

April 10, 2024,

**Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow**  
[Psalm 135](#)

*“Lord, your name is forever! Lord, your fame extends from one generation to the next! The Lord gives justice to his people and his compassion on those who serve him.” (Psalm 135: 13-14, CEB)*

I've been a member of Wellsburg United Methodist Church for over 50 years. Wow! That is a long time – at least by human standards! I was taken in by Profession of Faith at the ripe young age of 18/19. This is the church where my husband (yes, I was a very young bride) and family were members. My father-in-law was active there at the time, so I followed him to this church. He was a member of the Men's Sunday School Class, and – being shy at the time (if you can imagine that!) – I even followed him into that class. They accepted me graciously.

When I reflect on how the universal church, the United Methodist Church, this congregation, and my life have changed over these many years, there are two things that have not: this wonderful old church building (built in 1853) and, of course, GOD. God is the same and God's *“fame extends from one generation to the next!”* While four generations of Clayton and Mary Ruth Ramsey's family have now been involved at WUMC, our God of Psalm 135 – our good, great, creating, conquering, eternal, righteous, and compassionate God – has been the same God.

This majestic Psalm of worship – which begins and ends with *“Praise the Lord!”* – tells why we should: God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, for the Lord's *“name is forever!”* We can count on that fact! God is creator of all, gives justice and compassion to the people who count themselves as God's own, and reigns over all the false idols of this world. And he has, does, and will do all these things and so much more FOREVER!

You know, now that I think about it, this majestic 171-year-old church building has been majorly damaged twice and has (much like my nearly-70-year-old body) degraded with time, requiring rebuilding and repairs, but God has always, ALWAYS been the over-arching presence! I take great comfort in this fact in these angst-ridden times. I have great hope for all the wonder-filled and grace-filled possibilities that lie ahead – because God is FOREVER! Praise the Lord indeed!

***Let us pray:*** *Holy Lord, we are thankful to be counted among your “treasured possessions.” We are thankful that you have been and are and always will be present with us. And so, in this post-Easter season, we sing praises to your holy name because it is beautiful to do so. Amen.*

(M.J. Patricia) Pat Ramsey  
Wellsburg UMC, Wellsburg, WV  
Certified Lay Minister assigned to Ruble UMC, Wheeling, WV  
CLM liaison on the Northern District Committee on Ministry  
Member of the Northern District Laity/Lay Academy Team