

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY - Friday, July 19th
Ron Baker's Memorial Service
1 pm, Sanctuary/Ida Payne Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 21st
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)

Friday, August 23rd
Tim Anderson's Memorial Service
1 pm, Sanctuary/Ida Payne Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 8th (Homecoming Sunday)
Community Carnival, 11:30 am
(See details below)

Wildfires are not new to me. When my husband, Lane, and I were first married he worked for the Department of Natural Resources in the regional office of Forks. Wildfire season for him meant leaving his computer to help finish suppressing the fires. He worked the night shift, using the thermal camera to find and mark hotspots for the daytime crews to address.

He would be gone with no contact for 7-10 days—this is before cellphones. This is not what I expected in the first months of my marriage, but Lane loved the experience. And the overtime pay did help us purchase a real bed. I decided to give God thanks for those blessings.

However, the reality of wildfires fires was abstract for me. Lane was at more risk of breaking his leg while climbing mountainsides in the dark than he was of a fire flareup; by the time Lane arrived the fire was mostly out. In later years the most I experienced was seeing the scorched spots along the highways where a fire had been successfully extinguished.

Now, in my new community in Kennewick, I have a different awareness. I still have no direct exposure to wildfire, and I pray that it stays that way. But I am hearing in real time the concerns people I know express about the risks to the wheat harvest, the horror and thrill of lightning strikes, the anxiety about how near a potential evacuation zone is, and what to do when--not if--when the smoke comes.

There is an apparent randomness to where, when, and how bad the first will be. I say random because most of us are praying, but only some of us get the answers of no risk, no harm, no damage. What is *not* random is the steadfast and comforting presence of God, no matter what. Even when we are sure God is absent, God is quite present, and more than ready to hear our cries of fear, our shouts of anger, or seething doubts. God is close and prepared to guide us to answers and problem-solving partners. God is overflowing with grace that can comfort, sustain, and empower us to do what we can with what we have. And after, God's healing and peace will enable us to pick up the pieces for a new day.

May you feel God's peace.
Pastor Shirley

Worship Series: July 7-August 11

The Tie That Binds

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. — Colossians 3: 14-15

Relationships form us. One of the most treasured hymns of Christianity in the last century was “Blest Be the Tie That Binds.” As we gather for worship in this series, we will be invited to consider how our relationship with the Holy and with each other form and transform us. And we will affirm the power of God’s presence in our worshiping community to inspire us to “go and do likewise” in relationship to the world.

July 21 — Poured

Isaiah 44

*² Thus says the Lord who made you,
who formed you in the womb and will help you:*

*Do not fear, O Jacob my servant,
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.*

*³ For I will pour water on the thirsty land
and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour my spirit upon your descendants
and my blessing on your offspring.*

*⁴ They shall spring up like a green tamarisk,
like willows by flowing streams.*

Malachi 3

⁸ Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, “How are we robbing you?” In your tithes and offerings! ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! ¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. ¹¹ I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the Lord of hosts. ¹² Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸ Those who steal must give up stealing; rather, let them labor, doing good work with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Needed: Air Hockey Table

Do you have an Air Hockey table lying around, taking up space? Would you like to find it new life again and to bring fun and excitement to the children/youth of our church? The Sunday School Department is looking to add one to their space. They are looking for a medium sized table to add to one of their rooms. If you have one you would like to donate, please contact Starlite or Claressa through the church office at 509-582-2163 or email Starlite at starlite@kennewickfirst.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Save The Date

September 8th is Homecoming Sunday, and the Children and Youth Programs are throwing a community carnival! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us **from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm on September 8th**. Food will be provided.

ALERT!

Impersonation Attempts

This week, we've seen an increase in sophisticated impersonation and social engineering attempts. Be prepared to defend against these bad actors by staying informed and vigilant.

Overview

- Attack Methods: Emails, phone calls, and text messages are being used to attempt access to online accounts and sensitive information.
- Deceptive Techniques: Bad actors use Caller ID spoofing and voice generation to create a false sense of safety and familiarity.

Key Points

- No Personal Info Requests: We will never contact you by phone, email, or text to ask for personal information like your account number, verification codes, or online banking username.

Security Reminders

- Email Security
 - Verify the sender's email address by hovering over the name.
 - Avoid opening suspicious links or attachments.
 - Be wary of emails creating urgency or using scare tactics.
 - Phone Call Security
 - Do not trust caller ID; it can be spoofed.
 - If asked for sensitive information or if something doesn't seem quite right, hang up and call the trusted number for your banker or branch.
 - Text Message Security
 - Your bank will NEVER ask for personal information via text.
 - Do not click links from unknown senders.
- Verify the sender before taking any action and delete suspicious messages.

Build Trust with Us

- Get to know your bank and our team better by visiting the branch. Familiarize yourself with our branch staff and get to know your banker. Building a personal relationship with us can help you better recognize legitimate communications and be more secure.

By recognizing these signs and staying vigilant, you can protect yourself and your family from potential scams and ensure your financial security.

For safety tips on fraud prevention, visit: <https://cfbhfg.com/security-and-fraud-prevention/>

Community First Bank is a member of the American Banker's Association (ABA). Their campaign of Banks Never Ask That continues to cover these critical topics. To learn more, visit: [Banks Never Ask That! Fraud Prevention](#)