

Hi Friends!

The sun is shining today, and it is another beautiful day in the Tri-cities. (I took a break from stuff and washed and waxed my car, so of course it rained yesterday... sorry my bad!) As spring is emerging and Easter is right around the corner, we are preparing for limited in-person worship services and there are lots of things to let you know about.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Prayer Cross

Holy Week and the Easter Season

Beginning on Palm Sunday, we will erect a 6' wooden cross in front of the church (On the corner of Kennewick Avenue & Dayton Street) for you to stop by and attach a prayer during Holy Week. (There will be a supply of paper attached to the cross and writing utensils if you need them). The cross will be wrapped in a wire mesh so that you can insert those prayers on the cross during the week of March 28th – April 3rd. If you cannot stop by the cross, feel free to email the church at office@kennewickfirst.com and we will print out the prayer and attach it for you.

On Easter Sunday we will remove those prayers and encourage you to replace them with flowers for Easter Sunday and the Season of Easter. On Easter Sunday you can bring your own flower to attach to the cross or if you would like you can email the church at office@kennewickfirst.com and donate \$8 towards the Easter Flower Memorial Fund and we can provide the flower and attach it to the cross for you.

As we end the Lenten season with prayer and move into the Easter season with hope and rejoicing, we pray that this is a visible way of sharing with the greater community the joy and life that our church reflects in celebrating that Jesus is risen!

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/yYVuCLI4> .

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday April 4th @10:30 am

We have finalized our plans for Easter Worship. The Service will take place using our "Drive-In Church" model here on the property of Kennewick First at 10:30 am on Easter Morning. We have two options for you to choose from: 1) We will have 10 spots on the grassy area south of the Church Building for you and your household to bring your own chair and/or blanket to be seated in with Social Distancing protocols in place -or- 2) You can sit in your car and reserve one of the 50 parking spots available, and you can participate from the comfort of your vehicle.

Go to <https://rsvp.church/r/yYVuCLI4> to reserve your spot. When you register please just put "1" in the "number of participants" question, since we are reserving the spots by households or vehicles, not individuals. Each of us participating will need to wear a mask when you are either in the grassy area or outside of your vehicle (such as the bed of a pickup truck) and the building will be closed so restrooms will not be available.

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>)

I will be finishing our Lenten Sermon Series examining the vows of Baptism as a mechanism to usher in the Kingdom of God. We will finish the series by further examining what it means when we are asked “Will you surround one another in a community of love and forgiveness?” I hope you can tune in!

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.

THERE WILL BE NO WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY DURING HOLY WEEK. SEE YOU ALL THE FOLLOWING WEEK!

LOOKING AHEAD!

We are so happy to let you know that after much hard work, we are beginning the process of re-opening our facilities for worship. On Sunday April 11th we will be having our first in-person worship gathering in over a year. The plan for worship that we will be using utilizes the Sanctuary, Ida Payne Fellowship hall and the Youth Chapel. If you are unable to attend or are not comfortable gathering in a group yet, please know that we will be live streaming the service on our YouTube channel, so you can participate from home if that best suits your needs. (<http://www.youtube.com/PiratesoftheColumbia>)

If you would like to attend this service go to <https://rsvp.church/r/yYVuCLI4> and reserve your spot. For those participating in-person, we will need to wear masks and we ask that when the service is over, we not linger indoors. If you reserve seats

for you and your household, we are also asking that you use the separate entrances for each space. If you reserve spots in the Sanctuary, please use the entrance under the carport overhang on the South side of the building. If you reserve seats in the Ida Payne Fellowship Hall, please use the “old main entrance” off of Dayton Street. If you reserve seats in the Youth Chapel, please use the entrance off Kennewick Avenue.

We are so looking forward to finally starting the process to move into meeting at the church and worshipping together!

Thank you to our Leadership Council and the Emergency Planning Team for all your hard work in making this announcement possible. It has been a long and VERY FRUSTRATING process, and words cannot express my gratitude to those who served so faithfully and steadfastly in the process of an ever-changing situation to make this plan a reality!

Now... Go wash your hands!

Pastor Mark