

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning!

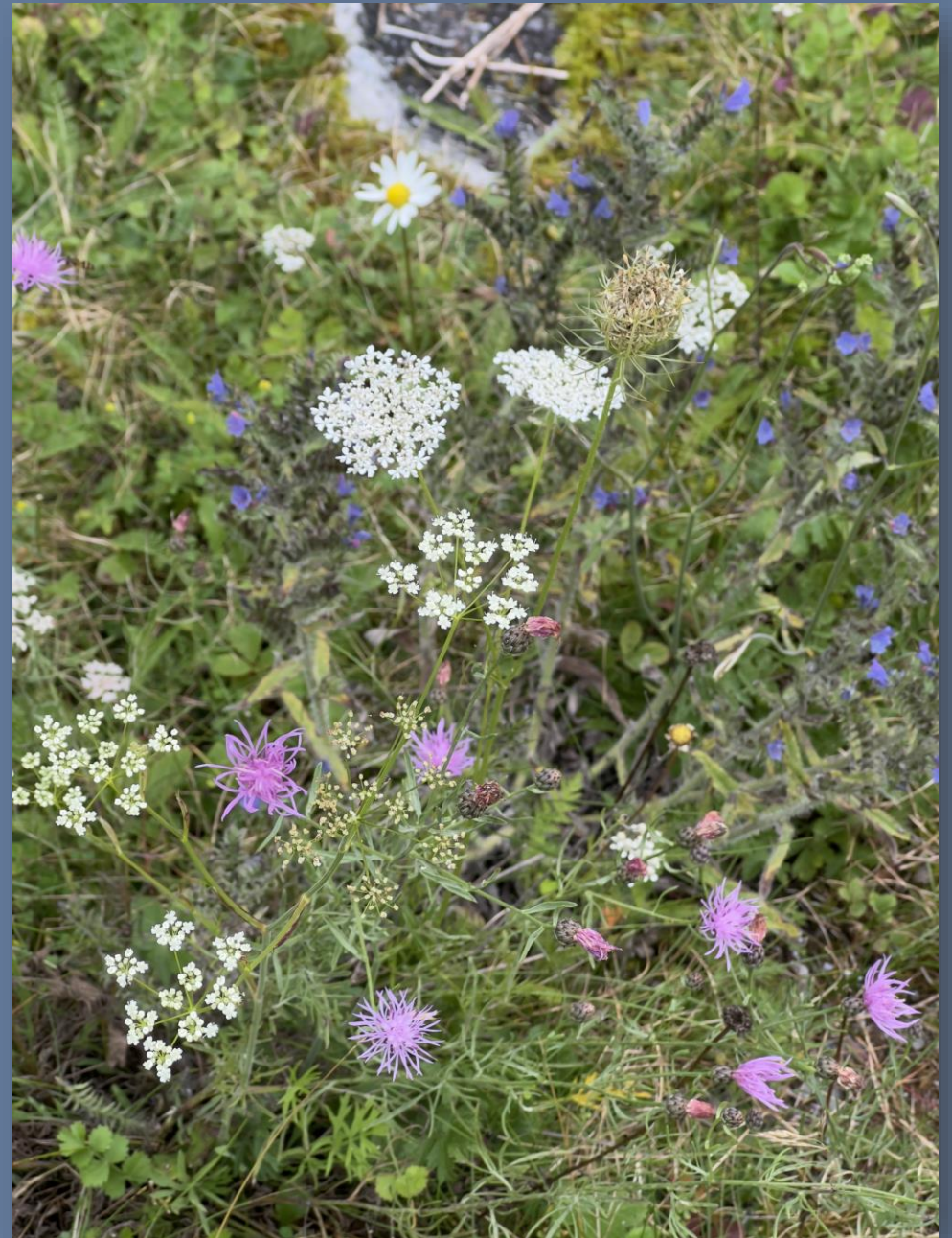


Photo by James Gardner

Our dear friends Sandy, Jennifer, and Luis (also Nelson!)



Happy Birthday, Noel and Shirley!

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.





The Book of REVELATION


which God
shows things
past and
future
and the
end


and shall
ever be
7
shall be
all kinds
Even to
the end


modern day
TURKEY


 Pergamos


 Smyrna

 Ephesus

 Laodicea

 Thyatira

 Sardis

 Philadelphia



Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore - UMH 344

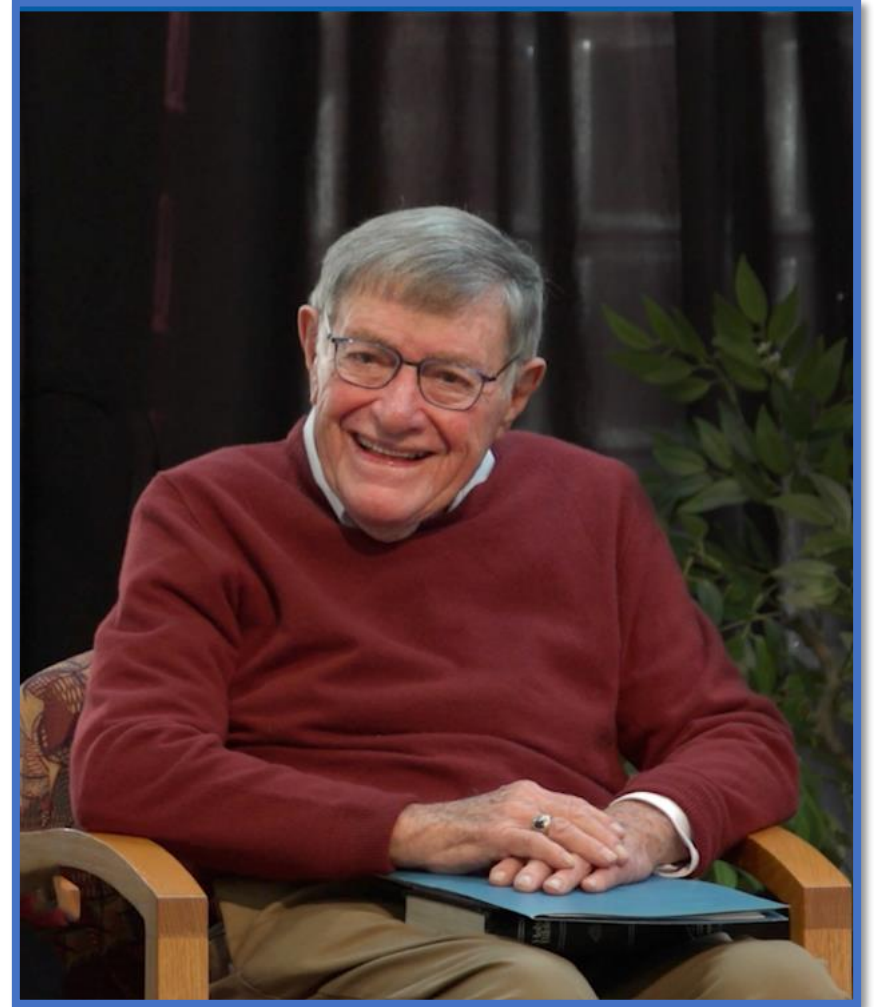
Tu has venido a la orilla,
no has buscando ni a sabios ni a ricos,
Tan solo quieres que yo te siga.

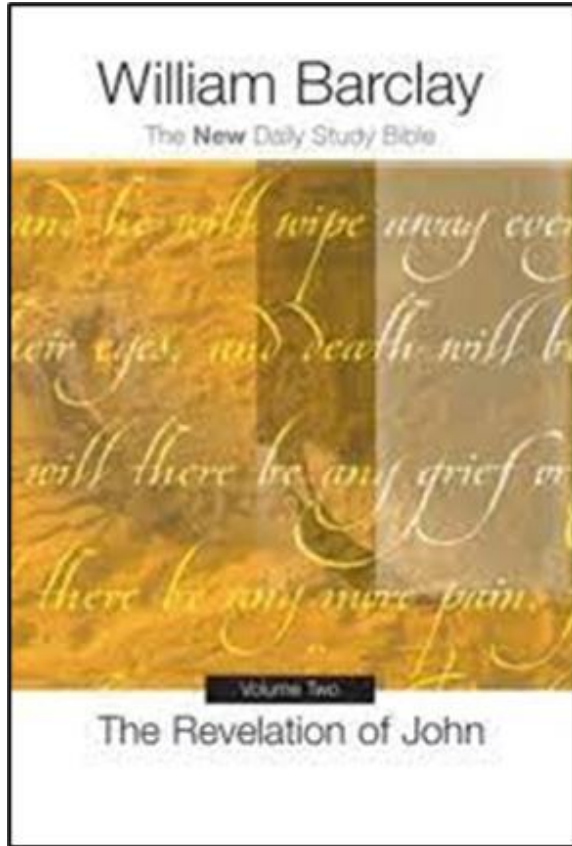
Señor me has mirado a los ojos
y sonriendo has dicho mi nombre;
en la arena he dejado mi barca;
junto a ti buscare otro mar.

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
Looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
You only asked me to follow humbly,

O Lord, with your eyes you have
searched me, and while smiling have
spoken my name; Now my boat's left
on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

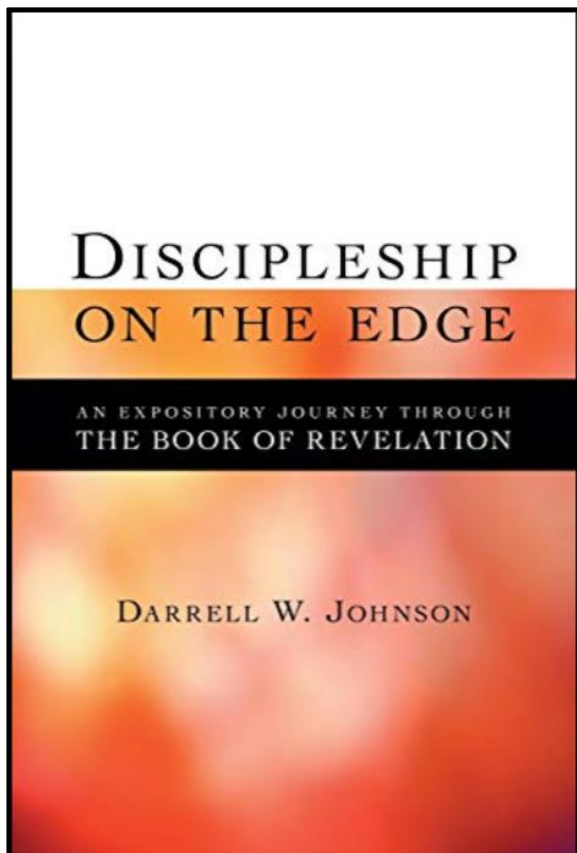
Rev. Dr. Earl Palmer was pastor
of **Union Church of Manila**,
taught at Union Theological
Seminary in the Philippines, and
wrote over 20 books.





Rev. Dr. William Barclay was a world-renowned New Testament scholar. He wrote more than 50 books including his classic 17 book series on the New Testament, *The Daily Bible Study*.





Rev. Dr. Darrell W. Johnson

has been pastor of churches in the United States, the Philippines, and Canada, and is on the faculty at Regent College (Seminary) in Vancouver, Canada.



How many times does the word **LOVE**
appear in the writings of John?

Gospel of John	39
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1,2,3 John	34
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<u>Revelations</u>	8
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81 times!

Responsive Reading: 1 John 4: 7-12, 16

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

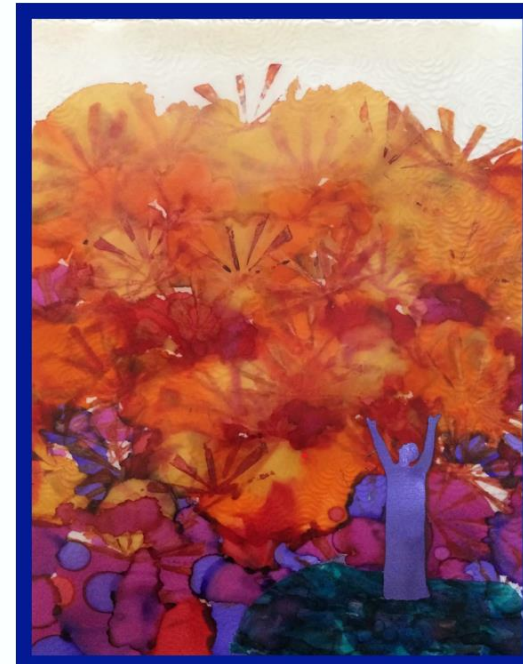
Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.



This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

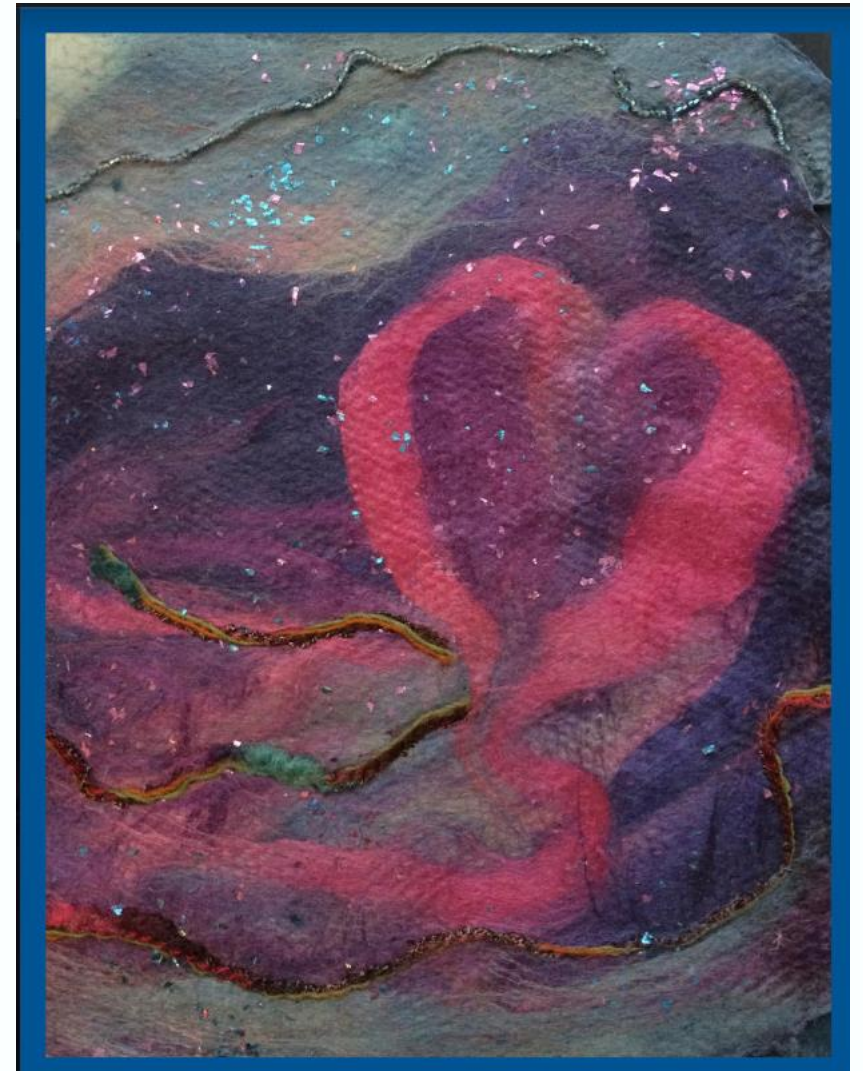
This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us...



Art by Sue Carroll

No one has ever see God; but if we love one another God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**Whoever lives in love, lives in God,
and God in them.**



Art by Sue Carroll





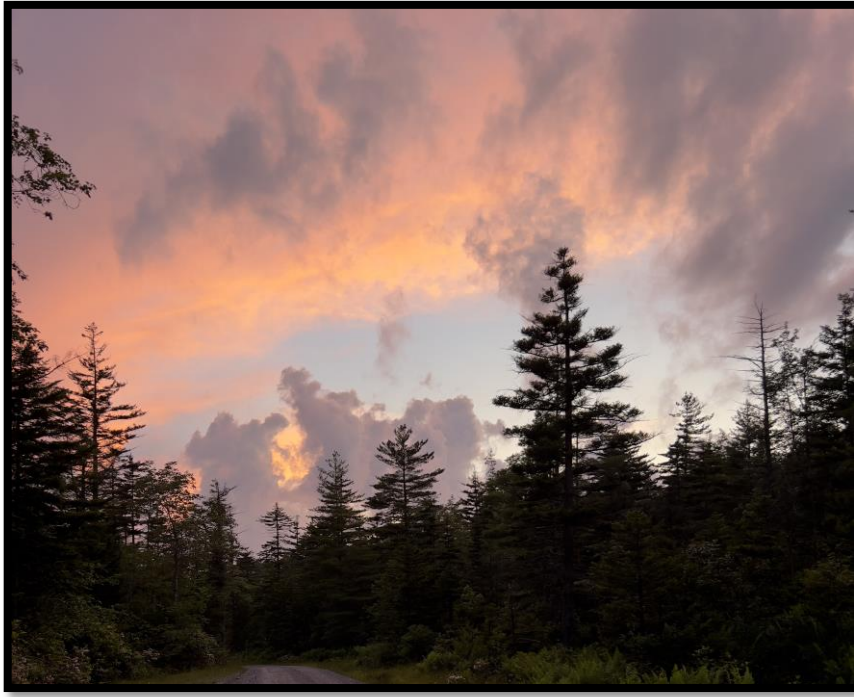


Revelations 2:1-7

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.





I know your deeds, your hard work and your patience.
I know that you cannot bear those who are evil, that you
have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not,
and have found them liars.

You have persevered and have endured hardships
for my name, and have not become weary.



Nevertheless, I hold this against you:

You have left your first love.

Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.



Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Nevertheless, I hold this against you:

You have left your first love.

尽管如此，我还是反对你：你已经离开了你的初恋。

Gayunpaman, pinanghahawakan ko ito laban sa iyo:

Iniwan mo ang iyong unang pag-ibig.

**Nevertheless, I hold this against you:
You have left your first love.**

Sin embargo, tengo esto en tu contra: Has dejado tu primer amor.

그럼에도 불구하고 나는 당신에게 다음과 같은 불만을 품고
있습니다. 당신은 첫사랑을 버렸습니다.

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We give thanks that when we remember and repent...

...when we hear and make room for your truth and your love...

...when your love is in our lives and flows through our lives to others,

then we have not forgotten the most important thing:

our first love for You.

Lord, keep us ever joyously, passionately, attentively close to You. **Amen**

PLUS SIDE:

- I know your deeds.
- I know your hard work.
- I know your perseverance.
- I know that you cannot bear those who are evil.
- I know that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false.

Nevertheless, I hold this against you:

You have left your first love.



GOD IS LOVE.

HOW MANY ANGELS
CAN DANCE ON THE
HEAD OF A PIN?





Confidence

I'm not a warrior, I'm too afraid to lose
I feel unqualified for what you're calling me to
But Lord with your strength, I've got no excuse
Because broken people are exactly who you use.

So give me faith like Daniel in the lion's den
Give me hope like Moses in the wilderness
Give me a heart like David, Lord be my defense
So I can face my giants with confidence

So give me faith like Daniel in the lion's den
Give me hope like Moses in the wilderness
Give me a heart like David, Lord be my defense
So I can face my giants with confidence.

You took a shepherd boy and made him a King
So I'm going to trust you and give you everything
I'll be a conqueror because you fight for me
I'll be a champion claiming your victory

You took a shepherd boy and made him a King
So I'm going to trust you and give you everything
I'll be a conqueror because you fight for me
I'll be a champion claiming your victory

*I'm going to sing and shout and shake the walls
I won't stop until I see them fall
Going to stand up, step out when you call
Jesus, Jesus*

Community Prayer

Forgiving Lord,

Help us regain our first love for You. We have allowed our love to grow faint as we focused on other things that seemed important at the time. In the process, we didn't notice that our love for you was no longer as it was at first.

Help us regain our first love for You. We have allowed other things to cloud over our initial enthusiasm and joy. Father, lead us back to the beginning, when our love was so strong.

Lord, we choose today to passionately seek what we have lost:
the love we had for you at the beginning. Help us then keep and
honor our first love. *Amen.*

Offering and Doxology

UM Hymnal 95



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



I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save..

I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away...

Photo by James Gardner



Chorus:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.



Benediction

Art by Sue Carroll

modern day TURKEY

Pergamos

Smyrna

Ephesus

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea