



MOVING IN FAITH

CUMC CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2

21-DAY DEVOTIONAL

MOVING
IN FAITH

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2 INTRODUCTION TO DEVOTIONAL

We recently experienced the season of Advent, a time of preparation leading up to the celebration of Christmas. We again find ourselves in a season of preparation, this time for the second capital campaign to fund the new church facility being developed at the South Spring Garden campus.

It is easy to see the Spirit of God at work in our hearts, as we see the pledges from the first campaign being fulfilled at a robust pace. We are seeing faith in action, evidence of our trust in God as our provider and Jesus Christ as our Savior. Now we have a second opportunity to show our great faith in God!

It is the prayer of the committee who put this devotional together that you use the meditations to open your heart and your mind to the voice of God. Open your heart to the many ways He would like you to respond to the call to participate in His church at this new location. Don't be afraid of what He says to you during this time! Remember that what He asks us to give, He first promises to give to us, whether that it is money, energy, time, creativity. (Praise God from whom ALL blessings flow!) Think beyond finances to all the ways God has gifted you in time, talent, treasure, but most of all, faith.

Let the thoughts of the authors help prepare your heart to open God's voice to you as you prepare to pledge resources to Capital Campaign 2. When you think of how you will offer the resources God provides to you, remember that He will be right next to you in the future also. In the margins, write the words that God's still, small voice reveals in your heart. Throughout this journey, draw power, encouragement and boldness from these written comments.

God doesn't promise us a little grace and peace, but rather an abundance of grace and peace through encountering God and Jesus, our Lord (2 Peter 1:2). Let's be bold in our faith and secure in our trust in God that He is who He says he is and He will do what he says he will do. Jeremiah 29:11 says He will prosper us ... and give us a hope and a future. Let's start praising Him NOW for the favor and abundance He will surely give us in the future!

Our prayer for your time with this devotional:

"The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." ~ Numbers 6:24-26

Submitted by: Lori Snyder

*As we look forward to the move to our new location,
may we remember the words of this Benediction by Rev. Richard Halverson;
former U.S. Senate Chaplain.*

**YOU GO
NOWHERE BY
ACCIDENT.**

*Wherever you go, God is sending you. Wherever you are,
God has put you there. God has a purpose in your being there.
Christ lives in you and has something he wants to do through
you where you are. Believe this and go in grace
and love and power of Jesus Christ.*

Prayerfully submitted by the Capital Campaign Prayer Team:
Sue Baxter, chair; Jacquie Bunt, Jan Chipriano, Jenn Brink,
Marian Gibble, Lori Snyder & Sandy Kilmer

NEW BEGINNINGS

Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and He will establish your plans.
~ Proverbs 16:3

The year 2020 will be a year of new beginnings for CUMC. We will be worshipping in a new location surrounded by new neighbors and businesses. We will be welcoming a new pastor, Jake Waybright and his family, to our church family. Susan Stewart, who is not a stranger to many of us, will be returning and serving as our new Director of Adult GROW ministries.

Saying welcome also means saying goodbye to much—our present church building, Pastor Jim and Amy, and our long-time presence at the corner of Pomfret and West Streets.

But throughout these changes, we can be assured of one thing—God is with us now and every day moving forward.

He has been so good to all of us throughout this journey. We have stepped out in faith, and God has been walking beside us every step of the way. At times He held our hands and prayed with us while big decisions were being made. He has been with the construction crew as they've worked tirelessly and carefully to build our new church.

Building our new church may be our plan, but it is God's perfect 2020 vision that can see the outcome. We have no idea what we are really capable of doing yet, but God knows. If we rely on His perfect vision for us, then all the pieces will fall in place. God already knows who we will reach and how we will do that. He is guiding us through this whole process and will continue to walk with us each and every day. May we continue to feel His blessings upon us and in turn be a blessing to others.

Heavenly Father, we sense your presence with us and give you thanks for your guidance and love each and every day. May we be examples of your love and grace to all who touch our lives. AMEN

PRAYERS FOR THE JOURNEY

Morning Prayer:

Dear God, For the blessing of those who work tirelessly within the church, both staff and volunteers, we thank you. Open our eyes to notice where we too can help.

Evening Prayer:

Dear Father, As this day ends, bless those who have served you. Grant each rest and peace and renewed strength to wake again tomorrow, ready to serve You faithfully.

Morning Prayer:

Dearest Lord, There's much work to be done in the world. Bless us to be a blessing to our soon-to-be neighbors. May this new building be a place of welcome. Give us eyes to see the strangers among us, especially those in need.

Evening Prayer:

Dear Jesus, Thank you for the blessing and privilege of serving others in our community. Grant a quiet night of rest to both those who give and those who receive.

Submitted by: Sandy Kilmer

Prayer:

Dear Lord, We join together today acknowledging Your Will. Thank you for our camaraderie in CUMC as fellow believers. As we transition into a new church, help us God to accept the challenges of our future and strengthen our relationships with you.

Submitted by: John Peters

GOD BLESSES US BECAUSE HE LOVES US

The blessing of the Lord is our greatest wealth.
~ Proverbs 10:22 (TLB)

The best any of us can offer God is our unhesitating humility to be of service to God. The scriptures teach us that we neither deserve God's blessing, nor can we do anything to earn it. God blesses us because God loves us. Period. That's what Jesus wanted us to know.

We need to periodically assess if we are about the important things of God rather than what we deem important. Are we moving in the direction God desires? Are we doing it in a way that blesses God and others?

There is no doubt that God's hand and blessing has been on CUMC since before we were even aware of it. He has blessed us to be a blessing. How will you return the blessing? Our Capital Campaign challenges us all to cooperate as individuals and as a church to respond to what God has done and is doing. God has shown us that we really matter to him. How will you show God that He really matters to you?

Lord, help me to be thankful for every gift you give, big and small. Let me never lose my wonder and gratitude for all you have given. Help me to give as freely and generously as you give. AMEN.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."
~ Genesis 12:1-2 (NRSV)

"Count your blessings, Name them one by one; Count your many blessings, See what God hath done." Chorus to hymn "Count Your Blessings"

When I was a small child, our family gathered with my maternal grandparents at Christmas. There were many relatives there and a large amount of gifts under the tree. When I only got one gift, I said, "Holy mackerel I didn't get enough." Often in our lives we focus on all the things we didn't get rather than on all the blessings we have received.

As I reflect back on the 78 years of my life, God has richly blessed me. The blessings that I have received are more than I can count. God has blessed me with wonderful parents, siblings, church family, college and seminary education, healing from tuberculosis, wonderful wife and children, pastor to six congregations, and 15 enjoyable years in retirement.

As we begin a new decade and prepare to move to our new facilities on Spring Garden Street, let's count our many blessings and see what God has done and look forward to what God will do through us to bring His love to people here in our community and to the ends of the world.

O God, thank you for all the blessings you have showered on us. Make Carlisle UMC a blessing to all who do not yet know Christ so that more and more people will come to "Live Like Jesus".

BE STRONG AND DO THE WORK

The following is selected verses from 1 Chronicles 28 & 29 (NIV)

The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the Lord God. With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God.....So now I charge you in the sight of this assembly and the hearing of our God: be careful to follow the commands of the Lord our God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants... Acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts.... Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build this temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work. In my devotion to the temple of God, now I give my personal treasures of silver and gold for the temple of God. The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. O Lord our God, as for all this abundance we have provided for building You a temple for Your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. I know my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to You. keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever and keep their hearts loyal to You.

Help us O Lord, to make use of your gifts and bless us with the wisdom to discern your best will for our lives. AMEN.

LIFE IS GOOD

Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.
~ Deuteronomy 16:17 (NIV)

A young couple living in a far-away state was settled in their community, enjoying life surrounded by good friends and neighbors - at ease with the knowledge that they were where they were to be along life's pathway. Suddenly, out of seemingly nowhere came the news that a major change was on the horizon. Their financial means of existence was coming to an end, and where this would lead was unknown.

There were several options put to them, but none appeared to offer the chance to live the status-quo. The option taken was to make a long-distance move to an unknown state and an unknown work environment. What was in store?

The Lord guided their path throughout all the process; and on the other side of this journey was a good home, great friends, a nice work station with the potential for growth. After the pains and suffering that came with a drastic change, this all turned out to be a wonderful new life.

We never know what God has in his plan for our future, but we can trust Him to be with us every step of the way if we just give Him our trust. Change can be a wonderful and exciting alternative for us.

Even with the financial outlay that comes with a move to a new future, God provides a path that keeps us solvent and together. Life is good! God is even better and will help us build a new and improved way to glorify His holy name as we give happily to CUMC's Capital Campaign 2.

Thank you Lord for walking with us through the challenges of life which teach us that in unity and faith you plan our lives and lead us...if we make a commitment to serve you. Amen.

BE THOU MY VISION

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my life naught be all else to me, save that thou art, Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word.

A wise poet in the Old Testament admonished: "Where there is no vision the people perish..." (Proverbs 29:18). United Methodists will need 2020 vision to get us through this year. As a denomination we will need the wisdom of God to lead us. At CUMC, as we will move to a new campus with a new lead pastor, we will also need the presence of God's light, God's 2020 vision, to guide us. Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the light" (John 14:6). If we are to land safely on the other side of many issues facing us, we will need the wisdom and light of Jesus to shepherd us.

The old Irish hymn, "Be thou my vision," is a prayer seeking light, wisdom, and the presence of God. I think that means that we need to see the issues, the problems, the answers through the eyes of God and God's Word for us in Jesus Christ. Any other vision will not be sufficient. That will give us 2020 vision.

We all sang, hummed or whistled the catchy Johnny Cash tune of the 70's, "I can see clearly now. It's gonna be a bright sun shiny day." The extent to which we make the journey through this year 2020 successfully, productively and peacefully will depend on how well we let our vision be God's vision in us, as individuals and as a congregation. If we can learn to do that, we will see clearly, with 2020 vision. Then the love, joy and peace of God will shine through us to a world seeking guidance and hope.

***Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heavens joys,
O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.***

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then He began to speak, and taught them, saying,

**BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN
FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED.**

**BLESSED ARE THE MEEK
FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.**

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER
AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS
FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED.**

**BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL
FOR THEY WILL RECEIVE MERCY.**

**BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART
FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD.**

**BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS
FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.**

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE
PERSECUTED FOR
RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

**BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN PEOPLE
REVILE YOU AND PERSECUTE
YOU AND UTTER ALL KINDS OF
EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY ON
MY ACCOUNT.**

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

~ Matthew 5:13

CUMC has been a great blessing to Nancy and me since we arrived here 10 years ago, primarily through the marvelous people we've met here - people living lives of generous giving, helping so many in Carlisle: people needing financial help, people needing other support.

"The Sermon on the Mount!" - Scripture (page 26) keeps meaning different things to me - I read the old familiar words, and new meaning comes out! Read those first 13 verses with me this morning. Is Jesus saying NOT: "Blessed are those poor people over there?" Is He really saying: "Blessed are YOU when YOU are poor?" Is He really saying that we are beloved and held by God, NOT when this world is giving us medals and degrees and raises? But rather is He saying that we find Life when we set aside the trophies of this world and take our place in God's great mission-dream - that EVERY person be lifted and healed, that EVERY person have Life?

MY dream for CUMC is that we will all learn from the heroes and heroines among us - that we will all find more courage and wisdom to walk more following Jesus, and less stumbling along being consumers of this world. - - That CUMC will "let its Light so shine before Carlisle" that everyone who bumps into CUMC finds he has bumped into not us, but Jesus. We ARE, you know, "the salt of the Earth" when we live letting Jesus shine through us.

Father God, I am your little child! Today, help me set aside MY agenda for a few more steps, and follow, for a few more steps, where You lead! Amen.

Often, God calls us out of our

COMFORT ZONES

*to invest ourselves in the work of the kingdom.
Someone once said,*

"Where God guides, God provides."

SPIRIT LIFT ME UP

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.
~ Jeremiah 29:11

With my head down, the words and songs and sounds circled around me. I was falling. My spirit was battered. The words blurred. Sounds muffled. My tears fell on the hymnal. Every Sunday. Surely no one noticed my turmoil. When I could no longer pretend, I reached out. A hand was offered. I took it. I allowed my faith to restore my spirit. I allowed my spirit to lift me up. I always had faith, but it wasn't until the moment when I stopped trying to heal myself and accepted the pastor, the prayers, the support of my CUMC family that healing began: That I could lift my head and sing with the joy I had known before. That I could feel the sounds wafting through me again. That the bruising of my spirit dissipated. That I was again able to see beyond myself and offer the same guiding hand to others.

Heavenly Father, when we feel our spirits falling, when we feel the bruising of the world's contradiction of your plans for us, when we see the faltering steps of your other children, may we remember the spiritual rallying cry of our CUMC family. As we move toward our future, may we live out your plan with hope and faith and lift our eyes to you, giving and blessing each other with joy. Amen.

Generous people will prosper;

**THOSE WHO
REFRESH
OTHERS WILL
THEMSELVES
BE REFRESHED**

Proverbs 11:25

Dear God, thank you for your example how to give and live generously, and for opportunities to do that every day of our lives. Help us to be generous because we want to follow your footsteps. Amen.

GOD PROVIDES

"Lord, what do you want to do through me?" was our prayer of the first capital campaign, and changed my life forever! As you may recall in praying this prayer, I clearly knew and heard God saying to commit it to our new church - using some funds I had set aside for an adoption. Part relief and part joy of hearing clearly from God, I followed. A chapter I thought closed, God didn't. God provided WAY more than my adoption funds, and I was challenged to receive generous gifts beyond what I ever could imagine from so many people. These gifts allowed me to adopt the sassy little girl from China we now all know as Grace.

After adoption fees and traveling to get her, I had moments of panic wondering if I could still meet my commitment while raising a little girl as a single mom. But again, God has shown me amazing generosity through friends and family; clothes, toys, and adventures together have been provided over and over again.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, preached about money not to raise more for the church, but to encourage people to become more like Jesus. "His intention was to guide early Methodists in the spiritual discipline of generosity so they would become a giving people whose lives were shaped in the likeness of an extravagantly generous God."

In the past three years my life has been shaped, reshaped, and grown because of the generosity I have given but also in what I have received in and through my family here at CUMC. I am constantly amazed, inspired, and challenged to live more like Jesus because of you. As I pray "Lord, what do you want to do through me?" this time I look with excitement to see how God will reply and how my faith and life will grow in the years to come so I may live more like Jesus.

BLESSED

If it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

~ Romans 12:8

One of the meanings of blessed in Webster's dictionary is: of or enjoying happiness. Using that meaning for blessed, I can truly say I have been blessed at CUMC. How have I been blessed? One of the first things that comes to mind are our wonderful pastors. Each week we get an inspiring message that challenges us to become better as Christians. Also the Sunday School class that I lead is a blessing to me. All of the people who attend are looking for ways to be God's light in the world. At My Brother's Table the people who volunteer to help in preparing and serving the meal all have the love of Christ in them to reach out to the less fortunate in the Carlisle area. The congregation at CUMC is striving to "Live Like Jesus." Our cup runneth over with blessings at Carlisle United Methodist Church.

As we move into our new church, we will have many opportunities to share our blessings with all of the new people who will come to worship with us. May our blessings become their blessings so that they may truly feel the love of Christ in our midst.

We thank you, Giving God, for the blessings we have received and for the blessings we are able to share for your work in the world. AMEN.

Life is a journey

**MEANT TO
BE SHARED**

with others.

BUILD OTHERS UP

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

~ Eph 4:29

My tongue has gotten me into trouble in the past. At the time, I may not have recognized the pain it caused the other person or how karma came to bite me in the butt. I wish I could blame it on my mother (a woman known to speak her mind), but at some point, I need to own responsibility.

We were discussing something at a Grow group when a friend said, "I overheard someone say ... and that really hurt." Crap, did I say that? She had tears in her eyes and her voice was shaky; I felt lower than dirt. This woman is a part of my church family, something I consider very important. I thought I loved her and showed her love, but I was wrong, I let my own judgments cloud my opinions and didn't see the work God was doing around me. I started thinking about the members of CUMC who I consider an example of Christ at work and I realized none of them gossiped. The Methodist Church and CUMC are approaching many changes, and I value that I am a member of a church that takes Ephesians 4:29 to heart.

Lord, help us use our tongues as ways of support and love during uncertain times. Let us speak only when you wish us to. Amen.

Submitted by: Carol Lemon

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FIND ROOM FOR ALL WHO ENTER

Every good and perfect gift is from above...
~ James 1:17

I love driving by old homes at night, glancing into lit windows, sensing coziness, peace and "character", generated by the current of the lives that lived there in love, joy, pain, sorrow. Recently, in conversation about the "character" of an old church, I mentioned how I love the sense of history that comes from stained glass windows, seen by worshippers for so long, that have "heard" the strains of our hymns and prayers. Yet I began to think about our new church, which will look so different to us. It struck me that this new church will have character, too - a different feeling created by the style of the building. Yet I know that this new building will still have the SAME "character" - because its true character will come from the people who fill it!

Becoming members of CUMC has been life-changing for us. It is SO welcoming - it truly feels like family. We do so much together to serve our community - and each other.

CUMC's journey, from blending three churches into a loving unit, to building a network to serve our community, to creating an amazing new building and plan for the future has been so clearly directed by God. What joy to be a part of it, through each one of our gifts of ideas, labor, prayers, support, and yes, our financial gifts. Every gift is one more chance to be the Good Samaritan that God wants us to be.

Lord, I thank you for putting us here in this church. It has truly been a blessing. I thank you for showing us ways to help, and giving us the nudge to do so! Bless this church, the love in this church, and lead us onward to new and exciting things! Amen.

GOD IS ALWAYS WORKING

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.
~ Eph 3:20 (NIV)

God invites us for His work and His glory. We must be alert to His plan and be willing to join in what He is doing. Sometimes the plan takes us out of the comfort-zone, like stepping from the boat onto the water.

Let us submit to the work He is doing and be willing to join in all He does. God's work is all around us and in us. Let us be open to His plan - within ourselves and around us wherever we are - at home, work, or in church.

God will always amaze us with the perfection of His plan - we must be willing to join Him faithfully and obediently to witness the perfection.

Lord, help me to see you first. Help me to trust that you will guide me in all my responsibilities, and that all the other things will fall into place when my highest priority is you. AMEN.

SHOWING HOSPITALITY TO ALL

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.
~ 1 Peter 4:8-9

We moved to Carlisle to be closer to our adult children 4 years ago. The strong outreach of Carlisle UMC was one of the reasons we were drawn to this area.

As retirees and not knowing anyone who lives here, we really appreciated CUMC members Elissa and Wayne Henderson's invitation to come to their home and learn to play the mountain dulcimer. Wayne is a consummate wood worker who has constructed numerous dulcimers and graciously provided instruments to play. Elissa imparted the musical skills. These gatherings provided fellowship, fun and new friendships that were greatly appreciated.

The new building will bring many new people to CUMC. May we show the love of Christ as we extend the hand of friendship and hospitality to newcomers.

Lord, help us to show your love to newcomers, especially those new to the Carlisle area. Help us go beyond the walls of CUMC to help them feel a part of the greater Carlisle community. Amen.

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

As most CUMC members go, I'm the newbie. I walked into our church in the fall of 2018 when I moved to the area from another state. I don't fully understand the long history that our church has in all its various forms - Grace, Allison, First. My relationships with other 'family members' are not deep rooted...YET! None of that matters, though, because the family at Carlisle United Methodist Church has welcomed me as its own. At CUMC, we're family, held together by the blood of Christ. I am so very grateful for the blessings that I have received in such a short period of time.

Soon, we are moving into a new and exciting history in our church life. The opportunities that await us at Spring Garden are endless. We'll meet new friends and neighbors, and we'll pass our blessings forward. If each of us commits to sharing our own blessings, together, we have the power to change lives and grow the family of God. My prayer moving forward is that we will all be blessed to be a blessing to others.

Dear God, thank you for all you have done in each of our lives. Help us each day to pass our blessing on to others. Amen.

We thank God for

**GIVERS OF
ALL AGES.**

*May we always include each other in the
GREAT WORK you have set before us.*

ENTERTAINED ANGELS UNAWARES

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby
some have entertained angels unawares.

~ Hebrews 13:2

When we first came to Carlisle UMC I really liked the community outreach and wanted to be involved with that ministry. We participated in hosting the overnight CARES shelter when it was at CUMC. It was a blessing to me to be a part of this local outreach. This service has blessed many, many people. In our new church building I am sure we will be able to continue hosting the overnight shelter. And the new church will have many benefits. For one, we will all be on one floor which makes it so much easier for the guests as well as the overnight volunteers. There may be some challenges, but I am sure CUMC will continue to be a blessing to the homeless.

***Lord, help us to continue to open our doors to serve the
homeless in our community. Amen.***

Submitted by: Paula Patrick

SHOUT TO THE LORD WITH JOY

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. ~ Psalm 100

My Bible titles it "For giving grateful praise."

This scripture tells me (us) to shout to the Lord with joy, worship Him with gladness, come to Him with joyful song, thanksgiving and praise. I will be honest. These are things I do not do on a regular, consistent basis. I do go to God pleading to fix things in my life and then I will be thankful, joyful and praise Him. Even in my (our) human condition of not entering "His gates with thanksgiving" and getting my prayers backwards, this Psalm also tells me "the Lord is good and His love endures forever."

My favorite prayer:

O Holy God open unto me light for my darkness, courage for my despair. O loving God open unto me wisdom for my confusion,- forgiveness for my sins, love for my hate. O God of peace open unto me peace for my turmoil, joy for my sorrow, strength for my weakness. O generous God open my heart to receive all your gifts. In Jesus the Christ name we pray, Amen

BE AN INSPIRATION

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
~ Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)

When I first attended CUMC, I must say my faith was beginning to wane. I no longer felt part of a family congregation since most of my Allison 'family' members were attending the 11:00am service. During an illness, when (at the time unknown to me) CUMC members visited me, prayed for me and telephoned me, I began to feel important to this congregation. When I got better, I knew I wanted be able to contribute something to the Church's purposes.

Now I have become involved in a few of the many available opportunities offered at CUMC, and I feel my faith has improved greatly and I am also able to help others. The many new friends I have found at CUMC have inspired me to reach for higher goals in my faith.

CUMC, hopefully, will continue with all the current activities in which members are able to participate—Bible studies, Mission trips, hospitality, Samaritan fellowship, Choir, LAMS, BEARS - just to name a few. CUMC members care about those in the community and beyond and are willing to help wherever possible.

We need to be an inspiration to other Christians to live out their faith and to pass that faith on to others.

Lord, help me to know what you want me to give. Put the desire in my heart to share the blessings you have given me. Let me give with joy so that others will see your spirit in me. Amen.

FIND ROOM FOR ALL WHO ENTER

They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left,
not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.

~ Mark 2:2 (NIV)

Being an usher at the 11:00am service on Sunday mornings has been a great blessing to me. It's fun to greet everyone as they come in the door, and it's an honor to collect the offering and bring it forward to the pastors. (Side note: Please know that the ushers are not judging you for what you do or do not place in the offering plate; we are busy concentrating on the path of the plates as they make their way through the pews!)

My favorite and least favorite services are the ones where the pews are so full that it's hard to find a seat for everyone. They are my least favorite because as ushers we sometimes have to (gasp) ask people to move toward the center of the pews to make room. But it's so exciting to see an overflowing worship space. Typically these are special services like Christmas Eve and combined worship. My prayer for CUMC is to make the ushers work hard every Sunday to find room for all who enter.

***Dear Lord, help us to treat every Sunday as a special Sunday.
Amen.***

WE BELONG TO THE FAMILY OF GOD

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. ~ Eph 2:19-22 (NIV)

Throughout my husband's Army career, our family has valued the strong sense of belonging and community shared by Army families that help us sustain through the joys and challenges of military life.

Since moving back to Carlisle in 2017 and joining CUMC, I am blessed by an even greater appreciation of the power of community, specifically one that believes in and shares the love of Jesus Christ. CUMC's vision, mission, and pillars are giving me a deeper relationship with God and a greater commitment to share the spirit of the Lord.

Eph. 2:21-22 reminds us that WE BELONG to the family of God. We are blessed to join together to grow and build the body of Christ, therefore strengthening ourselves, one another, and our communities to weather the inevitable joy and pain of life on earth. CUMC's Capital Campaign provides an opportunity to praise God for the bountiful blessings we receive as members of his household. As members of CUMC, we must also turn our hearts to those in our community who need to know that they, too, BELONG in God's family. Please consider how your prayers and gifts can help CUMC continue to build and grow a place where Jesus's spirit lives and lives are changed through his grace and love.

Lord, empower me to join together with others in the CUMC community to build up the body of Christ in our community and beyond so that all can experience the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice.

And the God of peace will be with you. ~ Phil 4:4-9

In these passages, Paul was urging the Philippian church to model the best characteristics they had seen in him. In doing so, they would be examples for Christ and experience the peace of God.

We have been blessed by some members through our volunteer work at CUMC. They are good examples of the characteristics Paul encouraged the Philippians to model; they are honorable, truthful, just, and pure in spirit.

Perhaps you have seen Mary as a generous giver or Mason as a tireless worker. Maybe you view Ben as a trustworthy leader or Hannah who is faithful in her prayer life (the names are fictitious, but the people are real). Our task is not only to observe these qualities in others, but to put them into practice in our own lives. We wish to encourage you to rejoice always and let your gentleness be evident to all (Philippians 4:5). We must be careful what characteristics we model and always ask God to help us with our witness. Know the peace of God, and display Christ's love to others.

Holy God, may your Spirit guide us and may we embody only Christ-like qualities as we continue to build your church here in Carlisle and throughout the world. Amen.

Lord,

**WHAT DO
YOU WANT**

to do through me?