

Hi friends,

We are just a few days away from the Thanksgiving holiday. I know that for many of us this year there is a sense of disappointment as the recent surge in Covid-19 infection is on the rise, and many of us (myself included) are choosing to celebrate the holiday with just those in our household. However, as you are celebrating this Thanksgiving, I hope it is an opportunity to genuinely remember the things we are thankful for.

A close cousin of Thankfulness is Joy. Why is that?? I think because being thankful and being joyful are both decisions we make. I came across this quote from a Compassion International publication a few years ago, *“The idea that holds greater sway today is that happiness depends on external factors to exist. Happiness happens to us. Even though we may seek it, desire it, pursue it, etc., feeling happiness is not a choice we make... Joy, on the other hand, is a choice purposefully made. Joy is an attitude of the heart and spirit, present inside of us as an untapped reservoir of potential. It's possible to feel joy in difficult times. Joy doesn't need a smile in order to exist, (although it does feel better with one.) Joy can share its space with other emotions – sadness, shame or anger. Happiness can't.”*

I hope that, in spite of all the things going on this year, Thursday is a day of Thankfulness and Joy!

There are some important things for you to be aware of and some information I want you to have:

**CHARGE CONFERENCE** – This year's charge conference will be happening in a virtual way via a Zoom conference. This Sunday (November 22nd) at 5:30 pm we will open the Zoom meeting. Here is the link for the conference:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/91555389094?pwd=RXU2VEIPNWNEQUJnaW9abzUzeE9xdz09>

**ADVENT READERS** - November 29th marks the beginning of the Advent season. KFUMC, like a zillion other churches around the world, lights candles on the Advent wreath as a way of marking the weeks until Christmas. Many of us have Advent wreathes at home that we use to decorate our homes and light candles with our own families. Because we are continuing through the season of Advent with virtual worship services, I would like to extend an invitation to any of you who would like to read a brief liturgy, which we will provide. You can light your advent candle at home and video it for us to use in our worship service. If you would like participate in our worship service that way give the church office a call (509.582.2163) or shoot us an email at [office@kennewickfirst.com](mailto:office@kennewickfirst.com) and let us know!

**ADVENT** – Next week we will be giving you information about worship services and schedules for the season of advent so watch for that news next week.

HOLLY DAZE - For those of you who didn't address your craving for bean soup (or other items from the December Holly Daze sale) there is still hope! Round two of the Holly Daze event is underway. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/mlarterwa>.

Take a look at the items and make a purchase to help raise funds to support the wonderful things The United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Church are doing! The pick-up time for those items you have purchased will be **Saturday, December 5th from 11 am-12 pm** as a drive up / pick up. Take a look at the page and see if there is anything you'd like to purchase for the holidays! Thanks for your help in our attempt to raise money for missions in this alternative manner.

SUNDAY WORSHIP - We will be having our Sunday Worship service virtually at <https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>. We will continue looking at the Parable of the Good Samaritan this Sunday. My good friend and colleague Rev. Scott Tucker who serves at Isle of Hope UMC in Savannah, GA will be giving us his thoughts on the story.

I pray it is a Joyful, Thankful, and safe week for you!

Now... Go wash your hands!

Pastor Mark