

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUST FOR INFORMATION:

The church office follows the Kennewick School District for school closures or delays in weather conditions. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Sunday, February 9th

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)

Sunday, February 9th

Souper Bowl of Caring, 11 am, Sanctuary

Enjoy a Bowl of Soup in Ida Payne at 11:15 am

(See Details Below)

Wednesday, February 12th

LIFT Bible Study, 6 pm, Youth Chapel

Friday, February 14th

God's Fellows Group, 11 am - Noon

(See Details Below)

Saturday, March 8th

Eddie Kenoyer's Memorial Service, 11 am,

Sanctuary

(Reception to follow in Ida Payne)

Friday News 2/7/25

As you read this, you might wonder why do you care? The answer: this is about one of the layers of the connected nature of our denomination, the United Methodist Church. We call it “connectional”, the ways that our thousands of churches, and millions of members connect with each other, and combine resources, to minister to the world that is our parish. Just as local congregations can do more to build God’s kin-dom* than any one individual, so too can many churches and conferences working together can do more, on a larger scale. Two of the ways Kennewick First UMC enjoys these connections is through our work with UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief that responds to natural disasters both domestically, in the US, and globally; and with the Missionary in Nepal whom our United Women in Faith support.

This week I have been away at training in Houston, Texas. This event was for all the administrative leaders of our United Methodist Church denomination in the US. We had Conference Treasurers, Chairs to the Conference Boards of Trustees and Committees on Finance and Administration. There were about 10 categories of leaders, including mine, which is the Conference Secretary. I am responsible for the minutes of the Annual Conference meeting; the Conference Journal – a major volume of records, and a whole host of other things, most of which are delegated to other people.

The training event consisted of three main portions:

1. Skills training – because there are always new things to know, and better ways to do the things we have been doing for some time.
2. Networking with others who are doing our same job -- so we can learn from each other and get support from each other; we are a connectional church, and we don’t have to go it alone, which is especially helpful when we are trying to follow the Book of Discipline, the lawbook of our denomination
3. Encouraging each other to BE the church at a time when the justice and compassion of Jesus are hard to see outside the church walls, and sometimes not inside the walls either.

We worshipped every morning with song, scripture, and a sermon from one of our active bishops. We met people from all the agencies of the United Methodist Church, collecting pens and literature from each table, and candy

from some. We had a playful option early each evening: trivia and bingo. Left on our own for dinner, most people had dinner with the leaders from their own Conference—there were seven of us from Pacific Northwest. It was good to share news about what is happening in the churches, with the people, and to implement the plans for our Conference made at the annual meeting in June.

All this happened in a worn-out hotel, in a neglected section of Houston, only a couple of miles from the airport. We were advised against walking in certain directions, beyond certain landmarks, and not at all at night. Texas is a state with a prevalence of guns, so everywhere is risky. Security staffed the parking lot entrances of all the hotels in the area. A low-pressure system had moved in, replacing the clearer air and cold temperatures of two weeks ago with trapped stagnant air smelling of oil burn-off, weighted with humidity, and causing those with asthma to gasp for air.

This was the first time this training was held since 2016, before Covid. What was beautiful was the cheerfulness and dedication with which people gathered. Despite the trials of the previous many years, or the challenges ahead, each was committed to their work which enables the whole church to do God's work. Every person doing their part, with their particular skills, to build the kin-dom of God.

It is a joy to me to serve with these people, using the gifts God has given me. It is also a joy for me to serve with the people of KFUMC. In Worship this week we will hear one of the stories of Jesus calling his first disciples. Those first disciples also faced trials and challenges as they joined Jesus to build God's kin-dom. The ones who wanted life to be easier said, "No thanks." What would you say, do you think?

Peace, Pastor Shirley

**kin-dom means kingdom with an emphasis on family instead of royalty*

2/9
"They Left Everything and Followed"
Pastor Shirley DeLarme
Scripture:
Luke 5: 1-11 (NRSVUE)

Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 9th the Sr. UMY will be collecting money in soup pots as you exit worship. After come to Ida Payne for a bowl of soup starting at 11:15 am. The donations are for Tackle Hunger with the Souper Bowl of Caring. This is a national youth led movement of compassionate individuals joining together to fight hunger and poverty in local communities to transform the nation's biggest weekend of football into it's largest weekend of giving and serving!

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.

Pep's Bean Soup for Sale

Pep's Bean Soup is for sale in the church office for \$9.00/bag. You can also buy a bag with corn bread mix for \$12.00/each.

We are running low!

Church Office Staff Meetings

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.

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. Thank you.