

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, March 7: Saturday Night Life, 6 pm, Youth Chapel

Join us in the Youth Chapel as Chris Becker is the speaker and the Saturday Night Players will play music.

Saturday, March 21: Saturday Night Life, 6 pm, Youth Chapel

Join us in the Youth Chapel as Kookie Graham is the speaker and the Saturday Night Players will play music.

Sunday, March 22: All-Church Bingo, 4-5:30 pm, Ida Payne

All Church Event in Ida Payne Fellowship Hall. Popcorn, punch and prizes.

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday, Worship Services at 9 & 10:30 am

We will have palm fronds at both worship services and a Palm Sunday parade (parade participants will meet in Wesleyan Hall at 10 am)

Thursday, April 9: Maundy Thursday, 5 pm

There will be a potluck in Ida Payne with the main dishes provided. Please bring a salad or dessert.

Friday, April 10: Good Friday Service, 7 pm

There will be a Good Friday worship service in the sanctuary at 7 pm.

Saturday, April 11: Easter Egg Hunt, 9:30 am

There will be an Easter egg hunt on the church lawn for children age 2 thru 4th grade at 9:30 am.

Sunday, April 12: Easter

6:30 am Sunrise Communion Service at Lions Gazebo in Columbia Park
9 am worship service in the sanctuary
10:30 am Choir Cantata in the sanctuary

Hi friends!

What a great week it has been here at Kennewick First. When life is busy, important events, milestones and celebrations easily go by unnoticed. The ordinary events of our days can easily smother the wonderful occasions that happen. One of my Lenten disciplines as part of meditation on God's word, is intentionally being aware of the places, events and happenings where God's word is fulfilled.

Here at Kennewick First some important things happened. First, we received a call asking for help for our neighbors in Walla Walla County, who have been affected by recent floods. Our church was able to help store, transport and distribute "Flood Buckets" that were arriving from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) depot in Louisiana. Members of our congregation were on hand to help over 70 families who met at the Walla Walla Fairgrounds get in touch with agencies and services they needed to help get life "back to normal".

Second, on average over 50 people who need help finding healthy, safe and warm meals gather in the Ida Payne fellowship hall to receive a warm meal, and a safe place to relax and experience peace from the struggles of their daily lives. This Thursday people were welcomed through our doors to receive such a meal.

Third, last Sunday during our worship services we prayed and asked for God's blessing on those who will receive the Prayer Shawls members of our congregation have lovingly and prayerfully knitted to be given to individuals who would benefit from a tangible expression of God's presence, and our congregation's prayers in time of hardship. Since 2005 over 1,100 of them have been given out! (By the way... If you would like to request a shawl for someone you know would benefit from having one, please give us a call at the church office, or give Pat Walker (509) 585-5170 – or – Annie Baker (509) 547-5706 a call and they can get the information from you)

Fourth, ... I know there's a fourth!... this last Wednesday over 60 of us gathered in the sanctuary to spend time in prayer and confession, hear scripture, prayerfully ponder the Lenten Disciplines of prayer, fasting and self-denial, works of charity and generosity, and meditating on scripture. We came forward and had ashes placed on our brows in the shape of a cross as a reminder of the grief we experience because of those things we place as barriers to experiencing God more fully, and as a reminder that we are merely mortal and that is the presence and grace of God that brings us true life!

Fifth, ... I know right!? Eight people stood before us on Sunday and made commitments to become members of this congregation and join with us on our journey of faith. Eight people decided that they wanted to be a member of a group that proclaims that we are all beloved children of God, and that all of us can experience God's Spirit. That Jesus invites us to be part of a Spirit filled community that uses our time, our talents, and our treasure to work for a world that reflects the justice, reign and grace of God!

As we begin the season of Lent together, I wanted to make sure that the events of this last week didn't silently pass by without our recognition of the wonderful things God is doing in each of us and as a congregation!

See ya in church my friends!!

Pastor Mark

