

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 19: Helen Mitchell's Memorial, 1 pm, Reception to follow in Ida Payne

Sunday, February 20: Sunday School for all Adults & Children, 9 am

Sunday, February 20: Live Worship in the Sanctuary, 10 am

Sunday, February 20: Livestream Worship on Youtube Channel, 10 am

Wednesday, February 23: Pastor Mark's Bible Study on Zoom, 11 am

Wednesday, February 23: UMW Unit Meeting on Zoom, 7 pm

Saturday, February 26: Donna Coordes' Memorial, 2 pm, Reception to follow in Ida Payne

Upcoming Lent Schedule:

Ash Wednesday Worship Service, March 2, 7 pm

Palm Sunday Parade, April 10, 9:45 am

Palm Sunday Worship Service, April 10, 10 am

Good Friday Worship Service, April 15, 7 pm

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 16, 9 am

Easter Sunrise Service, April 17, 6:30 am

(At Columbia Park)

Easter Worship Service, April 17, 10 am

(in the Sanctuary)

Hi friends,

Two things I want to bring to your attention:

First, the season of Lent is fast approaching. Ash Wednesday is March 2nd, which marks the beginning of the 40-day journey towards Easter. Above, you can see the services and special events that we have on the calendar for this deeply spiritual and meaningful season of the Christian year. The programs and events include contemplative times of worship, fun activities to share with others in our congregation and times of celebration and hope to rejoice in together. I hope that you can participate in these activities and programs that culminate on Easter Sunday in which we proclaim that Jesus is risen!... He is risen indeed!

Second, I like many of you, listened to our Governor's address regarding masks and progress in our state towards fighting the Covid-19 Pandemic. Our Governor announced this Thursday that on March 21st the requirement for masking indoors (with some exceptions such as hospitals etc...) will be lifted. With that information in hand our Emergency Planning Team will be meeting in the next few days to examine our local setting and determine when and how we move into the next phase of KFUMC's Emergency Plan. Throughout the pandemic our EPT has focused our movement forward with our plan, on the local situation in our area, considering statistics, trends, legal requirements and input from the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Next Friday we hope to be able to give you the specifics of our next steps as we continue to be a church that focuses on the work of the Kingdom of God while doing no harm.

I want to thank you for the kindness, compassion, and faith, that our congregation has displayed as we have made this long and unprecedented journey together!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

This week's Bible Study will be looking at Roman's Chapter 2, as we continue our study of Paul's Letter to the Romans. Feel free to join us on the Zoom platform Wednesday at 11 am. Here is the link:

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/96778398043> Meeting ID: 967 7839 8043.

Things to look forward to this Sunday at Worship

Whether you join us in person or online, we want to encourage you to join us as we share in celebrating and worshipping together. This week Pastor Mark will be continuing to explore the "Good News" that Jesus gives us in the Gospels. On Sunday, Pastor Mark will be looking at John, Chapter 3 and the conversation Jesus has with a religious leader named Nicodemus. If you come to the decision that meeting in person is not the best choice for you right now, know that you can tune in on Sunday mornings (or at any other time for that matter) and participate in our times of worship via our YouTube Live Stream. You can find the live stream at <https://www.youtube.com/PiratesoftheColumbia> Sunday mornings at 10 am.

Helping refugees relocating to our community

We would like to thank everyone who responded to the call for World Relief donations as the agency welcomes Afghanistan (and other) refugees to the area. During the last two months, we posted needs of the agency to which you responded with donations of gift cards, cash, sheets, blankets, towels, cleaning supplies, and more. World Relief is very grateful to our church and other area churches that are providing what is needed to re-settle the large numbers of refugees coming to the Tri-Cities. Most of those people coming to our community arrive with literally what they can carry in a suitcase. The expectation is that as world events continue to unfold the number of refugees worldwide will continue to grow and the number resettling in our area will as well. With that in mind, we are continuing to take donations to help those starting over with basic needs through February and into March. You can bring your donations with you and drop them off in the narthex at Church

on Sunday or contact the church office and bring them by there. Thank you for your generosity and compassion! Thank you Susan Sandmeier and Mary Lynn Arter for your hard work in making this possible!

Memorial Services Scheduled

A couple of our dear friends of the congregation have passed away in the last month and memorial services are scheduled to celebrate and remember them:

Helen Mitchell's Memorial is scheduled for 1 pm this Saturday, February 19th, and...

Donna Coordes' service is scheduled for next Saturday February 26th at 2 pm.

We hope you can join us in celebrating and remembering these wonderful women who meant so much to many of us!

Piecemakers to start up again!!

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, The Piecemakers will start quilting again every second Wednesday in the 3rd Grade Room from 10 am - Noon beginning March 9th. How exciting!!!

A quick reminder...

As our community moves through the latest spike in a worldwide pandemic, we want to remind everyone of the protocols we have in place for gathering in person inside our church facilities. We are so appreciative of your help in doing all we can to “do no harm” while we continue to gather in person:

- 1) Regardless of your vaccination status, we are asking that everyone who enters our facility wear a mask.
- 2) We will have sanitizing stations at the entrance of the sanctuary, and we ask that everyone sanitize their hands before entering to worship.
- 3) We ask that we maintain a safe social distance from our neighbors while in the building [3-6 feet between family groups/households.]

- 4) Limit the amount of time we are gathered in enclosed places together.
- 5) After each Sunday Worship Service, we will “fog” the sanctuary with sanitizer when we leave.
- 6) Continue to make our worship services available via a live stream so that you can participate from the safety of your home.
- 7) **Temporarily** suspend congregational singing during worship services.
- 8) Encourage everyone to stay home if you are feeling sick, have a fever or are showing symptoms of the virus or have been in close contact with someone who has the virus.