

Hello Friends,

I wanted to make you aware of an event that happened Thursday evening at our Church. Let me give you a little background ... One of our congregation members and member of our Spiritual Leadership Council, Dave Hare has been working with the mass vaccination site in Yakima and helped put together the Covid Testing site by the airport in Pasco. Because of his connections to the emergency planning groups during the pandemic he was approached about seeing if our church could be the site of a “pop-up” vaccination site. We quickly got our Leadership Council approval, had some of our questions regarding liability and protocols answered and on Thursday vans rolled into our parking lot and for 4 hours administered vaccines to anyone who wanted to receive one. We intentionally scheduled the “pop-up” site for Thursday evening, to coincide with our Soul Soup meals and offer the vaccines to the participants in that meal, who have very little access to medical care, and limited resources to schedule vaccines if they should want one. As a result, a number of the diners at Soul Soup received vaccines with great appreciation. This is an often “over-looked” population. Davey Hare said of the event: “Some of our patrons were/are distrustful of “organized” anything, and I feel that it is necessary to mention that the Columbia Safety crew were very respectful and also took the time to answer questions and allay any fears. I know of one client that was absolutely in opposition to the vaccination, who now, after a good conversation with the Columbia crew is honestly considering getting the vaccination at our next opportunity.” It was vitally important to us that the Soul Soup program remains a safe place for people to participate not only in the meal, but in building relationships with those who serve at it. Making sure that people felt comfortable to ask questions, felt no pressure to receive a vaccination and were welcomed regardless of their decision was very important. I want to thank The Columbia Safety crew for their ability to appreciate and recognize that need for us. Finally, I want to say that I am so proud to serve a church that has the reputation for caring about the community regardless of a person’s wealth, status, or situation, and that we are truly about Loving God and Loving our neighbor. Thank you for being that church!

Vacation Bible School Planned

This Summer on Aug. 3-4 from 5:30-8pm, Kennewick First will be putting on an outdoor Vacation Bible School. If you know a kid that would like to participate you can get registration materials in the Narthex at Church on Sunday. If you

would like to volunteer to help on those two evenings, you can sign up to volunteer by clicking this link and signing up: <https://rsvp.church/r/yYVuCLI4> -

Protocol updates

Just a reminder that for the time being we are asking that everyone who participates in events and activities at Kennewick First wear a mask if you have NOT been vaccinated. If you have been fully vaccinated masks are optional. Please observe social distancing of at least 3 feet, take advantage of the sanitizing stations throughout the building, and wash your hands frequently. Thanks for helping us continue to move forward towards being fully open!

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. As a way of supporting our camps and our campers, Kennewick First will be offering a 75% campership to any child or youth attending a United Methodist Camp this summer. 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 Campership fund you can put that donation in an envelope this Sunday and drop it in the donation box, 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 from your smart phone "kennewickfirst" to (833) 646-53 and make a donation that way. Just click the "campership" title in the "funds" menu.

Summer Office Hours

Beginning Monday June 7th the Church Office will be open for our Summer Office Hours. Those hours are 8am to Noon, Monday through Friday

See you in church my friends!

Pastor Mark