

Newsletter 3/15/24

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 17th
Children's Sunday School, 9 am, Wesleyan Hall

Sunday, March 17th
Adult Sunday School, 9 am, Susanna Wesley

Sunday, March 17th
Sunday Live Worship, 9 am, Prayer Chapel

Sunday, March 17th
Sunday Live Worship, 10 am, Sanctuary
<https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>

(Click the "LIVE" link in the tool bar to see recent worship services, as well)

Wednesday, March 20th
LIFT - Women's Scripture Study
6 pm, Youth Chapel

Saturday, March 23rd, 9 am - Noon
All-Church Clean Up
See information below

Sunday, March 24th, 10 am, Sanctuary
Palm Sunday Service
See information below

Friday-Sunday, March 29th - March 31st
Easter week schedule
See information below

Hi Friends,

There are a few things you can count on every year... Tax day is always April 15th... in the Tri-cities there will be a "chinook wind" that comes through around February warming things up, and we all think spring

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is on the way (sometimes even the daffodils and tulips think so too) only to be hit with another bracing cold snap... I fall for it every year! The other thing I can count on is around Christmas and Easter I will be getting phone calls asking "Did you just send me and email (or text messages) asking me to purchase gift cards for someone in need?"

Now that Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter are fast approaching we have seen a round of emails being sent out to people claiming to be Pastor Mark, and even from a fake email address that looks similar to our official church email domains. The message states something like... Pastor Mark needs your help immediately and can you reply to the email, because he can't talk on the phone because he is in a meeting. If you reply to the email you get another response asking if you would be able to go buy some gift cards for someone in need and that you will be reimbursed for them later, and then asked to give the #'s and codes to the scammer from the cards. If you get such an email or text message don't reply to it and most importantly don't buy any gift cards and/or give the PIN or information from them to the person in the email. **NO ONE FROM THE CHURCH WILL EVER MAKE SUCH A REQUEST THROUGH AN EMAIL OR TEXT AND WE WILL NEVER ASK FOR YOUR PIN NUMBERS OR PERSONAL INFORMATION IN SUCH A WAY.** There may be times that we invite the congregation to help with special projects, but they will never be done in a confidential manner or in a way that circumnavigates the official financial safeguards our church has in place. If you ever get a message from someone claiming to be connected to Kennewick First (or any organization you belong to for that matter) asking for a confidential donation or asking for personal information, please don't respond to it. Or if you get a message from someone claiming to be staff at the church that just seems odd or out of character, please call the church office and verify that it's not a scam.

It is frustrating that there are people who put such effort into taking advantage of folks like the wonderful members of Kennewick First who work so hard to be generous, compassionate and caring, but it reminds me that the work we do is important to fulfill our baptism vows to proclaim Jesus is the one that saves us, to surround one

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another in grace and forgiveness and stand against evil and injustice however it presents itself in the world.

Thanks for being a church that cares for each other and the neighborhoods we are a part of!

Pastor Mark

Where You Can Report a Scam or "Phishing" Email

If you receive an email or text message attempting to commit fraud or gain access to your personal information you can report it to the US Government website at <https://www.usa.gov/where-report-scams> The information you provide helps the Justice Departments and the Federal Trade Commission track down and disrupt the flow of criminal emails.

Pastor Mark's Bible Study

We are studying the book of Revelation using Scott McKnight's book "Revelation for the Rest of Us." We will be reading the book together during the class, but if you want to purchase your own copy, feel free to purchase them wherever you buy your books. As always the class will meet in the conference room at church or you can join us via the Zoom platform at:

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

Meeting ID: 967 7839 8043

All-Church Clean Up

There is an all-church clean up scheduled for Saturday, **March 23rd from 9 am to Noon.** We will be cleaning the Sanctuary, kitchen, entry way, Susanna Wesley room, Sunday school rooms, windows, and outdoor landscaping. ***"We will have coffee, pastries, and prayer to start at 8:30 am. Actual work will start at 9:00. Sign-up sheets are posted on the Board as you come in the entry way. Please help our Facilities Team with your time and talents!"***

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Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday service will be on **Sunday, March 24th at 10 am**, and for all who want to participate, there will be a Palm Sunday Parade that meets in Wesleyan Hall at 9:45 am.

Upcoming Easter Week Schedule

Friday, March 29th, Good Friday Service, 7 pm

Saturday, March 30th, Easter Egg Hunt, 9 am

Sunday, March 31st, Easter Sunrise Service, Columbia Park, 6:30 am

Sunday, March 31st, Easter Sunday Worship Service, 10 am