Photo by Cally O'Brian

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Culmore United Methodist Church

Welcome and Good Morning!

Welcome and Announcements

Art by Sue Carroll

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.

Don't give up—keep
running the good race.

Opening Prayer

Gracious and Loving Father,

You know many of us don't deal well with change. We like to see what lies ahead on our journey of faith. Just when the path becomes familiar and we feel comfortable, changes come up that can be unsettling; however, that is the way life works!

Throughout our lives, changes happen that we can't control. In addition, we live in a rather crazy world where changes come about through the actions of others that are also beyond our control. In spite of this, our trust in You remains.

Throughout our journey, You help us be prepared to deal with all that comes our way. Draw us ever near to You as we seek to *run the good race.* ***Amen.***

Reflection on Life

(adapted from poem by Michael Josephson)

What will matter is not what you bought but what you built;
not what you got, but what you gave.

What will matter is not your success, but how you lived.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion,
courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered
or encouraged others to do the same.

What will matter is not your competence, but your character.

What will matter is not who you knew, but whose life you touched.

What will matter is what course you chose to follow

and whom you put at the center of your life.

Let it be You, Lord.

There is a realm of time where the goal is:

not to have but to be,

not to own but to give,

not to control but to share,

not to subdue but to be in accord.

—*Rabbi Abraham Heschel*

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.

149
175
133

2 Corinthians 11 (selected verses)

Five times I have received the forty lashes minus one.

Three times I was beaten with rods.

Once I received a stoning.

Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea.

On frequent journeys, I was in:

- danger from rivers,
- danger from bandits,
- danger from my own people,
- danger from Gentiles, danger in the city,
- danger in the wilderness,
- danger at sea,
- danger from false brothers and sisters

In toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night,
hungry and thirsty, I was often without food,
cold and naked.

And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure
because of my anxiety for all the churches.

2 Timothy 4: 6-8

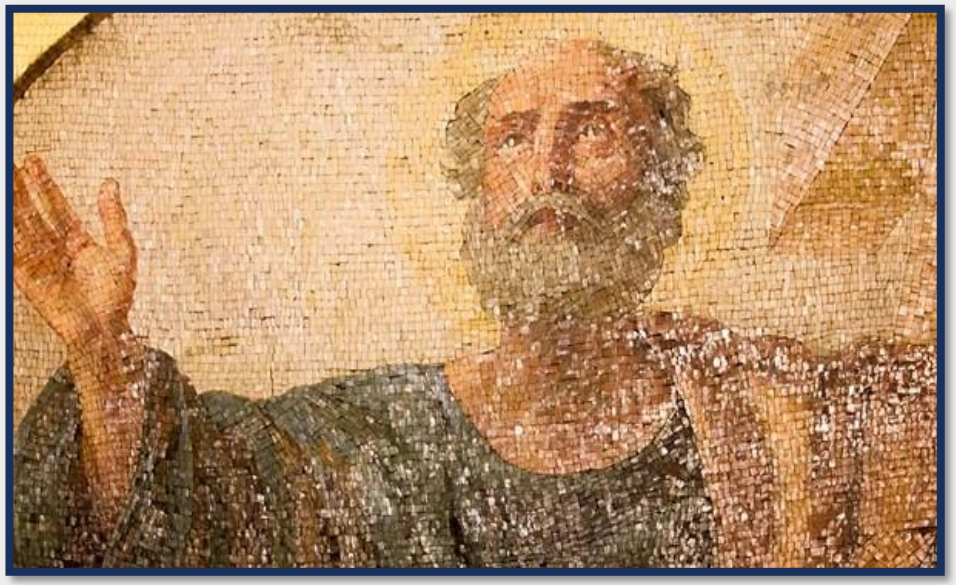
I am already being poured out like a drink offering,

and the time for my departure is near.

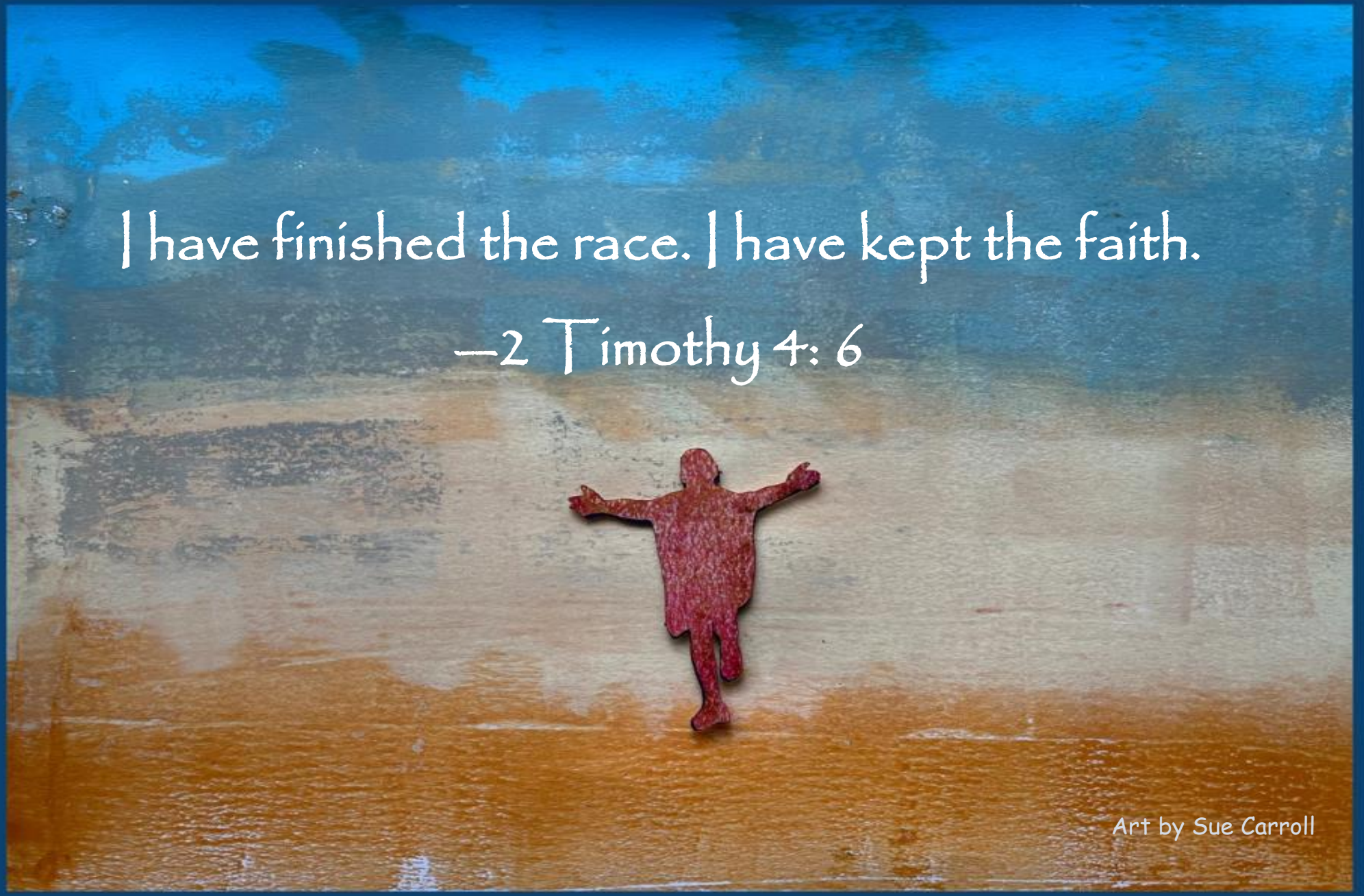
I have fought the good fight,

I have finished the race,

I have kept the faith.



Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.


I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.
—2 Timothy 4: 6
Art by Sue Carroll

BALLS

Three things in life are important:

the first is to be kind;

the second is to be kind;

and the third is to be kind."

—*Henry James*

"You know son, I never expected to come home—or to even see my family again– I'm not sure that any of us did."

God, I believe, shapes and outfits each one of us over time, and uses our life experiences to accomplish His purpose at every stage of our life.

God Is Speaking – W&S 3025

Photo by James Gardner

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

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.

O God, remind us we are not alone.

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

Photo by James Gardner