

Hi Friends!

Many of you know that I have been a football fan since I was a child. This time of year is frustrating for football fans like me. Pre-season games are being played and although it is great to see our team hit the field and cheer for the home team, we know that the players and plays are not a final product. Some of the players are stepping onto a pro field for the first time, some are learning systems and play mistakes are rampant and over-all it is not a great product, but it is important in the process of preparing for the season ahead.

In the last week I have been reading and practicing some of the historical practices of Christian disciplines... things like prayer, meditation, study, and rituals of worship in way that mimics a training or preseason to be ready for what lies ahead. One of my favorite thinkers and authors is Richard Rohr. I came across a wonderful quote from him this week in my reading. "Spirituality is about being ready. All the spiritual disciplines of your life - prayer, study, meditation or ritual, religious vows - are there so you can break through to the eternal. Spirituality is about awakening the eyes, the ears, the heart so you can see what's always happening right in front of you." and "Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us, choosing gratitude until we are grateful, and praising God until we ourselves are an act of praise." As we move into the busyness of Fall, I pray that we are all in a place to experience the hope, love and peace of God and act on it.

Downtown Historic Walk

Don't Forget! On **Saturday, August 28th (TOMORROW) 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 Sept. 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 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>)

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 or email at rkellyzx@gmail.com so we can get books ordered.

IMPORTANT REQUEST!!! **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 us sign in as we enter the building for worship as a way of having a way to contact you if there is 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 at 582-2163 or email 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 12, 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.

Sunday Worship

Just a reminder that we are meeting in person every Sunday at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary for Sunday Worship (*Until Sept 12th When we change to the Fall Schedule*). 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.