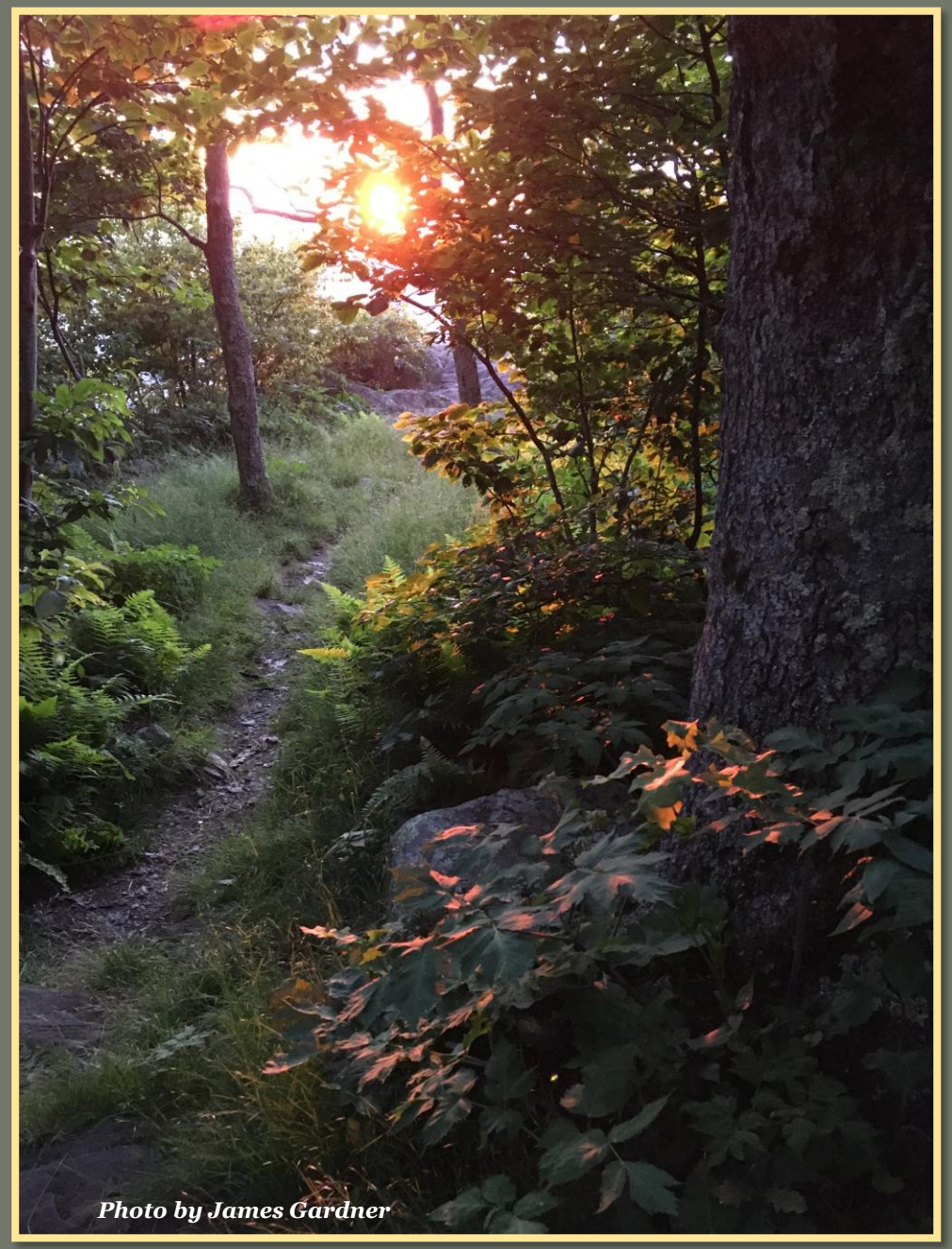



Sunday, January 25, 2026

# Culmore United Methodist Church

Welcome and Good Morning!

**And let us consider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds.**

***—Hebrews 10: 24***

# 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.

There is no greater danger to faith

than the presumption that we know it all

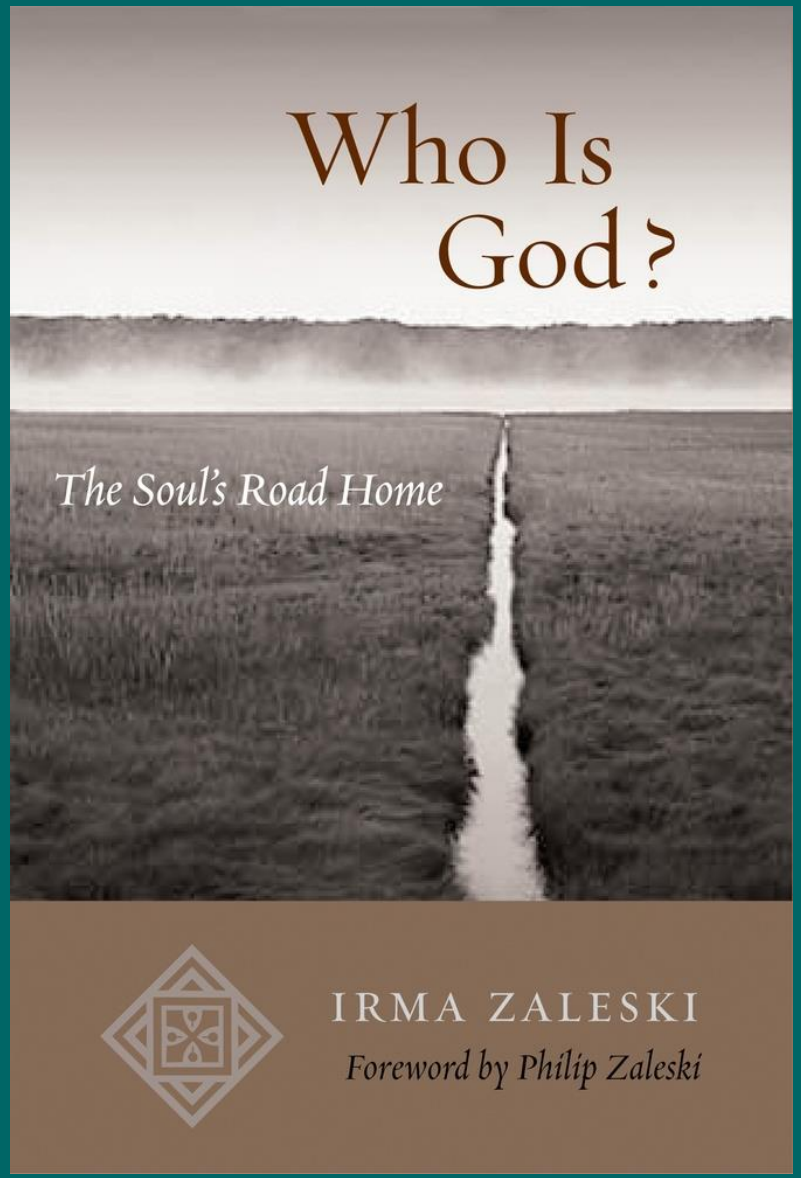
—that we have understood it all,

that there is nothing more to discover or learn.

Doubt makes it very difficult for us to fall into such a presumption. It forces us to recognize how little we really know, how little we have understood, how much infinitely more there is to learn.

—Irma Zaleski

Irma Zaleski



Immediately the boy's father exclaimed,

"*I believe; help my unbelief*!"

# Opening Prayer

O Loving God,

How we long to understand and have all our questions answered. You have gifted us with the ability to think and discern, yet intellect alone won't free us from doubt. Lord, help us not be discouraged when we can't see how all the pieces fit.

Remind us that there's nothing wrong with honest doubt. Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. ***Amen***

# Cry of My Heart TFWS 2165

*It is the cry of my heart to follow You*

*It is the cry of my heart to be close to You*

*It is the cry of my heart to follow*

*All of the days of my life.*

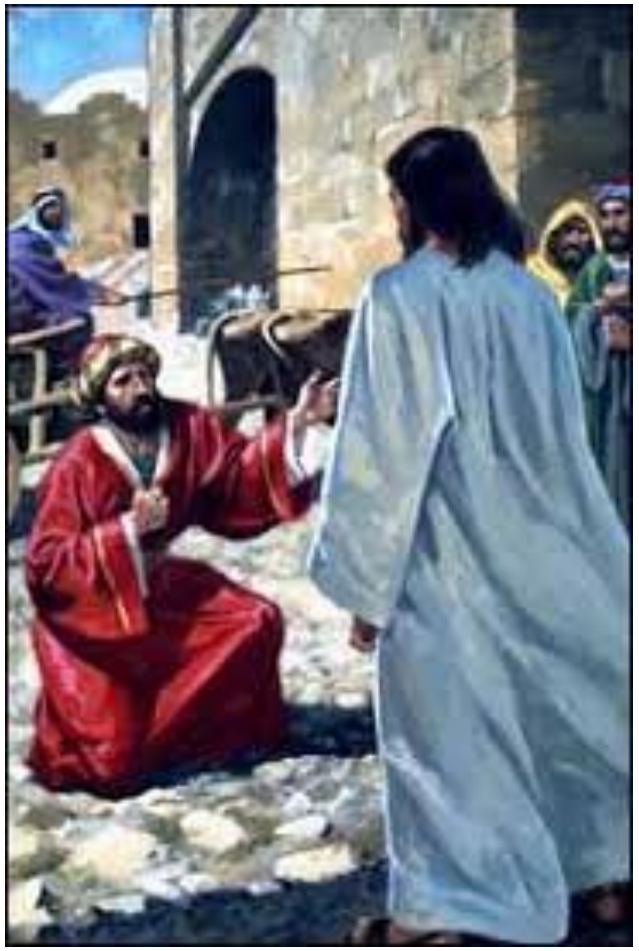
Teach me Your holy ways, oh Lord,
So I can walk in Your truth.
Teach me Your holy ways, oh Lord,
And make me wholly devoted to You.

Open my eyes so I can see
The wonderful things that You do.
Open my heart up more and more
And make me wholly devoted to You.

# Scripture:  Mark 9: 15-24

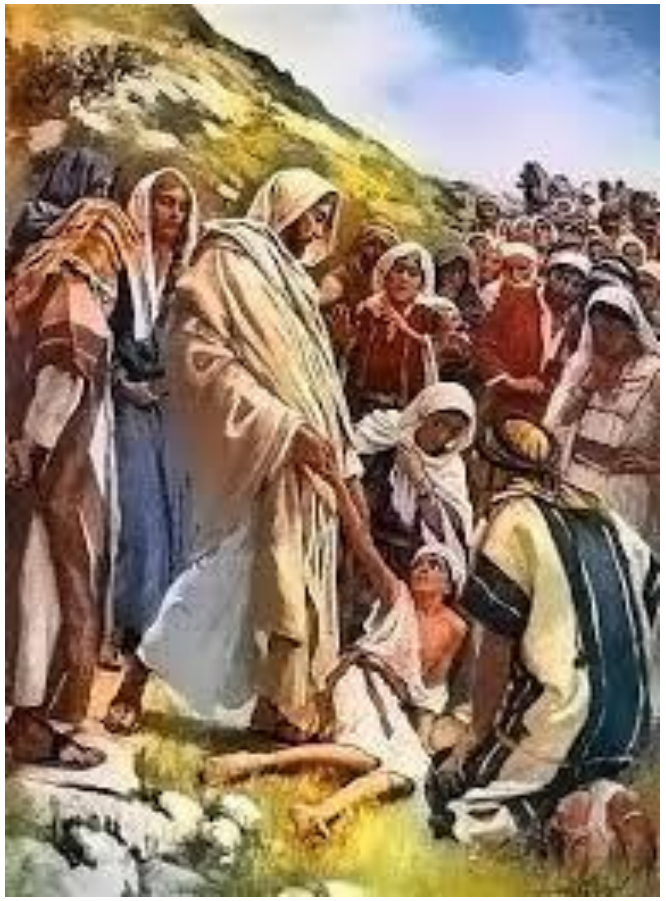
Jesus saw a great crowd, and some scribes were arguing with them.  When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran forward to greet him.

"*What are you arguing about with them?*" Jesus asked.



A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son. He has a spirit that makes him unable to speak, and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down. He foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to cast out the spirit, but they could not do so.”

He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be with you?  How long must I put up with you? Bring him to me.”



And they brought the boy to him.  When the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?

"From childhood," he answered. "It has often cast him into the fire and into the water to destroy him … but if you are able to do anything, help us! Have compassion on us."

Jesus said to him, "*IF you are able?* ***All things are possible to the one who believes****!*

Immediately the boy's father exclaimed,

"*I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief*!"

# Psalm 116: selected verses

*Painting by Kim DeGroat*

I love the LORD because he hears my voice.

**Because he bends down to listen,**

**I will pray as long as I have breath.**

I will trust in you, even when I am afraid.

**For lo, you are with us always.**

I will believe in your love.

**For You love us with an everlasting love.**

I will turn to You when in doubt.

**For in You, Lord, are hid**

**all the treasures of wisdom**

**and knowledge.**

Responsive Reading: Hebrews 5:1 (selections)

I will pray as long as I have breath,

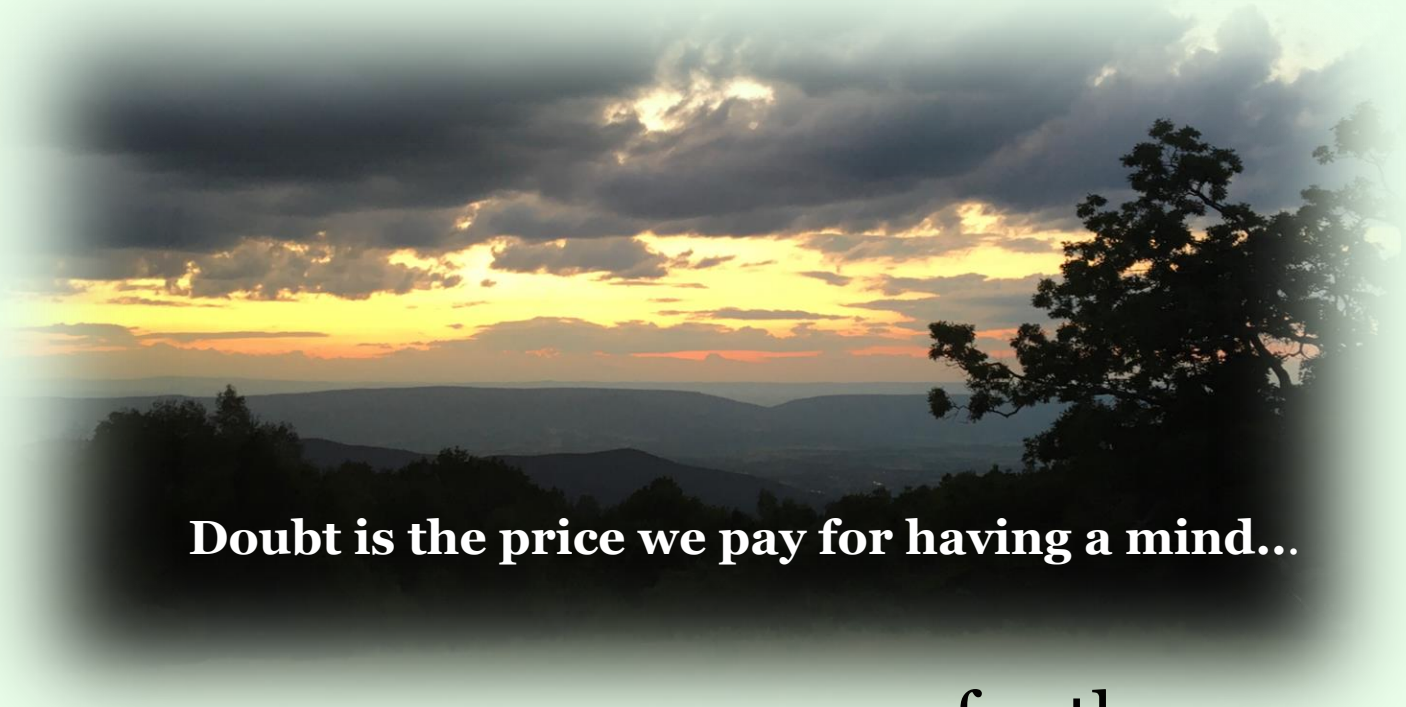
**For You bend down to listen.**

Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith.

They keep it awake and moving.

—*Frederick Buechner*

*Photo by James Gardner*




...for the essence of our faith

is that we choose to believe and trust him

whom we cannot see or understand,

but whom we have encountered and love.

*Irma Zaleski*

Trinette Reed stocksy.com/2434022

# Responsive Reading: Hebrews 11 (selections)

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

**By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command,
so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.**

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, built an ark to save his family.

**By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he did not know he obeyed
and went, even though he did not know where he was going.
By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign
country.**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

# Covenant Prayer W&S 3115

Lord, I am not mine, but yours alone.
Let your will be done and not my own.
Put me where you will, and let me serve;
in everything I do, let me endure.

Father, Son, and Spirit hear my cry,
forever I am yours and you are mine.
Father, son and Spirit hear my cry,
forever I am yours and you are mine.

This is my prayer, Lord, to you.
My promise and my vow, strong and true.
And the covenant I make on earth,
let it be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

Let me be employed for you, laid aside for you,
lifted high for you or brought low.
Let me be full, let me empty.
Let me have all things or nothing.

# Community Prayer

LORD Jesus, there are times when we can really relate to the father who said to You both that he believed in You and then immediately asked for help with his unbelief.

In our minds we may believe, but are not fully into it in the depths of our hearts.

If we are not careful, we may permit those doubts to overcome our faith in You that we have developed on our life journey.

It's easy to let difficult circumstances establish our way of looking at You and divert our attention from all we know about Your love and grace, if we allow that to happen. Help us to keep our attention and focus on all the ways You have blessed us and provided all that we need instead. ***Amen.***

# Offering and Doxology

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

# Benediction

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for

and assurance about what we do not see.

***—Hebrews 11:1***