

Hi friends,

Time for our weekly update on things going on in the life of Kennewick First United Methodist Church.

Some of you who have friends and family members who attend other United Methodist Churches, may have heard that our Bishop has given the ok for UM churches to move into phase two of the conference's re-opening plan. The permission to move forward comes for churches who fit these three criteria:

1. The Bishop's office has ok'd the conference to move forward (*she has...*)
2. The local church has a re-opening plan that has been approved by the cabinet (*we do...*)
3. The plan is consistent with state and local public health guidance, (*IT IS NOT...*)

Because Benton County is still in phase one and under a "stay at home order", and new cases and hospitalizations continue to rise (this week at a markedly increased rate), we will be continuing in phase one of our plan. When our county is given the ok to move forward, we will be taking the next steps in our plan.

As we look forward to that plan and ultimately (someday... it will come... I know it...), moving beyond phase one in the Tri-cities, there are some things that you can be helping us prepare. You can donate towards our VBS/Back to school backpack project (here is a link to what that is about <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1180691135610994> ).

When we move to phase three and can begin limited in-person worship services, the job of Usher will change tremendously. It will mainly consist of helping people move through the building in safe ways, handing out Public Protective Equipment, like masks, and knowing what to do in a sudden medical emergency (who calls 911, etc....) The other important thing when we move to Phase 3 is, we will be encouraging people who have an elevated risk category from Covid-19, like age or other underlying health issues to stay at home, and worship online. So if you are under 60 years old, don't have any of the underlying health issues and would like to help us make sure worship is as safe as possible for our friends and neighbors, contact the church either by phone or email and we will help you get connected.

Now to the really important announcement (priorities people!) For those of you who ordered girl scout cookies from Ellie Nelson (one of our youth group kids), the week before we were given the shutdown/stay at home orders, she let us know that the orders are in. If you ordered cookies from Ellie, I have been given permission to give out her parent's number (Amanda Nelson) so you can call and arrange a time and a way to get your order. Call 509-308-6814 and make arrangements to get your cookies! (Do not call the church, we do not have anything to do with the girl scout orders... other than you are welcome to donate Tagalongs to the pastor's dessert project ☺).

Finally, I wanted to add a link to the Thursday update that I did this week on Facebook. I know that many of you don't use the Facebook platform, so I will try and do better about providing this link to those updates here in the weekly email. Here is the link :

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=764966547578202>

Do not forget that you can watch our Sunday worship service at 10:30 am on our YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>

Have a great weekend my friends... and go wash your hands!

Pastor Mark

If you would like the July/August 2020 Upper Room mailed to you, please call Cheryl in the church office at 582-2163 or contact Cynthia at [Cynthia@kennewickfirst.com](mailto:Cynthia@kennewickfirst.com). Please specify if you want the large or small print.