



## **Heartbeats along the way: The Believing Heart**

*"Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you." ~ Mark 11:23*

It was the last week Jesus spent on Earth. Mark records that earlier that day Jesus put a curse on a fig tree because it had leaves and no fruit. As they were returning to Bethany, the disciples noticed that the tree, once flourishing in greenery was now withered to the root.

In a sense that fig tree was a sacrifice to make a point about real faith, trust, and belief. Jesus then uses some extreme language to make a point about believing in our hearts what we say with our mouths about God and God's power available to us.

If you read the story closely, Jesus was hungry and believed that the fig tree would have fruit, even though it was not yet fruit season. Think of others who are hungry for the Word (which is never out of season.) What a disappointment for them when their souls are unsatisfied. They turn aside from believing and are lost.

We have the opportunity for CUMC to be a fruitful fig tree, one whose fruit is never out of season. God has proven faithful to our big prayers, particularly those prayers we pray in agreement with one another that have led us to Spring Garden Campus. We've had mountains moved by our praying. We are witnesses to believing in a magnificent God. Let's invite all to come for a bite of fruit that will satisfy their souls.

*"Gracious Jesus, You reward all who believe in their hearts that You can do mighty miracles for their lives here on Earth. Let us share everything that makes our hearts believe in You. Let us be more than just pretty fig leaves to a world of hungry souls. Let us always bear refreshing fruit. Amen."*

~ cl reynolds