

THE CLARION

KENNEWICK 1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CORNER OF DAYTON ST AND KENNEWICK AVENUE,
KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON



Stay Connected

In this time of uncertainty, here are some updates to let you know what we, the leaders and congregation of Kennewick First United Methodist Church, are and are not doing in the month ahead.

There will be no in-person activities at the church building through May 4. Sadly, that means we will not be having Easter and Holy Week activities in person. However, every Sunday at 10:30 am on our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>), we will be either live streaming or posting a video worship service. This includes our Good Friday Service at 6:30 pm on April 10.

The Church office will be closed through at least May 4. Although the building is closed, all of our church staff are working from home, and we are getting emails and checking phone messages. If you need to connect with us, please call the church number, 582-2163; when the recording machine comes on, leave a message. Don't choose a specific person's extension. These messages will be reviewed regularly during what are regular office hours. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

Every Thursday on the Kennewick First United Methodist Church Facebook page at around 6 pm, I will be giving a short update and devotional until we can meet in person again.

Cynthia Bement, the Lay Shepherds, and other volunteers are hard at work contacting people in the congregation. If you would like to join the effort to maintain our connectedness by making some phone calls, send Cynthia an email at cynthia@kennewickfirst.com or give her a call and she can get you the information you need.



*A Christ-centered, inclusive
and loving community*

Sunday School classes, Youth group, and other groups are finding creative ways to stay connected and still grow in our faith together.

The landscape is changing when it comes to our ability to meet in person and still BE the church. So keep up to date on what is going on (or not going on... Ha!) at KFUMC through our official communication channels:

- 1) weekly Constant Contact emails
- 2) our web page
www.KennewickFirst.com
- 3) our Facebook page
- 4) phone calls from our Lay Shepherds and staff
- 5) the Clarion newsletter.

A Night Under the Montana Sky

Sr. High Auction Update

In order to stay home and to stay healthy, we will not be holding the Sr. High Auction on April 26, 2020. If you already purchased a ticket for the auction, the youth or leader who sold it to you will be contacting you soon. Or you may call Rachel at (509)378-7724. Thank you for your continued love and support of the UMY program! Stay tuned for updates on how the mission trip will be adjusted due to the COVID-19 virus.



Soooooo, here we are . . . About a month ago I was planning how I was going to be leading worship with this new group of people in our first Holy Week and Easter together. Now I'm planning Holy Week and Easter in a way I have never done before in 24 years of ordained ministry. All of us are experiencing our daily lives in new ways. I find it so ironic and somewhat holy that many of us made a decision to stay off of the computer during Lent and now email, Facebook, Skype, and Zoom video conferences are our connection to each other while we stay in our homes.

I was on about my 4th Zoom conference of the day, logged in with a group of colleagues just to check in and say "hey!" We lamented over the struggles we were having . . . we confessed to being weary and tired. I know for me, although the work is difficult and there is the added wrinkle of doing it isolated and at home, it's the constant and consistent stress of this "thing" that is looming, that changes plans after they have been made, that threatens us even when we can't see it, and that occupies my thoughts so many hours of the day. It is exhausting! I would rather be at work doing something for 12 hours and be tired at the end of the day, than spend 20 hours laying on the sofa dwelling about all the unknown . . . unknowns looming on the horizon.

During that Zoom call with friends, we began to share the ways each of the congregations we serve was overcoming the obstacles to "being the church" . . . one more creative than the next. For the first time in 3 weeks, I didn't feel the "woe is me . . . how will I make it??" feeling, but genuinely saw this as an opportunity to truly BE THE CHURCH while we and our neighbors are frightened and full of uncertainty. What an opportunity to understand what it means to connect with each other when we are forced to be isolated. What an opportunity to understand what it means to worship together .

. . . when we can't be together! So many new ways to understand how God's spirit occupies the space between us. So many ways to express our love for God and each other. To be honest, while we have been isolated, I feel as though I have contacted and connected with more of us than I have in the first 6 months I have been your pastor. On the first Sunday that we needed to cancel in-person worship together and we had about 38 hours to figure something out . . . I went on Facebook and shared a brief worship service and a short homily that has been viewed nearly 900 times and has passed through the Facebook feeds of over 1000 people.

I am reminded of the passage in Philippians 4:6-7:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

It doesn't mean that those of us who love Jesus or are part of a wonderful church like KFUMC won't face hardship or times of trouble, but it does remind me that in those times, a heart and mind that meditates on the love shown to us by the Prince of Peace finds rest and peace that passes understanding.

Be safe my friends! Stay home! Stay safe! and WASH YOUR HANDS!!

Pastor Mark

Kennewick 1st United Methodist Church
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www.kennewickfirst.com
facebook.com/KennewickFirstUMC

Reach Out and Touch Someone by Cynthia Bement

In 1979, the AT&T company created the slogan *Reach out and touch someone*. The original phrasing was *to communicate is the beginning of understanding, so reach out and touch someone*. While this ad was written over 40 years ago and aired on television during a time when homes were equipped with a land line phone that the family shared, it is still applicable today!



We are surrounded by many different types of technology that help us to communicate with each other. We can choose to use a computer, tablet, smart TV, smart phone, or telephone, and many households have several different devices to choose from, but even if a person doesn't use technology, the telephone, land line style, is still a great communication tool! The corona virus has us all practicing "social distancing," which is so very important to our health and the health of our community, but can leave us feeling a bit lonely. Though we can't go into the church building at this time, it is important to remember that the church is our community of faith . . . the body, not the building. Pastor Mark is bringing the Word of God through technology with the help of Margo, Amberley and Chuck, and so church is being brought to us in our homes. Rachel and Starlite are ministering to our children and youth using technology, too. The Lay Shepherds, volunteers, and I are making phone calls to many of our church members. Our first choice would be to gather in person for worship, learning, and fellowship, but challenging times call us to use all our best resources and so we are. One of my favorite scriptures is Galatians 6:10: *When we have the opportunity to do good to anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers*. This scripture goes hand-in-hand with a quote from one of John Wesley's sermons: *doing good, all possible good, in every possible kind and degree, to the household of faith, to all men*.

As part of the Kennewick First community, I encourage you to reach out and touch someone . . . do not wait for the phone to ring, be the instigator of communication and love to your neighbor through Jesus Christ. If the Holy Spirit puts someone on your heart or mind . . . call them. The Lay Shepherds are hoping to communicate with over 100 people a week, and we know there are many more who might like a call. My prayer is that this time of "social distancing" from what have been our normal gatherings in the church building will empower and enlighten us to some new ways to reach out and touch each other in safe, loving, kind ways.

I find that I am less lonely when I am communicating . . . so I will choose to reach out and do some good for me too by spending time with the Lord through prayer, quiet meditation, scripture, devotions, worship by way of technology, listening to my favorite Christian music, and by making phone calls to my friends and church family!



Newest Shepherds to the Fold

We are excited and blessed to add four new Lay Shepherds to care for the souls of the congregation. These four Lay Shepherds, like the current Lay Shepherds, have gone through training and have taken the Spiritual Gifts assessment. Each Lay Shepherd is called to serve in a manner that relates to their own spiritual gifts, which is what

makes the program at Kennewick First unique. The newest Lay Shepherds have not yet been introduced publicly to the congregation or commissioned in worship due to the current circumstances; however in light of our situation they have already been sent to serve. In the future when we are able to come together and experience face-to-face worship again, we will commission our newest Lay Shepherds: Karen Alley, Bob Arnold, Cindi Glazier, and Kathy Harris. Please lift them in prayer as they provide spiritual support for the people of Kennewick First UMC.



APRIL Birthdays

Molly Kittson	3-Apr
Jeff Varzandeh	4-Apr
Christiaan Barcot	4-Apr
Dee Yount	5-Apr
Bethany Ahrend	5-Apr
Terry Milton	6-Apr
Debbie Shirey	7-Apr
Merrienne Door	9-Apr
Dakota Welch	12-Apr
Katie Thien	13-Apr
Loretta Curley	14-Apr
Cody Simmelink	14-Apr
Brittany Dyer	14-Apr
Mercedes Haberling	14-Apr
Paige Kaiser	14-Apr
Brooke Canada	18-Apr
Brady Hagen	19-Apr
Bill Mandell	20-Apr
Kathryn Eddy	22-Apr
Victoria Kippes	22-Apr
George Block	24-Apr
Jadyn Rhodes	25-Apr
Judy Mosebar	27-Apr
Bob Kelly	27-Apr
Kathy Wertman	30-Apr
Eva Walker	30-Apr
Isabelle Howard	30-Apr



Early MAY Birthdays

Linda Tucker	2-May
Lynnaie Wright	2-May
Debra Williamson	2-May
Eric Baumann	2-May
Brandon Elvik	5-May
Patrick Bannworth	5-May
Carly Hagen	5-May
Mikayla Mason	5-May
Joshua Troxel	5-May
Don Meyers	6-May



Thoughts and Prayers

Please pray for those in need of healing, comfort, and encouragement . . .

Ron Baker, Shelby Faught, Jean Faught, Evelin Choate, Kirk Higginson, Rita McElroy, Muriel Smith, Juli Reinholz, Anita Knight, Joan Osborne, Pat Phillips, Terry Simmelink, Jennifer Bateman, Donna Troxel, Peggy Snyder, Don Meyers, Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, and our District Superintendent Rev. Joanne Coleman Campbell.

Please pray for the family and friends of Louie Brand, who passed March 23. Louie is survived by his wife, Elsie.

Lisa and Chuck Jones are grateful for the cards and expressions of comfort they have received since the passing of Lisa's father on Thursday March 26. Let's keep them in prayer as well.



Mark Your Calendar Now for the All Church Camp Out

Hood Park August 7-9

Plan to join the church family for a fun weekend of camping at beautiful Hood Park campground near Burbank. Everyone is welcome to come hang out and worship, including those who don't plan to camp overnight. Please contact Cynthia Bement at cynthia@kennewickfirst.com or call the church 509-582-2163 to reserve your spot and for more information; there are RV and tent spots available at the current park rate. The weekend will end on Sunday with outdoor worship!



Hello, church family!
Not very long ago I was welcoming the youth and leaders at the church for weekly Sunday school, Cornerstone, and youth group gatherings.

Now I am encouraging the youth and leaders to stay home and to stay healthy. In a time when we are staying home to stay healthy, we are feeling very blessed to have technology that allows us to see each other's smiles and hear each other's laughs. The Lord tells us "for where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:30, NIV). The United Methodist Youth (UMY) and 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Funday groups have been using Zoom to meet as a group and video chat online. Zoom has allowed for two or more to gather together in His name! I have loved our time together to catch up, to play games like Bingo and a scavenger hunt, to sing together and to pray together, to watch our Sunday school video curriculum together, to answer questions together, and for me to share the words that the Lord has placed on my heart. We are also doing Bible study lessons and discussion on an app that allows us to grow together every day.

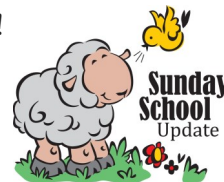
Although I do miss seeing the youth and leaders in person and meeting at the church, I have seen and felt the many blessings that come from staying connected on Zoom and on our phones. I look forward to all the ways that the Lord will continue to bless us in this time! Please keep the youth and leaders in your prayers as we stay connected virtually!

Praying that you stay healthy in every way,

*Rachel
Youth Director*



Hello from Sunday School!
All through April, we will be doing Sunday School at home. Stay connected with us through our Facebook group: Kennewick First – Children's Sunday School. This group is open to any parent, grandparent, or teacher of our Sunday School children. Each Sunday there will be helpful links/hints to our curriculum. Our page will also host some "just for fun" challenges throughout the time we are apart. Zane Mason was our first challenge winner! After completing a scavenger hunt, he won the drawing for some lively caterpillars to watch grow and change into butterflies!



All current families should have enough curriculum to get them through Easter. Additional April curriculum will follow. If your family has not received curriculum and is interested in some, please email Starlite Buchholz at starlite@kennewickfirst.com. On behalf of all your Sunday School teachers, we miss you all and can't wait to see your smiling faces again!



Hi from the Preschool class! We're having lots of fun this year. We start our class by singing songs with all the other children. We then

watch a video which introduces us to our Sunday school lesson. Next we do a little activity page and then listen to our Bible story.

Jesus gave us the best present. He wants to take our sins away because he loves us. The Bible is the only book with God's words in it. God's words are true. God is growing us into children who love and trust God.

We end our class by saying a special prayer and sharing a snack together.

The Preschool Sunday School Class