Sunday, November 23, 2025

Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning!

Professor Luis

Thank you, Lions Club!

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.

Rejoice!

Rejoicing Words from the Psalms

Art by Sue Carroll

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

(Psalm 107:1)

Fill us in the morning with your love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. *(Psalm 90: 14)*

Praise the Lord, o my soul, I will praise the Lord all my life.
(Psalm 146:1)

Let all who take refuge in you be glad, let us ever sing for joy.
(Psalm 5:11)

Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.
(Psalm 4: 6)

The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

(Psalm 126:3)

Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy.

Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy.

Teach us to number our days aright
that we may have wisdom of heart.

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness;
we will sing for joy all our days.
Make us as glad as of old we were sad,
in the years when we saw evil.

Let your work be seen by your servants
and your glory by their children.

May the gracious care
of the Lord our God be ours.
Prosper the work of our hands.

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again: *Rejoice*!

Art by Sue Carroll

Find out where joy resides

and give it a voice far beyond singing.

For to miss the joy is to miss all.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

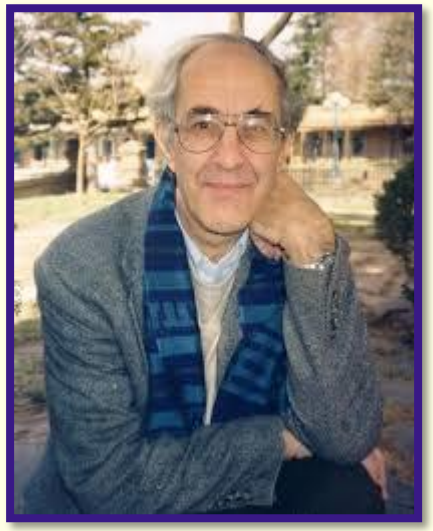
Opening Prayer

Dear Loving God,

Give us the heart of a child who joyfully sees the blessings right before them. They see clearly and simply the splendor of Your creation and are filled with joy. Let us be like them.

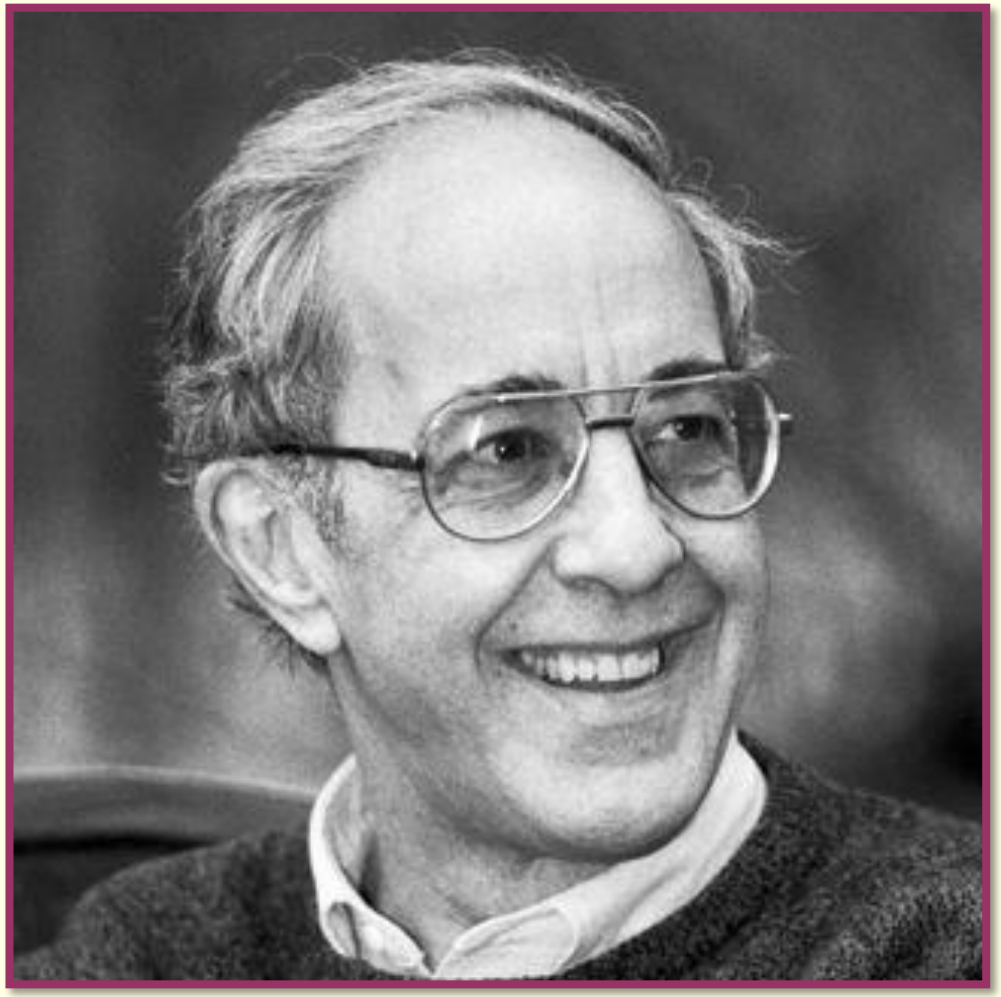
Help us to step back from thoughts that cloud over the blessings that You have put right in front of us, so that we may fully appreciate the gifts that we receive through Your loving kindness. *Amen*

To rejoice is choice we make, whether we are on top of the mountain or down in the valley. We worship a God who calls us to give thanks and keep looking up.
Photo by James Gardner



Joys are hidden in sorrows! I know this from my own times of depression. I know it from living with people with mental handicaps. I know it from looking into the eyes of patients, and from being with the poorest of the poor. We keep forgetting this truth and become overwhelmed by our own darkness. We easily lose sight of our joys and speak of our sorrows as the only reality there is.

— *Henri Nouwen*



Joy does not simply happen to us.
We have to choose joy
and KEEP choosing it every day.

–Henri Nouwen

I like many others, have found God in the depths of despair and the heights of joy. I felt Him lifting me up in some of the most difficult moments of my life, helping me to stand up and carry on. I sensed Him when my children were born, as the love that brings new life into being.

I turn to Him for strength whenever I begin a new stage of life's journey. I try to express my thanks to Him every time I feel I have done something He wanted me to do.

I *WILL* rejoice.

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Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,

by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your

requests to God.

And the peace of God,
which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus.

The moment we cease to hold each other,
the moment we break faith with one another,
the sea engulfs us and the light goes out.

—James Baldwin

To God Be the Glory – UMH 98

To God be the glory great things He has done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; Let the earth hear His voice.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; Let the people rejoice.
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

Community Prayer

Gracious and Loving Father, we come as Your grateful children to give You thanks and praise for all the blessings You give us. Sometimes, though, we are not so grateful when we don't receive what we really wanted. That's when it's hard to "rejoice in all circumstances" and bring everything to You.

But that becomes easier when we prod our memories and count all the blessings You have given us in the past. Remembering to be thankful for all You have done for us helps us to be joyful, especially when we remember that Jesus has given us the gift of eternal life through his sacrifice on the cross. Lord, give us rejoicing hearts. ***AMEN***

Offering

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

Doxology - UM Hymnal 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Benediction

Painting by Kim DeGroat