

Hello Friends,

As we continue to move forward in our life together and make the steps needed to return to worship and other public gatherings, we received news this week that we have been given the freedom from the PNW Annual Conference to take responsibility in our local congregation to assess and implement our local church's re-opening plan. With that in mind we will be moving into Phase 3 of our re-opening plan which allows us to seat 50 people (or 25% capacity) with time, distance and shielding protocols in place. At the end of each month the Emergency Planning Team will gather and re-evaluate the recommendations of the State Health Department and our local congregation's situation and implement our plan accordingly.

As you feel ready to participate in gatherings at the church, like worship or other gatherings, there are some things to be aware of. When we arrive at the building, we will ask you to sign in the guest book and provide some contact information in the event that we should need to contact you and give you any pertinent safety information. We ask that we all wear masks and that we socially distance at a minimum of 6' (roughly two arm lengths) between households. Please refrain from wandering through the building or entering parts of the building that have closed doors, and we ask that when the gathering is over, we not linger indoors. If you are not feeling well, have a fever or other symptoms of illness, please do not put others at risk, and participate in our worship service or other gatherings remotely through our live stream or Zoom platforms (Even when we emerge on the other side of this pandemic this is a good practice!)

If you are unable to attend or are not comfortable gathering in a group yet, please know that we will be live streaming our worship services on our YouTube channel, so you can participate from home, if that best suits your needs.

(<http://www.youtube.com/PiratesoftheColumbia>).

Can you help with KFUMC's Worship Services?

As we are moving forward in the process of re-opening our facilities for use, we realize that the way we "do" worship is going to have to be updated in a couple of ways. Beyond the obvious safety protocols, we need to observe with time, distance and shielding, we are realizing that some of the mechanics of the service are going to need to be updated as well. There are two areas we need to update for our time together.

- 1) **Hosts** to help point people in the right direction, remind people of the safety protocols, help us monitor our occupancy and keep track of “contract tracing” information: What that means is that we need several people willing to serve our church by greeting people as they come in the building, hand out masks to anyone who needs one, point people in the right direction and just help people navigate the worship service and protocols we have in place easily. Also, to keep account of people in the building so that when one worship space has reached its occupancy limit, we can guide people to the proper space to participate in worship. If you would like to be a worship service “Host” please give us a call at the church (509 582-2163) and let us know.
- 2) **Worship Technology Team:** For quite some time we have known that we are going to need to have a greater presence in worship beyond those who are seated in the church building. The last year has allowed us to fast forward that reality and provide online streaming services through the technology we have acquired. Do you see yourself as computer savvy? Have you ever hosted a Zoom meeting, or posted a video to Facebook, TikTok or Instagram? Moving forward our live virtual worship services are going to continue to be an important part of our worship life together. Would you like to operate a camera, help us maintain our live stream or help with projecting the service in various locations? Even if you have never done this kind of activity, we can show you how (it’s not nearly as difficult as it seems) Whether you are young or old this may be the perfect place for you to help our church move into the future. If you would like to help with the Audio/Visual Team at church give us a call and let us know!

Youth Sunday, May 16th

On Sunday, May 16th we will be celebrating the youth of our church as they lead us in worship. We will hear from some of our youth directly about what our church’s Youth Ministry has meant to them. We will give thanks for our Youth Leaders and Sunday School volunteers. We will hear about the wonderful things our kids have experienced participating in the camping ministries of our church and we will be given an opportunity to contribute to “camperships” that help our youth attend and participate in camps for this coming Summer. Do not miss this opportunity to join us or tune in on our live stream to celebrate all God has done and is doing in our Youth Ministry!

**Thank you to Columbia Safety for donating an AED
(Automatic External Defibrillator) to the church!**

Our church received a brand new Zohl AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) donated by Columbia Safety, a local City of Kennewick Company. Kennewick First United Methodist Church would like to thank Columbia Safety LLC. for their generous gift. Columbia Safety has been very active with the COVID19 response within our community and in the City of Yakima. Several members of the Columbia Safety Company have been active volunteers with us at our Thursday Evening Soul Soup meal ministry. The company provides certification and training to many first responders and nursing staff within the community. We appreciate their continued service and generosity in this important piece of safety equipment for our congregation.

I hope it is a wonderful week... Now go wash your hands.

Pastor Mark