



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 19th
Pilot Sewing Class, Sewing Center (upstairs)
10 am - Noon

Sunday, July 20th
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)

"What Does God Expects from Us" (Micah)
Pastor Shirley DeLarme
Scripture: Micah, selected verses

Friday, July 25th
Mary Shoop's Memorial/Reception,
1 pm, Sanctuary & Ida Payne

Sunday, July 27th
Parsonage Open House, 1 - 5 pm

Friday - Sunday, August 15th-17th

**All-Church Campout at Boardman
Marina Park
Camp-Out Registration Form is on our
website: kennewickfirst.com**

Friday News 7/18/25

United Methodists have an Official Stand

In a July 7, 2025, court filing, The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) declared that Churches and other houses of worship can endorse political candidates in certain circumstances without risking the loss of their tax-exempt status, despite a decades-old Congressional statute that bans political candidate endorsements.

General Board of Church and Society July 15, 2025

POSITION STATEMENT

Church Endorsements of Political Party Candidates

The General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church strongly opposes the use of churches and houses of worship for partisan political affiliations and endorsements.

Background

The recent IRS political candidate endorsement filing is at odds with a law Congress passed more than 70 years ago that's known as the Johnson Amendment and applies to all charitable nonprofits, whether they are secular or religious.

The rule was introduced by former President Lyndon B. Johnson (hence the name Johnson Amendment) in 1954, when he was serving as the U.S. Senate majority leader. It banned all tax-exempt organizations like churches and charities from “directly or indirectly” participating in politics, specifically in endorsement or opposition of candidates.

Critics of the IRS' court filing say it is not about religion or free speech, but about radically altering campaign finance laws. The IRS decree could open the floodgates for political operatives to funnel money to churches in exchange for support of their preferred candidates, while receiving generous tax breaks at the expense of taxpayers who may not share those views.

What Do United Methodists Believe

Even though the formal relationships between religious communities and governments vary from country to country, as United Methodists, we generally affirm the independence and integrity of both institutions, and we advocate for a relationship of mutual respect in which neither institution seeks to dominate or unduly influence the other.

“While we do not believe churches should affiliate with particular political parties, we do encourage churches to speak out boldly on social issues from a gospel perspective. We further believe

churches have a right and responsibility to educate and equip their members to be effective advocates for justice in the wider world.” **(United Methodist 2025 -2028 Social Principles, The Political Community, Government Responsibilities, A., Church and Governments)**

What You Can Do

- Review the 2025-2028 Social Principles, The Political Community, Government Responsibilities
- Read the Faith and Facts Card on [Christian Nationalism](#)
- Discuss this issue with your Pastor and Congregation
- Contact your elected officials in support of policies that do not cross lines between Church and State

The link below refers to the above article:

[Link from the UMC Church and Society](#)

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, 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.