

Hi friends,

The second week of Advent is here! One of my favorite things about being a pastor is the opportunities I have to meet with the community, build relationships and just make friends. So many people have deeply rooted expectations of what a church is and in these opportunities is a window where we all can meet our neighbors as real people who serve a real God and love our community. Saturday morning, we have another one of those opportunities when we march with our bus down Kennewick Avenue in the Kennewick Hometown Holiday Parade and invite people to come and celebrate with us during the season of Advent. I hope that you can come out to this fun event in our city and be a welcomed neighbor in this community we love! There is more information below.

I hope it is a wonderful week my friends!

Pastor Mark

Here are some of the things happening this week and the weeks ahead:

Hometown Holiday Parade

Saturday, December 4th at 10 am, the Numerica Hometown Holiday Parade will be happening along Kennewick Avenue from Dayton Street to Auburn Street, through the Historic Kennewick Downtown. We will be driving one of our “Chubby Buses” along the parade route inviting people to our Advent activities at Kennewick First. Come down and say “Hi” and celebrate the season as we participate in this community event and make friends with our neighbors.

Holly Daze Encore

The Holly Daze Encore event will be held on our Facebook site, as it was in October. Items available will be Christmas decorations, gifts, and limited food items. You will be able to access the sale at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/mlarterwa> from November 29 to December 8. The following food items available are rugelach, fruit-filled coffee cake, rum balls and truffles, cranberry-nut bread, brown bread, bean soup, bean soup with cornbread mix, fruity rice mix, oatmeal raisin

cookie mix, and chewy brownie mix. Items will need to be picked up at the church on December 11 from 10 am to 1 pm. Please support United Methodist Women as they raise funds for church, local, national, and international missions.

Advent/Christmas Hymn Sing-along

On Thursday, December 16th at 6 pm we will be having our Advent/Christmas Sing-along! Feel free to join us in person in the sanctuary or tune in to the livestream and request songs and sing along as we celebrate that God is with us! Lyric sheets will be provided, and you can request songs that you would like to sing whether you are in person or by participating in the comment section on the live stream!

Adult gatherings during the Sunday School hour

There are several opportunities for adults to gather while the kids are participating in their Sunday School classes at the 9 am hour. Feel free to join in the book study that Jim Deatherage and Bob Kelly are leading in the Suzanna Wesley Room. If you are “Craftier” there is a group that meets in the Ida Payne Fellowship Hall making easy to create “Tie Blankets” to hand out to people who need them to keep warm during the winter months, or if you like you can gather with a group of parents in the couch area of Wesleyan Hall downstairs and share a cup of coffee and conversation. These are great opportunities to grow in our faith and make friends. We hope you can find a spot to participate on Sundays before worship at 10am!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Join us on the Zoom Platform December 8th, at 11 am, as we continue our short four-week study on the scripture passages that lead us up to the events of Christmas. Here is the link.

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/96778398043>

Meeting ID: 967 7839 8043

Feel free to join us for this study with friends!

Sunday Morning Worship this Sunday at 10 am

The season of Advent is here! This Sunday is the second Sunday in the Season of Advent. We will continue with all the traditions and meaning that our community has as we spend time in this season of expectation. If gathering in-person is not the best option for you, remember that you can tune into our Live Stream as well... Here is the link: (<https://www.youtube.com/PiratesoftheColumbia>)

This Sunday is the first Sunday of December, so that means we will be sharing the Elements of Communion together during our worship gathering. If you are participating in the service from home via our Live Stream, remember to have bread and juice available. I hope you can join us on Sunday morning...