service)**

## Committee Reports :

### Hands-On Mission:

For the month of December, we are providing gifts for the children in families from our community. We will also provide a meal for the youth at Rod's House. When the date is set I will be giving you an opportunity to help prepare the meal. Also, if you are willing to bake a couple dozen cookies (or cupcakes) for them --- let me know.

Your help in these projects is appreciated by those we are trying to serve in our community. We had about four boxes of canned Thanksgiving items delivered to the Veterans for their holiday. THANKS to each of you that donated!  
Marilyn

### Hospitality Committee:

During the month of December, we scheduled two events:

On **December 15th** there will be the fellowship pot-luck. Ham will be provided and we ask you to bring a side dish or a dish that is a special treat for you during the holidays. We will have the opportunity to meet and visit with our Regional Minister, Rev. Paul Allen.

On **December 29th** we'll do a "cookies and gift" time... I know it is after Christmas BUT maybe a little easier to have a relaxing bit of fun. If you wish to bring a gift --- please keep it under a \$20 limit.

Chairperson --- Sherri

## Monthly Scriptures :

### Dec 01, 2024 : First Sunday of Advent

- Jeremiah [33:14-16](#)
- Psalm [25:1-10](#)
- 1 Thessalonians [3:9-13](#)
- Luke [21:25-36](#)

### Dec 08, 2024 : Second Sunday of Advent

- Malachi [3:1-4](#)
- Luke [1:68-79](#)
- Philippians [1:3-11](#)
- Luke [3:1-6](#)

### Dec 15, 2024 : Third Sunday of Advent

- Zephaniah [3:14-20](#)
- Isaiah [12:2-6](#)
- Philippians [4:4-7](#)
- Luke [3:7-18](#)

### Dec 22, 2024 : Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Micah [5:2-5a](#)
- Luke [1:46b-55](#) or Psalm [80:1-7](#)
- Hebrews [10:5-10](#)
- Luke [1:39-45, \(46-55\)](#)

### Dec 29, 2024 : First Sunday after Christmas Day

- 1 Samuel [2:18-20, 26](#)
- Psalm [148](#)
- Colossians [3:12-17](#)
- Luke [2:41-52](#)



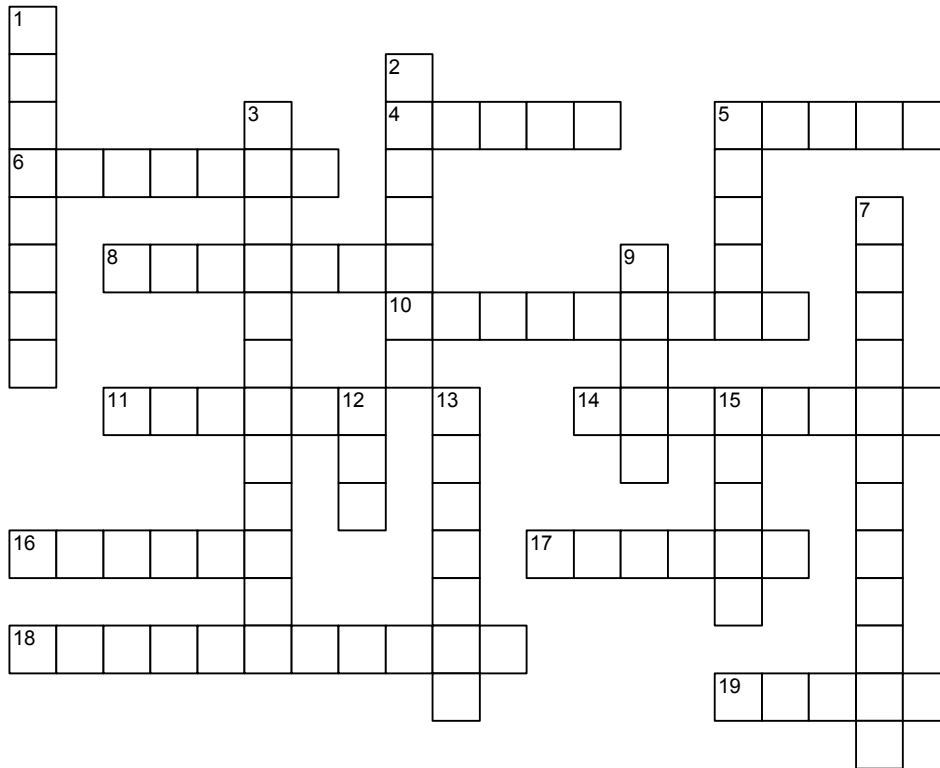
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## ABRAM IN THE LAND OF CANAAN

### Genesis 12 & 13



#### Across

- 4 Name of Abram's concubine (Genesis 16:3)  
 5 Who was Abram's father? (Genesis 11:27)  
 6 Who was Abram's servant from Damascus? (Genesis 15:2)  
 8 What is the name given to the ancient Egyptian kings?  
 10 What was the northern boundary of the promised land --- the great river? (Genesis 15:18)  
 11 Abraham built an altar at this place. (Genesis 12:8; 13:3-4)  
 14 City near where Abram defeated the five kings of Mesopotamia (genesis 14:15)  
 16 Abram told a lie by saying his wife was his \_\_\_\_\_. (Genesis 12:13; 20:2)  
 17 Well-watered plain chosen by Lot (Genesis 13:10)  
 18 King of Salem and priest of the Most High God (Genesis 14:18)  
 19 Who was Abram's brother? (Genesis 11:27)

#### Down

- 1 Mutual promise or agreement between God and Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)  
 2 Place where Abram saw the Lord (Genesis 12:6-7)  
 3 Name of Hagar's well (Genesis 16:14)  
 5 One-tenth of anything (Genesis 14:20)  
 7 The sign of God's covenant with Abraham (Genesis 17:23-27)  
 9 Who was the wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac? (Genesis 21:2)  
 12 Abram told this man to choose the best land for himself. (Genesis 13:8-12)  
 13 The son of Abraham who was cast out after the birth of Isaac (Genesis 16:16; 21:1-21)  
 15 Who was Lot's uncle? (Genesis 14:12)

**God talks to Moses.**

Exodus 3:1—4:17





## Thoughts and Prayers

We humbly pray for those caught in the midst of conflict and strife. May your love and peace surround them, offering solace and guidance during these challenging times. Grant them strength, courage, and the wisdom to seek peaceful resolutions. Let your compassion and understanding fill their hearts, and may they find a path towards reconciliation and harmony.

Submit a Prayer Online! [uccyakima.org/prayer](https://uccyakima.org/prayer)

**We encourage members to give as they feel led.**

Your contributions enable us to continue our mission of service and love within our community and beyond. **Every donation, big or small, helps in nurturing the seeds of faith, hope, and togetherness.**

Whether it's supporting our local food banks, contributing to the maintenance of our sacred space, or funding community outreach programs, your generosity is the cornerstone of our growth and outreach.

**Donate Online!**



Via [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly)

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# DECEMBER 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30a: Bible Study 10a : Service	2	3	4	5	6	7 9a: Work Day and Finance Board
8 8:30a: Bible Study 10a : Service	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 8:30a: Bible Study 10a : Service ~11a : Potluck	16 Veterans Day	17	18	19	20	21
22 8:30a: Bible Study 10a : Service	23	24 Christmas Eve 7p : Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29 8:30a: Bible Study 10a : Service Cookies & Gifts (After Service)	30	31 New Year's Eve				Every 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday - Work Day Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday - Potluck

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