



Sunday, May 5, 2024

Culmore  
United Methodist Church

Welcome and  
Good Morning!

A collage of paper leaves and petals on a textured brown background. The collage features several light green leaves and several yellow-orange petals, some with white speckles, arranged in a circular pattern. The background is a textured, brownish-purple surface with visible brushstrokes and a dark brown border.

# Communion

*Art by Sue Carroll*

# Happy Birthday!

Once again it's your birthday. Once again the time is here.  
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.  
Happy time is your birthday, happy time this year.  
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.  
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.  
For you have Jesus Christ everyday of your life.  
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.  
The Lord bless and keep you.  
Happy birthday to you. And to Jesus with you.  
God bless you and keep you. Happy birthday to you.





## Kingdom of God

The kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed. When it is sown in the earth, it is the smallest seed.

It is like the kingdom of God and a mystery.

For when it is sown, it grows into the largest plant, greater than all of the herbs, and grows into a tree. It grows so birds can rest inside its crown of leaves, deep in its shadows, away from any evil prey.

And so we can liken it to seeds which make a tree larger than all of the trees from just the smallest seed.



## Opening Prayer - Proverbs 30: 7-9

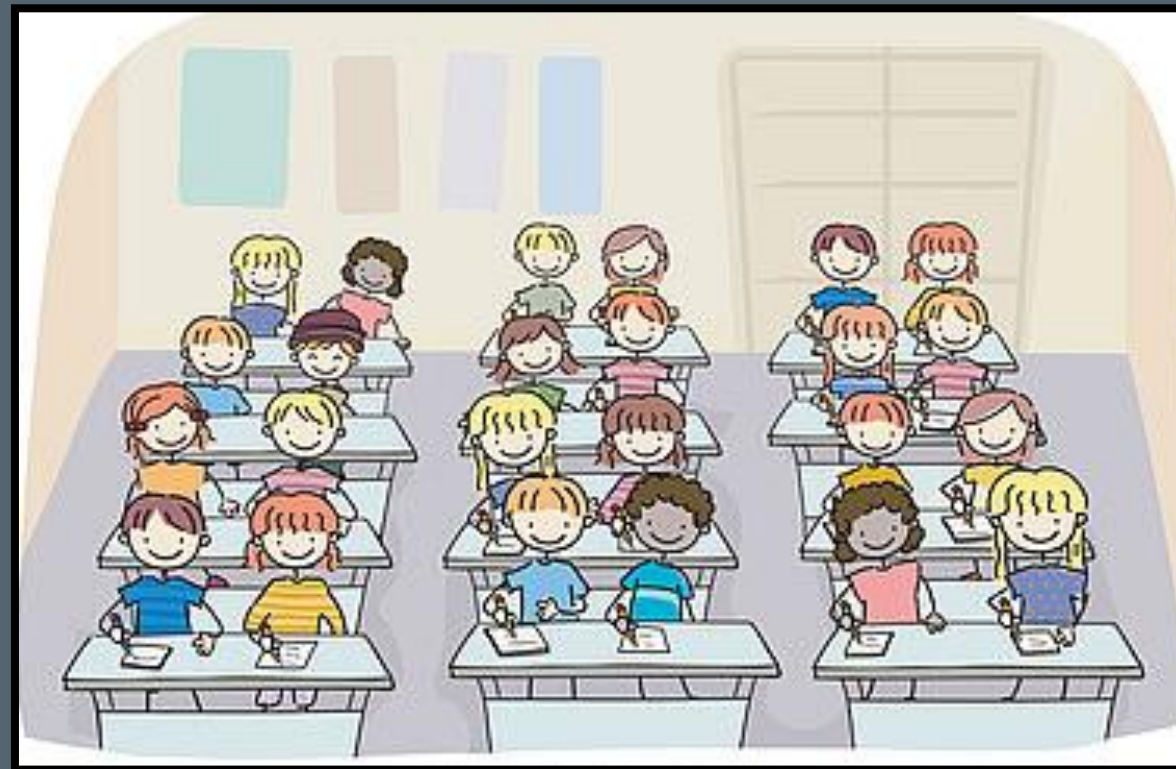
Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die:  
Keep falsehood and lies far from me. Give me neither poverty nor riches,  
but give me only my daily bread.

Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, "Who is the LORD?"  
or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

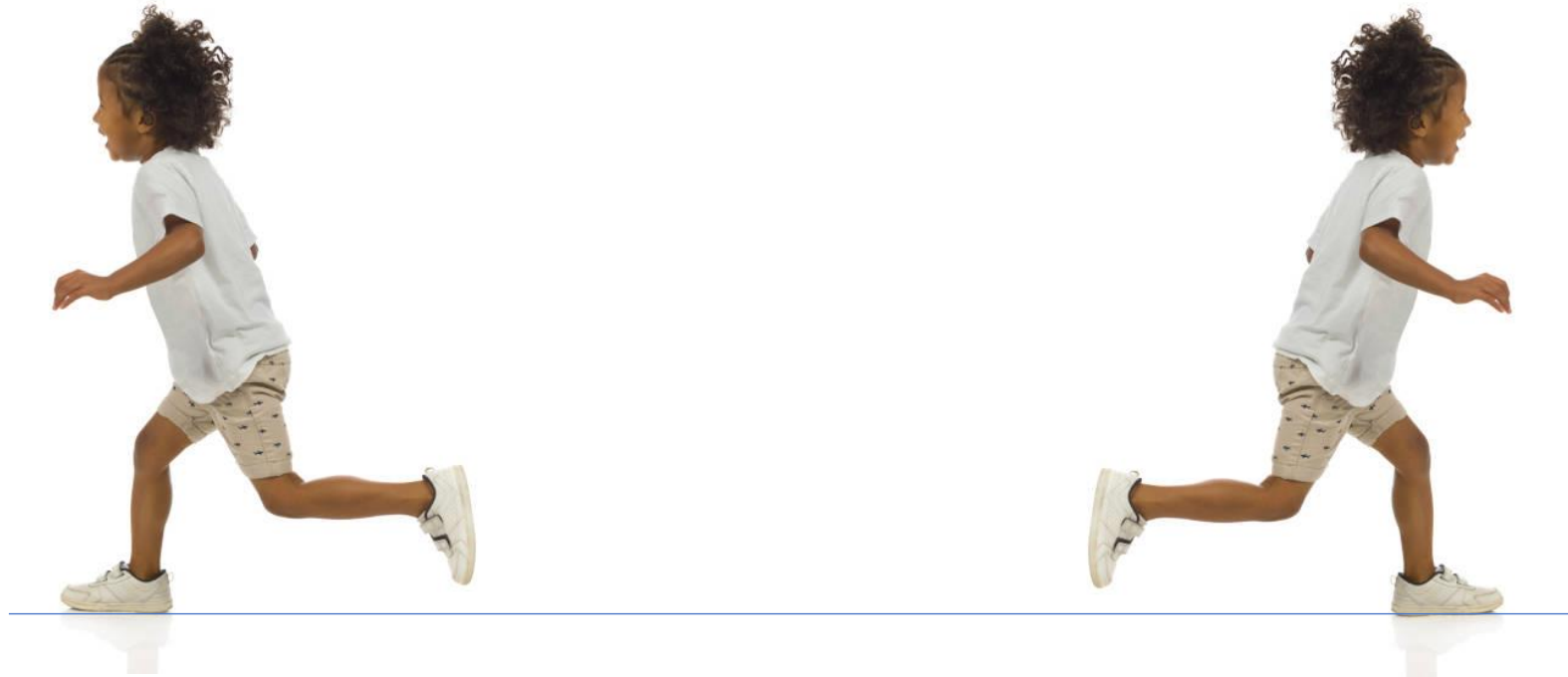
Oh Father, help me give up my things and go wholeheartedly after You.

**Amen.**

# Lessons for the Young and Young at Heart

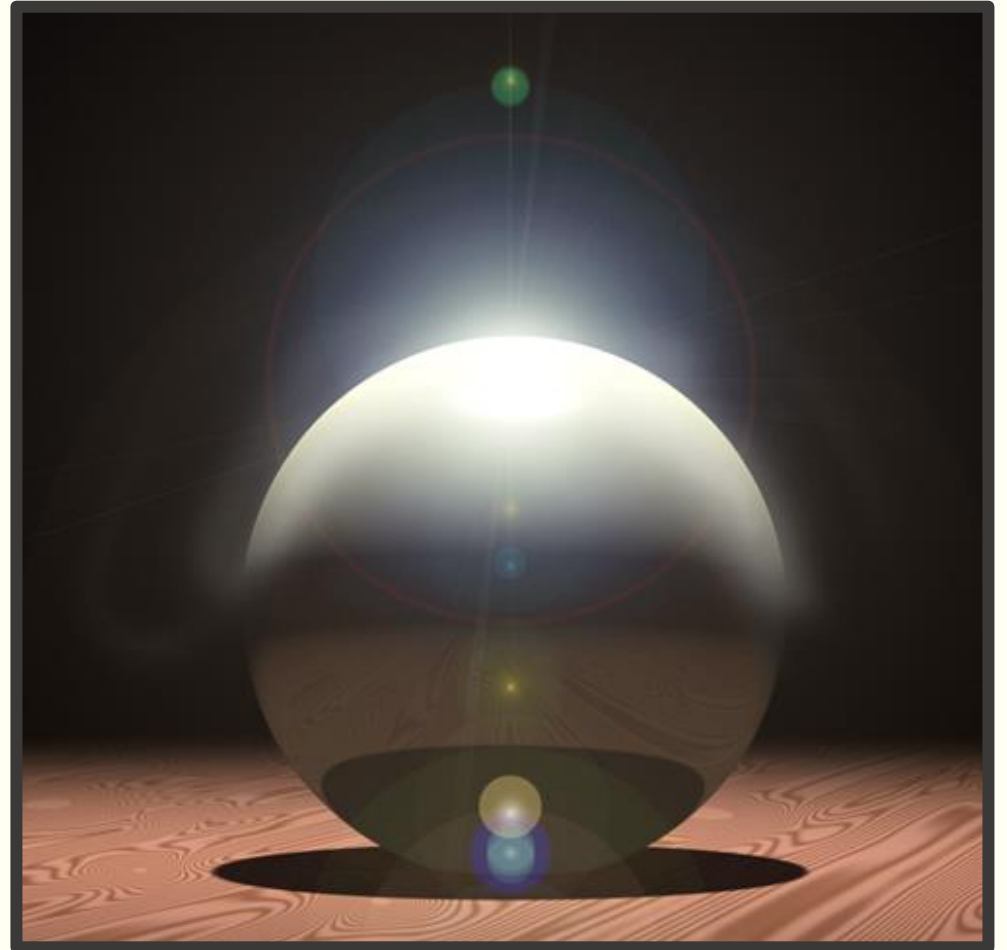


We can't run a race in two directions.  
There's only one finish line.



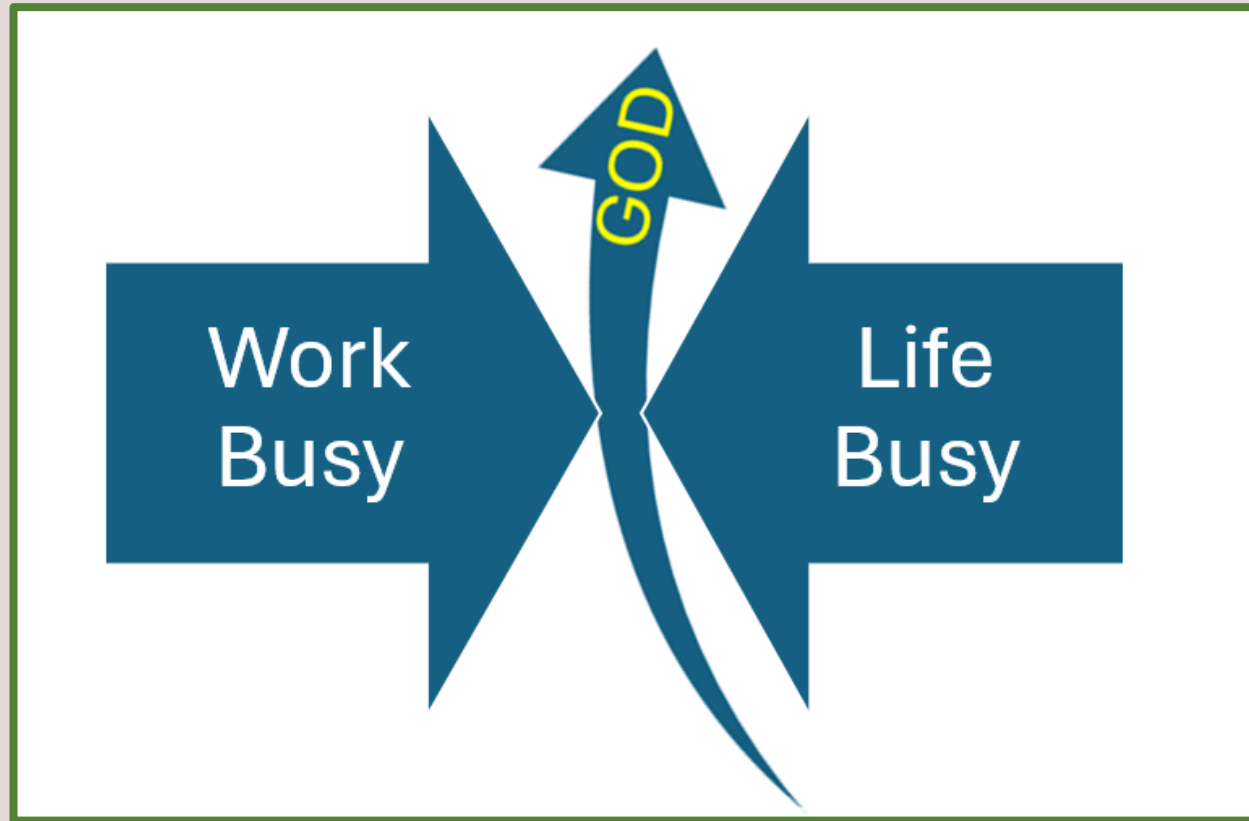
## Matthew 13:45-46

Jesus said: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.





The **busyness** for things  
squeezes God's business  
out of our lives.



O Lord won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz  
My friends all drive Porsches  
I

**GOTTA HAVE THEM:  
Cashmere socks!**



**Only \$575!!**



**...and you can pay over time!!**

## Luke 12: 15

Jesus said, "One's life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."



## Matthew 6: 19-21,33

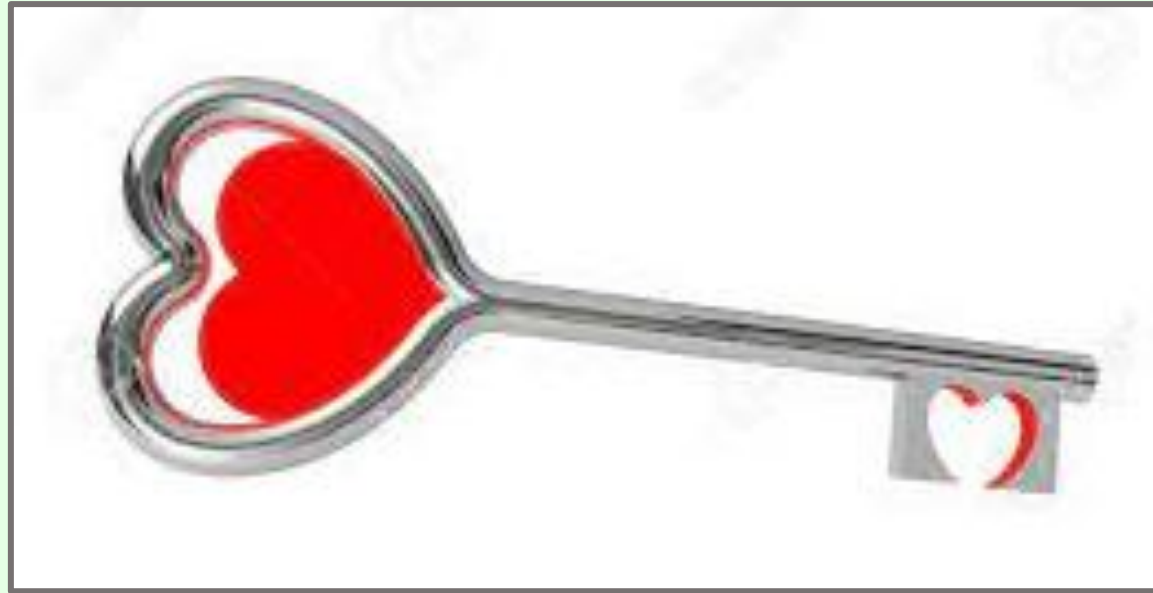
"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.



But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be given to you as well.



# Seek Ye First



Seek ye first the Kingdom of God  
And His righteousness  
And all these things shall be added unto you  
Allelu Alleluia  
Ask and it shall be given unto you  
Seek and ye shall find  
Knock and it shall be opened unto you  
Allelu Alleluia



## Mark 10:17-31

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"



You know the commandments:  
'Do not murder, do not  
commit adultery, do not steal,  
do not give false testimony,  
do not defraud, honor your  
father and mother.'



"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."



At this the man's face fell.  
He went away sad, because  
he had great wealth. Jesus  
looked around and said to  
his disciples, "How hard it is  
for the rich to enter the  
kingdom of God!"



The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."



# Community Prayer

Our Loving Father, who is always with us, we need Your constant presence in our lives. We want to respond the same way, but do we? It's all about our priorities and our choices on a daily basis. When we promise to be Kingdom people, we don't always follow through, because it is hard to turn over to You all the areas of our lives. We like to stay in charge.

Sometimes we're tempted to hold back things that we would rather pursue on our own, making our own choices...and our choices reflect what we treasure.

Help us to recognize our tendencies to walk alone instead of bringing You ALL of our choices and concerns, for Your guidance.

Your choices are so much better than ours! ***Amen.***





# Offering and Doxology

## UM Hymnal 95



We give thanks for this wonderful,  
generous community of faith.

## Matthew 13:44-45

Again, the kingdom of heaven  
is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

When he found one of great value,  
he went away and sold everything he had  
and bought it.



# Communion



*Art by Sue Carroll*

# Holy Communion



God asks that we love him, confess our sins, and grow close to him in faith.

In this holy space, let us prepare our hearts and minds to receive his holy sacrament.

## Prayer of Confession & Declaration of Forgiveness

Our heavenly Father, You know how often we stumble.

We don't come to this table trusting in ourselves;

but instead, trusting in You and Your unfailing mercy.

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, which proves

His love and grace. We are a forgiven people. *Amen*

# The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you;

*Congregation: and also with you.*

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

*Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.*

Pastor: It is a good and joyful thing to always give thanks to you.  
Even when we turned away and our love failed, your love  
remained steadfast. And so we praise Your Holy name.



Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,  
*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,*

God of power and might,  
*God of power and might,*

Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
*Heaven and earth are full of your glory*

Hosanna in the highest.  
*Hosanna in the highest.*

Blessed is he who  
*Blessed is he who*

Comes in the name of the Lord.  
*Comes in the name of the Lord.*

Hosanna in the highest.  
*Hosanna in the highest.*



On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

*"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.*

*Do this in remembrance of me."*





When the supper was over, he took the cup, he gave thanks to You, gave it to his disciples, and said, *"Drink from this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

... And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



Christ has died,

*Christ has died,*

Christ is risen,

*Christ is risen,*

Christ will come again.

*Christ will come again.*

Hosanna in the highest.

*Hosanna in the highest.*





*Photo by James Gardner*

**All honor and glory is yours,  
almighty God, now and forever.**

**Amen, amen, amen.**

***Amen, amen, amen.***



## Blessing of the Elements

Loving and eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the entire world, until Christ comes in final victory. **Amen**

## Breaking of the Bread



## Lifting of the Cup



Just as there is one loaf, we who are many are one body.  
Just as we all partake of one loaf, the bread which we share  
is also a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing of the Blood of Christ.

# Partaking of the Elements





Benediction