

Hello Friends,

This Sunday is a very special worship celebration for us at Kennewick First! Nearly 20 of our youth group members will be leading us in our time of worship! We will be celebrating the UMY Seniors who will be graduating, our youth will be leading us in prayer, they will be performing worship music, and telling us about how Kennewick First has been an important part of their journeys of faith over the years! Also, we will have a special time of thanking and recognizing the leaders who have made our youth group and our Sunday School programs such an important part of their lives... especially in a year filled with oddity and change!

If you are able to, I want to encourage you to join us in person Sunday at 10:30 am or if you are not yet comfortable returning to large groups, please tune into our live stream on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/PiratesoftheColumbia>) and hear what this important part of our church and life together have to say!

Youth Group Softball Game

This Sunday from 2-4 pm the youth will be having their annual softball game at the K-4 field between the Downtown Kennewick Library and the Kennewick Police Station. Come and enjoy a wonderful time in the sunshine (Bring sunscreen, it is supposed to be a hot beautiful Tri-cities day!) and witness the athletic wonder (or lack thereof) of this annual event!

The CDC and the new State guidelines have been updated to inform us that masks are no longer necessary when exercising outdoors alone or with people you live with. Masks are also no longer required when gathering outdoors with those who are fully vaccinated, but face masks are still encouraged when gathering outdoors with a large group of strangers. With that in mind, we will be asking that we still observe social distancing and if you have not been fully vaccinated for more than two weeks, we encourage you to wear your mask at the game.

United Methodist Camps!

For years Kennewick First has supported the Twinlow United Methodist Camp as well as the other camps in our Conference. Camps are happening this summer with a few changes to their operating procedures and sleeping arrangements. This Sunday we will be taking a special offering to help provide “Camper-ships” for youth from our congregation attending camp. If you would like more information about Twinlow camp and other United Methodist summer camps, follow this link - <https://twinlow.org/> .

If you would like to make a donation to the Camper-ship fund, you can place that donation in the special envelope provided this Sunday during worship or you can make a donation electronically a couple of ways: Go to www.kennewickfirst.com and at the top right corner of the homepage click the “GIVE” button. When you make the donation click “camperships” in the drop-down menu under “funds” -or- You can text “kennewickfirst” to 77977 on your smart phone and donate that way. Just click the “campership” title in the “funds” menu.

Looking Ahead

Sunday April 23rd is Pentecost Sunday. This special day is typically the day we call “The Birthday of the Church.” It marks the birth of the new thing God was doing as the Holy Spirit began empowering people to spread this Gospel of Love and Grace that is only found in Jesus. I want to encourage you to wear red and join us for this very special day in Worship on the 23rd!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

May 26th will be the last Zoom Bible Study for this season. We typically take the summer off and will pick back up in September. If you would like to join us for our last two classes in our study of the Book of Acts, tune in on the Zoom platform at 11 am on Wednesday (<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/96778398043> Meeting ID: 967 7839 8043).

Can you help with KFUMC’s Worship Services?

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to help out with our Worship Gatherings! But we can always use more help!

As we are moving forward in the process of reopening 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 “contact 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 is 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!

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 COVID-19 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, and I’ve been waiting so long to say this... “See you in church!” ... Now go wash your hands

Pastor Mark

Joys and Concerns

Congratulations to Patrick and Katie Bannworth on their baby daughter's arrival on Mother's Day, May 9th. Mama and Baby are doing great! Proud Grandparents are Steve and Stephanie Bannworth...**Thanks be to God!**

Please pray for the family of Anita Knight who entered life eternal on 5/12/21. May the Lord bring comfort to her children and family, along with all who cared for and loved her, including special church friends Kathy Wertman, Carol Hiebert, and Mary Gaden. There will not be a memorial service at Anita's request, however cards may be sent to her loving daughter, husband and family at Dawn and Randy Finger: 806 E. 23rd Avenue, Kennewick WA 99337 (no phone calls please).

