

Hi Friends,

I wanted to give you an update on our progress towards re-opening our facilities after Easter. With the good news that in Kennewick and Benton Counties the number of new cases, infection rates, and positive tests for COVID 19 are rapidly declining and the percentage of Vaccines are steadily increasing (at this point 13% of the population has received at least the first dose) we are working out with the Conference how to move forward with limited in-person worship and what protocols and limits for attendance, etc.... we need to have in place. AND as many of you know the Governor of Washington State has moved the entire state to Phase 3 of the re-opening of the state plan beginning on March 22nd. When those details are worked out, we will pass on the information to you all as to how we can begin the process of moving forward with in-person worship services.

As Easter and Holy week are fast approaching, we can give you some information about worship services happening at Kennewick First:

## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

### **Maundy Thursday**

#### **Live Stream Sing-along April 1st @ 6:30 pm**

Thursday, April 1st (no this is not a joke!) we will be live streaming on our YouTube channel a sing-a-long of worship songs and hymns at 6:30 pm. Tune in and join in singing from home (or just listen if your singing scares the pets in the house like mine does!). We will be doing this as a live stream so you are able to post comments and make requests from the list of songs that we will post up on the evening of the sing-along. Our YouTube channel can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/PiratesoftheColumbia>.

### **Good Friday Service**

#### **April 2nd @ 7 pm**

Friday, April 2nd at 7 pm we will be posting on our YouTube channel a Good Friday Tenebrae Service. This service walks us through the Passion of Christ and incorporates scripture hymns and lights as we remember the Crucifixion of Jesus and the anticipation of the empty tomb on Easter morning. It is one of my favorite worship services of the year and I hope you can tune in Friday April 2nd and participate! Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/PiratesoftheColumbia>.

### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

#### **April 3rd @ 9 am**

Our Easter Egg hunt is back! Mark your calendars for April 3rd! However, due to the pandemic, this year it will be for our Church family only. It will not be a public event, but you are welcome to invite your close family members. Social distancing and masks will be required. The Hunt will be for children 5th grade and younger. Please sign up on: <https://rsvp:church/r/yYVuCL14>.

## **EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP**

### **Sunday April 4th @10:30 am**

We will be having an outdoor Worship Gathering on Easter Morning at 10:30 am so that we can meet in-person to celebrate this most holy day of the Christian year! There are a couple details to work out as to the location of that service (I was hoping to make the full announcement this week, but we will be giving you specifics in next week's email. I'm sorry for the delay!) The Worship Service will either be on our property at the church or another nearby location. We will be sending out information so you can reserve your spot for this very special Worship Gathering! I am so looking forward to being in the same place with you to worship together on Easter!

## **ALL CHURCH ZOOM BINGO**

If you signed up to get your bingo card, materials and Zoom link, you should have received them this week. (mine came yesterday) The Bingo game will be this Sunday March 14th. Be ready to participate and win...priceless...prizes! No cheating :-).

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Do not forget that on Sunday at 10:30 am we will be posting our Sunday Worship Service on our YouTube Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/PiratesoftheColumbia>). We'll be continuing the Lenten Sermon series on "How do we do this?" focusing on our Baptism Vows. THANK YOU, Rachel Loomis, our church's Youth Ministry Director, for sharing your thoughts and experiences on "confessing Jesus as Savior, repenting of our sin in union with the Church that God has opened to all people!" portion of those vows! This week I will be looking further into what it means to confess "Jesus as Savior," I hope you can join us this Sunday, or anytime you are able to tune in!

\*\* As a side note, we will be presenting the video like we did last week. The YouTube video will be coming as a "premier" which means that you can post comments, greetings, and hellos, or throw in an "AMEN" or two in the comment section as the service plays in real time. If you tune in at other times you can watch it as a regular recording as we usually do.

## **VIRTUAL ½ HOUR COFFEE HOUR**

*Each Sunday at 11:30 am*

Join us at 11:30 am after our Sunday Worship Service for an open Zoom format to connect and share a cup of coffee with one another. After our Sunday Worship Service, we will have an open Zoom conference for people to stop in and see each other face to face and just reconnect with one another. Feel free to stop in for a few minutes, or for the whole half hour and see who needs a haircut and say hello to friends. Follow this zoom link at 11:30 am Sunday Morning to log in: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/92776382874> - Meeting ID: 927 7638 2874.

## **WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesdays at 11 am

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study is taking place each Wednesday at 11 am. Feel free to log in on the Zoom Platform and spend the hour studying and exploring the Book of Acts together. Here is a link to the Weekly Bible Study: <https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/96778398043> - Meeting ID: 967 7839 8043.

I pray that Lent has been a Holy Season for us all!

Now... Go wash your hands!

Pastor Mark