

Mission field:

The church is located in downtown Kennewick (2 S. Dayton Street, Kennewick, WA 99336). The iconic building is over 100 years old and is a cornerstone of the local community. It dominates the skyline and is a landmark in this region of Kennewick boasting beautiful stained-glass windows. Over the years, the church has hosted many community-wide events including high school graduations, political rallies, concerts, community classes, and most recently a COVID vaccination site. The building has undergone two major renovations/additions (an educational wing addition [1950's] and a new entry foyer and classroom [early 2000's]) during its lifespan.

The church serves people who live throughout the Tri-cities area. The church building is within walking distance of the original high school, and is part of the Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership. The church is committed to providing care to its members while being involved in "Missional Ministries" withing the greater Kennewick area.

Description of Congregation:

The membership primarily lives in various areas of Kennewick and the other cities throughout region (Richland, Pasco, Finley, Burbank). For decades, the church has provided and continues to provide spiritual care to its members who typically view themselves as politically and spiritually moderate, our congregation serves five generations. The congregation includes several community leaders and local business owners. Many in the congregation have been or continue to be involved in civic groups (Kiwanis, Rotary, Meals on Wheels) and volunteer with numerous organizations (Habitat for Humanity, Tri-Cities Chaplaincy). Many serve as members on various community boards (Grace Clinic, Chaplain's Support Network).

The congregation regularly supports many outwardly focused missional opportunities and programs. Some are listed below:

1. Soul Soup - Hosts a hot meal service for anyone (mostly houseless people). The group of approximately 26 members and community volunteers serves an increasingly growing clientele (currently averaging 75 people) every Thursday evening.
2. Soul Soup Sundays – This group of around 15 members supports a local "street ministry" by preparing approximately 120 burrito lunches every month. The group meets and prepares the meals on the third Sunday of each month.
3. United Women of Faith (UWF) –An active group of women who have three scheduled meetings ~~on~~ month -- one for the entire membership, one for Joy Fellowship members, and one for scheduled Holly Daze bazaar workshops (to prep for the annual community bazaar held in October, followed by a smaller church event in December). The bazaar is the major fundraiser for UWF which supports international, national, and local organizations as well as other church activities.
4. Prayer Shawls - Over the years various members of the congregation have knitted or crocheted thousands of prayer shawls to be given to people across the state and nation (the majority of which are facing physical ailments and illness). This program provides a shawl and prayers to those in need.
5. Blankets – This group typically meets on Sundays (before service) to assemble hand polar fleece blankets to be given to those in need (community members or shelters).
6. Piecemakers – This group of volunteers has been meeting monthly since 1997 and have donated around 3000 quilts to various agencies such as the Union Gospel Mission, Safe Harbor Crisis Center, Salvation Army, Toys for Tots as well as church members who identify a needy child.

The congregation also supports with time and money several important community projects/ministries, This includes groups such as B5 (a refugee support ministry), Chaplain's Support Network (a ministry that provides immediate spiritual and emotional support to first responders and victims), Amistad Elementary School (one of the lowest income schools in the state and is consistently among the lowest ranked in testing scores), World Relief (a refugee support network), and Grace Clinic (a local non-profit health care facility).

Additionally, the congregation annually supports organized "in-house" drives such as:

1. HUGS – Hats, Underwear, Gloves, Socks for the houseless and/or various shelters. This drive usually occurs before Valentine’s Day.
2. Trunk or Treat – Managed by the Youth Group. This provides a safe place for local children to participate in Halloween trick or treat and other related activities.
3. Back to School – Usually in July and August. The congregation collects school supplies for Amistad Elementary students.
4. Food Drives – An on-going program to provide “extra” food to the local food banks.
5. Holly Daze Bazaar – Supported and managed by the UWF. It provides an opportunity for congregants and local artists to sell their products. This is a major fund-raiser for the UWF program.
6. Yearly collections for World Relief to help with needed items for refugees moving to the area.

The congregation participates in several fellowship programs/activities during a year:

1. Annual All Church Campout – Managed by the Congregational Care Coordinator. This campout is usually held in August. All church members are invited to attend the campout and/or the potluck dinner on the last day of the activity.
2. Annual Homecoming Barbeque – Managed by volunteers. Occurs at the start of each program year.
3. Quarterly Church Potlucks and information meetings.
4. Quarterly Church Activities, for example Bingo, Gingerbread House builds, etc.
5. Annually, the congregation helps fund the youth group with a dessert auction/social to assist with the costs of a mission trip. Last year the youth group went to Florida to help communities rebuild after Hurricane Ian.

Adult education is provided by an adult Sunday Class (typically at first service during the program year. This class usually has 15-18 regular attendants). A recently started Women’s Bible Study program each Wednesday evening has about 15-20 in regular attendance.

Two services are offered for Sunday worship. The 9 a.m. is a smaller 45-minute service with a non-traditional format that revolves around discussion and dialogue rather than a "sermon/lecture". It is led by the pastor and a 4-person worship team. The 10 a.m. service is a modified-traditional service including choir music, hymns, as well as praise music.

This service is broadcast on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@piratesoftheColumbia>). The average attendance on Sunday mornings is 110-125 (In addition, approximately 60 view worship online via live stream.)

The church also provides seasonal worship services. For Holy Week, we host an Ash Wednesday service, Good Friday Service, and a Sunrise Service at Columbia Park in Kennewick along the Columbia River. This service is typically attended by over 100, followed by a regular service in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. On Christmas Eve, a 4 p.m. early service is provided along with a 7 p.m. candlelight service.

Congregation Organization:

KFUMC employs a modified Simple Governance model that functions much like a Nonprofit board of directors. The long-range vision and direction for the church is discussed at quarterly meetings of the Leadership Council (which is comprised of 6-9 members who are voted on at Charge Conference).

The day-to-day ministries are performed by paid staff and volunteers who make up administrative and ministry teams. The Pastor serves as a liaison between the Leadership Council and the administrative and ministry teams.

The Charge Conference approves the election of the Leadership Council, the Staff Parish Ministry Team (aka SPR), the Finance Ministry Team, and the Facilities Team. The other ministries are led by paid staff or volunteers for short or long-term projects or programs.

website (www.kennewickfirst.com)