



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 15th

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)

The World's Greatest Love Story

Scripture:

Hosea 11:1-9

Sunday, June 22nd

Retirement Celebration for Cynthia Bement

11 am, SWR/Narthex

Sunday, July 13th

Parsonage Open House, 1-5 pm

Friday News 6/13/25

As I was reading about Hosea this week, one commentator remarked that the story of Hosea is about the love of God that will. not. quit.

Immediately the hymn *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* started singing in my head. Here is the first verse of the poem:

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

God's love is like the ocean – it will not quit. It is deep, vast, and endless. It is greater than any effort we humans might make to tame it, or manage it, or ignore it! It is overwhelming, frightful, powerful, stunning, beautiful. It is so full of life!

Rev. George Matheson was a Scottish Presbyterian minister, hymn writer and prolific author who began going blind at the age of 17. In 1882, at age 40, he wrote this hymn. About the poem Rev. Matheson wrote: *"I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes, and equally sure that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction. I have no natural gift of rhythm. All the*

other verses I have ever written are manufactured articles; this came like a dayspring from on high."

It seems that Rev. Matheson must have felt awash in the love he wrote about when he received the gift of that poem from God. What an amazing experience that would have been.

There are times when I have feel awash in God's love. When I am with my grandkids, when I hear birdsong, when I smell brownies baking, when we sing a beloved and familiar song in worship, when watching the wind ruffle fields of grasses, when feeling the surf on my toes...

God's great love comes for each of us. Hosea will tell us that God disciplines us because of our failure to be faithful. But Hosea will also tell us that God never, ever, stops loving us. God cannot bear the idea of *not* loving us. God's love is faithful and as deep as the ocean.

Despite our unfaithfulness, may our love for God be genuine and full in return.

See you in Church. Pastor Shirley

Here is the whole poem, #480 in our United Methodist Hymnal.

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
that in Thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow thru the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

Retirement Celebration for Cynthia Bement

ATTENTION!!! Everyone is invited to the celebration of Cynthia Bement's many years of service at her retirement reception following worship on Sunday, June 22nd. A longtime member of Kennewick First United Methodist Church, Cynthia started as Youth Director in 1992 and, after her many years of incredible service in that role, Cynthia took on the role of Congregational Care Coordinator for several more years of heart felt service. Cynthia will surely be missed as she has done so much and helped so many people in these two roles for so many years. The reception will have cake and punch. There will not be any gifts but there will be a basket for cards. We hope to see you there!

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, or wedding, etc., for an extra fee. The cost of each 6” by 12” 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!

Church 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.