



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, April 21st
Worship Service, 9 am, Prayer Chapel**

**Sunday, April 21st
Adult Sunday School, 9 am, Susanna Wesley Room**

**Sunday, April 21st
Children's Sunday School, 9 am, Wesleyan Hall**

**Sunday, April 21st
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, April 24th
UWF Unit Luncheon Reminder
10 am, Susanna Wesley Room**

**Wednesday, April 24th
Pastor Mark's Bible Study
11 am, Conference Room or on Zoom
(see Zoom link below)**

**Wednesday, April 24th
LIFT - Women's Scripture Study
6 pm, Youth Chapel**

**Thursday, April 25th
P2 Jam Session
6:30 pm, Youth Chapel**

It's Friday and the team of volunteers who mow the lawn and make sure our grounds look neat and kept are hard at work. When I pull into my usual parking spot I often ask the crew, "How's things? Found anything unusual out there today?" Last year about this time Darryl Lamberd and Cory Manley were finishing up mowing the church lawn and leaf blowing. I asked, as I often do on Fridays, if they found anything unusual on the church grounds while they worked, thinking along the lines of broken sprinkler heads or the odd down tree limb or such. They both thought for a moment and then Darryl piped up and said, "We did find something ." He pointed to a blue plastic Easter Egg that had escaped the clutches of Easter Egg hunters during our annual Easter Egg hunt a couple weeks ago.

I am often amazed at things I discover, when I'm not really looking for them. One of the books we read together at our Wednesday Bible study a while ago was "The Year of Living Biblically." The premise of the book is that the author is

recording his insights on an effort to spend a year following every rule and commandment in the Bible. It generated wonderful laughs and conversations in our group! One Wednesday we read a section in which the author was trying to obey a command not to eat any fruit from a tree that is less than five years old (found in Leviticus, chapter 19.) After doing some research, he finds that apple, pear and other trees often bear fruit after only two or three years of being planted and it was too risky to eat them. The grocery stores that sold the fruit had no way to confirm the age of the trees that produced their produce, but he found that cherry trees would only bear fruit after five years of being planted. Cherries were his safe option to obey the law! He went to his local market and bought a bag of cherries and ate them as he walked home, spitting the pits in garbage cans along the way. He realized that it took about three seconds to eat a cherry. Three seconds to eat, but five years in the making! It seemed unfair to the hard working cherry tree, the least he could do was devote his attention to the cherry in those three seconds. The tartness of the skin the soft crunch as he bit down on them . He soon realized that he discovered something, as he put it, “sacred” in the very mundane. He found other things that he often sped past that he became thankful for. He ends the section by writing, “I thought being so religious would make me live with my head in the clouds, but as often as not it grounds me in the world.”

In this season of Easter where we live as people of the resurrection, rather than people of the far away God, I’m reminded that being thankful for creation and all the other things that I speed by on a daily basis are gifts from God. Being mindful of them can change my way of viewing the world and relationships and creates sacred moments when I least expect them.

Pastor Mark

Passing of Former Member **Reverend Ruth Dasinger Mathis**

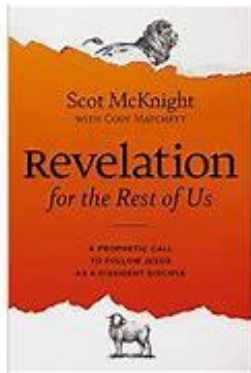
passed onto life eternal last night. She was a teacher at Westgate elementary school and the Sunday school superintendent at our church when she received the call on her heart to go into ministry. She continued to serve as a teacher and head of Education while she prayed about her calling. Our church helped her to go to Seminary and upon her ordination, she served many churches in the PNW conference, also serving as a District Superintendent. Ruth was a vibrant woman who lived out her call in beautiful ways. No information on a service at this time. Ruth is survived by her three daughters, Linda, Grace and Amy.



P2 happens this **Thursday April 25th**

Someone once said "one who sings... prays twice" with that notion in mind we will be starting anew the "P2 jam sessions" our next P2 will be Thursday April 25th at 6:30 pm in the Youth Chapel. If you play an instrument like to sing or would like to come and maybe learn a new song or two we will be gathering to play a couple worship songs together and have a fun night of singing playing instruments and spending time together. So whatever you play (bonus points if you play a diggeridoo) feel free to join us and make a joyful noise together and have some great fun doing it!





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 at 11 am or you can join us via the Zoom platform at:

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

Meeting ID: 967 7839 8043

A Fond Farewell

For almost 16 years, **Amberley Almarode** has been the music ministry leader at KFUMC. Now Amberley and her sons are moving to Hope, Arkansas, to join Marshall in his new ministry there. While we will miss her many contributions to our worship services, we are happy for the Hope church, which will benefit from her gifts. We will bid a fond farewell to Amberley during **the 10 am worship on April 28 at with a reception to follow.** There will be a gift tree in the entry area where you can pin notes of appreciation and well wishes, as well as any money or gift cards you may want to share with Amberley and her family. You won't want to miss this special Sunday!

Youth Sunday

Come support the UMY on **Sunday, May 19th**. The youth will host the whole hour of worship from Prelude to Postlude. Please come and honor the United Methodist Youth!

All Church Rollerskating

June 2nd from 5:30 to 7:30 PM

Location: Richland Rollarena Skating Center

Hosted by the UMY and Sunday School Department

Come and enjoy a Christian music skating night. The entry fee and regular roller skate rentals are on us! This is an all-church family and friend event.

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.

Please Be On The Lookout For Email Scams and Phishing Emails And Texts!

It has always been a threat, but we have heard from a number of folks that they have been receiving an increasing amount of email messages from someone claiming to be Pastor Mark or other Church Staff Members, saying they are connected to the church, making requests for donations, requests for gift cards or asking you to click a link to "update your profile" or "provide information." The emails usually indicate that it is a donation that needs to be made quickly or urgently.

**DO NOT RESPOND TO THOSE EMAILS /TEXT OR
CLICK THOSE LINKS!!!**

We at Kennewick First United Methodist Church will never solicit information or donations of cash or gift cards from you by having you click a link, ask you to provide personal information or passwords via an email or text. If you have a question about an email or text you received, please call us at the church and verify that it was one of the church staff people that sent it. Our church is not the only one that is being used to phish for information. If you volunteer or are associated with any non-profit group, scammers will try and capitalize on your caring and generosity. Please be careful with your information when it comes to texts and emails and always verify any request by speaking in person with the individual supposedly making the request on behalf of the church.

