Sunday, December 21, 2025

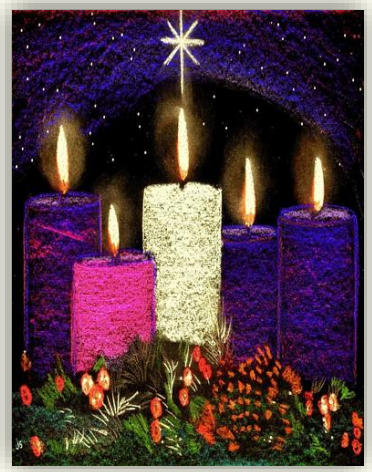
Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning!

Welcome and Announcements

Happy Birthday, Larry!

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.



We Light the Candle of Love

Love came down at Christmas.

These five words tell us all we need to know about Christmas. For God so loved us so that he sent his son to live among us.

Truly God's Love came down at Christmas.

Truly God taught us to love one another.

His law is love and His gospel is peace.

As we light the candle of love,

help us finally put into action

what you have taught us all along:

"Love each other as I have loved you."

Art by Sue Carroll

A Candle is Burning

A candle is burning, a candle of Love
A candle to point us to heaven above
A baby for Christmas
of wonderful birth
for Jesus is bringing God's love
to our earth.

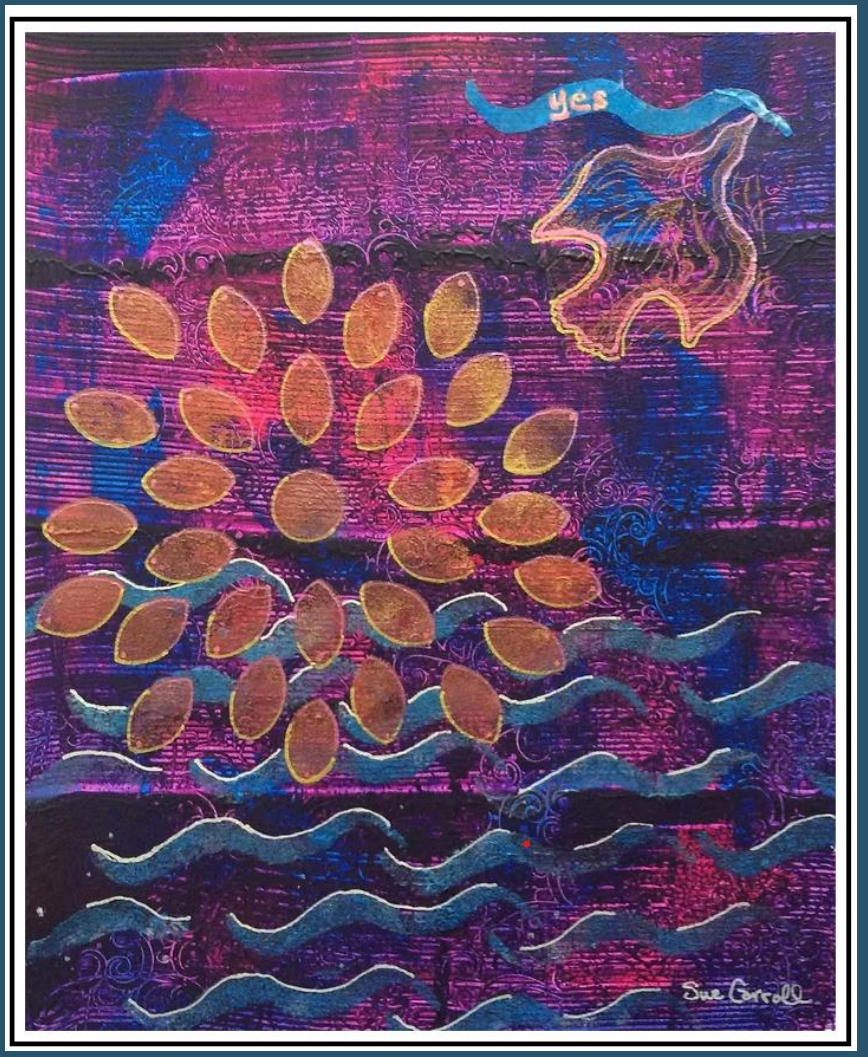
Jeremiah 31:3

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

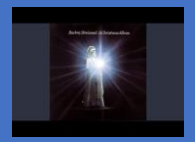
John 3:16

For God so loved the world that
He gave His only begotten son,
that whosoever believes in him
shall not perish,
but have everlasting life.



Art by Sue Carroll

I Wonder as I Wander



I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die,
For poor ordinary people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds & all;
But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's Angels in heaven to sing,
He surely could have it for he was the King.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die,
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

Responsive Reading: 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

Love is patient, love is kind.

Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant.

It does not insist on its own way or easily angered.

It is not irritable or resentful.

Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,

endures all things.

Love never fails.

Opening Prayer

Lord, let Christmas enter our hearts, pure and simple. We are a hurting world in need of Your healing touch. We are a lost people in need of Your guiding light. We are a struggling people in need of faith in You.

Lord, let Christmas enter our hearts, pure and simple. Let us accept Your gift of love and let it transform us. Let us become the loving people You have created us to be. Let us *listen, understand, and believe* the Good News of Christmas.

Lord, let Christmas enter our hearts, pure and simple. ***Amen***

So What's
in it
for me?

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-7

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out

from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

So all went to be registered, everyone to their own city.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth,

into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem,

because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered

with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

So it was, that while they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

What Child Is This – UMH 219

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

John 13: 34-35

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Expressions of loving kindness

which flow from intentional action

hesed
the astonishing kindness of God

SCHULZ

Art by Sue Carroll

Community Prayer

Father God, we love You because You first loved us. You created us to love and worship You, and then You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to show us more about how much You love us. You love all of Your children, and want all of us to come to You, to be in relationship with You. There is no greater love than that, since none of us deserve it.

Mary and Joseph gave us such good examples of how You want us to respond when You call us to Your service—no questions, no complaints, no excuses why they should not be called. Instead, they both responded immediately with faith and trust in You.

Christmas is our reminder to be a blessing to others—to all of our neighbors, and not just selected ones. The needs around us are so great, but we have been given so much. ***Amen***

Offering and Doxology

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,

If I were a wise man, I would do my part,

Yet what can I give Him — Give my heart.

Benediction