



### Women's Fellowship

**Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Class**  
10:00 -11:30 am.  
Study is in Acts.

**Ladies Hand & Foot Card Fellowship:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall. Play begins at 1:00pm. Card Fellowship is suspended until January.

### OutReach

#### *Christ's Closet*

Free Clothing for anyone in need. Open Wednesdays 9:00 – Noon.

Please bring men and boys clothing. There is a need for any men's clothing.

#### *Mountain States Children's Home*

Remember to bring supplies for the children's home box. Bring Non-Perishable Items.

#### *Food Pantry*

The pantry is located in the room left of the library. There are sacks in the pantry room if you or someone you know is in need of any of these items. Feel free to take what you need. If you have a donation for the pantry please put it on the table in the pantry room.

#### *Peru Ministry*

Support Oscar, Anna Maria, Queca and Tony Woods in their outreach in Peru.

### **Kennewick Church of Christ**

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336  
509-783-4013

Website: [www.kennewickcoc.com](http://www.kennewickcoc.com)

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ  
Church Email: [kencoc@gmail.com](mailto:kencoc@gmail.com)

#### **Meeting times:**

Sunday :  
Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am  
Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday:  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

#### **Elders:**

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; [ccbotts@hotmail.com](mailto:ccbotts@hotmail.com)  
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; [vern.engelke@gmail.com](mailto:vern.engelke@gmail.com)

#### **Deacon:**

Ken Merrick: 509-994-7813

#### **Minister:**

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

Open Congregational meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome.

December 11, 2016



### The Fellowship of the Mystery

Some psychologists are now saying that 70 percent of today's population suffers from chronic loneliness. Many people feel that no one really knows them well and they don't feel like they really know anyone else. Do you remember the poem, "No Man Is an Island?" The title of Donne's poem expresses a biblical truth: whether we know it or not, we need each other. "Be able to comprehend with all saints . . . the love of Christ" (Eph. 3:18). We can never know this love by ourselves; it is best experienced in fellowship with the saints. That's why Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt 18:20). Jesus will not fully manifest himself to us unless we are engaged in a sincere and open fellowship with other believers. We may pray, study serve, and give individually, but our experience with God will be incomplete unless we experience his Son in the lives of fellow believers.

Without a doubt, the chief hindrance to Christian fellowship is the widespread practice of Christians pretending not to have any problems. Christians putting on their everything-is-all-right masks, deliberately participate in a conspiracy of silence. We are intent on conveying to the world that we have no problems of any real consequence. This super-saint image – everything is under control, everything is just fine – is nothing new.

When the Bible says, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed" (James 5:16), it is assuming we have faults, that we need prayer, and that we need healing. Sometimes our veils of pride communicate to others that we think we have no faults. The Bible instructs church members to encourage, to forgive, to bear one another's burdens, and to be tenderhearted. When we act as if we have no problems, we cannot experience the loving care fellow church members can give.

If we would just risk vulnerability, we would see that other Christians are also struggling. In addition to finding people in the church with problems like ours, we can find help. The gospel has answers to our problems. Believers who have successfully applied God's Word to their problems would like to help others do the same. Just to know that other believers love us, care for us, pray for us, and extend themselves to us is a marvelous blessing. It is unique to Christian fellowship.

Christian fellowship involves sharing our inner lives – our thoughts and feelings – our strengths, and weaknesses.

- Jim Phillips

Attendance 12/04 A.M. Worship: 66 / Budget: \$2000.00 / Contribution 12/04: \$2699.19

<p><b>Keep these Dates in Minds:</b>  12/11 Congregational meeting at 5:00p cancelled  12/18 Rescheduled Congregational meeting at 5:00p  12/21 Soup Night at 6:00pm  12/25 Congregational meeting at 5:00p cancelled  12/30 Game Night at 6:00pm  1/1 First Sunday potluck  1/14 Men's Breakfast and fellowship  1/15 Open Conareaational Meeting at 5:00p</p>	<p><b>Bible Studies:</b>  Adult Class (S) – Hebrews; (W) – Romans - Fellowship Hall  Young Adults (S, W) – Acts - Spanish Room  Youth Classes – Classroom Wing</p>
	<p>(34) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (35) By this will all know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35</p>

### Wounds from a Friend Can Be Trusted

“Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted” (Prov. 27:5-6).

The trouble is that so often we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism, for truth hurts. It bruises our ego, makes us uncomfortable, and calls for change.

True friends don't find pleasure in hurting us. Rather, they love us too much to deceive us. They are people who, with loving courage, point out what we may already know but find hard to truly accept and live by. They tell us not only what we like to hear but also what we need to hear.

Solomon honored such friendship in his proverbs. Jesus went further—He endured the wounds of our rejection not only to tell us the truth about ourselves but to show us how much we are loved.

— Poh Fang Chia

***"Find the person that is going to tell you the truth, even if it means upsetting you. That is your real friend."***

#### A friend is one who can tell you the truth in love.

Ephesians 4:15 is a New Testament counterpart of Proverbs 27:6. It refers to two virtues that we must learn to keep in balance—“speaking the truth” and “love.” The word “speaking” is actually not an explicit part of the original Greek text, but is translated from a single verb. Some translators have suggested that the verb might better be rendered “truthing it” or “truthifying it in love.” The verb, when joined with “in love,” implies a lifestyle of integrity where truth is united with love. If we emphasize truth without love, then we can brutally hurt another person. On the other hand, if we express love at the expense of truth, we can fail to caringly confront some sin or problem that genuinely needs to be faced.

-Jim Townsend



**Health Issues:** Pam Fox's grandson, Canaco & Eli , Abigail Jones, Karen McBurney, Dustin Stecker, Doris Pennington, Betty VanVoorst, Logan Johnson (Amanda McCrickard's friend's son), Bob Childers, Eddie Petros, **Fran Henniger** Fran's Aunt Ruth died this week after undergoing surgery. She was 91.

**Clarence Bott's** sister Gloria Ford lost her battle with cancer this last week. They traveled back to Texas to be with family.

**Gayle Caldwell** fell and broke her shoulder. She has asked for some help to do some of the daily chores she can't do right now.

**Frank Shaw** is out of the hospital and staying with family for the next two weeks while he recovers.

**Bob Childers** moved into rehab while he continues to regain his strength and works on his balance issues.

**Will Crow and his Wife** are experiencing some marital issues and are in need of prayers. (Will is a former member, the son of Jeff and Kathy Crow also former members.)

**In the Military:** Levi Toombs

**Amanda McCrickard** has a new phone number (509)396-8476

### Blessed Are . . . The Meek

(Matthew 5:5)

We tend to associate meekness with people who are quiet, mild-mannered, and weak-willed, but meekness does not suggest weakness or cowardice. When Jesus uses this term and talks about the meek inheriting the earth, He is actually quoting from [Psalm 37:11](#), a text His audience would have been familiar with. In that context, the psalm refers to the righteous poor, who are being threatened and oppressed by the wicked wealthy. In the face of such oppression, the meek do not worry because of evildoers, but instead trust in God, knowing that He will root out the wicked.

In light of all this, meekness actually suggests *strength* of character, not weakness. It describes those who are able to remain patient and composed in the face of insult and injury.

In a society where people are offended by all sorts of things, it may *seem* like a brave thing to constantly complain about how everyone is annoying you, but really, it is a very *weak* position: you are admitting that other people have constant control over your emotions and response. Those who are meek, on the other hand, boldly refuse to give others control over their responses. Instead, empowered by the knowledge that God is in control and will ultimately vindicate them, the meek are strong enough in character to shake off the slights and insults of others, even from those who, from a worldly perspective, might be in a position of superiority over them.

-Luke Dockery

(11)But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. (Psalm 37:11)