

THE CLARION



March 2018



Holy Week begins on Sunday, March 25, and ends on Easter, April 1. You are encouraged to join in all our Holy Week activities, and invite your friends!

March 25 Palm Sunday Parade

Meet in Wesleyan Hall immediately after Sunday School and church at 10 am. We'll parade downtown Kennewick, ending at the sanctuary in time for our processional. Come one, come all! We will have palms to wave, banners, music, and fun, and one of our youth will portray Jesus. Adults, please accompany your children.



PALM SUNDAY



MAUNDY THURSDAY

**March 29
Maundy Thursday**
Potluck service with communion at 6 pm.

March 30 Good Friday Service at 7 pm



GOOD FRIDAY

Death's darkness couldn't conquer Jesus, the light of the world, so it does not conquer us. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5, ESV).

Resurrection Sunday April 1



EASTER SUNDAY



Sunrise Service 6:30 am

Meet at the Columbia Park gazebo (near the Edison Street exit off Highway 240). Clear Waters will lead our singing, and we'll have a morning meditation with communion. (Bring your lawn chair if you'd like to sit, and warm clothes and blankets if needed).



Our **9 am** sanctuary service will include a message from the Pastor.

At the **10:30 am** sanctuary service, enjoy our choir's Easter Cantata.

Easter Sunday School 9 am

There will be Sunday School on Easter Sunday for Toddlers through 5th grade. We will be sharing the Good News!



Sunday School
On Easter



M&Ms had a good turnout for our January event. We were blessed on Presidents Day with Wes Door's recitation of the Gettysburg address. How special! Tricia MacFarlan spoke to us about human trafficking in the Tri-Cities, a difficult subject, but one we must be aware of and address.

Joetta Ruppert will be our speaker on March 19 and will be discussing homelessness. Come join us for potluck, fellowship, and important information about what is happening in our community. We will begin setup at 10:30, and if you have time, we would appreciate help. Thank you to all who have helped with setup and clean up this year!



Mark Your Calendars For Some Family Fun!



All-Church Bunco!!

April 15
4:00-5:30 pm

All-Church Campout!! Hood Park August 17-19



More details to come soon, but camp sites have been reserved!!

District UMW Retreat Coming March 17 to Kennewick First



Our UMW, part of Seven Rivers District, will host women from sister units at a "Just Breathe" meeting at our church Saturday, March 17. Also called UMW 101, the gathering will be a chance for UMW members and all women who attend our church to ask questions about the missions and services that UMW offers. All Kennewick First women and their friends are invited. Just fill out the registration form in the Sunday bulletin or pick up one from the church office.

For this spiritual retreat, our UMW will provide refreshments and an Irish-themed lunch in recognition of St. Patrick's Day. Kathy Wertman, our UMW president, is asking for volunteers to help with hosting duties. Contact her at redmond44@aol.com or 308-2904.

Two weeks later, on March 28, our UMW members and their friends will come together to hear Ondria Hitt, chaplain at Trios Hospital, talk on her mission to the ill. The meeting will begin at 10 am in the Susanna Wesley Room with treats provided by Joy Circle. The sharing gift will be for Hospice House.



Can You Help?

We would like to offer goodies to welcome all comers during Easter morning coffee hours. If you can help out by providing baked goods or fruit for that day, please contact Gloria Harden at 585-7980. Thank you!



IN HIS GRIP

Reflections on Billy Graham

On the day I wrote this essay, I bumped into a young man in his twenties at the club where I work out. I told him I had been thinking this week about Billy Graham. The young weight-lifter responded, “Who’s he?” I expressed surprise that the name was not familiar to him. That conversation reminded me that the millennials and I have not been reading the same books nor watching the same television.

Billy Graham was a complex character, for the most part loved and revered in American life, especially in American Christian circles. He was more critically judged by those on the progressive side, and there are some valid reasons for those assessments.

I probably first learned of Graham from his crusades on TV, which were broadcast from all over the world. I remember being unimpressed. Most television in those days was not very stirring, especially those grainy photos and film clips from around the world. Film quality had not yet arrived. Later, in May 1976 when I was in my twenties, I attended his Seattle crusade in person. (I commented on that experience in a recent Friday email article.) I went the first evening mostly out of curiosity. I expected a certain level of showmanship and kept my expectations low. In that respect, I was not surprised. However, beyond the very humanly designed program, I sensed the Holy Spirit moving. Through an ordinary message delivered by a mere human, people were hearing a powerful call to change their lives, a call to belief, a call to faith, something far more compelling than any human could produce. I was spellbound, and returned for two more evenings. Even today when I hear a clip of one of his crusade sermons, I often sense power as if it were coming from beyond him, which I believe it was.

People have criticized Graham for his connections with some of our presidents. Some have also criticized him for his unwelcoming stance on same sex attraction. This week I read an article written by someone who, many years ago, was experiencing that very attraction and felt Billy Graham’s strong disapproval. How Graham’s words must have wounded that young man! By then, however, Graham was a Southern Baptist, and considering that context, his beliefs were not surprising. He drank in the theology of Paul, apparently not noticing that just a few pages earlier, we read of Jesus busily healing, defending, and welcoming those on the margins, offering grace, not judgement and rejection.

One conclusion I carry with me that many parishioners may not is that preachers (hopefully) are always growing, always refining, always seeking more careful guidance from the Bible and from the Holy Spirit. My own views have shifted over the years, in some ways mellowing, in others toughening, and I think other pastors like Billy Graham experience similar shifts. I can forgive him for the theological views of his younger years. But I was not personally wounded by Graham’s harsh words; if I had been, I don’t expect I could have given him any slack. The stakes were too high. Not many stood with those experiencing same sex attraction back then. What they needed was exactly the same thing that each and every one of us has needed, and still need: a fresh measure of God’s love and affirmation, and enough graceful warnings to keep us away from the ditch, through the preaching of Billy Graham and others.

I recommend that we take time this season to review Billy Graham’s sermons and writings. Look for the power and guidance of the Spirit contained therein. Be careful, however, to distinguish between Graham’s very human tendency to judge and the welcoming warmth of the Spirit. Receive the latter and leave the former.

In His grip,



You Should Know . . .

The books are closed on the KFUMC year of 2017. Thanks to our congregation, we finished the year in a positive financial position. The General Fund contributions of \$464,293 exceeded the budget of \$441,671 by \$23,222. The expenses of the General Fund were \$452,194, which were under our budget of \$530,951 by \$78,758. Almost all of the underrun of the budget occurred in salaries, where we experienced staff turnover and unfilled positions compared to what was expected in the budget.

The Building, Maintenance, and Repairs (BMR) Fund received \$56,402 in contributions. The Facilities Team spent \$32,976 for replacement of a bus motor, repair of the church roof, painting the small chapel, replacing the elevator floor, grounds upkeep, security, and other maintenance expenses of our church facilities.

The results are an improved financial position for the church to help meet new opportunities and unforeseen events. Thank you all for your continued stewardship.

SNL

Saturday Night Life

March 3, 6 pm

Youth Chapel

Message by *Kristi Thien*

Music with *Clear Waters*

*Plan to join us on **March 17** as well, same time, same place with **Trent Westfall!***

Calling All 3rd through 5th Graders!



Come for Funday on **March 4 and 25!**

Bring your friends! Rachel and Sydney have fun activities planned for each Funday. Meet in the 4th & 5th Sunday School classroom from noon to 1:30 pm and don't forget your sack lunch!

2nd Annual Women's Retreat Seaside Escape!



Where? KFUMC

When? Friday, May 18, from 5:30 pm through Saturday, May 19, at noon. Sleepover is optional.

Tickets are \$40, and the cost includes dinner by Back Alley BBQ, breakfast, all supplies, surprises, mission project, Saturday night movie, and more! Tickets will be limited to 32 so sign up early.

Please come . . . and tell all your friends. This is an amazing way to connect with other women in a meaningful and fun way. College age through 109 are welcome! We will not have childcare but will provide a list of able and conscientious young people to babysit for you. We have an amazing menu in the works for dinner including panini sandwiches, salad, and a chowder. Kevin Alley rocks!

Men, this makes a wonderful Mother's Day gift. Your wife or mother would like nothing better than some time to wind down with great Christian friends!



Jr & Sr High UMY March Schedule

Sunday, March 4

Jr & Sr UMY: Human Clue
(6-8 pm)

Sunday, March 11

Jr and Sr UMY: Sr. Mystery
Dinner for the Jrs (6-8pm)

Friday, March 16 - Sunday, March 18 –

Jr High UMY - Retreat to Lazy F.
Information is on the winter retreat
form. Contact Harriet if you need a
form as well as the list of items to
bring and not to bring to the retreat.

Sunday, March 18

Sr High UMY, Human Foosball
(6-8 pm)

Friday, March 23 – Saturday, March 24

SR High sleepover (8 pm, Friday -
10 am, Saturday)
Bowling/ Nerf War, and more
Care packages for YA
Please bring your sleeping bag/ pil-
low, overnight clothes and toiletries!
Invite your friends!!!

Sunday, March 25

Jr High: Nuclear Ultimate Bowl
(6-8 pm)

Call or Text

Call or and text Pastor Harriet at 909-575-
8308.

Sunday Evening Youth Praise Band Practice Schedule

Sunday, March 4—4:45 pm
Sunday, March 11—4:45 pm
Sunday, March 18—4:45 pm
Sunday, March 25—No Praise Band

Sunday School

We will be exploring the title of and ques-
tions in Matt Rawle's book, "What Makes a
Hero?" The material provides us with the
image of victory over the trials and tempta-
tions that we face in life. Rawle uses the
pop culture heroes we watch in the movies
(for example, Batman, Wonder Woman, and
others) to show that Christ is our hero and
what that means for us as Christians.
Meet in the Youth Chapel at 9 am on
Sundays.

Cornerstone

Come on Tuesdays in March! Dinner is
served at 6 pm and small group time is from
6:30—8 pm.

Jr High Retro-Cornerstone meets in the 4 &
5th grade Sunday school classroom. Kristi
Thien and Brittany Becker lead the group.

Sr High meets in the Youth Chapel with
Pastor Harriet. Our focus is connecting mu-
sic and scripture. We are also planning the
Youth worship time for Sunday evenings.

This Week: Youth E-News

Each week, Pastor Harriet sends out the
Youth E-News via e-mail. If you don't
already receive the Youth E-News, please
e-mail her (harriet@kennewickfirst.com)
and she will add you to the group. The
E-news has an up-to-date list of events and
other important information.



Caregiver Support Group

The Caregiver Support Group will meet in the church library, located on the lower level off the fellowship hall, on:

Thursday, March 1, at 10 am
Thursday, April 5, at 10 am

Caregiver, how is it with your Soul?

The Caregiver Support Group is for those caring for a loved one: a child, a parent, a spouse, a family member you take to doctor appointments on a regular basis because of health issues.

When we meet, we have a devotion and a time of sharing. Be assured that what is said in the group is held in confidence.

If you know of someone who is a caregiver, but cannot attend at the day and time listed, please call Harriet (909-575-8308) to make other arrangements.

Safety is important, so if there is freezing rain or it is snowing so that you cannot attend, please call Harriet; she will be happy to set up another time to chat.



**Church
Cleanup**

ALL-CHURCH CLEANUP

**SATURDAY
MARCH 24
9 AM**

Come on down! There will be tasks for everyone!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

PHD Pastor Harriet posts on Facebook (PHD page) and on Twitter (@KennewickUmc); look there for times the group gathers each month for conversation.

UMCOR Sunday

March 11

March 11 is a crucial Sunday; it is the day we come together to empower our disaster relief arm of Global Ministries, UMCOR, for an entire year. If you remember:



- When hurricanes Harvey, Maria and Irma slammed Texas, Louisiana, Florida and Puerto Rico in 2017, UMCOR was there.
- When wildfires ravaged thousands of homes in the West and Southeast, UMCOR was there.
- When refugees and migrants around the world needed help, UMCOR was there.
- When a mudslide in Sierra Leone killed more than 500 people and destroyed 2,000 homes, UMCOR was there.

They were there because of UMCOR Sunday.

This Special Sunday offering covers the operating costs of UMCOR, which allows the relief agency to be where it needs to be, when it needs to be there, for as long as it needs to be there.

Special offering envelopes will be available at church that day or you may donate online [here](#).

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Please pray for those in need of healing and comfort . . .

Carol Hardacre, Deana Abrend, Todd Milton, Shelby Faught, Anita Knight, Don Hildman, Jacque Sonderman, Patty Winston, Ann Kelly, Terry Simmelink, Jim Fisher, Mary Shoop, Punkie Eddy, Norma Williams, Steve Baker

Altha Perry is turning 95! Please join her family in celebrating her birthday on Sunday, March 4, at 11:30 am, following worship service. Lunch will be provided and everyone is welcome to join the celebration!



Hats off to our ushers!

On Sunday, January 21, we celebrated our ushers with a luncheon and informational gathering. What an honor and blessing to recognize these incredible servants, who are led by Usher Coordinator Jane Hunt. The list of tasks they accomplish on a Sunday morning, in addition to welcoming and caring for us, is extensive. Our ushers have a combined total of over 500 years of experience . . . We so appreciate each and every one of them! Hats off to our wonderful ushers!!



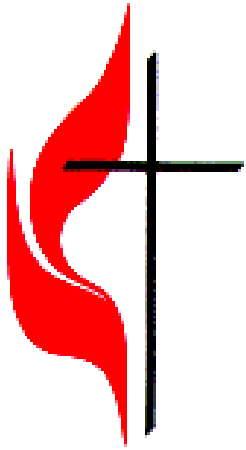
Thank you to everyone who supported the PhD Cake Auction on Sunday, February 11. Over \$5,000 was raised to help pay for mission trips and retreats that the group is planning.



March BIRTHDAYS

Richard Meilink	1-Mar	Opal Smith	8-Mar	Jessica Urban	25-Mar
Adam Nelson	1-Mar	Starlite Buchholz	9-Mar	Michael Burgess	26-Mar
Anna Wood	2-Mar	Robert Marple	11-Mar	Sally Herker	27-Mar
Colby Eberhardt	2-Mar	Emma Pearson	11-Mar	Linda Hawley	27-Mar
Aiden Mason	2-Mar	Matthew Williams	13-Mar	Bob Arnold	27-Mar
Arlan Gadeken	3-Mar	Erik Anderson	14-Mar	Don Hand	27-Mar
Altha Perry	4-Mar	Joseph Ahrend	15-Mar	Conner Palmer	28-Mar
Brooke Kaiser	4-Mar	Clara Cox	15-Mar	Landon Biglin	29-Mar
Dennis Arter	6-Mar	Lillian Anderson	19-Mar	Karl Sundvik	30-Mar
		Andrew Nickolaus	19-Mar	Tessa Nelson	30-Mar
		Luke Larson	19-Mar		
		JoAnn Pringle	20-Mar		
		Dorothy Lyle	22-Mar		
		Fern Smith	22-Mar		
		Judy Milton	24-Mar		
		Rob Rhodes	24-Mar		





First United Methodist Church
Corner of Dayton St. & Kennewick Ave.
Office:
421 W. Kennewick Ave.
Kennewick, WA 99336

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Worship Schedule

Services at 9 and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9 a.m.
Nursery provided
Handicapped Accessible

Church Office Hours

8:30 am - noon and 1 - 4 pm
Monday through Thursday
8 am - noon on Fridays
(509) 582-2163

www.kennewickfirst.com
facebook.com/KennewickFirstUMC



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31



9:30 am

We have 1000 eggs to find, and they are filled with yummys! Babes through 4th grade can hunt, and 5th graders and middle school youth are our awesome hiders. Parents, grandparents, and guardians, bring your kiddos and have some fun! Pass the word. All are welcome! We will have activities, a photo area, and prizes.



*Articles for the April 2018
Clarion will be due on
March 23.*