

THE CLARION

KENNEWICK 1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CORNER OF DAYTON ST AND KENNEWICK AVENUE,
KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON



Lay Shepherd Ministry Resurrected

Life is messy and often painful. None of us can avoid the hurt, grief, sickness, and loss that happen in our lives. What we do to help each other get through difficult times can be complex, yet so simple. As people of faith, committed to healing and wholeness, we may offer prayers for intercessory healing or send written encouragement. Sometimes we can call or just show up and reach out with words of comfort or a listening ear. The ministry of Lay Shepherding is carefully designed to connect a Lay Shepherd with a parishioner experiencing a difficult time. Lay Shepherds will work alongside, or under the direction of, the Pastor and/or the Congregational Care Staff to provide care for the soul.



A Christ-centered, inclusive and loving community

If you would like to participate in this ministry using your gifts and graces in compassion, encouragement, prayer, and conversation, then we would like to invite you to the Lay Shepherd training to explore and further develop these gifts that may be used to care for others in the program in a variety of ways.

Lay Shepherd Training

Facilitated by: Naomi McDermott & Cynthia Bement

Sunday, March 8 from Noon-2:30 pm
(Lunch provided)

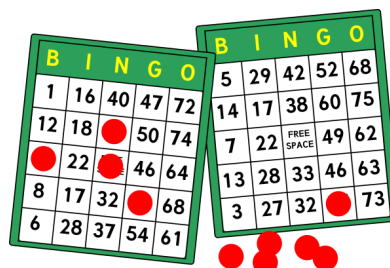
Please call the church office to reserve your spot at the training session: 582-2163.



**Come One...Come All
All Church Event
BINGO**

**March 22
4-5:30 pm**

**Ida Payne
Fellowship Hall
Popcorn - Punch & Prizes**





As you receive the March Clarion, we will have begun the season of Lent. We have gathered together on Ash Wednesday to pray, to spend time in confession, and we were challenged to participate in the Lenten disciplines of self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting and self-denial, reading and meditating on scripture, and acts of charity. I hope that the season of Lent is not just a bummer for 40 days before Easter. I've been in that place where the biggest celebration of Easter is merely that Lent is over and I can drink coffee, eat chocolate, or do whatever thing I gave up for Lent!

Overwhelmingly, I hear from people that the hardest discipline they struggle to observe during Lent is fasting. Which may be why it is such an important discipline to observe (not just during Lent). If you're like me, I'm pretty used to getting what I want, for no other reason than . . . "I want it."

Experience teaches us that the things we desire can, and often do, lead us about in ways we can barely control . . . that is, if we make an attempt to control them at all. St. Paul tells us in the 5th Chapter of Galatians that "the impulses of nature and the impulses of the spirit are at war with one another." This war is so intense that our passions often lead us to do things we don't want to do, and we find ourselves saying, "My own actions bewilder me; what I do is not what I wish to do, but something which I hate." (Romans 7:15)

Please keep in mind that the "passions of our flesh" (as Paul calls them) are not necessarily wrong, but it is so easy for them to become out of control and unchecked. In some cases, they lead us to behaviors and actions that have severe consequences. Apart from those extremes, making the attempt to bring discipline to those desires is a doorway to freedom that declares there is more to life than just my selfish desires and "what I want." The practice of fasting is a simple way to break a cycle of selfishness that can so easily claim a foothold in our lives.

I've learned from many wasted seasons of Lent that having a plan is important. I know that declaring I won't eat any food at all for a period of time is unrealistic and ultimately makes me feel like a lame loser because I couldn't carry out my Lenten discipline as an act of my sheer will. Instead, I try to fast from something that is realistic and do-able. A friend suggested to me a great idea that I will be observing this Lent. For centuries, Christians fasted from meat on Fridays and/or ate fish instead. Now I know there are some questionable theological issues around eating warm blooded animals and whether or not fish is actually more of a luxury than a steak, but for me it is a conscious effort to do something that brings discipline into a pattern of just blindly following the desires of my belly, and in turn setting a precedent that I am more than just my selfish desires.

Whatever disciplines you chose to practice during Lent, I pray that they are instruments in God's hands to restore and renew your faith as we make this journey to Easter together!

See ya in Church,
Pastor Mark

A Lenten history lesson

Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *lenctentid* (meaning "March") and *lencten* (meaning "spring").

The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea. By the eighth century, Christians started observing Lent, and a 10th-century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and "the Lenten fast" to the pre-Easter period.

Lent lasts 40 days to represent Jesus' time in the wilderness, when he was tempted by the devil. The six Sundays that occur between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday aren't counted as part of Lent; instead, as the traditional day of worship, they're considered "mini-Easters."



MARCH Birthdays

Richard Meilink	1-Mar
Becky Phillips	3-Mar
Altha Perry	4-Mar
Brooke Kaiser	4-Mar
Arlan Gadeken	6-Mar
Dennis Arter	6-Mar
Opal Smith	8-Mar
Forest Dexter	8-Mar
Starlite Buchholz	9-Mar
Robert Marple	11-Mar
Amy Sweetwood	13-Mar
Matthew Williams	13-Mar
Erik Anderson	14-Mar
Joseph Ahrend	15-Mar
Clara Cox	15-Mar
Lillian Anderson	19-Mar
Andrew Nickolaus	19-Mar
Dorothy Lyle	22-Mar
Fern Smith	22-Mar
Judy Milton	24-Mar
Rob Rhodes	24-Mar
Jessica Urban	25-Mar
Sally Herker	27-Mar
Linda Hawley	27-Mar
Bob Arnold	27-Mar
Don Hand	27-Mar



Early APRIL Birthdays

Molly Kittson	3-Apr
Jeffrey Varzandeh	4-Apr
Christiaan Barcot	4-Apr
Dee Yount	5-Apr
Bethany Ahrend	5-Apr
Terry Milton	6-Apr

*"May you have warm words on a cold evening,
a full moon on a dark night, and the road down-
hill all the way to your door."*

—Irish blessing



IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

*Please pray for those in need of healing,
comfort, and encouragement . . .*

Ron Baker, Shelby Faught, Jean Faught,
Evelin Choate, Kirk Higginson, Rita
McElroy, Muriel Smith, Juli Reinholz,
Anita Knight, Joan Osborne, Pat Phillips,
Terry Simmelink, Jennifer Bateman, Donna
Troxel, Peggy Snyder, Don Meyers, Bishop
Elaine Stanovsky, and our District Superin-
tendent Rev. Joanne Coleman Campbell.

Our dearly loved friend, **Norma Williams**,
died on February 13. We celebrate her life
of faith and thank God for the blessings she
brought to our lives. Please keep her family
and friends in prayer as they grieve their
loss.



WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Loretta Curley, Cindy &
Lloyd Leathers, Joe & Judy Mosebar,
Karen & Earl Pfeiffer, and Charles
Russcher, who joined our church on
Sunday, February 23!



Caregiver Support

The Caregiver Support
Group will meet on Mon-
day, March 9, at 10:30 am in
the Library. This is a great
group for anyone who is tak-
ing care of a family member or friend and is
needing some support.



UMW Looking Forward to Season Change

UMW will welcome Spring with a joyous program on Nature and Birds at 10 am, Wednesday, March 25, in the Susanna Wesley Room.

IT'S FOR The BIRDS is the title of a wonderful talk by Janice McIntyre, who works at Wild Birds Unlimited. She is also a member of our own JOY fellowship and is active in the Academy of Children's Theater, including making costumes and sets. Janice has also worked with and directed Mid Columbia Musical Theatre.

Tuesday Morning Circle will provide treats, and the sharing gift will be for My Friend's Place. Please bring packages of Oreos and Fruit Loops, as well as toiletries for the teens.

Kathy Wertman will lead a short business meeting, and the UMW board will report on activities and seek ideas for projects. Serving with Kathy, and also happy to answer your questions on UMW's many missions, are Eddie Kenoyer, Phyllis Koschik, Kathy Harris, Pat Walker, Su Mayfield, Nancy Russell, Mick Perry, and Bonnie Taylor. Look in the new UMW yearbook for the many other appointments and committees serving the church and community.

Holly Daze Workshop Set March 7



In keeping with the plan to hold UMW workshops the first Saturday of each month, Holly Daze crafters will meet at 9 am on March 7 in the Susanna Wesley Room.

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Projects will be felt stocking door hangers, decorative gnomes, and wooden trees. Holly Daze co-chairs, Susan Sandmeier and Darryl Vaughn, encourage newcomers to attend a workshop to see what fun they are. And, of course, all ideas are welcome.

Knitters and Crocheters To Meet



If you have ever thought of making a prayer shawl, March 7 is your day.

Pat Walker's group works on shawls year round and has yarn to share; they will meet at 10 am on that Saturday in the reception area at church. She and her assistants, Janet Shelton and Annie Baker, will gladly help you get started on a special shawl.



M&Ms will meet on Monday, March 16, and Chuck Hindman will be our guest speaker. He will talk to us about "Homelessness."

Sheila Turner from Bishel House for the Blind will be our speaker in April, and in May, Miss Tri-Cities will be our guest, if her schedule allows.

Bring a dish to share and come join us for fellowship, good food, and entertainment. We begin setting tables about 10:45; if you have time, we appreciate the help.

Thank you to Wes Door for speaking to us in February! I am sure we all hope we can be as entertaining when we are 90+. THANK YOU WES.



The team has been active in February with the monthly sale of Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate and a meeting with a Kenyan mission leader who happens to live in Hermiston, Louise Kientzle. The committee met with Louise on February 20 to discuss ways Kennewick First might be able to support this mission effort. Since we have lost contact with the church and school in Njukinjiru, this may offer a great way for us to support a mission in Kenya. Louise works through Maua Methodist Church in Maua, Kenya, to coordinate work building homes for surviving children of AIDS victims and support of several area schools and an orphanage. They do medical camps to serve those in outlying regions who have no access to medical care. The Ministry Team will continue to explore ways we might assist Louise in her work in Kenya.



We continue to support Impact Compassion center and their mission of assisting those fighting poverty and addiction.

We have also been able to help respond to the flood event that impacted Walla Walla and parts of NE Oregon in early February. Kathy and Dana Bryson, PNW Conference Disaster Response Coordinators, requested 72 cleaning kits from UMCOR. These were delivered to the church, and then Dave Hare and Bob Kelly took them to Walla Walla. On February 14, 15, and 16, they were distributed to those impacted. The cleaning kits, which are contained in 5-gallon buckets, contain a number of items that help those flooded to clean up the mess. This is a great example of how the greater UMC is prepared to reach out to those in need. Remember that when you support UMCOR, 100% of your donation goes to providing relief.

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Our efforts to help support the Boys & Girls Club through the purchase of EverBlocks has been very successful. They will use the blocks to help children with sensory over-stimulation cope with periods of high stress. Thanks to all who donated a total of over \$610 to purchase blocks. In consultation with the club, they wanted a total of 78 blocks (about \$400). The remaining funds will be used to purchase therapeutic objects/tools to help kids who are dealing with stressors (sometimes called fidget items). Luke Hallowell, the site manager, is so thankful for our partnership with the club. Oh, and by the way, the club might also be a great place for you to volunteer. Do you hear the call???? These children want and need good adult mentors and friends.

Soul Soup continues to be a vibrant and active ministry feeding the homeless and poor in our community every Thursday at KFUMC. In 2019, 456 volunteers served 2136 guests at an average meal cost of \$4.42 (includes an estimated \$2/meal from donated Panera products). Panera donated over \$28,800 in bread and desserts at full retail prices. What Soul Soup does not use is given to Dayspring Ministry. If we were to include the meals served at Prayer Watch (each Monday and Wednesday), you could double the volunteers and guests served! New for 2020, The Living Room Church will begin serving Soul Soup meals on Tuesdays.



Piecemakers will meet on Wednesday, March 11, from 10 am to noon in the 3rd grade classroom. You don't have to be a quilter to help us tie quilts, sew up tum-mies, and sew on labels. We have lots of fun and fellowship, so join us! Hope to see you there!



Our leadership council continued our quarterly meetings in January. As we looked forward to the upcoming year, we discussed how we are doing at

Kennewick First to provide ways to grow in our faith, worship together, serve together, and build lasting relationships with each other. This discussion provided the backdrop to our April meeting and goal setting for our upcoming program year.

Dana Bryson, one of the PNWUMC Disaster Response coordinators, came and provided the council with disaster response resources to help our congregation prepare and respond to a variety of disasters. What a blessing to have such resources within our congregation. KFUMC had the opportunity to assist in relief efforts in February as we were able to store and help distribute cleaning buckets to regional flood victims in Walla Walla county. My hope is that KFUMC can be a hub for such activities for our region in the future.

Our Safety and Security team continues to work quietly and diligently to promote a safe, welcoming environment for all. The council had the opportunity to review and approve the guiding mission of this team as follows:

KFUMC is committed to maintaining a caring and safe church environment. We strive to reduce risk to the people on our church campus while welcoming our neighbors. Our goal is to protect people and property by proactively implementing physical safeguards and security activities to achieve effective solutions while maintaining a safe and welcoming church environment.

Lastly, as we looked back over our goals for the previous year, we discussed communication within KFUMC. We applaud the work that has been completed to update our church website. We recognized a variety of ways people get information regarding

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church activities and opportunities to serve. We will be performing a few surveys to see which forms of communication serve our congregation most effectively. If you are asked to participate, please respond so we can better plan how to effectively communicate all the opportunities and programs here at KFUMC.

I am always interested in hearing your stories, what excites you about your faith journey, or how you see Kennewick First sharing Christ in our community. Don't hesitate to reach out to me, I love a good conversation.

*To God be the glory,
Jill Berg,
Lay Leader*



Sunday School Class of the Month

Greetings from the Kindergarten / 1st grade Sunday School classroom—Nolan, Riley, Molly, Jade, and teacher Becky Phillips! We are looking forward to spring in our classroom and have been cutting, pasting, and coloring flowers to celebrate Jesus and welcome spring! During March, the children are learning about 1 John 3:10-18, which is all about Love. They are learning the truth about God's love and how other people will know that we are Christians because we show love to one another. We are looking forward to showing you how we love one another on March 8 by greeting you with smiles and warm handshakes before second service that day!



Sunday, March 8
Spring forward 1 hour!

Please mark your calendars for the Sr. High Auction!

A Night Under the Montana Sky

Sunday, April 26, 2019

Doors open at 2:45 PM

Silent Auction from 3:00 to 4:00 PM

Live Auction begins at 4:00 PM

You are invited to come enjoy food while supporting the Sr. High youth and their upcoming Mission Trip in June to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana!



3rd, 4th and 5th graders are welcome to join Rachel and Mikayla for an afternoon of devotion, fellowship, games, crafts, and of course, fun!

We'll meet in the 4th and 5th grade room from noon to 1:30 pm on March 8. Bring a sack lunch and your friends! On March 22, join Rachel and Mikayla for all-church Bingo from 4-5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall! Anyone is welcome to come enjoy popcorn, punch, and prizes!

Jr and Sr High Camp MiVoden Spring Retreat



Youth Retreat

The Jr and Sr High youth and leaders will head to Camp MiVoden on Hayden Lake in Idaho for a weekend of worship, devotion, Bible study time, and fellowship, March 13-15!

Please pray for both groups as they retreat to God in the great outdoors!

Last Call to Turn in Jr High Rock - a - Thon Pledges and Donations!



Please mail or bring your pledges and donations to the church office at:

421 W. Kennewick Ave
Kennewick, WA 99336

Thank you again for your love and support!

Sweetheart Social

Wrap-Up



On February 9, the Jr. and Sr. UMY hosted the all-church Sweetheart Social! We enjoyed food, dancing, and time of fellowship. Thank you to all who participated!



First United Methodist Church
Office: 421 W. Kennewick Ave.
Kennewick, WA 99336

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Corner of W. Kennewick Ave. and
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Office: 421 W. Kennewick Avenue
Kennewick, Washington 99336
(509) 582-2163

Worship Schedule

Sunday Services at 9 and 10:30 am
Sunday School at 9 am
Nursery provided
Handicapped Accessible

Church Office Hours

8:30 am - noon and 1 - 4 pm
Monday through Thursday

8 am - noon on Fridays

www.kennewickfirst.com
facebook.com/KennewickFirstUMC

Live from Kennewick First . . .

SNL

It's Saturday Night Life!

March 7th
Chris Becker

March 21st
Kookie Graham

6 pm in the Youth Chapel
Music by
The Saturday Night Players!

**Upcoming
DEADLINE**

April 2020
Clarion articles will be
due on **March 20**.