



*Photo by James Gardner*

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Culmore  
United Methodist Church

Welcome and  
Good Morning!

## Happy Birthday, Hawa and John!

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.



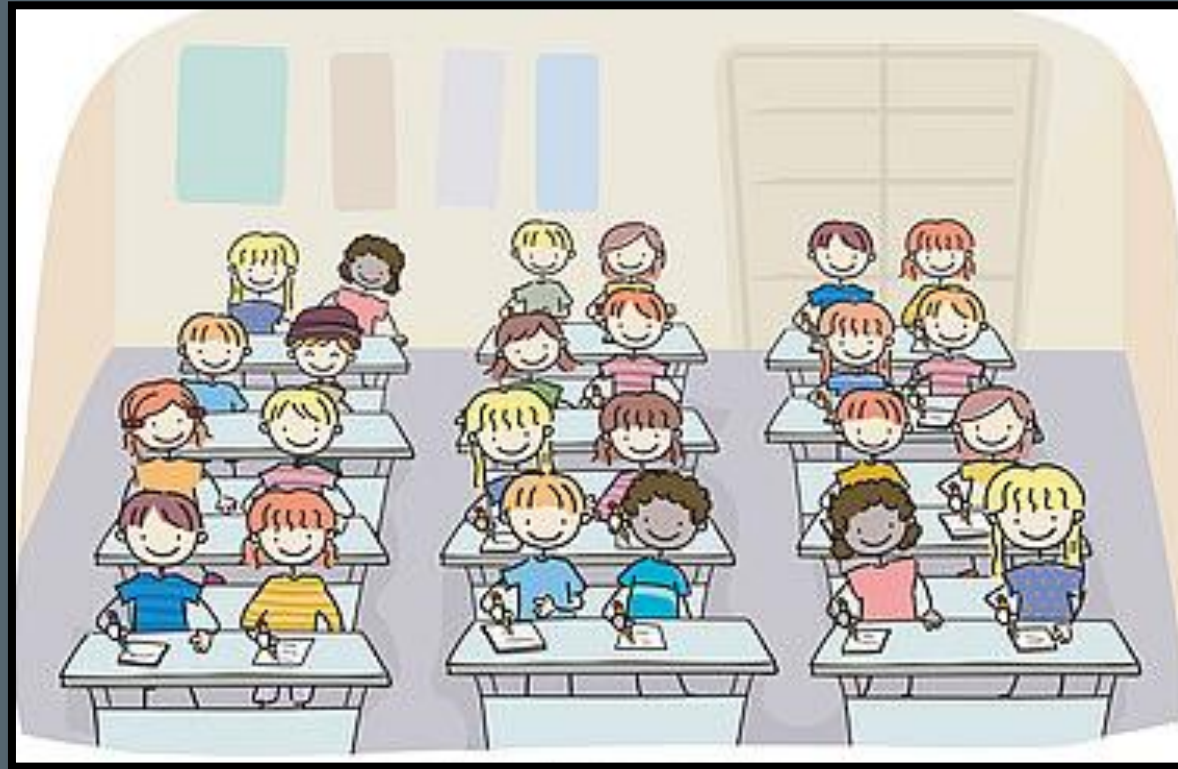




A photograph of an open walnut shell, showing the two halves. The top half is propped open, revealing the smooth, light brown interior of the nut. The bottom half is closed, showing the rough, textured exterior of the shell. The entire image is set against a white background, which is itself centered on a larger blue background.

Message in a nutshell

# Lessons for the Young and Young at Heart









## Matthew 7: 24-28

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.



Crea en mí, oh Dios, un corazón limpio  
y renueva un espíritu recto dentro de mí.

上帝啊， 为我创造一颗清洁的心， 并在我内心更新正确的精神

Create in me a clean heart, O God  
and renew a right spirit within me.

하나님이여 내 속에 정한 마음을 창조하시고 내 안에 정직한 영을 새롭게 하소서

Likhain mo sa akin ang isang malinis na puso, O Diyos,  
at baguhin mo ang isang matuwid na espiritu sa loob ko

神よ、私の中に清い心を創造し、  
私の中に正しい精神を新たにしてください

Crée en moi un cœur pur, ô Dieu  
et renouvelle en moi un esprit droit.

# Opening Prayer

Loving God,

How we wish we could talk with You as easily as we do with each other. If only we could pray in the same way.

You know how we struggle to come before you with listening ears and open hearts. Guide us as we journey to deepen our faith and joyfully follow where You lead us. Keep our feet firmly on Your path, as we seek to grow ever closer to You.

In Your son's name we pray, **Amen**

## **Responsive Reading** Isaiah 65, Jeremiah 31 (selected verses)

I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me.

**To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.'**

All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people...

**who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations—  
people who continually provoke me to my very face...**



I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

**I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.**

**I will be their God, and they will be my people.**

No longer will they say to one another, '*Know the Lord*,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest...

**For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.**



We are a wilderness wandering people  
On a journey of the soul.

May we find our destination  
In our longing to be whole.

Our Holy God is calling to us,  
With Jesus by our side  
May compassion be our compass;  
May the Spirit be our guide.

May we cherish all our children,  
Let us heal our family's pain.

Help us cure our city's madness,  
Let love and justice reign.

Reconciled with one another  
In prayer and praise and song,  
We're the body of Christ together  
And we know that we belong.

## 2 Samuel 12: 1-13 (adapted)



**Nathan:**

King David, what do you think of this situation?

There were two men, one rich and the other poor.

The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle,  
but the poor man had nothing except one little lamb he had bought.

He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup, and even slept in his arms.





**Nathan:**

Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man did not want to take one of his own sheep to prepare a meal. Instead he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.

## King David:

That is horrible! As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.



## Nathan:



David, you are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says:

“I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes?”



**Nathan:**

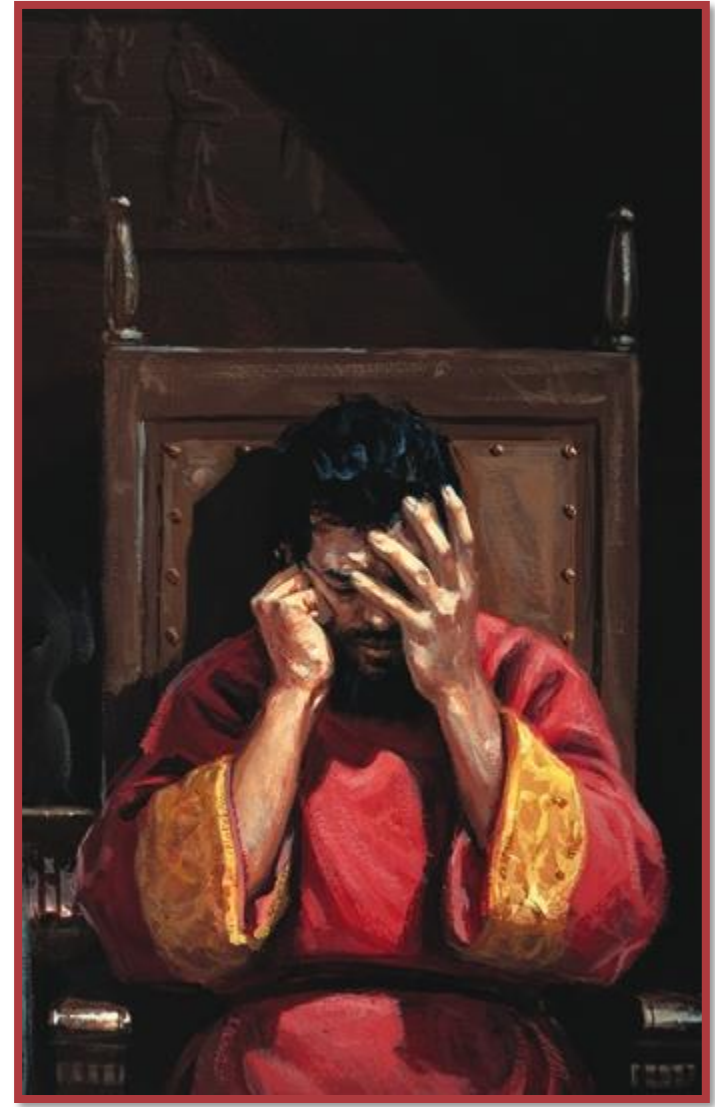


You struck down Uriah with the sword and took his wife to be your own. Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah to be your own.

Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.

**King David:**

I have sinned against the Lord.





## Psalm 51: 10-11

*After the prophet Nathan confronted David about his adultery with Bathsheba, David wrote this psalm of confession:*

Create in me a clean heart, O God  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me, the joy of Thy salvation  
and renew a right spirit within me.





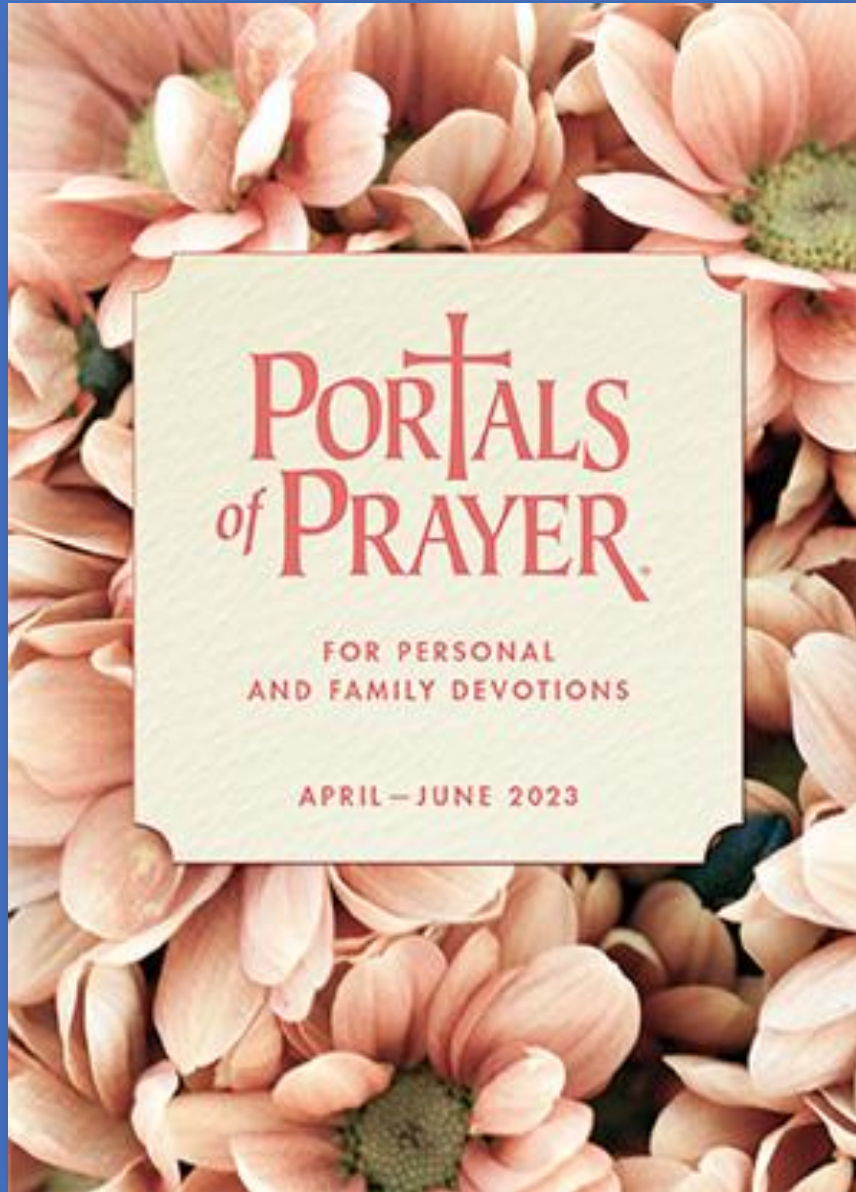
The book cover features a landscape photograph of a mountain with a flat top, partially obscured by evergreen trees. A dark horizontal band across the middle contains the title and subtitle. The bottom half of the cover shows a dirt path winding through a grassy field.

M. CRAIG BARNES

Foreword by Martin E. Marty

# YEARNING

*Living Between How It Is & How It Ought to Be*



Good enough to print!









I AM THE  
CAPTAIN OF  
MY SHIP AND  
THE MASTER  
OF MY FATE



# Equation

I'm in control

+

Don't see my flaws

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= Distance from God

# Community Prayer

Lord, we enjoy looking good, feeling admired and respected. But sometimes our images may cover actions, habits, even ways of thinking that are not pleasing to You. It is so easy to come up with justifications for whatever we want to do on our own.

In order for us to change, we have to be sincere in seeking Your forgiveness, and in our desire to go in another direction. Father, help us to draw so close to You that we desire nothing more than to be the people You want us to be. Give us the wisdom and strength to see where changes are needed, and to choose only to please You.

***Amen.***

# Offering and Doxology

## UM Hymnal 95



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

*Art by Sue Carroll*



## God Is Speaking

God is speaking, God is speaking  
Do you hear? Do you hear?  
Trust and you will hear him.  
God is love. God is love.



*Photo by James Gardner*

God is speaking, always speaking,  
Using needs, using joys.  
Speaking in his wisdom,  
speaking in his mercy,  
Calling hearts, changing lives.

God is speaking, God is speaking,  
Do you hear? Hear his heart?  
Trust and you will hear him,  
if you want to hear him.  
God is love, always love.