

Hi friends,

It's been a very busy week with new information coming in about the process of beginning the steps toward public "in person" worship services and public gatherings at the church. The first and most pressing thing on most of our minds is when will we be able to begin the process of having in person worship services? Although there is no specific date, our Bishop's office has asked us to refrain from any public gatherings until at least June 15th. That gives us another two-week cycle to see if trends for diagnosed cases are increasing or decreasing. Our Leadership Council, Emergency Planning team and I, as your pastor, are all in agreement that the safety of our congregation is first and foremost. Because we have such a large population in the highest risk categories, we will be following best practices and observing the county and state health departments advice and guidelines.

Second, I want to point you towards the United Methodist camping ministry web site <https://twinlow.org> – and - <http://pnwcamps.org>. Many of us have attended camps during the summer, either as a camper or as a counselor. Camp is a wonderful opportunity for our kids to make lifelong friends, have profound and inspiring connections with God and just a place to have a blast!. Many people are concerned that because of restrictions in place due to Covid-19, many camps may not be happening, and so they are hesitant to register for summer camps. KFUMC wants to not only help our camps, but make sure that our kids have an opportunity to go to camp, so we will be offering \$200 camperships to kids who register for camp. We want to make the financial burden as low as we can so that our kids can experience camp. So, if you see a camp on one of the web pages you would like to attend, register for it and let us know so we can get you signed up for the campership.

Finally, some of you have sent me emails asking for links to my Thursday devotions and updates that I do live on Facebook each Thursday at 6 pm. For those of you who don't use the FaceBook platform, here is a link to my update and devotion I did yesterday: <https://www.facebook.com/KennewickFirstUMC/videos/671530423669761/> . Feel free to take a look.

Remember that you can tune in to our YouTube channel: (<https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>) and watch our weekly Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 am! This week we have a very special event planned as we celebrate our High School Seniors. They will be sharing their thoughts and memories with us about being connected to this church we love over the years, so I hope you can join us on Sunday.

Have a great week my friends and ... GO WASH YOUR HANDS!

Pastor Mark