

Hi friends,

We have a few things to bring you up to date on here at Kennewick First. So, I apologize that this week's email is a bit long.

As I see the crisis that so many find themselves in today with a pandemic and wildfires burning, I am reminded that on this date 19 years ago, we as a nation faced a terrible crisis that in many ways brought out the best in us. I hope on this anniversary of the 9/11 attacks you can take a moment of silence to remember all the lives that were lost, and sacrifices made on that fateful day!

I want to remind you that our Bishop's office recommendation is that we are still operating under the phase one protocols of our reopening plan. This means that we are doing all we can to limit the events and programs that bring us out of our homes and in direct contact with each other. That means we are still not meeting in the Church building for worship, group, or social events. The exception is small groups of 5 or less to do essential ministries (i.e. Distributing food at our soul soup ministry, or repairs and maintenance of the property... Thank you ground crew volunteers!) There has been lots of confusion about some of the changes that the Governor made in mid-August for religious gatherings. We, who are part of United Methodist Churches in the Northwest, are not only bound by the state health requirements, but by the direction of our Bishop's office and so even though the state has loosened some of the requirements for religious gatherings, our Pacific Northwest Conference has not, so we are still operating under those guidelines. If you have not yet looked at the Church's reopening plan, you can see it on the Church web page or follow this link: <https://www.kennewickfirst.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Church-Reopening-Plan.pdf>.

Having reminded us of that, we are beginning to start our fall programs in light of these guidelines.

Sunday the September 13th from 2-3pm, the Youth group will be having their beginning of the year "Drive thru" orientation. The Youth Ministry Volunteers will be at the church parking lot during this time and students and families can drive thru the lot, meet the volunteers, and receive the paperwork needed to participate in the events and programs. It's a fun way to meet one another and follow safe protocols for Time, Distance and Shielding. Then at 6 pm Jr. UMY will have a Zoom meeting to go over the materials and the Sr. UMY will Zoom in at 7 pm.

Wednesday, September 16th at 11 am I will be starting the Wednesday morning Bible study again. We will be going through the Book of Acts this fall. If you would like to participate in the zoom meeting, here is the link : Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/96778398043>

Meeting ID: 967 7839 8043

-or- if you would like, you can call in and participate in audio only as a conference phone call by dialing +1 253 215 8782 US and then entering the meeting ID when prompted 967 7839 8043.

And don't forget that we will be having our Weekly Worship service over on our YouTube channel at 10:30 am on Sunday (But remember there is no rule that says you have to tune in at 10:30. You can sign in and watch anytime you like, even in your pajamas!). Follow this link to go to our YouTube channel. [Sunday Worship](#).

On Sunday, we will be taking a special time in our service to lift in prayer those who are drastically affected by the forest fires in our region, and asking you to say the names out loud as you participate in the worship service of those who you know that are in harm's way because of these fires, whether they be fire fighters or emergency workers or individuals displaced by the fires.

Finally, as many of you know the United Methodist Church has a long tradition of helping in times of crisis through our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). If you would like to help with emergency aid for the western Wildfires, you can make a financial donation to the Church and mark your donation as "Advance 352".

Also, we at KFUMC have been asked to help out as one of the first churches to participate in a "Sifter Project". It is a kit that survivors are given to literally sift through the ashes of their home to recover valuables. The kit includes a mask, goggles, gloves and a sifter. The sifter is simply a wooden frame with a screen in it, made from construction material. We have been asked if we could make a plea to all of you who do wood working or crafts to make these simple sifters and then bring them to the church for a contactless drop of next Friday. Our goal is to have 50 sifters ready to go in kits. I have attached a very simple plan with a material list of items that can be purchased at any hardware store. Please look over the plan and if this is something you feel you can build; I want to invite you to help in this very meaningful ministry opportunity.

Thank you, friends, I hope it is a great week and.... Go wash your hands

Pastor Mark

Drawings for making the Small 18" Sifters.

4 – 2" x 3"x 17" boards (You get 5 out of 8' board)

4 – 1" x 2"x 17" boards (You get 5 out of 8' board)

18" square of ½" hardware cloth (Use 36" wide material. Using large tin snip, cut in half length wise, then cut across into 18" squares. Make slightly shorter rather than longer.

(You get 34, 18"squares, out of standard 25' roll of ½" hardware cloth)

8 – 3" nails (if using 3"screws, pre-drill holes)

16 – 2" nails (if using 2"screws, pre-drill holes)

16 – ½" staples

