



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 22nd

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)

“A Wake-up Call”

Scripture:

Joel 2:1-3, 12-14, 18-20, 25-27

Sunday, June 22nd

Retirement Celebration for Cynthia Bement

11 am, SWR/Narthex

Sunday, July 13th

Parsonage Open House, 1-5 pm

Friday News 6/20/25

It's Thursday, when I write this, Thursday, June 19th. Officially, it's called Juneteenth National Independence Day. It is a [federal holiday](#) to commemorate the [ending of slavery](#) in the United States. The enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation, issued in 1862 & 1863, legally ended American slavery, but its implementation was slow and inconsistent. The effort depended on the Union soldiers to deliver the news and enforce it. It was 900 days after the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect that the enslaved citizens of Galveston, Texas finally heard this good news on June 19, 1865. This was nearly 2.5 extra years of chattel slavery due to ignorance of the changed law.

Bondage traps and holds many, keeping them from living fully the lives God created them to have. Some bondage is easier to name, like domestic violence, abuse, toxic relationships, addictions, trafficking, and debt keep people from living fully the lives they could otherwise have. Things like fear, ignorance, prejudice, inertia, and "the way things have always been" also keep people enslaved when new life could be possible.

As Christians we often forget the freedoms we have through Christ. Because we forget, the living we could be enjoying is dimmed.

By the time you read this June 19th will be behind us, but July 4th, the US Day of Independence is just two weeks away. As we celebrate freedoms from chattel slavery and taxation without representation, let us also glory in the freedoms we know and enjoy God forever as God's beloved and cherished children. Celebrate, glory, and then tell someone else. Don't make them wait 900 days, or even one day!

Pastor Shirley

P. S. Check out this list of freedoms and supporting scriptures, assembled by David Souther.

1. **Freedom from guilt.** “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1).
2. **Freedom from shame.** “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame” (Rom. 10:11).
3. **Freedom from God’s wrath** “For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:9).
4. **Freedom from fear of death.** “But has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Tim. 1:10).
5. **Freedom from bondage to sin.** “For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace” (Rom. 6:14).
6. **Freedom from the curse of the law.** “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us” (Gal. 3:13).
7. **Freedom from legalism.** “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage” (Gal. 5:1).
8. **Freedom from Satan’s dominion.** “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Col. 1:13).
9. **Freedom to approach God.** “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus” (Heb. 10:19).

10. **Freedom to relate to God as His child and His heir.** “Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ” (Gal. 4:7).
11. **Freedom to partake and enjoy every spiritual blessing.** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).
12. **Freedom to bring our concerns and requests to God.** “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Phil. 4:6).
13. **Freedom to walk with God throughout life.** “For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people’” (2 Cor. 6:15–17).
14. **Freedom to authentically love others.** “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7).
15. **Freedom to live out God’s purposes in your life.** “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10).
16. **Freedom to enter the gates of heaven.** “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:2–3).

Retirement Celebration for Cynthia Bement

ATTENTION!!! Everyone is invited to the celebration of Cynthia Bement's many years of service at her retirement reception following worship on Sunday, June 22nd. A longtime member of Kennewick First United Methodist Church, Cynthia started as Youth Director in 1992 and, after her many years of incredible service in that role, Cynthia took on the role of Congregational Care Coordinator for several more years of heart felt service. Cynthia will surely be missed as she has done so much and helped so many people in these two roles for so many years. The reception will have cake and punch. There will not be any gifts but there will be a basket for cards. We hope to see you there!

+1 (217) 977-3034 >

Text Message • SMS
Today 11:39 AM

Hello Anna, Are you less busy at the moment? I have a request for you to manage confidentially. I will be in a meeting in a few minutes, no calls so kindly respond via text. Blessings
-Rev. Margaret Gillikin

The sender is not in your contact list.

[Report Junk](#)

Watch out for Email and Text Scams

The above text was sent to fellow congregation members at another UMC church. It is SPAM! Please remember that church staff will NEVER text or email asking for gift cards or money. Please look carefully at the sender's phone number or email address.

One particular email one is, "Shhhhhh – you are invited to..." Please be safe and cautious, and contact the church office when in doubt.

Pave The Way

We have launched the “Pave the Way” fundraiser. Now, you will be able to purchase an engraved paver (brick) to be permanently installed in the courtyard of the Kennewick First United Methodist Church. This “buy a brick” campaign will help offset the cost of the church beautification project. This fundraising campaign allows people to purchase a paver to commemorate someone. The buyer can choose to honor themselves, a living family member or friend, or someone who has passed. Each brick will be the same size with the same font (lettering). There will, however, be a few assorted icons that can be added to mark an event such as baptism, membership date, or wedding, etc., for an extra fee. The cost of each 6” by 12” paver will be \$200.00 with an additional fee of \$25.00 for an icon. You may order a Paver through the church office, print it off the church website and mail it in or pick up a form from the information desk on Sunday. You will be able to pay for your paver with cash, through Pushpay, check or credit card. This campaign is beginning now, to help raise the funds needed to start the front courtyard project. The pavers will be laid in 2026. Please help us get the word out so we can pave the way!

God's Fellows

This is a small group of men who read devotional material and connect it with their own lives and faith. They meet every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.

Missing Assisted Listening Devices

Please check your home or coats for any hearing devices that came from the Sanctuary. Several are missing!

Office Staff Meetings/Hours

The Church Office meets for a Staff Meeting the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 10 am - Noon. The office is closed 10 am - 1:00 pm on those days. The church office is now open 8 am – 1 -pm Monday – Thursday and closed all day Fridays.

Deadlines

The Monday before the following Sunday is the deadline for any announcement posted in the Sunday Bulletin.
The Thursday before the following Friday is the deadline for any announcement posted in the Friday Email Letter.