

Hi Friends!

We are gearing up to begin our fall programming season. In the next week or so we will be giving you a list of the classes we are offering during the 9 am Education hour along with our Children and Youth Sunday School classes that begin on September 12th (one of the classes is listed below we will have the others listed soon!)

In the last couple of weeks I have been spending a lot of time on two wheels. As many of you know I am an avid motorcycle enthusiast. I find that riding is a perfect blend of physics, emotion, and movement for me, and allows me to head off to a remote place, stop and talk with friends or just pray and think. One of my favorite rides takes me up through the Horse Heaven Hills and leads to some spectacular views of the landscape we live in. One spot in particular, I like to stop at provides a spectacular view of Mt Hood, Mt Adams and Mt Rainier all on the horizon. This last week as I climbed out of the valley and reached the plateau, the usually impressive view was covered in a brown haze of smoke and there was nothing to see other than sage brush and tumble weeds. I admit for a moment I was a bit depressed. I thought to myself, "Wow, is this what normal is now?" We have all been through (and are still wading through) a season of grief; loss of what feels normal, loss of friends that have passed away, fear over uncertainty, feelings of isolation, just to name a few... not to mention the signs literally in the air that we have not been good stewards of the creation God has set us in. With all those things swirling around in my head, I came to the realization that in seasons like this, the constant that gives me hope is a renewed commitment to do my part to be a disciple of Jesus and live my life with others in such a way that loves God and loves my neighbor. This morning a friend of mine who is Pastor of Moran Prairie UMC in Spokane, Cody Natland, posted the following on his Facebook page. He put into words the same feeling I felt as I crested the ridge on my motorcycle this week. I hope that it provides some hope and inspiration for you as well.

"I'm praying this prayer from Thomas Merton tonight:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that, if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

– Thomas Merton, Thoughts in Solitude

## **Downtown Historic Walk**

Don't Forget! On **Saturday, August 28th from 10 am to Noon**, you can "wander amongst" the history of our Kennewick Avenue businesses. Tour guides will regale you with stories of our past.

Do you remember places like Pratts Garage or the Polly-Anna, or the roller-skating rink above Washington Hardware? Come enjoy a walk-through history of "our town." I bet you have stories of your own to share!!!

## **Reminder for the Fall Worship Schedule starting September 12th**

On September 12th we will be making the change from our summer worship schedule to our Fall schedule. That means that there will be some changes to our Sunday morning gathering times. Beginning on Sunday the 12th at 9 am we will have a full flight of Sunday School classes for our Children and Youth as well as several adult education classes as well. (A list of those will be posted in the next couple weeks). At 10 am we will gather in the Sanctuary for a time of worship in which we offer praise and thanksgiving to God, spend time in prayer and proclaim God's Word. I hope that you can make plans to participate with us in a time of education and worship!

And remember that if meeting in person for worship is not the best option for you, we are committed to making the worship services available through a live stream over the internet. You can tune in to our livestream on YouTube at this link (<https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>)

## **Would you serve as a "Worship Host?"**

As we move into the fall worship schedule, one of the changes that we have made during the pandemic is having everyone sign in as we enter the building for worship. That way we have a way to contact you if there is a need to give information regarding health and safety to those in attendance, hand out masks if you are like me and you forgot yours or the wind blew it out of your hand as you were putting it on and it is now in Umatilla (the voice of experience talking here) and walk down the aisle of the sanctuary with a disinfectant fogger after church. Right now, our Church Safety Team has been filling that need for us, but we need to have individuals (or couples, or families) who would be willing to serve in a rotation to help us continue these best practices and allow us to continue to worship in person. If you would be willing to help people sign in, hand out masks, if needed, and walk through the sanctuary with a small fogger after church please give the Church Office a call or email [office@kennewickfirst.com](mailto:office@kennewickfirst.com) and let us know, so we can add you to the rotation. Thank you for helping with this very important need!

## Youth Group Parent and Student Orientation Meeting

The Jr. and Sr. UMY Orientation for teens and their parents will be held on Sunday, September 12th, from 6-8 PM. We will begin by meeting in the sanctuary to go over information about youth group, Sunday School, Cornerstone Bible study, trips, and fundraisers, and teens and parents will have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have. Following the information portion of the orientation, we will have an ice cream social!

Kennewick First UMC offers opportunities for 6th to 12th graders to learn and practice Christian principles and participate in fun activities. It is our goal to provide a safe and structured environment where the youth feel welcomed and loved by the Lord and their teachers and leaders. If you have any questions please give our Director of Youth Ministries, Rachel Loomis a call at the Church.

### Adult Study on Sunday Mornings Starting September 12

Jim Deatherage and Bob Kelly (AKA JimBob) will offer a study of the book "12 Steps for the Recovering Pharisee" (like me) by John Fisher (2000). It is 12 chapters, so a 12-week course once started. Probably 13 with a first week of orientation and getting books out.

Our course 'plan' revolves around a simple process. Reading the book together will provide **information**. The class discussion and prayerful introspection of this information will produce **revelation**. These two elements will then produce **transformation**...our lives changed to embrace the Gospel: the good news for sinners.

The class will start at 9 AM and last 45 minutes. We anticipate being in the library, but total enrollees will dictate our exact location. The cost of the book is \$13.35, but don't let the cost keep you away. The description below will provide an overview of the book's focus.

Fisher talks about his interest in borrowing the recovery model as a way of unmasking and potentially freeing us from the intoxication of spiritual pride and prejudice that continually lures believers away from grace, gratitude, and life astonishment that the Spirit of God desires for us. He also points out that Jesus defined the truth in such a way as to leave no one righteous – not one. We cannot be made right before God by being "better" than anyone else. By recognizing and laying aside the Pharisee in all of us, we can embrace the grace, gratitude, and joy of the spirit-filled life.

Please join us. Call Bob Kelly at 528-9254.

## Sunday Worship

Just a reminder that we are meeting in person every Sunday at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary for Sunday Worship. If you aren't able to join us in-person, remember that you can tune in to our livestream of the Worship Service on YouTube:

(<https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>)

If you plan on joining us in person, we ask that you sign in when entering for worship, so that we have a way to contact you in case there is information that we need to give you regarding health issues. We are asking that all who are in attendance, regardless of your vaccination status, please wear a mask while indoors, and that all of us make use of the sanitizing stations as you enter the sanctuary. If you have been exposed to the virus or if you are showing symptoms of illness please stay home and join us remotely for worship.