

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, September 21st
Holly Daze Workshop,
Susanna Wesley Room, 9 am
(see details below)**

**Saturday, September 21st
Quilt Show, 10 am – 4 pm, Sanctuary**

**Sunday, September 22nd
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)**

**Saturday, October 19th
Holly Daze Bazaar, 9 am – 3 pm**

**Sunday, October 27th
Tailgate Trunk or Treat, 4:30 – 6 pm, Parking Lot**

**Sunday, November 24th
All-Church Potluck, 11 am, Ida Payne**

**Sunday, November 24th
All-Church Conference, 12:30 pm, Youth Chapel**

Friday News 9/20

**The Same Thing, Only Different: worship way
back then and new again now**

As products of the Enlightenment, we 21st century Christians like to share and process information with words and reason. Spoken words, written words out; spoken words, written words in. That is

primarily how our education system is set up and how much of the worship in mainline churches happens. Speak prayers, read scripture, listen to a spoken sermon.

For much of history education and worship were not done this way. Education was done by students learning at the elbows of their teachers, by watching, imitating and doing, receiving correction and affirmation. Worship was done using all the senses, seeing and experiencing sacred spaces; watching detailed rituals of sacrificing, pouring, burning; smelling the burning of sacrifices and incense; feeling and , hearing the sounds of jubilation and horns, soft lyres and moaning hums. All this created all the feels* of the presence of the sacred when the people gathered for worship, and even when they did private devotions.

In Exodus 15, after Moses led the people over the sea on dry land, "Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing", worshipping the God who delivered them from slavery and captivity.

The Psalmist often urges us to sing, dance, and use percussion instruments as we "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands" and to "serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing...Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. (Psalm 100)

Rituals in worship were elaborate and proscribed in detail in our scriptures so the priests would get it right. For the many types of offering (grain, burnt, sin, trespass, fellowship, peace, guilt, meat, sacrifice) there are specific instructions. In Leviticus 3 we find this messy ritual:

3 "If your offering is a fellowship offering, and you offer an animal from the herd, whether male or female, you are to present before the Lord an animal without defect. ² You are

to lay your hand on the head of your offering and slaughter it at the entrance to the tent of meeting. Then Aaron's sons the priests shall splash the blood against the sides of the altar. ³ From the fellowship offering you are to bring a food offering to the Lord: the internal organs and all the fat that is connected to them, ⁴ both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the long lobe of the liver, which you will remove with the kidneys. ⁵ Then Aaron's sons are to burn it on the altar on top of the burnt offering that is lying on the burning wood; it is a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the Lord.

Are you relieved that today our rituals are less messy? Some of the prophets who came along a few hundred years later, such as Isaiah, Micah, and Amos, tell us God rejects those messy sacrifices, desiring sacrifices of our hearts and behaviors. Amos 5:21–24 reports God saying:

21 I hate, I reject your festivals,
and I do not delight in your assemblies.
22 Even if you bring me burnt offerings,
and your grain offerings, I will not accept them.
I will not even look at the communion sacrifices of your
fatlings.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs!
I do not want to hear the music of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like waters,
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Those rituals and sacrifices are metaphorically spoken, but no less real. We remember the “Micah Mandate” (Micah 6:8) "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Today we are more likely to use candles, writing words on papers that we display or burn, strips of fabric that we tie or weave together.

The fragrances we offer to God are also metaphorical, also real, such as the genuine repentance that comes from a humble and contrite heart. In Ephesians 5 Paul wrote instructed us to be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. We are the fragrance of Christ when we imitate Him and sacrifice ourselves for others in love.

In our worship at KFUMC we are experimenting with some fresh and old ways to worship God that help us engage and experience the holy not just with words but with all the feels*. We might pray with our body. We might dramatize scripture. We might substitute different words so that we can see the meaning behind the words instead of glossing over the familiar. We might sing a refrain enough times that it serves like a mantra humming through our body for the whole day.

Let us encourage and affirm the people whom God is using to plan and lead worship: the Worship Committee, the creative people planning visual arts, music, young disciple moments, ritual moments, as well as all the background support of bulletins, sound & camera, security & welcome, and more! Including the worshippers who bring their whole selves and their lives to worship and serve the God of Love.

Pastor Shirley

*All the feels" is a slang term that describes an intense emotional reaction, often with a humorous tone

9/22
Come to the Table
"Table of Peace"

Scripture:
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18: 21-35

Holly Daze Workshop

The Holly Daze Bazaar is only five weeks away on **Saturday, October 19th**. We need your help with the following: Our apple pie team would like some donated apples – most varieties work, but they need to be cooking apples. Other future needs: pumpkins and succulents for pumpkin centerpieces, and late garden produce, such as winter squash, potatoes, and sometimes tomatoes, and apples for the farm store. The bake shop will also be requesting donated baked goods closer to the time of the bazaar. Thank you so much for the support you give this fund-raising endeavor for United Women of Faith (formerly UMW.)

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.

Sanitizers Work Best When Used

Recently the Facilities Team noticed our standing Hand Sanitizing Dispensers were not working. After investigation and a thorough cleaning, they are now repaired and working properly, however we do need your help to keep them that way! There has been another spike in Covid recently, and there are also other bugs that can harm those with compromised immune systems. Our hands easily pick up germs from every surface we touch. Please protect yourself and others by using these dispensers each time you pass one. This will also keep them free-flowing and prevent clogs. A little dab will do, and better safe than sorry. Thanks for your help.

ALERT!

Impersonation Attempts

This week, we've seen an increase in sophisticated impersonation and social engineering attempts. Be prepared to defend against these bad actors by staying informed and vigilant.

Overview

- Attack Methods: Emails, phone calls, and text messages are being used to attempt access to online accounts and sensitive information.
- Deceptive Techniques: Bad actors use Caller ID spoofing and voice generation to create a false sense of safety and familiarity.

Key Points

- No Personal Info Requests: We will never contact you by phone, email, or text to ask for personal information like your account number, verification codes, or online banking username.

Security Reminders

- Email Security
 - Verify the sender's email address by hovering over the name.
 - Avoid opening suspicious links or attachments.
- Be wary of emails creating urgency or using scare tactics.

- Phone Call Security
 - Do not trust caller ID; it can be spoofed.
- If asked for sensitive information or if something doesn't seem quite right, hang up and call the trusted number for your banker or branch.
 - Text Message Security
 - Your bank will NEVER ask for personal information via text.
 - Do not click links from unknown senders.
- Verify the sender before taking any action and delete suspicious messages.

Build Trust with Us

- Get to know your bank and our team better by visiting the branch. Familiarize yourself with our branch staff and get to know your banker. Building a personal relationship with us can help you better recognize legitimate communications and be more secure.

By recognizing these signs and staying vigilant, you can protect yourself and your family from potential scams and ensure your financial security.

For safety tips on fraud prevention, visit: <https://cfbhfg.com/security-and-fraud-prevention/>

Community First Bank is a member of the American Banker's Association (ABA). Their campaign of Banks Never Ask That continues to cover these critical topics. To learn more, visit: [Banks Never Ask That! Fraud Prevention](#)