

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 24: Live Worship Service, 10 am

**Sunday, April 24: Livestream Worship on
Youtube Channel, 10 am**

**Wednesday, April 27: Pastor Mark's Bible Study on
Zoom, 11 am**

**Sunday, May 8: Mother's Day
(Hats on for Faithful Ladies)**

Sunday, May 15: Youth Sunday, 10 am

Sunday, May 15: New Member Class, 11 am in SWR

Hi friends,

I was planning to make a simple thank you note to all those who helped us celebrate with about 300 people between our sunrise, in-person and virtual live stream worship services. Thank you to all who helped us celebrate a wonderful Easter and great day in our faith community!

But I want to address something that has been concerning me, and I know many of you as well... an escalation of violence that we are experiencing in the world and in our own neighborhoods.

All of us are keenly aware of the war that is being fought in the Ukraine, not to mention wars and violence that have been raging in Darfur, Kashmir, Myanmar, Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and others. I do not want to enter into debates about whether wars and violence are increasing, or whether we, in our modern age, are just able to learn of wars and violence that we in years past were ignorant of.

In our local neighborhoods we have seen an increase of shootings over the last month, including one fatal shooting that happened in downtown Kennewick.

When we are made aware of violence, it is natural for us to respond with fear, and begin building barriers between "Us" and "Them", or even respond to violence

with violence which scripture repeatedly condemns. Jesus spoke about it... “Turn the other cheek.” Proverbs warns us not to “Envy the violent or choose any of its ways” (3:31) Hosea reminds us that if we follow that path, “Bloodshed follows Bloodshed” (Hosea Chapter 4).

I have spoken with our local police departments and have been assured that they consider our church a safe place to gather and that the uptick in violence is not something that should impact the ministries and programs that we are called to be a part of. Having said that, security is always a priority for us. We have a security team lead by Dave Hare that monitors our facilities while we gather for worship. We have policies in place to ensure that when our facilities are in use, they are safe. It has become almost a joke that I remind us with a brief “flight attendant” speech at the beginning of worship, how we can exit the building in a hurry if need be. We have policies about ratios of adults to children and making sure our kids and adults can meet for programs and activities in a “safe sanctuary.” All those and other policies and practices are part of making sure that KFUMC is a safe place.

BUT I want to remind us that when we receive news that troubles us, our instincts can make us withdraw from the work we do in the building, and in our community to help bring about the Kingdom of God and create a community that loves God and loves our neighbor. When we hear of violence in our neighborhoods, or in other parts of the world, my prayer is that we would not retreat to a fortress, but that our commitment as followers of the “Prince of Peace” would be renewed and that the important work of compassion, justice and love is so needed by communities of faith like ours. Communities that point to and display another way of living bounded by God’s love.

I hope you will join me in praying for our neighborhoods, our nation, and our world, that we would continue to see the world through God’s eyes and be about creating neighborhoods and communities that love God and love our neighbor.

Pastor Mark

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will be meeting this Wednesday. We will be continuing our study of the Book of Romans and looking at the last half of Chapter 6 together. Feel free to join us on the zoom platform Wednesday at 11am. Here is the link.

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

New Members Class

Since the pandemic we have not been able to hold a “New Member’s Class”. Pastor Mark will be having a class after Worship next month on Sunday, May 15th at 11 am in the Susanna Wesley Room. If you just want to familiarize yourself with our church, would like to join the membership roles of the church or transfer your membership from a church you used to attend, please make plans to attend. Please RSVP to the church office if attending. If you cannot make this class and want to, please call the church office at 509-582-2163 so other arrangements can be made. Childcare can be provided during the class if that is a need for you.

Hats On for Faithful Ladies

Please join me, along with Clair and Paige Phillips, my young friends who helped to dream and inspire up this event, by wearing a hat to worship on **Mother’s Day, May 8th**, to honor all faithful ladies, past and present, who have inspired us and our faith!

Daughter, Sister, Aunt, Wife, Mother or Grandmother... No matter what hat we are wearing, being faithful is something for which we should strive for. So, on Mother’s Day we honor faithful ladies who have nurtured, sacrificed for, taught, and loved us by worshipping the Lord, while crowning our head with a hat.

– Cynthia Bement

Youth Sunday May 15th

Come support the United Methodist Youth Group on Sunday, May 15th. They will host the whole hour of worship from Prelude to Postlude. Our kids will be leading us in the time of worship, letting us know how our congregation has been an important part of their lives and how we can continue to support this wonderful ministry in the days and years ahead! We will also be taking a special offering that Sunday to help provide Camp Scholarships for our children, youth and families heading to United Methodist Summer Camps.