Sunday, January 16, 2026

Culmore United Methodist Church

Welcome and Good Morning!

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.

Come and Find the Quiet Center – TFWS 2128

Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed.
Clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

SHEMA

Listen! Pay attention!

Hear what I'm saying!

Respond!

Obey!

Opening Prayer

Lord,

In spite of our best efforts, sometimes we have trouble holding onto our faith. Oh, how we wish it were stronger. We yearn for assurance that You are truly there. If only we could actually see You and hear You calling to us. But that is not Your way.

And so we ask that You help us plant our mustard seed of faith,

as small as it may be, good soil. Help our faith take root and grow as deep as the ocean, as high as the stars, and as wide as the universe.

Amen.

Faith of a mustard seed

Mark 4: 30-32

Again Jesus said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like?

… It is like a mustard seed, which when sown upon the ground,

is the smallest of all the seeds on earth.

Yet when it is planted, it grows and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Matthew 17:20

Jesus said, "If you have faith as a small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, move from here to there and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

I Believe

I believe for every drop of rain that falls a flower grows.

I believe that somewhere in the darkest night a candle glows.

I believe for everyone who goes astray,

Someone will come to show the way.

I believe, I believe.

I believe above the storm the smallest prayers will still be heard.

I believe that someone in the great somewhere hears every word.

Every time I hear a new born baby cry,

Or touch a leaf or see the sky, then I know why, I believe.

Luke 8: 4-15 *Parable of the Sower*

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path. It was trampled on, and the birds ate it up.

Some seed fell on rocky ground. When it came up, the plants withered because they had no water.

Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked the plants.

Still other seed fell on good soil.
It came up and produced a crop
100 times more than was sown.

"What does this parable mean?"

asked the disciples.

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

The ones on the path are those who have heard.

Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy
when they hear it, but they have no root.

They believe it for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

As for the seed that fell among thorns, these are the ones who hear,
but as they go on their way, they are choked by the worries,
riches and pleasures of life, and they do not mature.

But the seed on good soil,

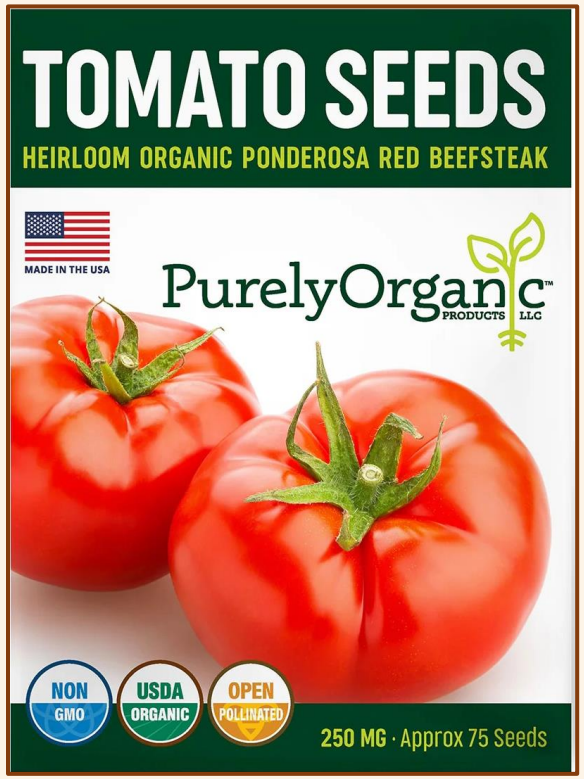
these are the ones who,

when they hear the word,

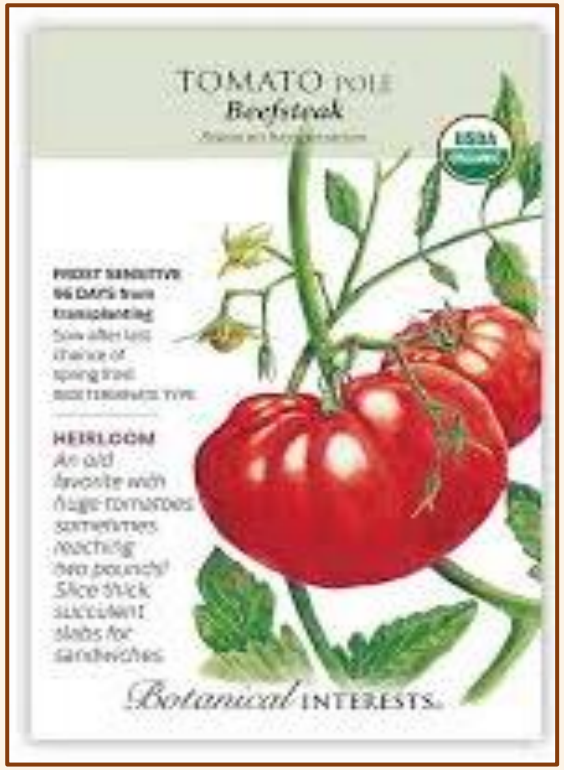
hold it fast in a noble and good heart,

and by persevering produce a crop.

Those who have ears to hear,
let them hear.



I've got the seeds right here….



We're going to have a bumper crop!

Hey - You can't just throw the seeds on the grass!

Fine. I'll dig a hole…

… you've got a lot of rocks there
and the soil isn't very good…

Look, you're going to have to be vigilant…

Unhealthy Crop

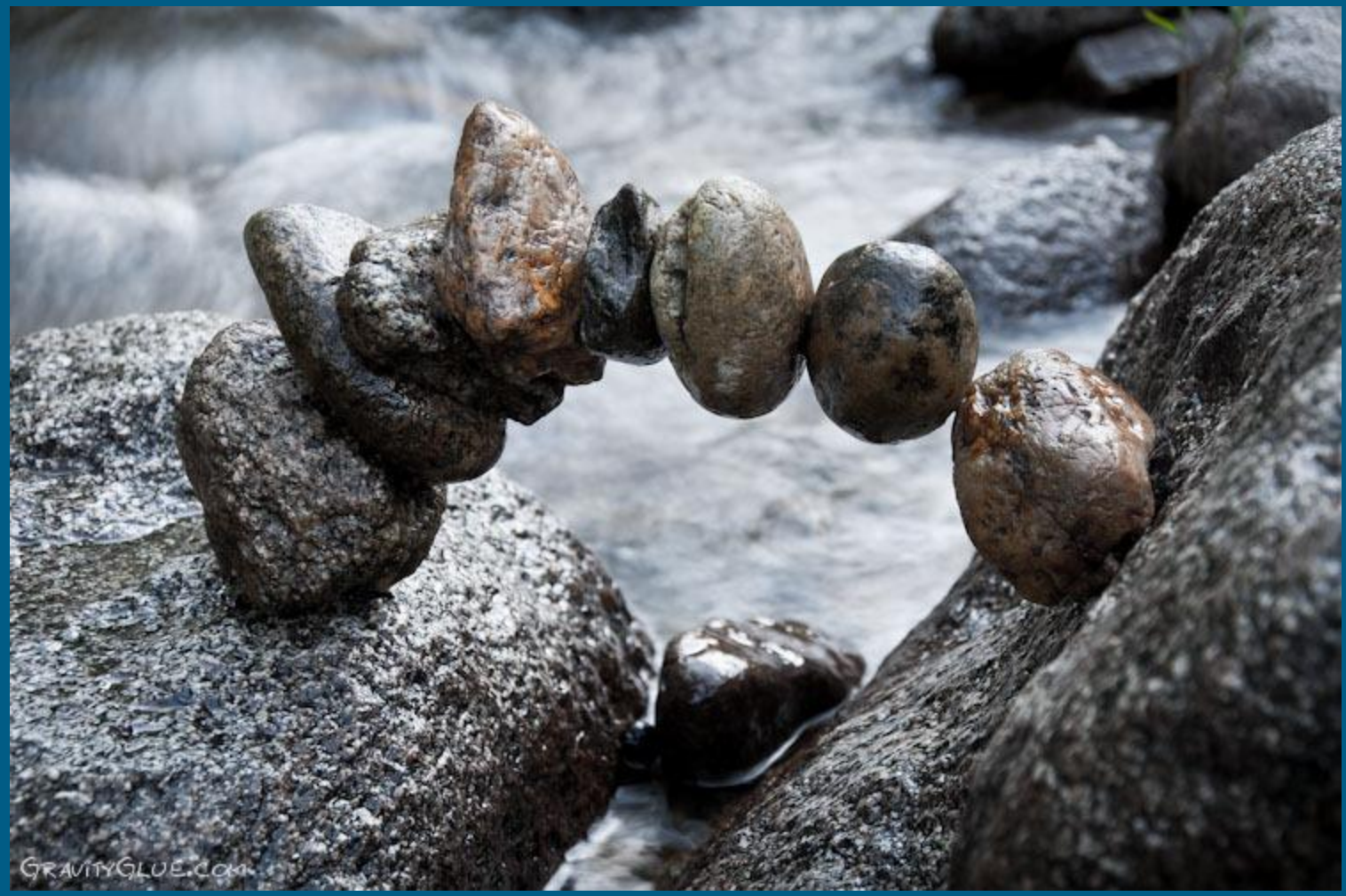
Secret to a healthy crop: Preparation love and care are vital

- Sunny Spot
- Healthy Soil
- No weeds
- Lots of Water
- Fertilizer
- Daily Care

Healthy Crop

The same is true for growing
a strong and healthy faith!

Rogers


GRAVITYGLUE.COM

Myers

He Is Able – reflective meditation

Community Prayer

Eternal God,

Many times Jesus spoke of planting and growing seeds to explain faith.

Once, when his disciples couldn't cast out a demon and asked him why, Jesus replied, "***Because you have so little faith.***" He explained that faith, even if it is as small as a mustard seed, could make the seemingly impossible be possible.

Jesus taught that the smallest of seeds—the mustard seed—would grow into one of the largest, most useful and splendid of plants; however, to transform that tiny seed into such a plant required careful tending, and so it is with our faith.

Lord, help us nurture our faith, keeping it rooted in fertile ground, that it might always grow and bear for Your Holy Kingdom. Then, when we come to you with our difficulties with only the faith of a mustard seed, pour your Holy Spirit over us that we may sense Your strength and experience Your ever-present, reassuring love and grace. ***AMEN***

Offering

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

Doxology - UM Hymnal 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

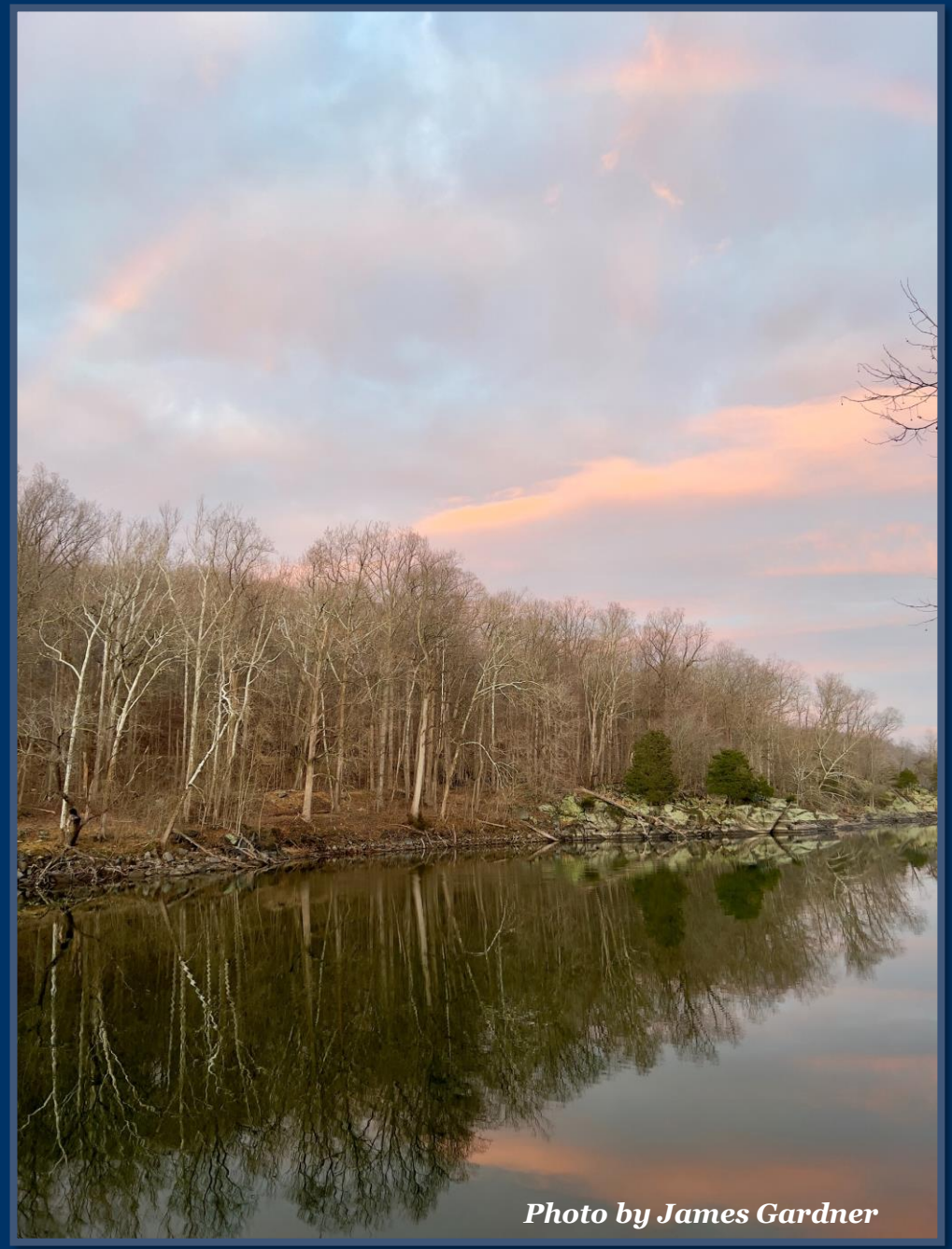
Praise God, all creatures here below

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