

Hi friends,

Here is this week's updates for Kennewick First UMC

Thank you so much for all of you who have answered our request to make masks for our church! When we reach the point of being able to meet together in person, we know that masks will play a role in our gatherings. Since the best information is telling us that even if you are not showing symptoms, you could still be contagious and wearing masks by everyone in proximity to each person significantly reduces the threat of spreading the Corona Virus. If you have been making masks and get 10 or so made, let the church know with either an email or a voicemail left on the office phone, and Mary Lynn Arter will schedule a time and procedure to come and pick them up (THANK YOU MARY LYNN!!). If you need fabric to make the masks, but don't have any, the church has access to lots of fabric, so again just give us a call or an email and Phyllis Merrill will be in contact with you about getting fabric to you (THANK YOU PHYLLIS!!). I am so thankful that as a church everyone has been so gracious and willing to step in and help. This is just one more example of our congregation's generosity. THANK YOU!

Our Governor has published a 4-phase plan to give us a road map to returning to everyday life. (If you would like to view those stages follow this link <https://www.governor.wa.gov/news-media/chart-washingtons-phased-approach>). It's not until phase 3 in which we can have limited public gatherings of 50 or less that we can begin the process of starting our in person worship gatherings, Bible studies and meetings. Our hope is that by the first or second week of June, we may be at that phase, but depending on the reported number of new infections and other factors it could be further off. We will be letting you know when those gatherings will start to take place as we know more information. Above all, we want to make sure that we are all safe and have the best information available for each of us to make decisions about whether returning to large gatherings is a good choice for each individual, so keep an eye out for these emails to update us.

Camps are an important part of the summer for many of us! At this point schedules and safety requirements have many of us wondering if the United Methodist Camps, like Twinlow, will be happening. As a church, we have decided as a way to support not only our kids who want to attend camp this Summer, but also support the United Methodist Camping ministry in hard times, Kennewick first is offering a \$200 "Campership" for each person registering for camp. Please take a look at <https://twinlow.org/camps/> and decide if there is a camp you would like to attend. Give Rachel Loomis a call at the church and leave her a message or shoot her an email at Rachel@kennewickfirst.com and we can make the arrangements to get that Campership sent off to Twinlow and get you registered.

Finally, just a reminder that every Thursday at about 6 pm, I do a live update and brief devotional on our Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, please feel free to tune in on Thursdays at 6 pm. If you're not, you can follow this link and get yesterday's update. <https://www.facebook.com/KennewickFirstUMC/videos/238528287589428/>

That's all for this week friends, don't forget to tune in on Sunday at 10:30 am for our online worship service on the YouTube channel (Click this link to get there <https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>) Have a great week and... say it with me... GO WASH YOUR HANDS!

Pastor Mark