



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 29th

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)

“How God Sees Us Today”

Rev. Steven Lewis, Ph.D

Scripture:

Amos 1: 2-12, 5: 7-15

Sunday, July 13th

All-Church Barbeque

Bidding Farewell to

Claressa Elvik & Starlite Buchholz

11 am, Ida Payne

(See Details Below)

Sunday, July 27th – DATE CHANGE

Parsonage Open House, 1-5 pm

Friday News 6/27/25

Why did you change the words?

That's the question asked about our current Doxology in worship. It's #95 in our hymnal, sung to the tune Old 100th – yes, that's the tune name.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below.,
praise God, above ye heavenly hosts,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The change that was made replaces the pronoun “him” with the proper name God. This is an invitation to inclusiveness.

If God is understood as being only male, then females might find it harder to understand themselves as created in God's image. In truth, God is neither male nor female, but both and greater than both!

Of course, the effort only helps so far. The word God in our English language is a masculine word, but could you imagine us trying to sing “praise goddess from whom...” That doesn't fit the tune! And the word Father is also masculine. You could sing “mother”, if you like, since God gives birth and nurtures as mothers do--see the reference to God as a mother hen in Psalm 91. But Fathers also nurture, so there's that. It is getting messy!

Another doxology in our hymnal, just one pager earlier, page #94, uses the tune Lasst Uns Erfreuen. Since I was raised in churches

of German descent, this is the melody and wording I grew up singing, except when I visited my grandmother's Methodist church and we have been singing here. See these lyrics from my childhood:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!

Praise the Sprit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Over the years I've thought about the names of the beings in the Trinity. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are some of our favorite names. The words Father and Son evoke family relations, which can be warm and cozy, full of love. However, those who were raised by an abusive Father might prefer alternate words. Some use the formula of Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. I love how much those words tell us about who the wholeness of God is! But those words are lacking the relationship aspect, something that is also very much who God is.

Bottom line, no words are adequate to define or describe God. God will always be more than we capture with words or any sort of artistic endeavor.

Each of us should come to God with words that come from our heart and our relationship with God, and we should welcome others to do the same. The words on the screen in worship are to invite people to expand their understanding of God as we sing, and to be embraced by the fullness of God. And if the words that flow lovingly from your tongue are masculine, that is quite fine!

Some have suggested that, as a female preacher, I should refer to God as “she”, but that seems to get stuck on my tongue. So, I stick with the proper name, God, and have become used to a slight hitch in my conscience when I use the pronoun “he” for simplicity. And I keep on loving God with all my being.

Whichever words you use, come to God with love in your heart and flowing from your lips. And give praise, always!

Pastor Shirley

ALL CHURCH BBQ!

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025

11:00am, Ida Payne

Your Church Leadership Council is sponsoring a BBQ in honor of Claressa and Starlite and their families. We will be celebrating their new direction and thanking them for their service to KFUMC.

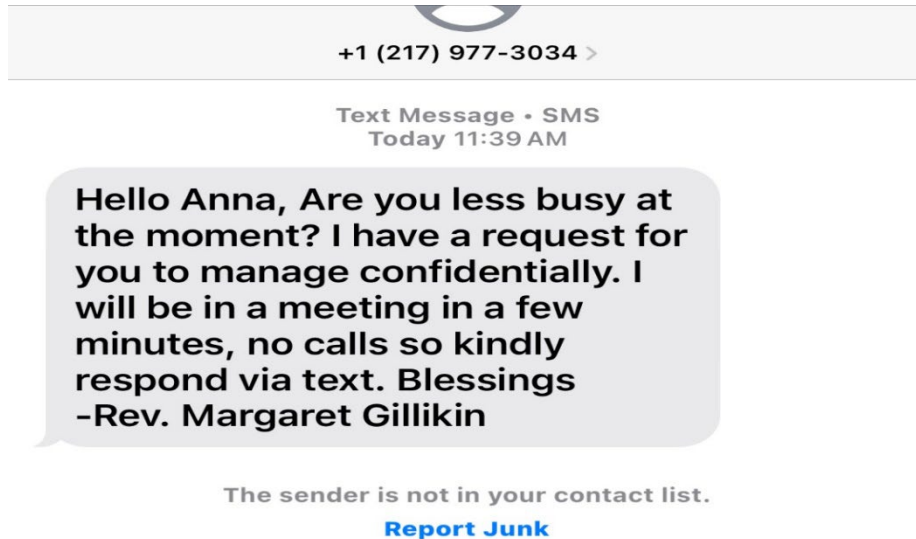
The Council will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs, all related fixings for them, all eating utensils needed, water, lemonade, and chips.

We are asking the congregation to please help by bringing additional food items:

Last Names starting with A – K
Please bring a salad

Last Names starting with L – Z
Please bring a dessert

If questions, please reach out to a member of the Leadership Council



Watch out for Email and Text Scams

The above text was sent to fellow congregation members at another UMC church. It is SPAM! Please remember that church staff will NEVER text or email asking for gift cards or money. Please look carefully at the sender's phone number or email address.

One particular email one is, "Shhhhhh – you are invited to..." Please be safe and cautious, and contact the church office when in doubt.

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, 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!

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.