

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Culmore  
United Methodist Church

Welcome and  
Good Morning!



*Photo by James Gardner*



*Photo by Rose Lucas*





Joy and her grandniece Lía  
(Guess who was the center  
of attention at Thanksgiving!)

Happy apo,  
Happy lola Rose!



*Photo by Rose Lucas*

# Prayers for Advent 2023



O come let us adore Him  
Christ the LORD!

# 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.



## Morning Has Broken- UMH 145



Morning has broken like the first morning;  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.



Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

# Opening Prayer

Eternal God,

We live in an age of polarized worldviews, with conflicting news reports which sometimes misrepresent facts. We also live in an age where cultural diversity is always not honored, but instead used as a lever to divide us. When we add to these the stresses of day-to-day living, we can become jaded, frustrated, angry and short tempered, sometimes saying and doing things that we don't really mean—but are, nonetheless damaging.



God, when you revealed yourself to Moses on Mt. Sinai,  
you called yourself **“a compassionate and gracious  
God, slow to anger, abounding in love.”**

Lord, as we are created in your image, we pray that we can  
grow to be more like you. Help us increase our compassion,  
grow in love of others, and be, as you are, forbearing, patient  
and slow to anger. ***Amen.***

여호와는 자비로우시며 은혜로우시며  
노하기를 더디하시며  
그리고 사랑이 넘칩니다.

**Tuhan itu penyayang dan pengasih,  
lambat marah, dan penuh cinta.**

Ang Panginoon ay mahabagin at mapagbiyaya,  
mabagal sa pagkagalit, at sagana sa pag-ibig.

**The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,  
and abounding in love.**

**主は憐れみ深く慈悲深く、怒るのが遅く、  
そして愛が溢れている**

El Señor es compasivo y clemente,  
lento para la ira, y lleno de amor.

Le Seigneur est compatissant et miséricordieux,  
lent à la colère, et plein d'amour.

耶和华有怜悯，有恩典，不轻易发怒，  
并充满爱心。

## Responsive Reading: Nehemiah 5-6; 16-17 (NIV)

Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise.

You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens,  
even the highest heavens, and all their starry host,  
the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all  
that is in them.

You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.

**But they, our ancestors, became arrogant and stiff-necked,  
and they did not obey your commands.**

They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them.

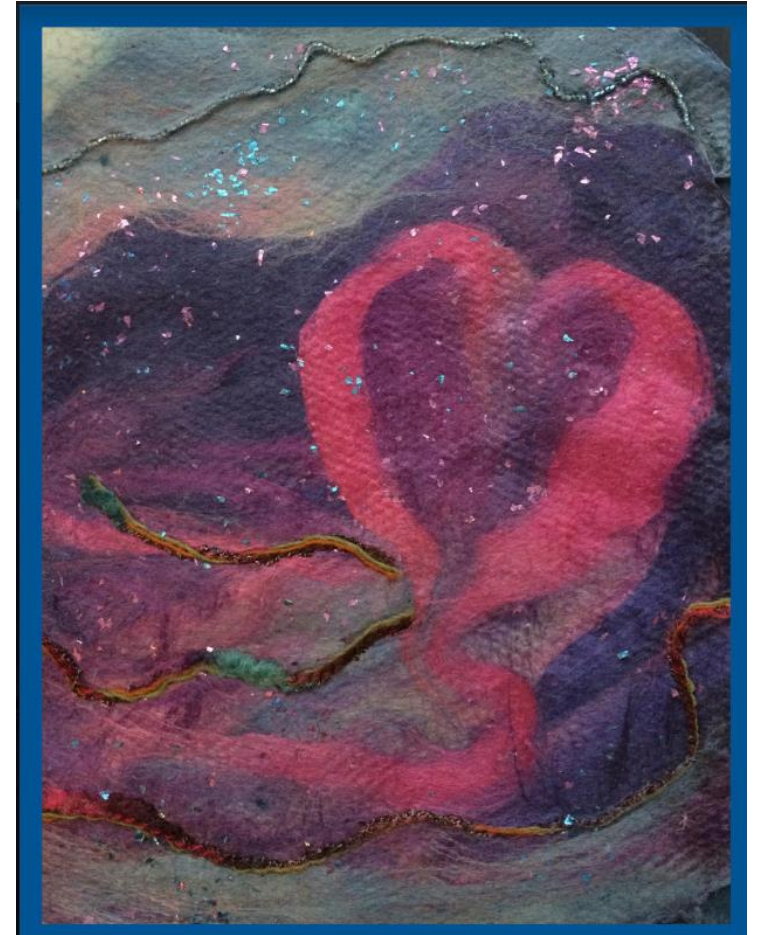
**But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and abounding in love.**



## Psalm 103: 6-13

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.

He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever.



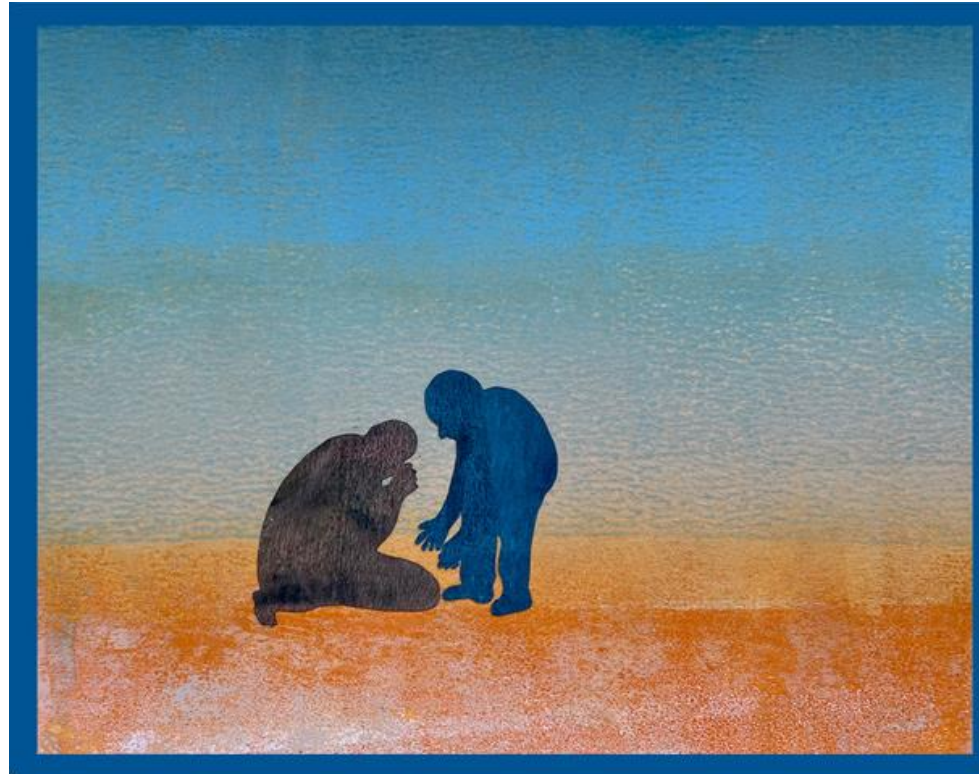
*Artwork by Sue Carroll*

He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him.



*Photo by James Gardner*

As far as the east is from the west, so far  
has he removed our transgressions from us.



*Artwork by Sue Carroll*



As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.





"When someone shows [or tells]  
you who they are, believe them."

## Colossians 3: 12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people,  
holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves  
with compassion, kindness, humility,  
gentleness and patience.**

Bear with each other and forgive one  
another if any of you has a grievance  
against someone.



*Artwork by Sue Carroll*

And over all these virtues put on love,  
which binds them all together in perfect unity.



*Artwork by Sue Carroll*

# Ephesians 4: 1-2

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.



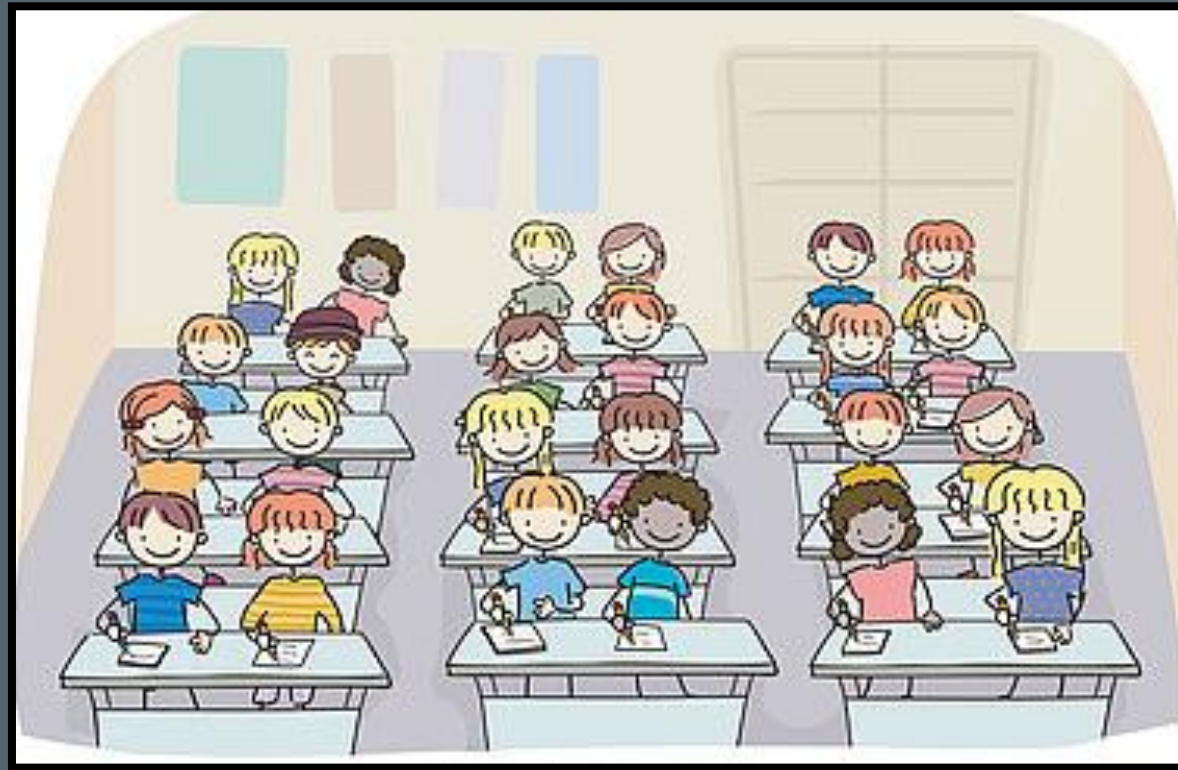
*Artwork by Sue Carroll*



What we are is God's gift to us.

What we become ~ and how we live ~  
is our gift to God.

# Lessons for the Adults







What should I do?

- A. Whine
- B. Have a temper tantrum
- C. Take a breath and speak softly

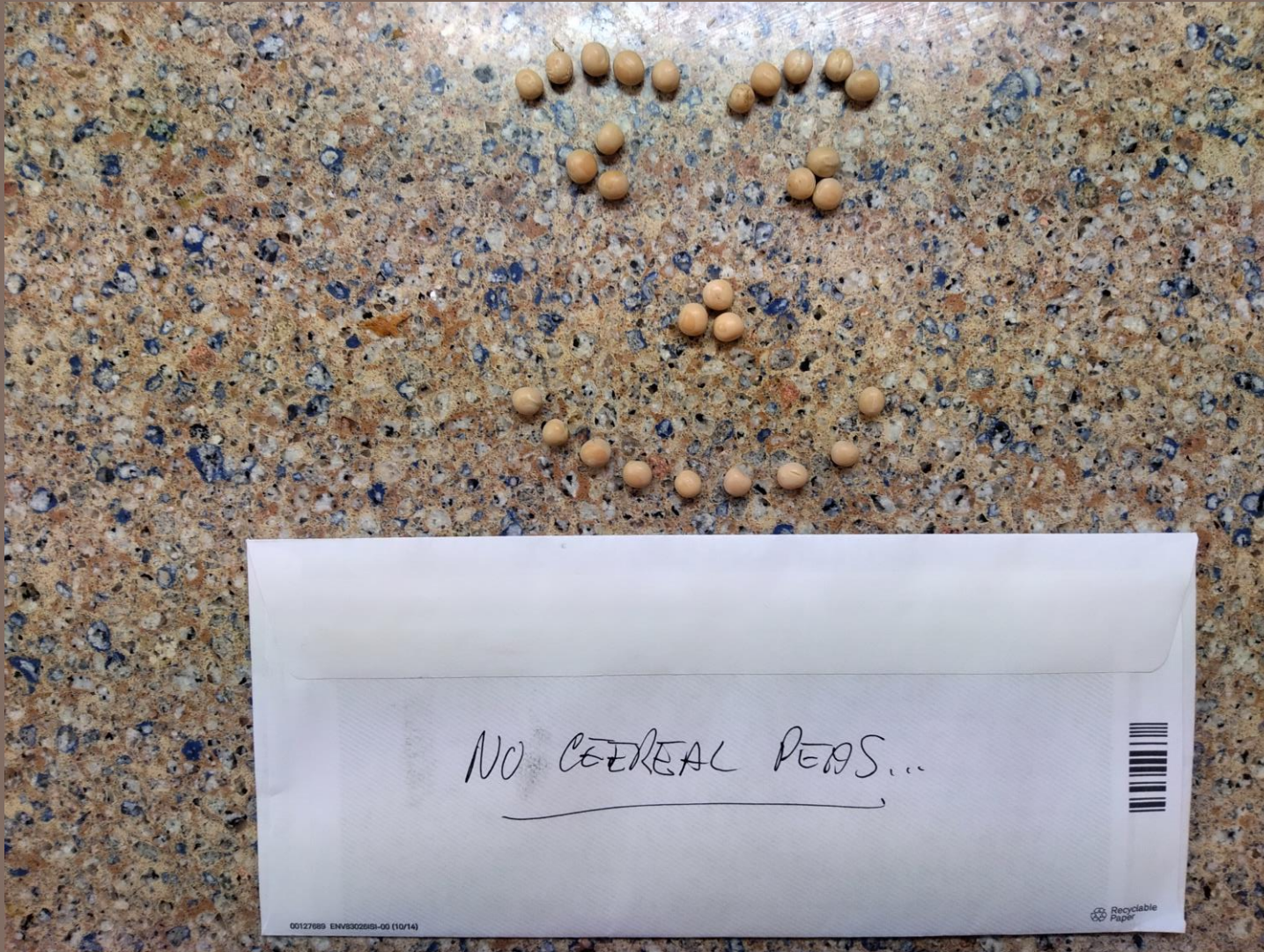


A close-up, slightly high-angle shot of a Basset Hound dog lying on a light-colored wooden floor. The dog's head is in the foreground, looking directly at the camera with large, expressive brown eyes. Its ears are large, brown, and floppy, framing its face. The dog's fur is white with brown speckles, particularly on its face and ears. Its front paws are visible, resting on the floor. In the background, the dog's hind legs and tail are visible, slightly out of focus. A white speech bubble with a dark blue outline is positioned in the upper right corner of the image.

**Speak!  
I'm all ears.**







Artwork by Nelson:  
*Smiley Face* made from  
dried peas





# Goodness of God

I love You Lord.

Oh Your mercy never fails me

And all my days,

I've been held in Your hands.

From the moment that I wake up

Until I lay my head

Oh I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love Your voice.

You have led me through the fire

In my darkest night

You were close like no other.

I've known You as a father;

I've known You as a friend.

Oh I have lived in the goodness of God.

**All my life You have been faithful. All my life You have been so, so good.**

**With every breath that I am able, oh I will sing of the goodness of God.**

# Community Prayer

Father God, we are grateful for Your patience with us, Your wayward children and how You continue to love and forgive us so many times.

On the other hand, there are times when we find it hard to do the same for others. Although we want to be patient, we would rather avoid situations that test us. It's hard to be patient, Lord.

By persevering and exercising patience, we develop the endurance we need to help us treat others the way You call us to. Only through Your grace can we develop all those fruits of the Holy Spirit that can be ours when we give You full control over our lives. Keep us always mindful of the way we have been treated, when we decide how to respond with kindness, and not react in negative ways to the actions of others. ***Amen***





## What Gift Can We Bring - UMH 87

What gift can we bring, what present, what token?  
What words can convey it the joy of this day?  
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,  
what song can we now offer in honor and praise?



Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,  
who planted and watered so dreams could come true.  
Give thanks for the Now, for study, for worship,  
for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.



# Offering and Doxology

## UM Hymnal 95



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



# Benediction

*Art by Sue Carroll*