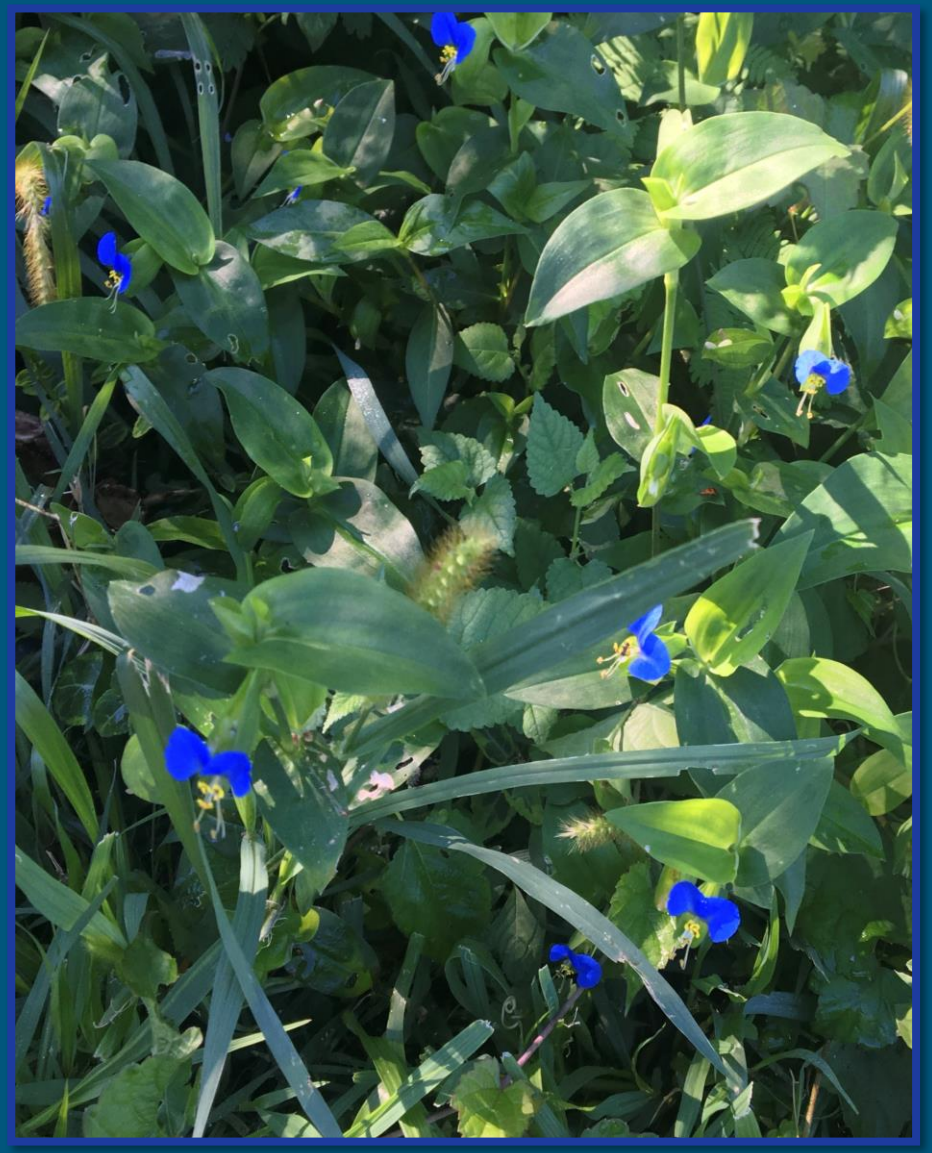


Photo by Rosemary Reed

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Culmore United Methodist Church

Welcome and Good Morning!

Welcome and Announcements

Art by Sue Carroll

Communion

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.

THE BOOK of
REVELATION

Pergamum:

The Compromising Church

Always do what is right.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 33 (selected verses)

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous.

It is fitting for the upright to praise him.

For the word of the LORD is right and true.

He is faithful in all he does.

Art by Sue Carroll

The Lord loves righteousness and justice. The earth is full of his unfailing love.

The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.

From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

Art by Sue Carroll

In home our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

May your unfailing love be with us, LORD,

even as we put our hope in you.

Blessed Assurance – UMH 369

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God

Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood

This is my story, this is my song

Praising my Savior all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song

Praising my Savior all the day long.

Art by Sue Carroll

Matthew 6: 24

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despite the other.

You cannot serve both God and money.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus,

It is so easy for us to get pulled into compromise, especially when more is expected of us than we want to give. Sometimes the price to ***do what is right*** is more than we want to pay. At times like that, we can find ourselves twisting Your truth to meet our agenda, then rationalize to ourselves…and others….that it's okay.

Almighty Father, help us resist the pull of the world. Open our eyes to see Your truth clearly. Cleanse us of compromising faith.

Amen

Revelations 2: 12-17

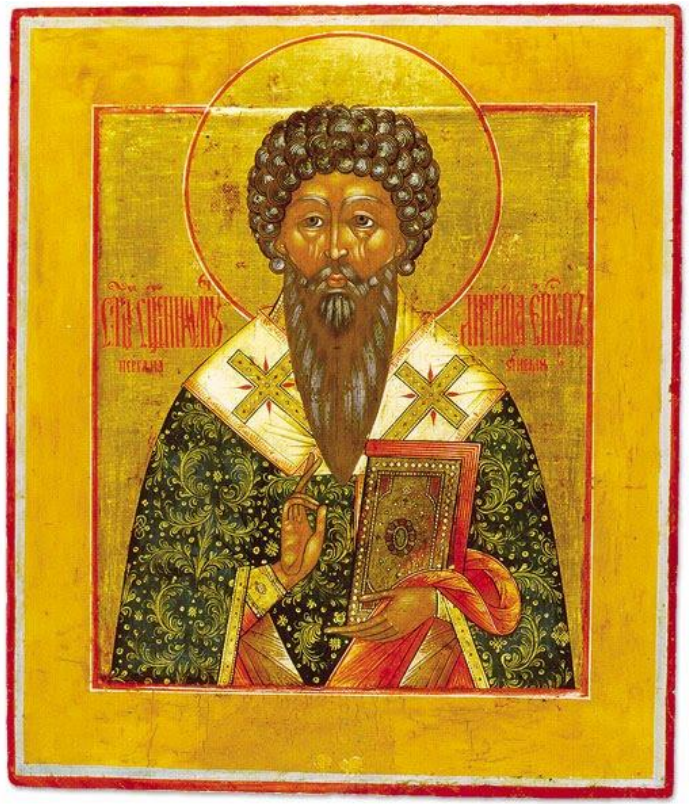
To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp,

double-edged sword. I know where you live

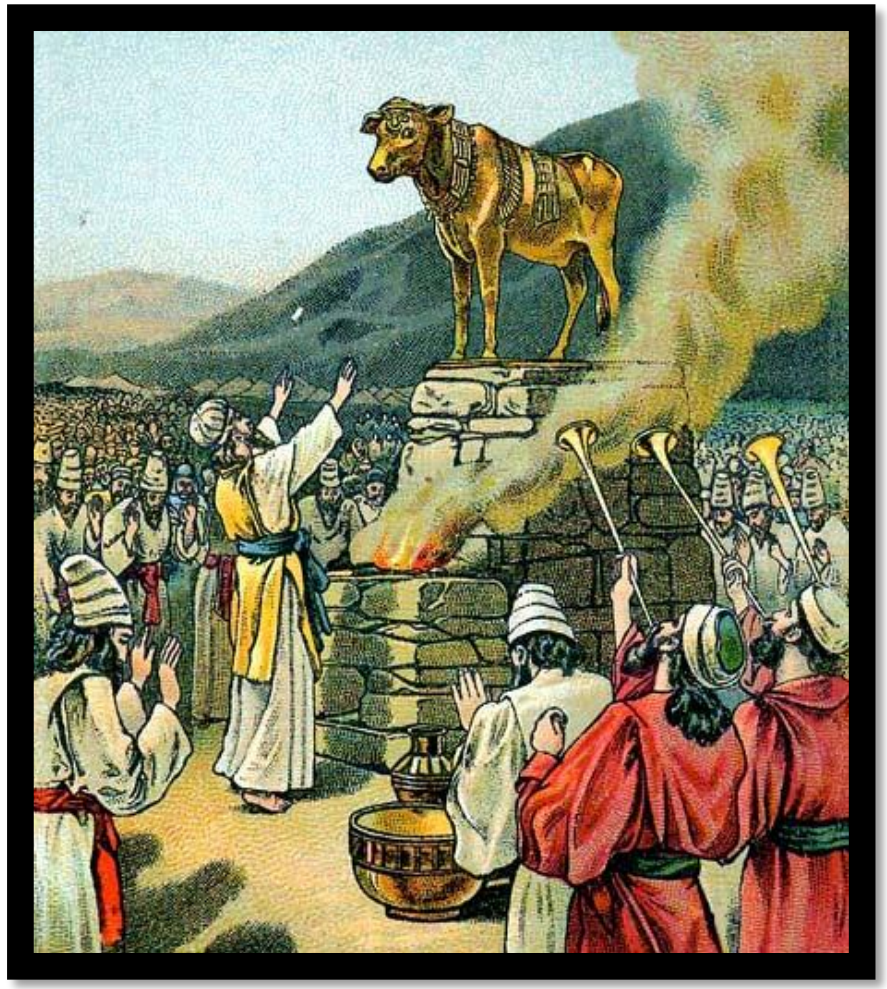
—where Satan has his throne.

Yet you remain true to my name.



You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.



Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you

and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

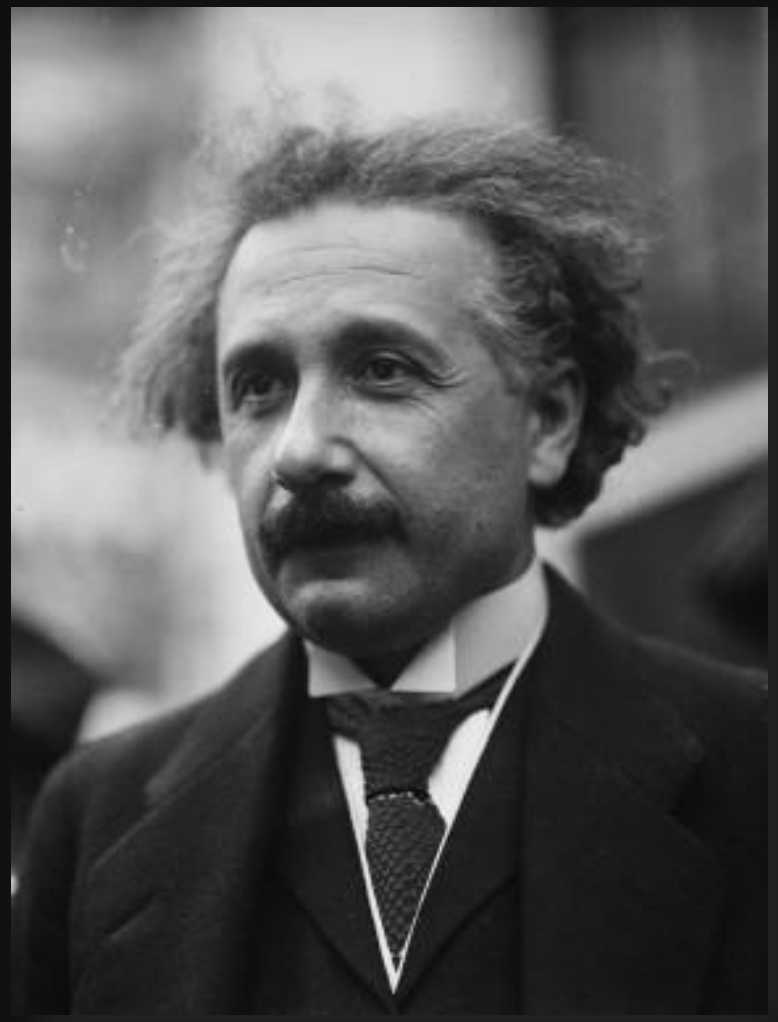
Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna.

I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

What is right is not always popular,
and what is popular is not always right.

—*Albert Einstein*



The time is always right to do what is right.

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Romans 16: 17-18

I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

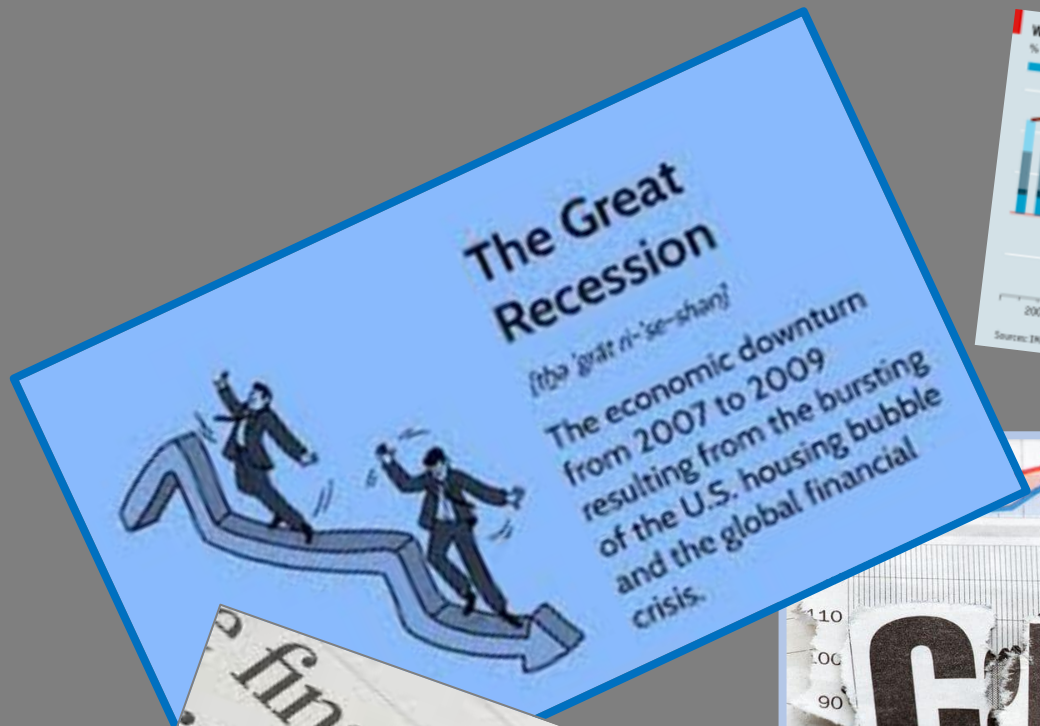
Romans 16: 17-18

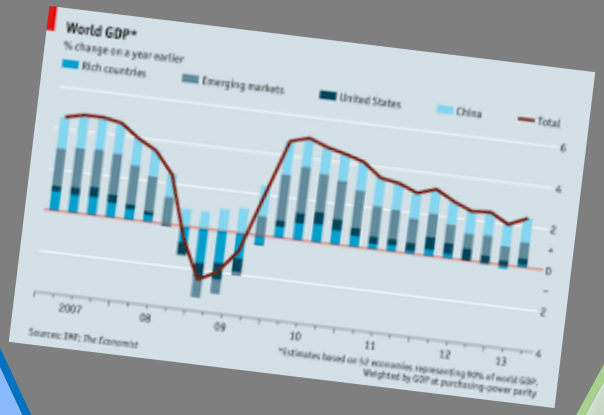
Watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites.

Jude 3: 4, 10

Certain individuals …have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord….They are like Balaam whose one desire was for personal gain.

Oratoire St Joseph – Montréal, QC


The Great Recession
{thə 'grāt ri-'se-shən}
The economic downturn from 2007 to 2009 resulting from the bursting of the U.S. housing bubble and the global financial crisis.


World GDP*
% change on a year earlier
Rich countries
Emerging markets
United States
China
Total
2007
08
09
10
11
12
13

THE 2008 FINANCIAL RECESSION BY NUMBERS
Housing prices fell 31.6%
$30 billion federal guarantee for deal between Bear Stearns and JP Morgan Chase
US Treasury Department spent $350 billion buying bank and car stocks
$140 billion moved from money markets to treasury bonds
Unemployment was still above 9% in 2010
Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac guarantee 90% of all mortgages
AIG
$150 b

Norada
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS
CRISIS
117.36
110
100
90
2006
2005
0.4

financial crisis
eat Crash of 2008
Disbelief, and a punter

Index
1.56
0.78

CHRISTIE'S
LEHMAN BROTHERS

“sometimes you have to do what you think is right, no matter what the cost.”

“What is the main characteristic of a manager who best reflects the Christian spirit in your work environment?”

“sometimes you have to do what you think is right, no matter what the cost.”

Romans 6: 1

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole

Art by Sue Carroll

In your love make us whole
May we rest in your compassion.
Calm the lost weary soul
In the warmth of your love.

May your peace fill our hearts,
May we know the love of Jesus.
By your grace you console
Make us holy, make us whole.

Bind up the wounds of our soul,
Comfort the lonely and lost,
With the strength of your great Spirit.

Nourish the hungry in need,
Strengthen the faith of the poor
With the hope of your Salvation

Community Prayer

LORD Jesus, You made it very clear in Your letter to the Church in Pergamum that it was not acceptable to allow Your people to be misled by false teachers. You said the city was the "home of Satan" and You would kill the false teachers.

It is not always easy to take a stand when we encounter false teaching, nor is it always completely clear which teachings are truly false. It takes us staying in touch with You and seeking to truly understand about God's will and what He wants us to do.

Give us both the conviction to share what we know to be God's truth, and the boldness to provide correction when we encounter false teachers. ***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!

Communion

Art by Sue Carroll

Holy Communion

All are welcome to this, Christ's table, as we come together as one holy family. In this sacred space, let us put aside other thoughts and concerns as we open our hearts and minds to Him.

Prayer of Confession & Declaration of Forgiveness

Our heavenly Father, You know how we struggle to know the truth, Your truth. You know how often we don't get it right…and so we don't come here trusting in ourselves; but instead, turn to You and Your unfailing mercy.

In spite of all we had done wrong, Christ died for us, which proves His love and grace. We are a forgiven people. ***Amen***

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you;

People: ***and also with you.***

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: ***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Pastor: It is a good and joyful thing to always give thanks to you. Even when we turned away and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. And so we praise Your Holy name.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,

God of power and might,
God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who
Blessed is he who

Comes in the name of the Lord.
Comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took the bread,

gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, he gave thanks to You, gave it to his disciples, and said, "*Drink from this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as your drink it, in remembrance of me.*"

… And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Photo by James Gardner

All honor and glory is yours,

almighty God, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

Blessing of the Elements

Loving and eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the entire world, until Christ comes in final victory. ***Amen***

Breaking of the Bread

Lifting of the Cup

Just as there is one loaf, we who are many are one body.

Just as we all partake of one loaf, the bread which we share

is also a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing of the Blood of Christ.

Partaking of the Elements

Art by Sue Carroll

Benediction

For Worshippers at Home:

El Shaddai- UMH 123

Pergamum: The High Cost of Compromise