



KIMBALL COMMUNICATOR

Kimball Memorial Lutheran Church

101 Vance Ave. Kannapolis, NC 28081

Online at: www.kimballchurch.org Phone 704-933-4101

Office Hours: Mon. - Thur. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Fri. 8:00 am - 12:00 pm



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GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH



In a recent article in *Reader's Digest*, Donald Peattie explained the significance of the gifts presented to the Christ Child by the Magi:

- **Gold** is one of the noble metals. No single acid can destroy it, nor will it rust away, like iron or tin. No one can successfully imitate or fake gold, because it is so heavy and incorruptible. And gold is a metal easily used to beautify other objects. It has been woven into fabrics at least since Biblical times (Exodus 39:2-3), for its ductility, as chemists say, is so great that a single grain of fine gold can be drawn out into a wire 1/1000 of an inch in diameter, extending for a length of about one mile. Pure, supple, almost indestructible...gold is indeed a royal metal...the expert hammer of the goldbeater, whose ancient art is referred to by Homer, can beat an ounce of gold into a sheet two hundred feet square, a mere shimmering film. In the ancient world into which Christianity was born, gold was far rarer than it is now.
- **Incense** was made from an expensive and elaborate formula, containing sixteen different ingredients, with only priests allowed to concoct it. And the chief element in this holy recipe was frankincense. Frankincense is a resin, from a tree held so sacred of old that in southern Arabia and Ethiopia where it grew, only a few particularly pure individuals were allowed even to approach it. To obtain the precious frankincense itself, a slash is cut in the trunk and then a narrow strip of bark is peeled off below the cut. The sap slowly oozes out and is allowed to harden for three months. At last it is collected in lumps – yellow or colorless, dusty-looking, with a bitter taste. But they burn with a bright white flame, and then there arises to heaven that sweet, heavenly perfume of mystery the Wise Men thought pleasing to God.
- **Myrrh** is a shrub related to frankincense, of the genus *Commiphora*. The sap of myrrh is extracted in the same way as that of frankincense, and it comes in small lumps of reddish-brown resin. But its symbolism is more somber. The word myrrh comes from the Hebrew *mar*, meaning “bitter”. The ancient Egyptians used this resin in embalming, and hence its connection with solemn occasions.

As we search for that perfect gift this Holiday Season, it is good for us to remember that all our Christmas gifts hearken back to the gifts of the Magi for the Christ Child. Today, the best gift we can give to Christ – and to others – is the gift of ourselves: our time, our presence and our love. Truly...these are the gifts that keep on giving!!!

Peace and Love this Advent/Christmas!

Pastor John



8:30 am
Contemporary

11:00 am
Traditional

Online On YouTube
[@kimb11lutheranchurch6062](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkimb11lutheranchurch6062)

STAFF

- Reverend John Futterer,
Senior Pastor
- Liz Fisher, *Deacon*
- Keith Sutton,
Parish Administrator
- Dr. Don Simmons,
Music Director
- Rev. Dr. David R. Keck,
Pastor Emeritus
- Mabel Brown,
Parish Worker Emerita



DECEMBER WORSHIP/CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULES

Our worship schedule for December is posted below. We'll try to keep you posted each week via bulletins, Constant Contact, and phone trees...but here's a schedule that you can refer to during the month.

- ◆ **December 3rd, 10th, and 17th** – Two morning worship services at 8:30 and 11:00 am.
- ◆ **December 24th Morning** – One Service at 10:00 am
- ◆ **December 24th Evening** – Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 5:00 pm (Family Service) and 11:00 pm (Special Music for the Season begins at 10:30 pm.)
- ◆ **December 31st** – One morning Service at 10:00 am.

We hope that all of our worship services are meaningful in this Holy Season. If you have any questions about these services, please contact Pastor John or the Church Office.

ONE
SERVICE
10:00 am



ONE WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY December 24th and
December 31st

We'll celebrate together on Sunday mornings, December 24th and January 31st with one worship service each of those Sundays – both at 10:00 am. A nursery will be provided for both of these worship services. There will be a Children's Sermon at both of these morning worship services, and remember (see below) there will be a retirement reception for Don Simmons immediately following the worship service on December 31st. We do hope you'll join us!

RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Sunday, December 31st
11:00 am in the Commons

After faithfully and beautifully serving our congregation since 2015, our Director of Music, Don Simmons, will be retiring on Sunday, December 31st. We'll enjoy a reception together following our one worship service on that date, as we wish Don and his wife, Kay Godspeed and Farewell as he begins his retirement. Don has served as choir director at both our Sunday morning worship services, and as our handbell director.

He has brought to our music program not only an excellence in music, but most particularly a strong faithfulness that has been shared with choir and congregational members during his time with us. He will be greatly missed – but we rejoice with both Don and Kay as they begin a new phase of their life of Christian Service, with some well earned recreation and fun mixed in! Please join us for this reception in the Commons as we thank Don for sharing his gifts and talents with us for these past nine years!





Faith Formation

FAITH FORMATION (KINGDOM KIDS/3-5TH GRADES)
December 3, 10

FAITH FORMATION CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICES

9:45-10:15 am Music with Darla for Christmas Program December 3, 10
10:15 am-10:45 am Faith Formation in Sunday School Class

SERVICE PROJECT

We invite our KKids and our 3-5th grade groups, and youth to help with a Service Project on Saturday December 16th from 9:00 am-10:00 am. We will be working with the Joe Gribble Sunday School Class to make treat bags, then we'll stay for dress rehearsal for our Christmas Program. Pick up will be at 11:00 am.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER AND GIFT EXCHANGE

We will have our HS/MS Christmas Progressive Dinner again this year! We will meet at the church at 5:00 pm on Sunday December 17th and pick up will be at 9:00 pm at the church. Please bring a wrapped \$5 gift to exchange.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Children's Christmas Program will be held Sunday Dec. 17th at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.



DECEMBER YOUTH CALENDAR

- **December 8th** Parents Night Out from 5:30 - 9:00 pm (All KMLC Youth and Preschoolers)
- **December 8-9th** HS/MS Lock-in from 5:30 pm - 9:00 am
- **December 10th** Confirmation (Location TBA)
- **December 13th** J.O.Y. Fellowship Lunch at Church in the Commons
- **December 16th** Kingdom Kids/Youth help Adult SS Class with Treat Bags 9:00 -10:00 am
- **December 16th** All Youth Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal at 10:00 -11:00 am
- **December 17th** Youth Christmas Program at 10:00 am
- **December 17th** HS/MS Progressive Dinner and Gift Exchange 5:00 -9:00 pm

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

We will host a Parent's Night Out on Friday, December 8th 5:30 - 9:00 pm for our Kingdom Kids, 3-5th grade groups and our Preschool students. Everyone is invited to come. We will have dinner and lots of fun things to do: Christmas crafts, games, and a service project. We hope you can join us. The cost is \$20 per child with \$10 for each additional child. Please let Deacon Liz know if you have questions.

HS/MS LOCK-IN

We will have a MS/HS lock-in on Friday, December 8th from 5:30 pm-9:00 am. We will be hosting Parent's night out from 5:30 - 9:00 pm, then our lock-in will start right afterwards. Please bring a sleeping bag, a flashlight and as always, friends are welcome.



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Day	Name	Yrs.
02	Darian and Heather Miller	6
04	Michael and Samantha Helms	2
07	Roger and Sharon Sizemore	5
11	Bryana and Garrett McDonald	2
14	Ben and Whitney Hesley	10
19	Randy and Shannon Rigsby	3
27	Allen and Becky Brantley	59
27	Ryan and Kara Hardister	15
31	Jeff and Lelit Poole	8
31	John and Melody Fisher	3

PRAYER REQUESTS

MILITARY

Christopher Bame (California), Rajeem Baptist (Washington), Robert Busteed, Jr. (Virginia), Dustin Gatz (Serbia), Ben Kirchner (Georgia), Chris Kirchner (Utah), Keith Lee (NC), Preston Mays (Maryland), Chris Overcash (NC), Mike Peterson (Virginia), Andrew Smith (Arizona)

KIMBALL MEMBERS

Sylvia Anderson, Jerry Beam, Becky Brantley, Brad Brothers, Sharon and Doug Brothers, Brenda Brown, Mabel Brown, Buttner Family, Florence Calandra, Jean Davis, Mary Dorton, Lisa and Eddie Dunlow, Teresa Erwin, Caleb Falls, Ava and Shelly Farris, Judy Ferguson, Liz Fisher, Fran and Keith Garver, Prebble Henrickson, Todd Haley, Judi and Bob Hill, Teresa Erwin, Tim and Huyla Jackson, David and Diana Keck, Sr., Eric and Jenny Jones, Steve Lynch, Ed MacTaggart, Dianne Marlin, Margaret McCombs, Taylor and Kaylee Murph, Hunter and Holden Patterson, John Patterson, Marty and Perriann Payne, John Pendleton, Louise Propst, Andy, Lisa, Grace and Blake Robinson, Joe Saullo, Juanene Savage, Cliff and Kathy Scott, Betty Shaver, Roger Sizemore, Conrad Sloop, Earline Snipes, Mary Jo Snipes, Gaye St. John, Sarah Teumer, Randy Triage, John Troutman

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 01 Ligia Larsen, Addison Fisher
- 02 Lisa Stirewalt
- 03 Holden Fisher, Georgann Sapp
- 05 Brian Voelker
- 11 Christopher Beaver, Keith Garver
- 13 John Reaney
- 15 Jim Harris
- 16 Graham Bennett, Steve Lynch, Susan Bame, Tanner Small
- 19 Preston Mays
- 20 Bob Hill, Blake Robinson
- 25 Ryan Hardister, Brian Sloop
- 26 Cliff Scott,
- 28 Nathan Carpenter, Charlie Buttner
- 29 Colbie Beck
- 30 Jerry Beam, Michael Helms, Knox Christenson

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Caremoor

- Aileen Triage, Bettie Overcash, Mabel Brown

Spring Arbor of Albemarle

- Mary Dorton

Concord First Assembly Living

- Dianne Marlin

At their home

- Earline Snipes, Jean Davis, Louise Propst

THANK YOU

Dear Kimball Family,

Thank you for the generous retirement gift I received from the congregation and staff. You all are a wonderful, giving congregation and I am thankful to have known you and loved you.

Your staff works hard for you and your support for them is greatly needed and appreciated. I will miss you all.

In Christian love,
Gail Mosher

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



LECTORS

8:30 am

3 Scott Harmon
10 Lauren Nichols
17 Sharon Brothers

11:00 am

3 Bob Boynton
10 Kim Kane
17 Heidi Lee

10:00 am

24 Frankie Bogutsky
31 Peggy Pergola

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:30 am

3 Jodie Hott
10 Cooper Hinson
17 Tim Patterson

11:00 am

3 Pallas Alexander
10 Jerrod Smith
17 Tony Lippard

10:00 am

24 Donna Taylor
31 Alexis Nichols

SAMARITAN'S TABLE

07 Sally Peterson
14 Pastor John Futterer
21 Bob Boynton
28 Pat Tallent

ACOLYTES

8:30 am

3 Riley Dodson
10 Lucy and Charlie Miller
17 Palmer and Asa Russell

11:00 am

3 Rory and Lucas Hesley
10 Connor and Gabriel Keith
17 Austin Rigsby

10:00 am

24 Ellis Wiethorn
31 Skyla Hardister

HEALING PRAYER MINISTERS

8:30 am Peggy Lynch

11:00 am Joyce Mallernee

GREETERS

8:30 am Keith Garver

11:00 am Milton, Sherri, and
Gracie Matheny

MONDAY TELLERS

9:00 am each Monday
Betsy Ellington-Boynton /
Bob Boynton

COMMUNION PREPARERS

8:30 am David and Judy
Sloan

11:00 am

PROJECTION (VIDEO)

8:30 am

3 Tim Patterson
10 Shane Little
17 Howard Bentley

11:00 am

3 Gavin Carpenter
10 Tiffany Winn
17 Milton Matheny

10:00 am

24 Nathan Carpenter
31 Tony Lippard

SOUND (AUDIO)

8:30 am

3 Nathan Carpenter
10 Patrick Little
17 Rick Teumer

11:00 am

3 Terry Steinert
10 Bo Phongsa
17 Kendra Nichols

10:00 am

24 Keith Garver
31 Milton Matheny

SLIDE DEVELOPER

Amy Black

COUNCIL ASSISTANTS

8:30 am Paula Brandle
Karen Whitley

11:00 am Bob Boynton
Terry Steinert

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT KIMBALL MEMORIAL



We invite you to join us for Christmas Eve Services at Kimball Memorial on Sunday evening, December 24th at 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm, with a Holiday prelude preceding the

second service at 10:45. The early service will be a service suitable for families – featuring both a sermon and a children’s sermon. Both services will feature beautiful candlelight, familiar Christmas Carols, and Holy Communion. A nursery will be provided for the early service. We certainly hope that you will worship with us throughout the Advent Season, and on Christmas Eve as well!

Epiphany Supper and Celebration 6:00 pm on Sunday, January 7th

Please join us for an evening of good fellowship as we gather together with our Church Family on Sunday evening, January 7th at 6:00 pm, for a supper and celebration of Epiphany. In addition to the meal, we’ll “put away the carols” for another year AND enjoy a “Three Kings Cake” for Dessert – with prizes given to the “Royalty who bring forth the Gold” included in the traditional cake. It will NOT be a late evening, but it will be a FUN evening of food, celebration and joy as we usher in the five week Season of Epiphany. Please join us!



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 10th at 6:00 pm



On Sunday evening, December 10th at 6:00 pm, the Christmas Cantata “Emmanuel, God with Us” will be presented in our beautifully decorated Sanctuary. The Cantata is based on the Service of Lessons and Carols which dates back to a British Tradition started in 1880. The service is still held each year at Kings College in Cambridge.

The Message of the Incarnation is central to the Christmas Story. As we read in St. John’s Gospel: “*The Word became flesh...*” This powerful message of Love goes beyond the written word and becomes the living Word – a reflection of the very being of God!

Our Cantata will be a blend of traditional carols, along with well known contemporary Christmas favorites. The music will be interspersed with Christmas scripture and monologues. The evening concludes with both choir and congregation joining together to sing beautiful Christmas carols.

Our choir will feature singers from both Kimball Memorial and our neighbors at First Presbyterian Church, along with guests from Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church in Concord and from the Piedmont Choral Society. A nursery is provided for this Cantata, and a reception will follow in the Commons for all to enjoy a time of fellowship in this holiday season. Please call the church office for more information – we do hope you’ll join us!



GREETINGS FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL!

The Children's Christmas Program is at 10:00 am on Sunday December 17th. Thanks to Darla Steinert who is working with our children.

December 10th at 6:00 pm is the Christmas Cantata entitled, "Emmanuel, God With Us". This concert will feature choirs from Kimball Memorial and First Presbyterian churches, along with guests from the Piedmont Choral Society.

Please make a point to join us on Christmas Eve. There will be ONE morning service at 10 am, as well as 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm services.

We will participate in Operation Cookie again this year! This is a wonderful tradition in the life of Kimball when we pack and distribute cookies to those who have to work over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please be on the lookout for more information!

Peace and God bless!

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING Refreshments at 9:30 am, Meeting at 10:00 am



Join us on Sunday, December 3rd at 9:30 am for a time of fellowship and refreshments in The Commons. The Annual Congregational Meeting will follow at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. The two main items of business are voting on the 2024 Budget and the slate of candidates for Congregation Council. Please plan to attend.

NEW MEMBERS

New members will be received during the Month of December. If you are interested in membership at Kimball Memorial, please speak to Pastor John. Thank you!

TIME AND TALENT SHEETS

Time and Talent sheets will be in the bulletin during the month of December. Please prayerfully consider when and how you might share your talents and abilities with the church in the coming year. Thank you!

COMMITMENT CARDS

If you have not turned in your 2024 Commitment Cards, please do so as soon as possible. They are available from our ushers and can be placed in the offering plates or you may bring them by or mail them to the Church Office. We would like all our cards to be returned by December 17th if at all possible. Thank you!



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The youth and families of Kimball would like to invite you to our Christmas Program on Sunday December 17th at 10:00 am. Thanks to Darla Steinert who is working with our children. We hope you can join us!

BLESSING BOX NEEDS

ITEMS WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF:

- Rice Krispie Treats / Little Debbie Snacks
- Canned Chicken
- Any kind of Chips
- Travel sized packs of Tissues
- Deoderant
- Combs/Brushes

Running Low:

- Diapers
- Canned Beans (Kidney, Black Beans, etc.)
- Plain Crackers / Saltines

WE HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF:

- Capri Sun
- Granola / Nutragrain Bars
- Pudding
- Toothbrushes / Toothpaste

Please place your items in the old Joe Gribble Sunday School Classroom on the first floor of the educational building.



FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Canned chicken
- Macaroni & cheese, pasta (other than spaghetti), rice
- Other canned meats (hash, chili, vienna sausages, etc.)
- Canned corn, peas, carrots, potatoes, and mixed vegetables
- Pasta sauce, peanut butter, cereal, soup, and shelf stable milk
- Any kind of canned beans (baked, chili, kidney, etc.) except pintos
- Any canned fruit (mixed, pears, pineapple, etc.)
- Diapers

As always, they especially seek low sodium, no sugar-added, and whole grain items. Currently, they have plenty of: tuna, green beans, canned tomatoes, pinto beans, spaghetti, and canned peaches.

Please place your items in the containers on the ramp. Thank you!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS COOKIE

It's time again to begin preparation for **Operation Christmas Cookie** – where we deliver Christmas cookies to police, fire, emergency responders and those businesses and that are open on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

We need people to make cookies or bring store bought cookies, to come to the church and package them on Saturday, December 23rd at 10:00 am, and to deliver them to various locations on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. This truly is a rewarding experience as we are showing Christ's love to those people who must work over the holidays.

Beginning Sunday, December 3rd and continuing for the next two Sundays, there will be an insert in the bulletin for you to sign up for the areas where you can help. You can also sign up with the link on our webpage or by scanning the QR code below.

Thank you in advance for your support of this outreach. Who knows what delivery of Christmas cookies might mean to someone who is working and away from their families. In some cases, it may be the only Christmas experience they have to enjoy. We hope you will join us in this important Christmas tradition.



2024 FLOWER CALENDAR



Altar Flowers

The Flower Calendar for 2024 is up in the narthex for your use. Please use this chart to reserve flowers on

DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
Advent 1 7:15a Men's Breakfast 8:30a Contemporary Wrshp 9:30a Refreshments 9:45a Christmas Prog. Music 9:45a Chancel Choir 10:00a Congregational Mtng 11:00a Traditional Worship 12:15p Handbells	4	5	6 6:30p Contemporary Ensemble Practice 7:15p Chancel Choir	7 5:00p Samaritan's Table	8 5:30p – 9:00p Parent's Night Out 5:30p -9:00a Youth Lock-In	9 10:00a Chancel Choir Dress Rehearsal
Advent 2 8:30a Contemporary Wrshp 9:45a Joe Gribble SS 9:45a Christmas Prog. Music 10:00a Faith Formation 11:00a Traditional Worship 12:15p Handbells 2:30 pm Confirmation 6:00p Christmas Cantata	11	12	13 11:30a JOY Fellowship Lunch in the Commons 6:30p Contemporary Ensemble Practice	14 5:00p Samaritan's Table 7:00p Property	15	16 9:00a Treat Bags Preparation 10:00a Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
Advent 3 8:30a Contemporary Wrshp 10:00a Children's Christmas Program 11:00a Traditional Worship 5:00p HS/MS Progressive Dinner/Gift Exch	18 6:30p Preschool Brd Meeting	19	20 3:00p – 6:00p Carolina Value Pet (Cats) 6:30p Contemporary Ensemble Practice	21 5:00p Samaritan's Table 7:00p Church Council	22 12:00p – 5:00p Carolina Value Pet	23 10:00a Cookie Packaging 10:00p – 2:00p Carolina Value Pet
Advent 4 10:00a Combined Worship 5:00p Family Christmas Eve Worship 11:00p Christmas Eve Worship	25 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	26 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	27 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	28 5:00p Samaritan's Table	29	30
Christmas 1 10:00a Combined Worship 11:00a Retirement Reception for Don Simmons						



Kimball Memorial Lutheran Church
Kimball Communicator-Newsletter

at The North Carolina Research Campus
101 Vance Street | Kannapolis, NC | 28081

ELCA
**GOOD
GIFTS**
Catalog



LOOKING FOR GOOD GIFTS THIS YEAR?

Shop ELCA Good Gifts and choose from more than 50 unique charitable gifts to give in honor of friends and family. They'll get a card to let them know about what you've done, and you'll get the joy that comes with making the world a better place.

God's love is a gift, given through Christ. This Christmas, let us celebrate that gift by sharing God's love with others. <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

SHOP NOW