

Hi friends,

There are several authors and writers that I respect and read on a regular basis. Scott McKnight is one of them. He has a Web Blog that I read pretty regularly and back in March he wrote a posting about the need for an analog church in a digital age. I know that during the pandemic as we were moving into a digital age in order to connect and worship together many of us had glimpses of a new frontier of connecting with others and exciting new ways of communicating a message of hope that's found in the Gospel of Jesus. BUT, even with the exciting, brand-new frontier of a digital age in front of us there is still always a need for an analog connection. Jay Kim, author of the book *Analog Church* writes, "Embodied people need embodied presence, and never more than in times of struggle, grief, and loss. This brings us to a critical question as we enter a post-pandemic world—is the church gathering about content or about care? The answer is both."

We have worked hard to put in place protocols and best practices with concern to time, distance, shielding and sanitization so that we can bring the content of the gospel and care for one another into the same space. As we begin our third week of the new fall schedule, I am so happy to see kids back in Sunday school with caring teachers, youth enjoying their time together at events like "Ice Blocking", while making friendships, new and old friends sitting around tables on Sunday mornings at 9 am making tie blankets and others discussing challenging topics in an adult education class on Sunday Morning. As we continue to move forward with care and safety, I hope that we all remember that even in a digital age where we can spread the content of the Gospel in incredible new ways, we also care for each other in good old-fashioned analog (embodied) ways.

Pastor Mark

### **Adult "Classes" Available on Sunday Mornings**

While our kids are meeting in their Sunday School Programs there are 2 adult education offerings at 9 am on Sunday mornings. There is an adult book study lead by Jim Deatherage and Bob Kelly, that meets in the Suzanna Wesley room, AND in the fellowship hall there are supplies and instructions to make simple, no sew... tie blankets. Please feel free to come at 9 am this Sunday and participate in the book study, or sit and share a conversation and make friends as we make tie blankets to hand out as the cold weather begins to set in.

## **No Ridin' with The Rev' This Sunday**

Pastor Mark will be out of town this Sunday at a memorial for a family member so there will be no Ridin' with The Rev' this Sunday. We will saddle up and hit the road next Sunday.

## **Could you donate fleece for our Sunday morning blanket project?**

Beginning on Sunday, September 12, at 9 am while our kids are in their Sunday School programs, there will be an opportunity for adults to gather together and make some simple "Tie Blankets" from fleece material. At this time of year many fabric stores are putting fleece material on sale. Would you be willing to purchase and donate a yard or two of fleece to help us make these blankets to donate to individuals and organizations as the weather begins to cool down? If you would like to donate pieces of fleece you can either drop it by the church office or bring it with you on Sunday mornings when you come to Worship.

## **IMPORTANT REQUEST!!!**

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

*THANK YOU! To all of you who have signed up to be "Worship Hosts" on Sunday Mornings. We still could use a couple more willing to help out with this very important need. And know that participating in one of the Adult Sunday Education classes won't interfere with serving 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](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!

## **Fall Worship Schedule is Underway**

Just a reminder that we have begun our Fall schedule on Sunday Mornings. That means that we have Sunday School classes for kids and youth, as well as adult classes available to participate in at 9 am. Then we will gather in the Sanctuary at 10 am for a time of celebration and worship!

We hope to see you in worship on Sunday at 10 am. and remember if meeting in person is not the best choice for you, you can tune in live on our YouTube channel here is the link: (<https://www.youtube.com/PiratesoftheColumbia>).