



Prayers and Announcements

Friday, February 24, 2023

This weekend we gather on the first Sunday of Lent (you can watch the Ash Wednesday Service, the beginning of Lent, by [clicking here](#)).

Lent is a season of simplicity and sincerity. Sometimes we “give up” something so that we can see clearly and pray earnestly. Sometimes we take on a new practice in an intentional effort to grow. Theologian James Cone, author of The Cross and the Lynching Tree, speaks with this Lenten spirit

when he says,

“If we cannot recognize the truth, then it cannot liberate us from untruth.”

May you hear truth clearly this season and may it set you free.

Connect with Kensington in person at 8:30 AM or 10:30 AM.

Or Live Stream our 10:30 AM service on the KCC [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).

Saturday, February 25

9:00 AM Kimi's 4th Annual Memorial Blood Drive, walk-ins are welcome but reservations are preferred. You can reserve your spot by going to:

https://www.mysdbb.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/73098

Sunday, February 26: First Sunday of Lent

8:30 AM Sunday Worship In-person

9:15 AM Friendship Hour will be hosted in the Courtyard

10:30 AM Sunday Worship In-person (pictures of worship may be taken for the website)

➤ Molly's class and the middle Sunday school class will meet following the Children's Moment.

4:45 PM Rachel's House Drop off at KCC

5:30 PM Rachel's House Dinner Service

Monday, February 27

5:30 PM Meeting for OWL Facilitator Training via Zoom

Wednesday, March 1

12:00 PM Bible Study with KCC Friends and Pastor Brandon in Lander Hall

6:30 PM Youth Group meets in Lander Hall

Sunday, March 5:

8:30 AM Sunday Worship In-person

9:15 AM Friendship Hour will be hosted in the Courtyard

10:30 AM Sunday Worship In-person (pictures will be taken for website)

➤ Molly's class and the elementary Sunday school class will meet following the Children's Moment.

11:30 AM Friendship Hour will be hosted in the Courtyard

Kimi's 4th Annual Memorial **BLOOD DRIVE**

Saturday, February 25, 2023
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Kensington Community Church | Social Hall
4773 Marlborough Dr., San Diego, CA 92116

Schedule an Appointment Today!

Scan QR Code

Call (619) 400-8251



Visit sandiegobloodbank.org/donate



Kimi was a beautiful, vibrant, intelligent young lady who battled Stage 4 Neuroblastoma for 8 ½ years. Sadly, she passed away in January 2019 at the age of 12.

Kimi always maintained an upbeat, positive attitude. She lived life to the fullest with compassion, courage, grace, love, and a great sense of humor. She loved to sing, dance, swim, play guitar, read, and boogie board in the ocean.

Throughout her extensive treatment, Kimi received hundreds of red blood cell and platelet transfusions. To honor Kimi's legacy and help others like her, use code **KMBD** when you check-in at the blood drive.

Photo ID required. Arrive hydrated.



Faith Formation

Wednesday Bible Study Returns!

The Wednesday midday Bible study will return on March 1. Pastor Brandon will facilitate the gathering at 12:00 PM in Lander Hall at KCC. Please email Pastor Brandon with your questions or suggestions.

Sunday School

- The Pre-K to first-grade class meets every Sunday in February and March. Thank you to Miss Jennifer for teaching on March 19 while Miss Molly is out of town.
- The second-grade to fifth-grade class meets on Sunday, March 5 & 19.
- The middle school class meets on Sunday, February 26, March 12 & 26.

Youth Group

Make mini apple pies ahead of pi day (3.14) and continue the conversation of what makes Youth Group special. Fun & silly games, plus a health dinner included!

Monthly Parent & Guardian Potluck: A Special Parent-Themed Talk Story

Sunday, March 12 from 11:30 PM to 1:00 PM in Lander Hall

During the next potluck, Pastor Brandon is offering a parent-themed Talk Story to support parents, guardians, and caregivers. Join the group to unpack concerns and stressors, and to evolve together in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Daycare will be available.

Women's Spirituality Meets Over Zoom on Tuesday, March 7 at 10:00 AM

Women's Spirituality will meet on Zoom at 10:00 AM Tuesday, March 7, 2023, to discuss the work of Brian Swimme. Feel free to explore whatever books, videos, podcasts, Ted talks, etc. appeal to you. These three websites offer you a starting place.

- <https://humansandnature.org/brian-swimme/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZrNle1oWcl>
- <https://storyoftheuniverse.org/>

The URL for Zoom is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87422453255>

Zoom Meeting for OWL Facilitator Training on February 27 at 5:30 PM

Are you interested in facilitating Our Whole Lives for our middle schoolers? Learn more about the curriculum, facilitator responsibilities and an upcoming training.

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87930227288>

Meeting ID: 879 3022 7288

Passcode: 993464



KCC is hosting a Youth Group Overnight for all youth in the partnership churches.

- All 7th - 12th graders are welcome for fun and friendship!
- The event will include ice breakers, Saint Patrick's Day-themed games, glow stick Hide-n-seek, and a couple of movies, followed by a sleepover in the sanctuary.
- Dinner, snacks and breakfast served. Help us provide refreshments. Contact Barbara for more information (barbara@kensingtonucc.com).

Raise Your Hand: Volunteer in Sunday School

On February 12, Molly Gee shared her story of becoming a Sunday school teacher at KCC. While her journey as a volunteer in the Sunday school program started with some hesitation, she soon came to discover that *“now that I’m teaching most Sundays, one of the very best things about having time with these kids is that I’m able to affirm each one wherever they might be in their faith journey. Every single weekend I get to live out our church mission statement in a really tangible way.”*

You too can discover the joy and surprising gifts found as an assistant teacher and can support the children and youth on their spiritual journey!



Reasons to Volunteer

- It's a fun way to support the children and youth on their spiritual journey.
- You will become a familiar face to our kiddos and a trusted member of their church community.
- It's easy; no preparation is needed.
- It's short-term; commit to two Sundays with the same class.

How to Sign Up

- [Choose your dates in SignUpGenius.](#)
- Try to find two dates with the same class within a 2-4 week period.

What's Next?

- Barbara will follow up with you to answer any questions you may have.



To Learn More

Do you know that each Sunday, the children experience moments of delight, surprise and joy? For those who are young-in-age and young at heart, opportunities for spiritual growth abound in the Sunday school community. To learn more, check out [Molly Gee's experience](#) at the 9-minute mark.

Personnel Reviews

At the beginning of each year, the Ministry of Personnel and Resource (MPR) evaluates our staff in a performance review on behalf of the congregation. An important part of the review process is feedback from the congregation letting us know how well our staff performed their respective roles as servant leaders of our church. This year, we will be reviewing our Director of Faith Formations (Barbara), Director of Music (David), and Preschool Director (Adriana).

MPR would love to hear from you. If you have constructive feedback, a word of praise, or a suggestion for improvement for any of our staff, please email Amy Winn at amywinn50@gmail.com. Amy is a member of the Ministry of Personnel and Resources. All comments will be held in confidence by MPR and only used internally. MPR asks that you send your comment by Saturday, March 4, 2023. Thank you.

We Are Hiring Nursery *Attendant*



The nursery attendant provides nursery care for infants and small children during Sunday worship and special Church events.

Click here to view the job description

To apply: Please send a cover letter and resume to
Barbara Runco Barbara@Kensingtonucc.com

Rosie's Final Week

This week Rosie concluded her time as the KCC Office Administrator. If you have a parting blessing you would like to share with Rosie you can email her at rosie.barnes665@gmail.com

Rosie's gracious and positive spirit have been a gift for KCC. We are sad to see her go but we know that many great adventures await her and her family.

Tiny Totes for the Children



Do you sew? We are actively seeking congregants who enjoy sewing and would like to support the gifts the young and young at heart bring to worship. We want the youngest among us to know that they are wholeheartedly welcome. In order to communicate this warm embrace, we will be sewing activity bags for children to use in worship. These bags will remain in worship and will be filled with activities that correlate with each Sunday's theme. Our young friends will be invited

to pick one up each Sunday and to return it at the end of the morning so that we can update it for next week!

Sew Five Tiny Totes



Our goal: to hang 50 tiny totes for Easter Sunday worship services. If we all pitch in, we can meet this goal.

Can you help us out and sew five tiny totes by Sunday, April 2 (Palm Sunday)? Please contact Barbara (Barbara@kensingtonucc.com) for more information, instructions, and the pattern.

2023 Lenten Journal for the Journey for Families

Lent is a perfect opportunity to grow in faith, hope, and love through simple and intentional activities. The KCC faith formation team has created a Lenten Journal for the Journey for you. This gift is meant as a prompt and guide for you and your family during Lent. Each week you will be given one activity or prompt that is geared to be engaging, fun, and faith formative for your family. You can pick up your Lenten Journal for the Journey this Sunday!

Rachel's House Dinner Service

Rachel's House provides services for women experiencing homelessness in downtown San Diego. KCC helps by making one meal a month. The February meal will be on the 26th and Jodi is sponsoring. She is making a Mardi Gras / New Orleans-themed meal of rice and beans and cornbread. We will need side dishes, dinner salad, fruit, drinks, and dessert. Let Sara know if you can help!

If you'd like to sponsor a meal in 2023, let Sara know at kcc4rh@gmail.com or by phone/text 857-222-0017. The spots are going fast--reserve one today!

- February - Jodi
- March 26 - Carla
- April 30 – Pastor Brandon
- May 28 -
- June 25 - Carla
- July 30 - Beth
- August 27 -
- September 24 -
- October 29 -
- November 26 -
- December 31 -

Also, we will be bringing boxes of Girl Scout cookies to Rachel's House. If you'd like to donate a box, you can purchase from Dorie in Lander Hall after the service, or online (write "Rachel's House" in the address line) at this

link: <https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/dorothea984518>

If you attend KCC and have a girl in Girl Scouts, let Sara know and she will allocate the donations among the troops represented at the church.

KCC History Corner

On February 5, 2023 the Partnership Churches came together for event focused on sustaining a movement for racial justice. It was an inspirational and motivational gathering with the promise of more to come. As we look forward, an eye to the past reminds us that our conversations now are built upon sacred conversations of our past.

In May of 2008, the Partnership Churches came together for intentional conversations about race. The Chimes reported on that gathering saying, "Nearly a hundred people from the five San Diego Partnership UCC churches, including a lively group from KCC, gathered together to begin a new experience: a 'Sacred Conversation on Race.' "What a great experience to share around scripture and stories from our lives about a topic not very much talked about," said one participant. Another added, "People everywhere need to do more of this!"...What had begun as quiet, focused, intense, discussions ended up with smiles and nods and hallelujahs. Finally, the whole roomful of people sang a hymn together, and the evening ended with more prayer."

In reflecting on the experience, Rev. Dr. Bruce Larson, the then KCC Sr. Minister wrote, “So, that night of May 18, we got together. We prayed. We ate. We met new people. We shared our impressions about Bible passages and what they could say to us about racism. We sang. And we prayed some more. After it was done, we had removed some of the blocks from the barriers that keep us apart. We had begun to build bridges. We had experienced a diverse community of the Spirit. Brazile pleaded, “Just once, can we have a healthy dialogue and conversation?” Once, we did. But once is not enough. We must do more. And we will.”

Office Hours

The KCC office will be open Monday-Thursday, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM, and Fridays, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. However, we ask for your patience as we are light on staff during our search for a new Office Administrator. If you are able to volunteer as a receptionist during this time of transition, we would greatly appreciate your gift of time. Please contact Pastor Brandon if you can help in this way.

Staff Collaborators for the Chimes Newsletter

Rev. Brandon Duran
Senior Pastor

Brandon@Kensingtonucc.com
Mobile: 808-465-5887

Barbara Runco
Faith Programs Director

Barbara@Kensingtonucc.com
Mobile: 619-694-8715



If you know of someone who should be added to our *Chimes prayer list or Confidential Prayer Circle List, please let Rosie know at office@kensingtonucc.com

*Names will remain on the Prayer lists for four months (or longer if we receive updated information about them).

Prayer Circle Members include Cindy Nabizadeh, Kathleen Buttici, Tracey Freeman, Louise Jacobus, Denice Madruga, Carla Mathison, Richard Marcellus, Mallie Odle, Donna Potter, Jennifer Roberts, Barbara Runco, Gayle Trempe, Penny Ward, Brandon Duran, and Rich Wayman.

Please Hold in Your Heart and Lift in Prayer:

A Stranger, Peggy Chism, Stephen Colón, Jack Cory Roman, Steve Davis, Betsie Dudgeon, Rev. Brandon Duran & Family, Jake Forman, Tony Guepin, Jaden and Isaias Sanchez, Jaime Kasutsky, Michael Kerr, Jose Lopez Nava and Family, Erik Mustonen, Mallie Odle, Patrick

O'Donnell, Bob Ohanesian, Steve Ohanesian, Becky Pacheco, Rev. Dillon Parson, Roberta, Christina Siau & her family, Patty Smith, Jim & Bill Ward.

Prayers of support for the friends and family of Dick Wayman, Lilly and Ron Brown.

Also, please hold in your hearts the grieving family and friends of the thousands dead in Syria and Turkey from recent earthquakes. Pray for abortion providers and those in need of abortion and enlightenment, for unjust judges, pregnant teens, and women who don't know what to do. Victims of numerous shootings and stabbings in our nation. Potential perpetrators of mass violence. All touched by the invasion of Ukraine. People and towns in Northern California with damage from the 6.4 earthquake. Our community, state, and national leaders. Victims of racial injustice in the US and everywhere. Those directly affected by COVID. The new congress, with hopes that they lead with ethics and conscience and not with an agenda of revenge. Those here and around the world with MPox.

Prayer

Born in Vietnam and raised in Houston, Texas, Phuc Luu reflects on the intersection of art, philosophy, and theology. He holds advance degrees in theology and philosophy. He has served on the Nobel Peace Prize Committee for the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) for seven years. May Phuc Lucc's Lenten poem become a prayer as we begin our journey to Easter.

Bodies made of dirt
Earth and soil
Remembering who we are
Not gods
But the image of God
Not divine
But the likeness of the divine
Made with breath
The wind in our lungs
Dependent on intimate touch
From our creator
To be brought together
From the ground up
Connected to all the life around us

Not separate
But tied, woven,
A branch
A leaf

The ashes on the forehead mark the mind
To remind us of the person who we are
As temporary persons
Who leave our imprint
By way of our love for one another
Not by way of the power
Nor control
But the gentle hands of a sculptor
Shaping us
In cooperation,
In co-creation
Creation shaped by the created
Created shaping the creator
The artist seeing themselves in the earthenware
By way of growing tenderness,
A shoot that emerges forth from the grown
That climbs upward to the sun
That will return one day
To the earth it has come
As a seed
As life eternal
As life renewed