

Hello Friends,

Last Sunday we celebrated the “Birthday of the Church” on Pentecost Sunday, and we are moving into a new season of the Christian calendar... A season not so creatively named, “the season after Pentecost” or sometimes referred to as an equally un-spectacular title called “Ordinary Time.” Although the names may be a bit of a let-down, the timing of the season and the focus of the season is, what I believe to be, some of the most important in our life together! It is a season where we focus on what it means to be the Church! It is a season that brings us into the summer, where we see creation blooming and growing, like the liturgical color green that represents it. It is a season where we explore the meaning of what it means to be disciples of Jesus, and how we live out such a faith in order to bring about a community that loves God and loves our neighbor. At the beginning of the year, I shared with you that I felt inspired to reaffirm our vows of Baptism as a mechanism that allows us to live lives to that end. In our commitment to repent of our sin, proclaim that Jesus is the one who saves us, stand against evil and injustice and surround one another in a community of love and forgiveness, we tangibly and realistically do the work of ushering the Kingdom of God. As we cross the threshold into this new season, we will be looking at the story of the “Dry Bones” in Ezekiel Chapter 37. “Can these dry bones live?” I hope you can join us this Sunday as we explore that question together!

Just a reminder, as we are steadily making steps towards re-opening fully for Sunday worship, we will still be practicing social distancing as we gather in the sanctuary on Sundays, and for the time being, we are asking that we all wear masks. The Emergency Planning Team has a scheduled meeting next week and we will be re-evaluating the occupancy and mask protocols, as well as some of our other policies, in light of best practices and the latest information from the Center for Disease Control and the State Health Departments. It is my hope that next week we will be announcing those updates and any changes we have for our lives together in worship and ministry.

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 make a donation to the Camper-ship fund you can put that donation in an envelope this Sunday and drop it in the donation box. donate donate that way. Just click the “campership” title in the “funds” menu.

I hope it is a wonderful week, and I hope that you can take some time on this Memorial Day and express your thanks for those who have sacrificed so much in service to our country and the principles of justice, life, and liberty, not only in our defense but in the defense of others.

See you in church my friends!

Pastor Mark