

Hi friends,

I have got some particularly important things to share with you this week!

First, I want to thank you all who have been making Sifters to help out our UMCOR effort in Whitman county and other places after all the devastating wildfires. Kathy Bryson delivered the sifters we had received already, and the Emergency Management officials were so thankful for them and requested more. I know some of you have been making more of them that will be picked up today at 4 pm here at the church. If you want to continue making them, please feel free to. Unfortunately, there is no shortage of demand for them. But, THANK YOU to all of you who created these Sifters to help people in this difficult time!

I have wonderful news! Our Emergency Planning Team has been hard at work putting together a plan for a “drive In Church” worship service on September 27th at 10:30 am. We submitted the plan to the Bishop and Cabinet and the plan was approved! Here is what we have planned: On September 27 at 10:30 am we will have a stage area set up in the south end of the lawn behind the church (by the rear parking lot). We have two seating options available for an extremely limited amount of people. In the grass area we will have 8 circles designated 6’ apart, in which a household can sit. Beyond the grass seating we will use our parking spaces to have cars park and participate in the service from their cars much like the old drive in movie theaters. We will have a FM transmitter set up so you can listen to the music and other parts of the service through your car radio. Because our protocols and county health board have certain rules about spacing and attendance, we are limited in our attendance at the event. Because of that, we are going to have you register beforehand for the spaces available. To achieve this we are asking that you follow this link <https://reopen.church/r/yYVuCLI4> and register for your spots. When they are full, we cannot allow any more in attendance. So, if your household would like to participate in the service by sitting in one of the grass seating areas, follow the link above and reserve the spot for your household (just register as 1 in the attendance section). If you are sitting in that area, you will need to bring blankets or lawn chairs from home to sit on, and you will need to wear a mask during the Worship Service. If you would like one of the car parking spots, follow the link above and reserve one of the parking spots for the service. We will ask that you stay in your cars during the service and if you are outside your car (such as sitting in the bed of a pickup) we’d ask you to wear a mask, as well. THANK YOU to the Emergency Planning Team for putting this together and I am looking forward to this event! BUT I want to make sure that we all use our best judgement when deciding if we are going to participate in this worship service. If you are someone who is especially at risk of complications from Covid-19, or if you have been displaying any symptoms of illness, please participate in the service through our regular live stream broadcast on our YouTube Channel.

A planning group has been hard at work putting together a plan for an abbreviated Holly Daze sale that will happen online only with a designated contactless drive-in pickup of sale items. Thank you to that group and all their hard work in putting together that plan to help us all get the bean soup we need for the cold winter months. Keep an eye out for how you can order items at this year’s Holly Daze sale towards the end of October.

Our Youth Group has planned a way to do an Ice Blocking event that follows our protocols for safe time, distance and shielding requirements, and at this point at least 20 kids are signed up to participate. Last week the youth were able to do a drive by orientation and meet the volunteers who are going to be helping with their program and then had an online orientation to hear about the program and what to expect in the year ahead. Thanks so much to Rachel and the youth group volunteers for your creativity and diligence in providing a youth program that is spiritually deep, fun, and safe for our kids!

We have started our Wednesday morning bible study each week on the Book of Acts, via a zoom video conference. If you would like to attend the Bible Study, follow this link at 11 am on Wednesdays: Join Zoom Meeting <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/96778398043>.
Meeting ID: 967 7839 8043

Finally, just a reminder that we will be posting this week's worship service on Sunday at 10:30 am over on our YouTube channel. I hope you can join us at <https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>.

I am so happy that that we are able to move into the fall with these programs, and I hope that you can participate in them as you are able!

Have a great week my friends.... and... Go wash your hands!

Pastor Mark