

Hello Friends,

This Sunday brings us to the end of the great 50 days of the Easter season, and marks the celebration of Pentecost, the day we commonly refer to as the “Birthday of the Church.” As we celebrate another year of the Holy Spirit working through, not only our church, but the greater church which extends all over the globe. I am excited to see the direction we are moving in. At our Program Planning Meeting on Thursday, I heard plans about being in service to our community with things like Habitat for Humanity, supporting Grace Kitchen, hosting an outdoor VBS this summer and more. I heard about the need for us to be able to measure more than just attendance figures on Sunday morning, but how to measure the way Kennewick First makes connections, for people beyond worship attendance, to experience God... To measure the things that we feel matter.

As we begin the work of returning to in-person worship, I am so glad that KFUMC is a church that understands our calling to be disciples in a way that is lived out in a holistic way, that meets people where they are and in whatever place they are on in their journey of faith. I’m excited for the days ahead!

## **Pentecost Sunday**

This Sunday (May 23rd) is Pentecost Sunday. Traditionally on this celebration day, churches gather and celebrate that God’s Holy Spirit is the thing that continually brings life into this gift God has given us called the Church. Also, it is a day that we traditionally wear red as a symbol of the Holy Spirit that reckons back to the story in Acts, Chapter 2 of the flames of the Holy Spirit that the disciples encountered on that day of Pentecost. I hope you can find your best red outfit and join us in person for worship this Sunday at 10:30 am.

## **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.

If you would like to donate to the camper-ship fund, you can put that donation in an envelope this Sunday and drop it in the donation box or you can send in a donation to the church office and mark “campership” on the check memo line.

## **Looking Ahead**

Now that our local congregation is in a position to have more control in implementing our re-opening plan and phases, and with the new information and recommendations from the State and CDC coming out, you will be seeing some new information in the next couple weeks from our Emergency Planning Team regarding occupancy in our buildings, safety protocols and how the rising rates of vaccinations affect them. We will be getting that information out to you as quickly as we can as we continue to meet, update and progress in our plans to reopen fully!

I hope it is a wonderful week, and I have been waiting so long to say this... “See you in church!” ... Now go wash your hands.

Pastor Mark