



Sunday, April 21, 2024

Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning

Happy Birthday, Harry!

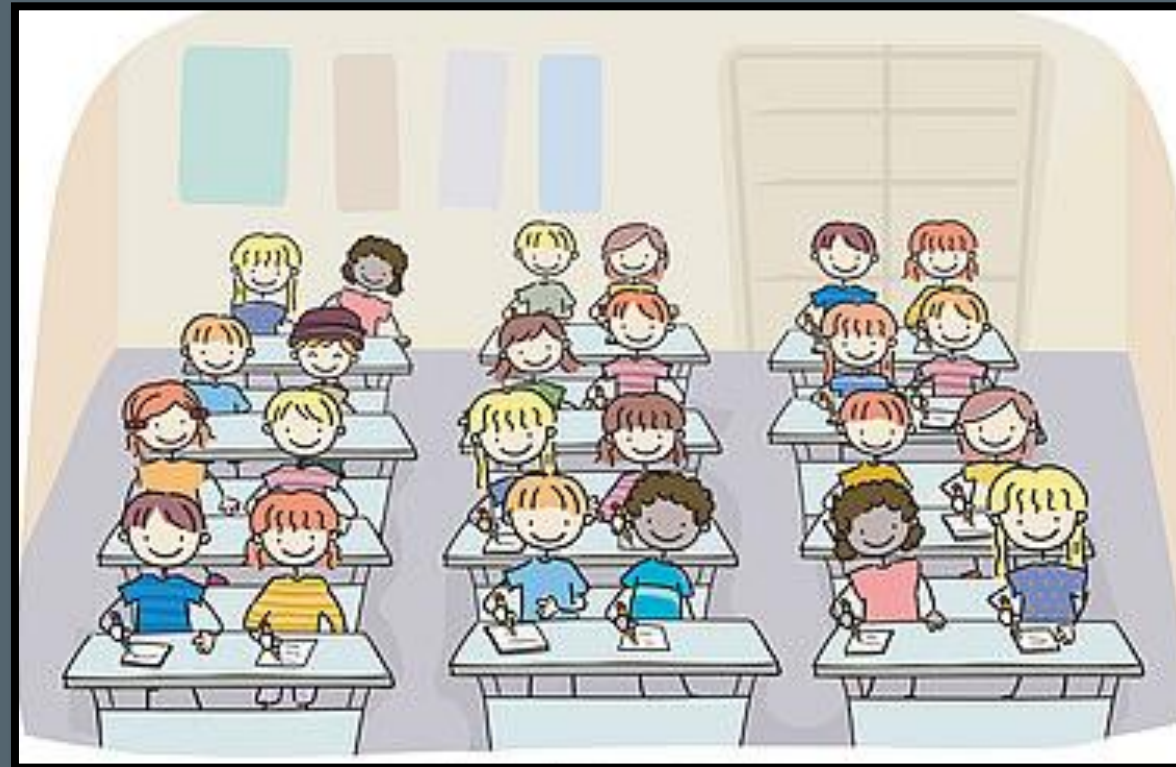
Once again it's your birthday. Once again the time is here.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Happy time is your birthday, happy time this year.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
For you have 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.

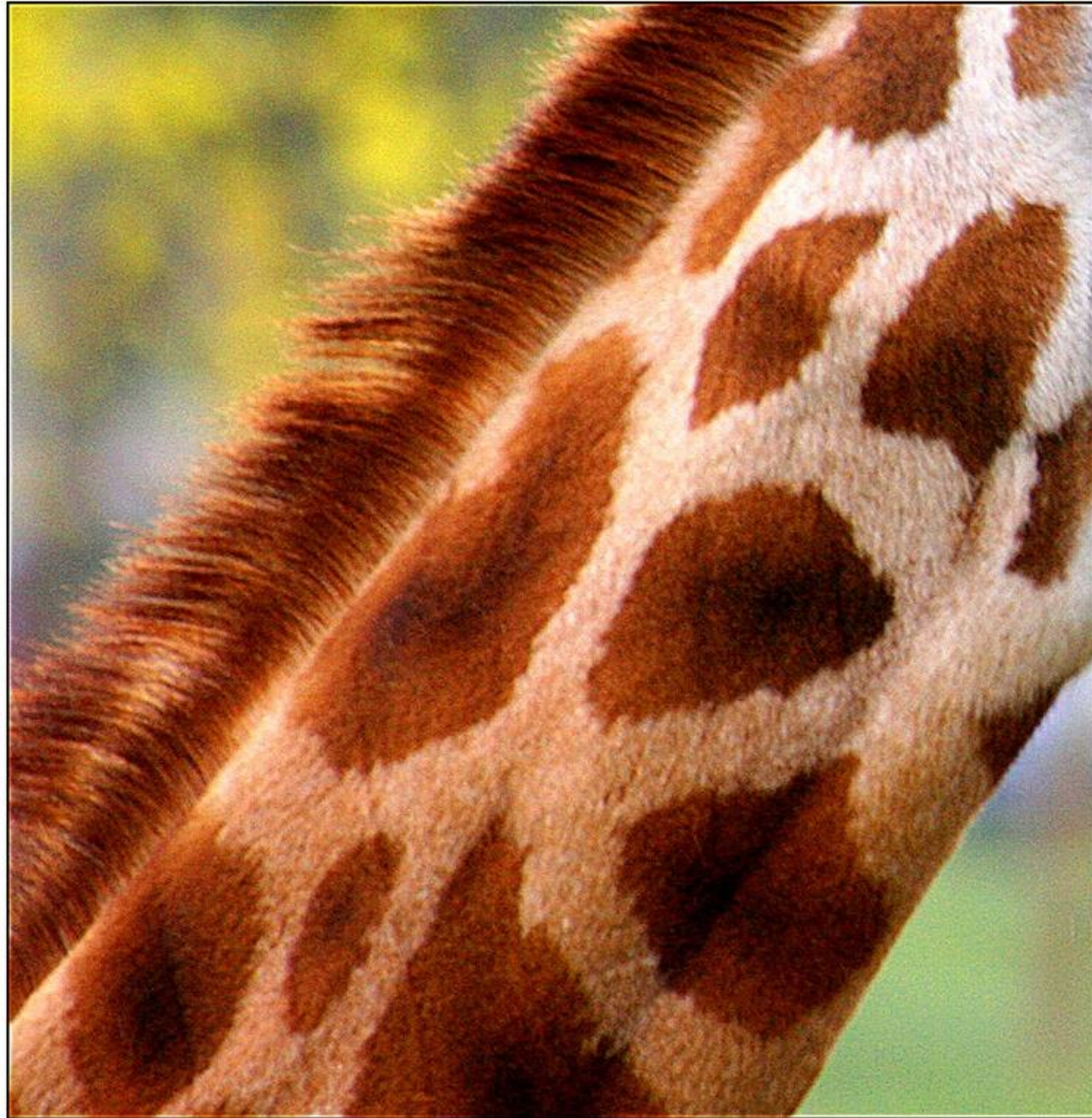




What am I seeing?

Lessons for the Young and Young at Heart





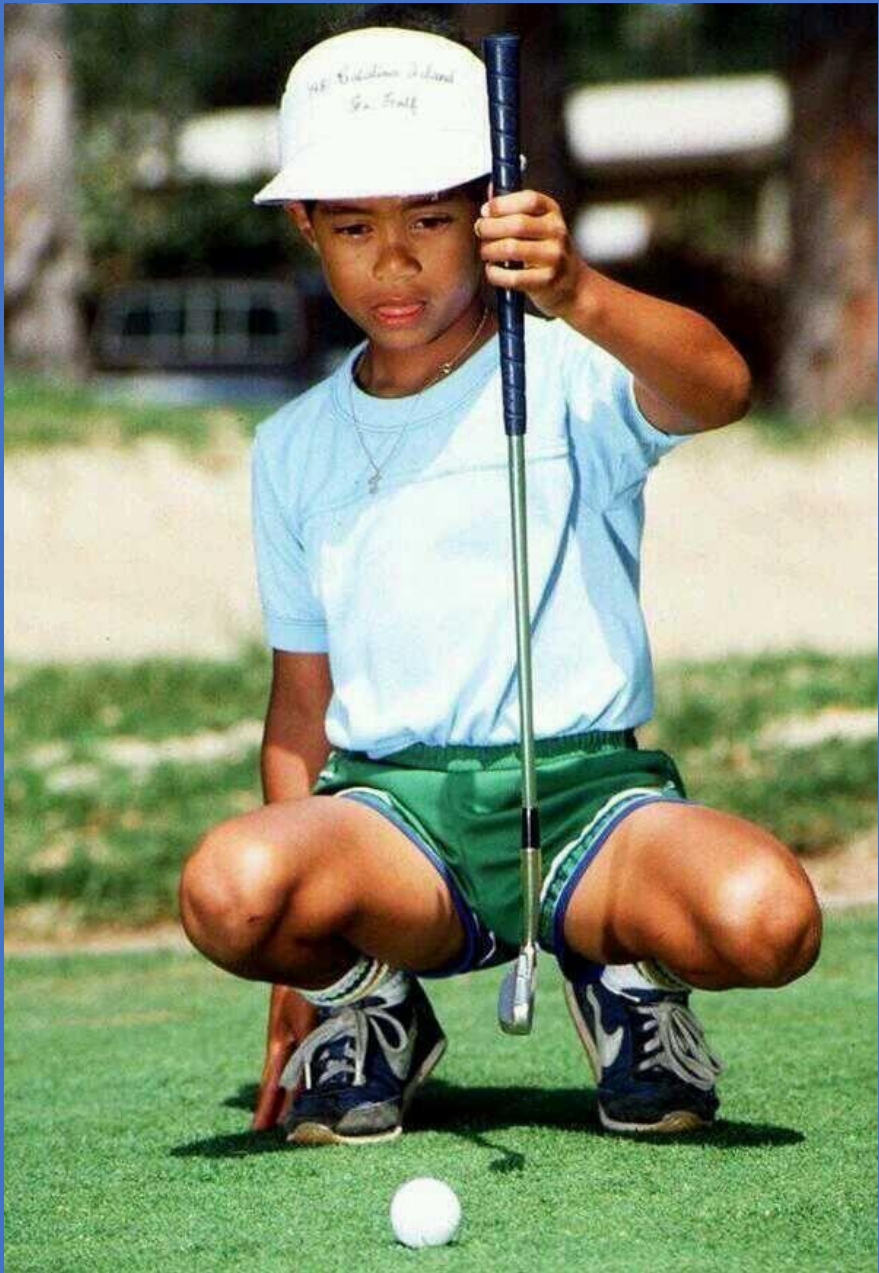








**Get that kid off
the golf course!**



**Who does he think
he is?!!**



**Tiger Woods,
that's who**



John 9: 1-3

As Jesus went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus...



When He had said this, he spat on the ground, made clay of his spittle, and applied the clay to the man's eyes, and sent him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he returned, the man could see.

Opening Prayer

Loving God,

You know how easy it is for us to get stuck in thinking one way and one way alone. We ask that you free us from mindsets that stop us from listening or reflecting.

You know how tempting it is for us to frame things in a way we like. Sometimes we really don't want to change our thinking.

Lord, help us be open to Your truth. Free us from closed mindsets. *Amen*



I Then Shall Live

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven.
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father;
I am His child and I am not afraid.
So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother;
The law of love I gladly will obey.



I then shall live as one who's learned compassion.
I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I'll dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

John 9: 13-34

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been born blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore, the Pharisees asked him:

How did you receive your sight?

He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see.





Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?"



So they were divided. Finally they turned again to the blind man: *"What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."*

"He is a prophet," the man replied.



The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents.

"Is this your son? Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"



We know he is our son, and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, who had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue.



The Pharisees summoned the man born blind a second time. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

The blind man answered, "*Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind, but now I see!*"



The Pharisees demanded, *"What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"*

The blind man responded, *"I have told you already and you did not listen.*

Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"



Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses!

We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."



The man answered, Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners...Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

"You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.



“But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.”

(Jn 9:21).



Don't confuse me with facts



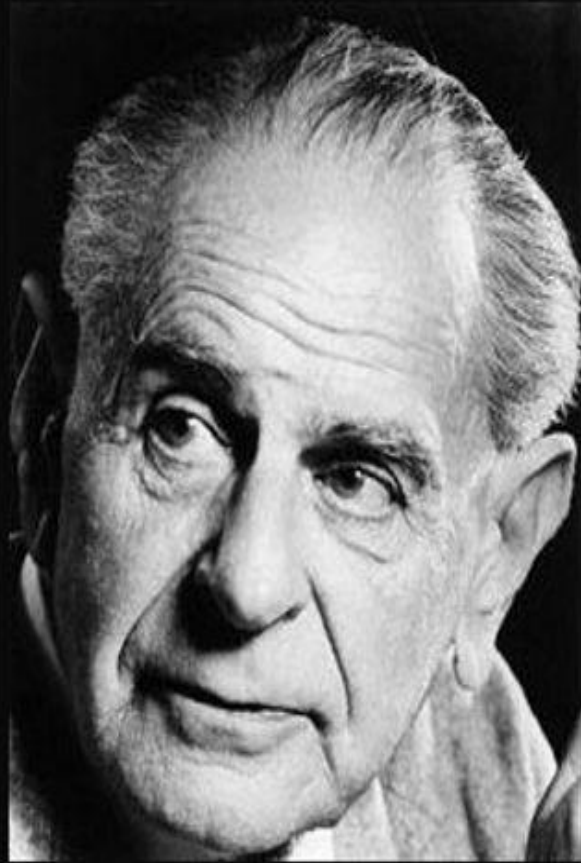
**A lot of good arguments are spoiled by
some fool who knows what he's talking about.
(Miguel de Unamuno)**

• A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."



Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ... You were steeped in sin at birth... And they threw him out [of the synagogue]."





True ignorance is not the absence of knowledge,
but the refusal to acquire it.

(Karl Popper)

- Blessed are the poor in spirit.
- Blessed are those who mourn.
- Blessed are the meek.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness.
- Blessed are the merciful.
- Blessed are the pure in heart.
- Blessed are the peacemakers.



Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

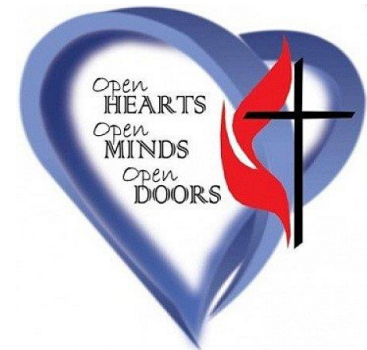
Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Community Prayer

Gracious Father,

As Methodists, we are committed to having open hearts, minds, and doors, meaning that everyone is welcome and accepted. We regret the times when we find it difficult to accept others for what they think and believe, when it differs from our own strongly-held beliefs.



Help us understand that even the things we feel most strongly about may be wrong, or need to be replaced or updated. In other cases, opposing beliefs might not be wrong, only from different perspectives.

Give us the grace to live up to our mission statement, listening intently to others with whom we interact, before deciding whether or not to share what we think! Help us extend Your love and grace to everyone. *Amen*



Offering and Doxology

UM Hymnal 95



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

Benediction



Painting by Kim DeGroat