



Photo by James Gardner

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning!

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Once again it is 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 full-page background image of a mountain landscape. In the lower-left foreground, a person stands on a dark, rocky mountain ridge. The ridge slopes down towards the bottom left, where a patch of snow or ice is visible. The background features more rugged mountain peaks, some partially covered in snow, under a sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The overall tone is dramatic and inspiring.

Stand Firm



Sir Thomas Moore



Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith.

Be courageous, be strong.

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16: 13-14

1 Corinthians 16: 13

Mag-ingat ka; manindigan sa pananampalataya.

用心してください。信仰にしっかりと立つ

Waspadalah; berdiri teguh dalam iman.

조심하십시오. 믿음 안에 굳게 서라

Esté en guardia; mantente firme en la fe.

保持警惕；坚定信念

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith.



Opening Prayer

Dear God,

There are times when we face situations where we need to step up and show what it means to be people of faith. You know how hard this can be for us, especially when it means we may be standing alone. Be with us, Lord, as we seek to do the right thing, to stand firm in our faith. Give us courage, help us stay strong, and do everything in love. *Amen*

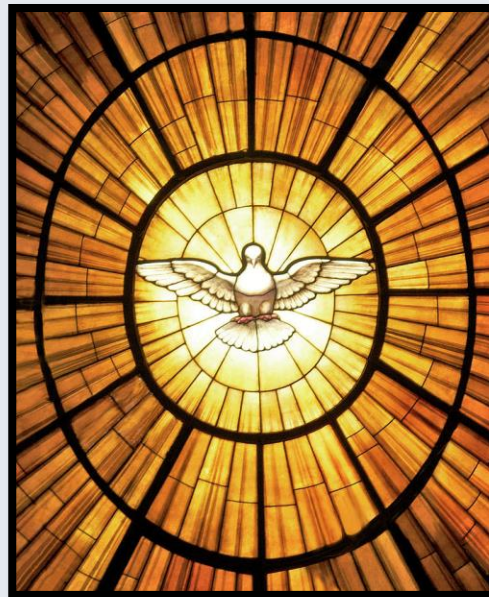
Responsive Reading: Proverbs 3: 1-10

My child, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commandments in your heart.

**They will prolong your life many years
and bring you prosperity.**

Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck.

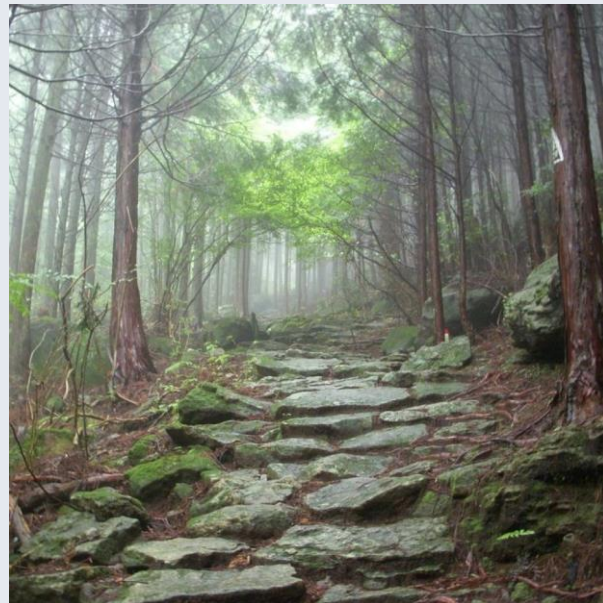
Write them on the tablet of your heart.



Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not
on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.

U



Leaning on the Everlasting Arms - UM Hymnal 133



Leaning, Leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego





Facing the fire



Daniel 3: 1-18 (adapted)

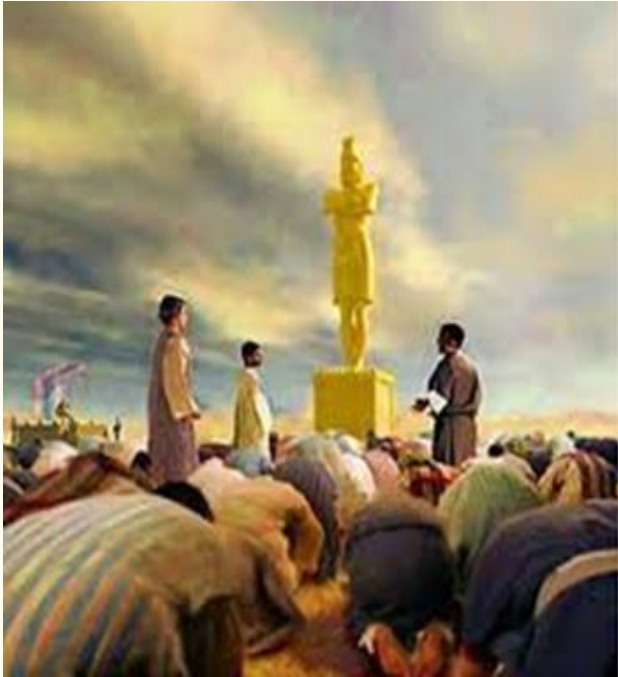
King: That is one fine looking statue, if I do say so myself. Come, all you governors, judges, magistrates, and officials. Come out here and assemble yourselves. When you hear the sound of the horn, the flute, the harp, and all the rest of the instruments, you must fall down and worship this image of gold I have created.

Whoever does not fall down and worship will IMMEDIATELY be thrown into a blazing furnace.

Astrologer: O great King Nebuchadnezzar, may you live forever. Now, didn't you say that everyone must fall down and worship the image of gold you created? ...And it is beautiful, indeed, O King. Nice job.

King: Yes, that's what I said.





Astrologer:

Not to be a snitch or anything, but there are some Jews – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, to be specific – who aren't paying any attention to you, O king. They don't serve your gods or worship that beautiful image of gold you have set up. I thought you'd want to know.

King:

WHAT?! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! Come up here. Didn't I make myself clear? When the music plays, you are to bow down IMMEDIATELY and worship this fine golden image, or you will be thrown into the blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?

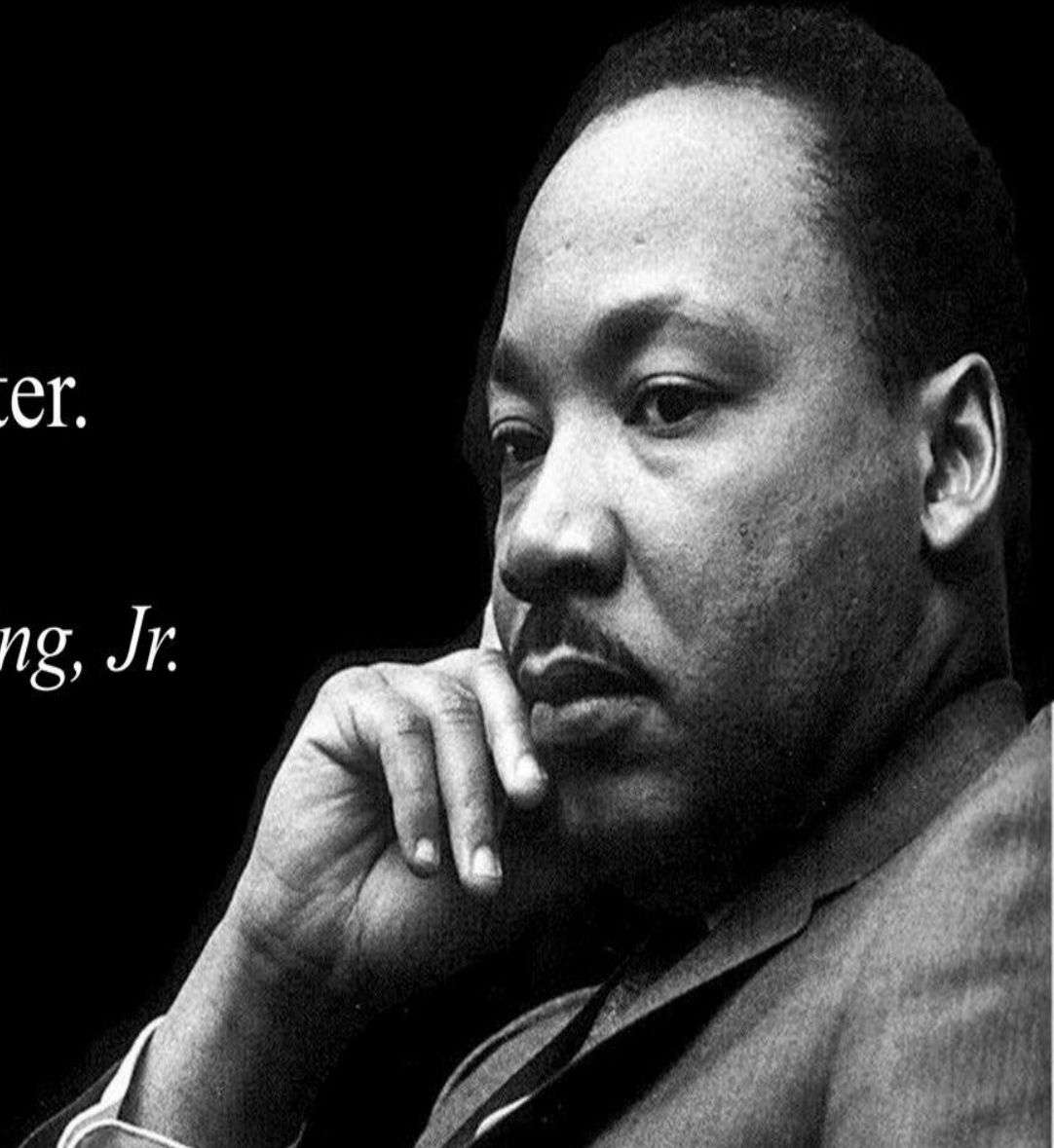


Shadrach: If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king.

But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will ***not*** serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.

Our lives begin to end the day we
become silent about things that matter.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



When we see a wrong to be righted,
a sickness to be healed,
a need to be met,
and we feel it speaking to us,
may we respond with love.

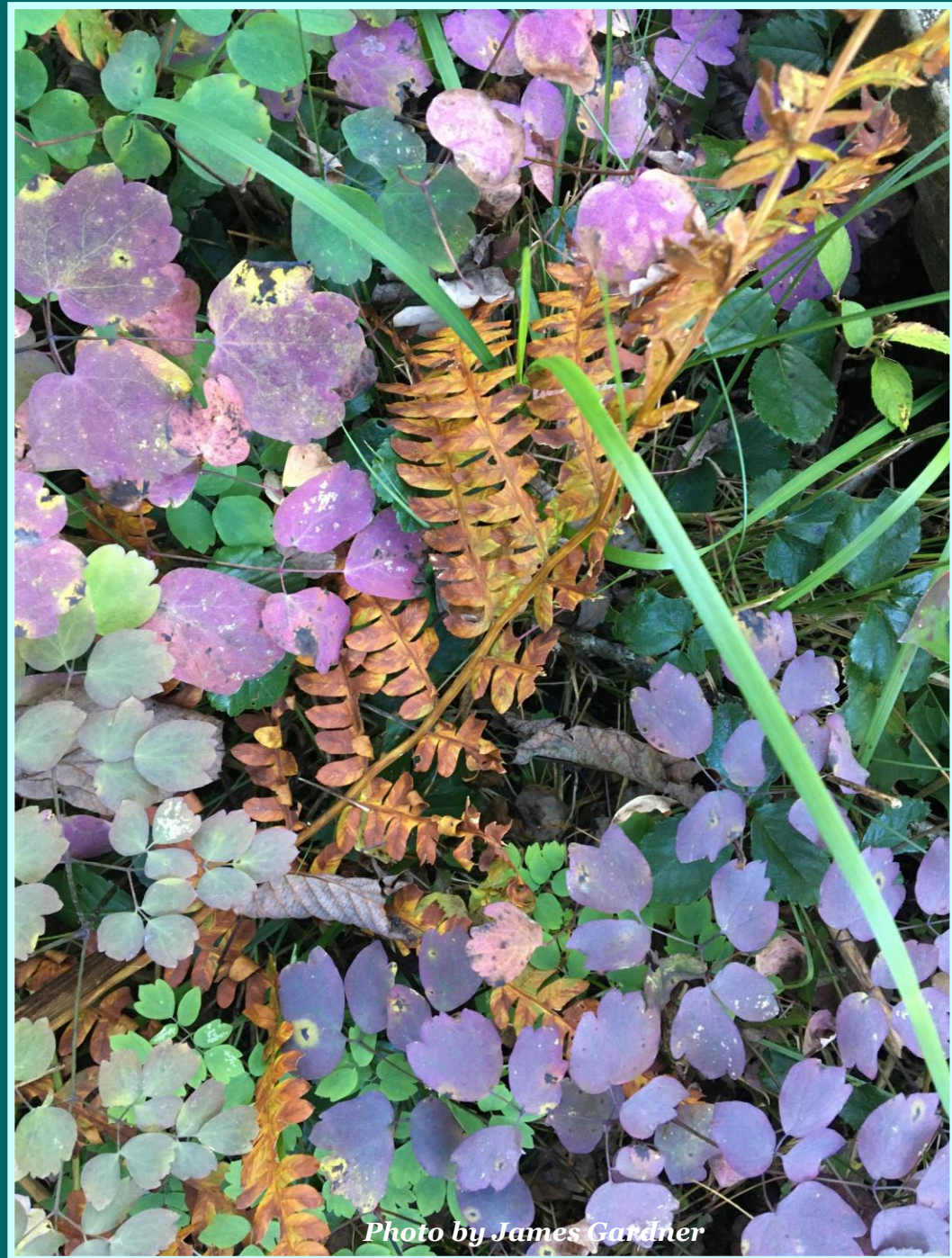


Photo by James Gardner



Community Prayer

Eternal God,

Jesus showed us the importance of standing up, never flinching in his mission to share the good news of your gospel with the world. He never gave into fear, turned back on his teaching, or was unfaithful to his beliefs.

Help us, Lord, to be inspired by Christ's courage and to embrace and stand up for the gospel in the face of any obstacles. Remind us that standing up for the little things makes us ready to stand up for the big ones. Help us grow in faith and discipleship. *Amen*

Offering and Doxology

UM Hymnal 95



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

Benediction

