

## Prayer Corner

### **"Prayers of the People"**

**From Valerie Bridgeman Davis (Africana Worship Book-Year A)**

*God of Unity, We come before you dismayed at our own divisions. We have struggled as your church to live in unity; but we are divided—along all the fault lines of our societies. The ruptures in our families, among friends, among denominations, among nations are wide and deep. When we attempt to get on the same page, we build taller walls and dig deeper trenches. God, help us! We know that Christ is not divided. We know that it is your baptism to which we have been called. It is your service to which we are compelled. You have called us to proclaim the gospel, but we even fight about what that is. Help us, God! Help us to give up our power, and our privileges. Help us to yield for the sake and cause of the cross of Jesus. Help us to want the unity you share, for you are one; in you there is no division. Help us to embrace and to live the foolishness of a life emptied of power and given to service, in the likeness of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Help us to walk in salvation—in the name of the Servant Christ, Amen.*

### Prayer Requests

- Immigrant Community
- All who are experiencing Trauma

### Seniors and Homebound

- Doris Douglas
- Johnette Houston
- Pat Jemie
- Barbara Wulf



*Loving God. Loving People.*

**CAMPHOR**  
Memorial United Methodist Church

585 Fuller Avenue | St. Paul, MN 55103  
www.camphorconnects.org | 651-224-0341

**February 15, 2026 | 10 am**  
**Black History Month | Transfiguration Sunday**



**Rev. Cynthia Williams | Lead Pastor**

**Welcome to Camphor Memorial UMC!**

We are an open, welcoming, and affirming congregation, intentional and inclusive of all God's people. Camphor worship services are filmed, recorded and broadcast on line. Whoever you are – you are safe here.

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- † All stand
  - \* Please be Seated
- Where indicated, speak or sing the words in **bold**

## Camphor Bulletin Board

**Announcement Submissions: Submit announcements by 10 a.m. two weeks before publication (events: at least one month in advance).**

**Centering Moment: Our Daily Bread**  
 Check out today's passage from  
 "Our Daily Bread" to get centered for Worship.



### This Week @ Camphor Memorial UMC

- Tuesday, February 17th** 6 pm | Admin Council Meeting (Zoom)
- Wednesday, February 18th** 6:30 pm | Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)  
*Ash Wednesday*
- Friday, February 20th** 9 am | Dorcas Circle (Lower Level)  
11 am | Exercise w/ Connie (Lg. Sunday School Rm)
- Saturday, February 21st** 10 am: Prayer Breakfast (Sanctuary)  
10 am: Trustee's Meeting (Conference Room)
- Sunday, February 22nd** 8:45 am: Adult Sunday School (Conf. Rm)  
10 am: Worship (Sanctuary & Live-Stream)  
11:30 am: BHM Café (Fellowship/Narthex Area)

### Prelude

### † Bringing in the Light | Processional

**Welcome** Pastor Cynthia Williams

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** Min. Isiah Dennis

One: Come, people of God. Come away from the noise, the pressure, and the ground-level worries of life. God is calling us higher.

**Many: We come seeking a clearer vision—longing to see what God sees and hear what God is saying.**

One: Jesus led the disciples up the mountain, and there—away from the crowds—their vision was transformed. Glory was revealed, and truth shined through.

**Many: We gather trusting that God still reveals holy truth when we pause, listen, and look with faith.**

One: On the mountain, a voice declared, *"This is my Beloved—listen to him."* Not every voice deserves our attention; not every path leads to life.

**Many: We choose to listen for the voice that brings clarity, courage, and calling—the voice that names us and sends us forward.**

One: This is a moment for lifted eyes and open hearts—a moment to receive a God's-eye view of who Christ is and who we are becoming.

**Many: So we worship with wonder and humility, ready to be changed by the light of God's presence. Come, let us listen to the Beloved and worship together. Amen.**

*(Adapted from Church Assistant: Liturgy, Bible Study, Prayer)*

### Change for Change: Small Coins, Big Impact!



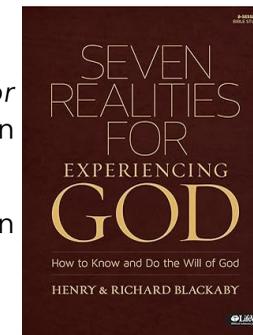
We continue our monthly Change for Change offering—loose coins and spare dollars supporting local organizations through the Oglesby House of Blessing. **The February 2026 recipient is Dorcas Circle**, a ministry of Camphor's United Women in Faith that demonstrates Christ's love and compassion by serving unhoused neighbors.

### Experiencing God Bible Study

Join us for an eight-week study, *Seven Realities for Experiencing God: How to Know and Do the Will of God*, on Wednesday's at 6:30 pm via Zoom

**The book is required for this study.** You may purchase it on Amazon

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89022802750>



## A Joyful Welcome to Bishop Lanette Plambeck | February 22



We are honored to welcome Bishop Lanette Plambeck to Camphor on Sunday, February 22, as our guest preacher.

Drawing from Psalm 32 and Matthew 4:1-11, she will share a powerful message titled "While I Kept Silent," calling us to honest reflection, spiritual clarity, and the liberating grace that comes when we bring what is hidden into the light.

## Welcoming Akudo as our Director of Next Generation Ministries

We are excited to announce that Akudo Omeoga has joined Camphor as our Director of Next Generation Ministries, leading this exciting new initiative focused on engaging and attracting the next generation into our Christ-centered community.

In this role, Akudo will develop, implement, and support ministry programs serving children and youth from infancy through age eighteen, with a vision for strengthening Camphor's connection to young people and families both within our church and throughout the wider community. She brings extensive experience in youth development, counseling, and educational leadership.

Akudo currently serves as Dean of Students for Mounds View Public Schools, where she implements tiered student support interventions, facilitates social-emotional learning groups, and provides counseling for academic and personal growth.

She previously served as a Licensed School Counselor and Adjunct Staff at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Akudo holds a Bachelor of Science in Family Social Sciences from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Science in Education: Counseling from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. We are grateful for the expertise, passion, and leadership she brings as we grow our ministry to the next generation.



## † Hymn of Praise "Open the Eyes of My Heart | Holy! Holy! Holy! Melody"

[Verse x2]

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You, I want to see You**

[Refrain x2]

**To see You high and lifted up  
Shinin' in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy**

[Vamp]

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

[Verse x2]

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You, I want to see You**

*(Worshippers May Enter)*

## Centering Prayer (In Unison)

Min. Isiah Dennis

**Revealing God, You invite us to step away from what distracts us and see through Your eyes. In the midst of our busy lives, lift our vision. Quiet our minds. Still our spirits. Help us see Christ clearly and hear Your voice above all others. As we center ourselves now, give us a holy perspective—one shaped not by fear or confusion, but by Your light, Your truth, and Your transforming presence. Amen.**

*(Adapted from Church Assistant: Liturgy, Bible Study, Prayer)*

## Passing of the Peace

Min. Isiah Dennis

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation, peace, and love. Saying, to our neighbors, **"the peace of Christ be with you,"** the response is, **"And also with you!"**

*(Worshippers May Enter)*

**Song of Intercession***Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

UMH 349

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
 Look full in his wonderful face  
 And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
 In the light of his glory and grace*

**Joys and Concerns | Intercessory Prayer**

Pastor Cynthia Williams

**Lord's Prayer (In Unison)**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Gathering our Community/Announcements**

Pastor Cynthia Williams

**Ministry of Giving/Offering**

Pastor Cynthia Williams

*Scan the QR Code to give online via Square or PayPal!**1st Offering: Change for Change**2nd Offering: Tithes & General Offering***† The Doxology****UMH 95 | AA/HH 651**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
 Praise God all creatures here below;  
 Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**Ministry of Music**

Sanctuary Choir

**† Scripture Lesson****Mark 9:2-10 (MSG)**

Marvaleen Atlas

2-4 Six days later, three of them did see it. Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. His clothes shimmered, glistening white, whiter than any bleach could make them. Elijah, along with Moses, came into view, in deep conversation with Jesus.

**† Scripture Lesson****Mark 9:2-10 (MSG)-Cont'd**

Marvaleen Atlas

5-6 Peter interrupted, "Rabbi, this is a great moment! Let's build three memorials—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah." He blurted this out without thinking, stunned as they all were by what they were seeing. 7 Just then a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and from deep in the cloud, a voice: "This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him." 8 The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus. 9-10 Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. "Don't tell a soul what you saw. After the Son of Man rises from the dead, you're free to talk." They puzzled over that, wondering what on earth "rising from the dead" meant.

(Leader: The Word of God for the People of God/ **All: Thanks be to God**)**Ministry of Music**

Sanctuary Choir

**Sermon***A God's Eye View*

Pastor Cynthia Williams

**Invitation for Prayer**

Pastor Cynthia Williams

*(Those who desire prayer or anointing with oil may come at this time.)***† Benediction with Blessings**

Pastor Cynthia Williams

**Let the Church say Amen,  
 Let the Church say Amen  
 God has spoken, Let the Church say Amen**

*(Worshippers may depart. Go in Peace)***Ash Wednesday Worship | Wednesday, February 18th**

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 18, at 6:30 PM, as we begin the Lenten season together in prayer, reflection, and the imposition of ashes. Worship with us at Camphor Memorial UMC as we prepare our hearts for the journey toward Easter.

## Ways to Respond in the midst of the ICE Surge:

Many of you wonder how you can help, what you can do to offer care and support to our neighbors being targeted by ICE. Scan the QR Codes to learn some action steps you can take:

Educate yourself about the rights of immigrants and community members who encounter ICE from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)



Read this fact sheet from the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

Read or listen to this segment from Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) on the do's and don'ts if you monitor immigration actions in Minnesota.



Contact your U.S. senators and representatives to voice your concerns about immigration enforcement and to tell them what is important to you.

Donate or volunteer with the

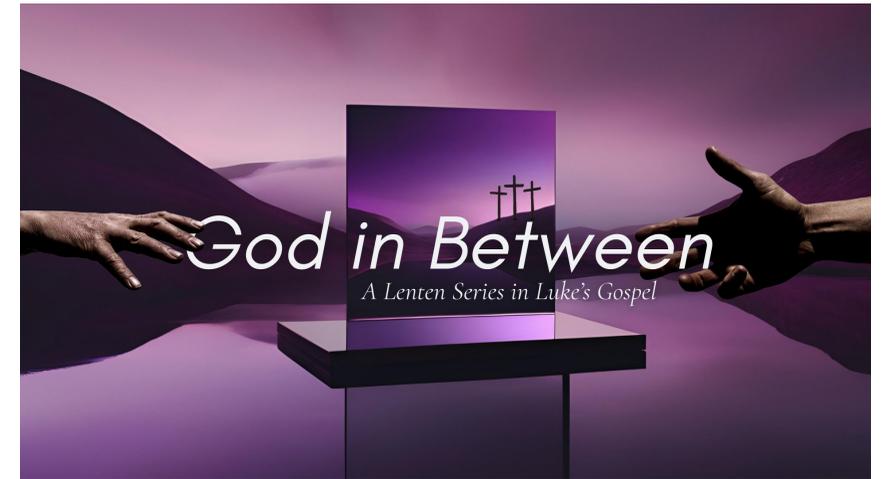
Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAC)



Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

Support immigrant-owned small businesses, and check in on your neighbors who might be targeted.

## Camphor Bulletin Board



### God In Between | A Lenten Series in Luke's Gospel

This Lenten season, we invite you to journey with us through God in Between—a sacred invitation to reflect on the spaces where faith meets uncertainty, where questions remain open, and where God is still at work. Lent calls us to slow our pace, quiet our distractions, and listen more closely for God's presence, especially in moments that feel unresolved or unfinished.

Through scripture, prayer, and worship, we will explore themes that hold tension together—hope and grief, rest and growth, mercy and justice—trusting that God does not abandon us in the middle of the story. Rather than rushing toward easy answers, this season invites us to dwell in holy complexity and discover how God shapes us through patience, honesty, and faithfulness.

**March 1st | Stranger & Neighbor (Luke 10:25-37)**

**March 8th | Faith & Works (Luke 10:38-42)**

**March 15th | Rest & Growth (Luke 13:6-9)**

**March 22nd | Righteousness & Mercy (Luke 19:1-10)**

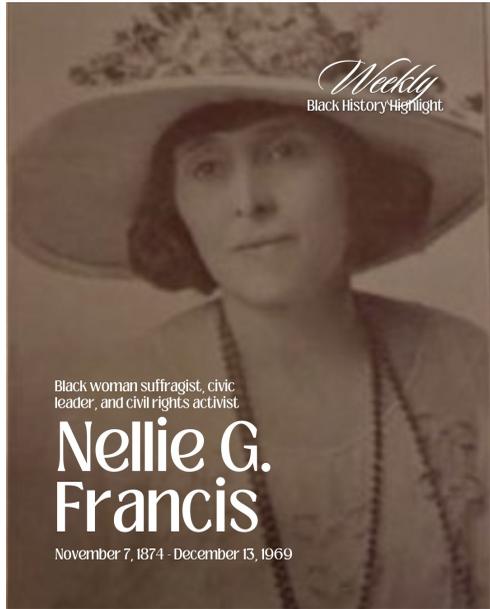
**March 29th- Palm Sunday | Shouting & Silence (Luke 29-40)**

**April 3rd- Good Friday | Seven Last Words Service-6:30pm**

**April 5th-Resurrection Sunday | Grief & Hope (Luke 24:1-12)**

We encourage you to remain engaged throughout the Lenten journey and come just as you are. Bring your questions, your weariness, your hope, and your trust, as we walk together and stay open to the ways God continues to meet us, guide us, and transform us in the in-between.

**Black History Month Moment- Nellie G. Francis  
Organizer, Suffragist, Civil Rights Advocate**



Nellie G. Francis pressed the limits of what an African American woman was permitted to achieve in early twentieth-century Minnesota. A devoted churchwoman and tireless advocate, she was a clubwoman, suffragist, organizer, singer, civil rights worker, patriot, and the wife of Minnesota’s first African American diplomat, William T. Francis.

Born Nellie Griswold in Nashville in 1874, she moved with her family to St. Paul in 1885. In 1891, she became the only African American graduate of St. Paul High School, the predecessor of today’s Central High School—an early sign of her determination to excel in spaces where few Black women were welcomed.

Nellie was an accomplished contralto singer and regularly performed as a soloist and ensemble member, most often at Pilgrim Baptist Church. There she frequently sang alongside William T. Francis, whom she married in 1893. Her faith community remained central to her life and leadership.

Professionally, Nellie worked for several years as a stenographer at West Publishing Company, while remaining deeply engaged in church and civic life. At Pilgrim Baptist, she served as a teacher and superintendent of the primary Sunday school and as president of the Aid Society. In 1909, she personally appealed to philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and secured \$1,100 toward the purchase of a new church organ.

Nellie’s influence extended well beyond her congregation. She ran the press office for the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs, served as president of Minnesota’s Everywoman Suffrage Club, and was twice a delegate to state suffrage conferences. She met Presidents William Howard Taft and Warren G. Harding at the White House and counted both Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois among her contemporaries.

Following the horrific lynching of three Black carnival workers in Duluth in 1920, Minnesota passed an anti-lynching statute. Nellie G. Francis was widely credited with writing the bill and played a critical role in securing its near-unanimous passage through the legislature, making her likely the first African American woman to lobby the Minnesota Legislature.

In 1924, Nellie and William Francis purchased a home in an all-white St. Paul neighborhood. Despite organized protests, a cross burning on their lawn, and attempts to bribe them not to move in, the Francis’ claimed their home anyway—standing firmly against racial intimidation and segregation.

*Source Note*

*This Black History lesson on Nellie G. Francis is excerpted from Hannah Jackson Matthews’ Black History in the Twin Cities Calendar © 2024*

**Black History Month Cafe | February 22nd**



Join the United Women in Faith for our Annual Black History Café Fundraiser on Sunday, February 22, immediately following worship. All are invited to enjoy a home-cooked soul food meal with vegetarian options available; a suggested donation of \$15 (\$12 for vegetarian) is appreciated as we celebrate Black history, culture, and community together.

**Black History Month Cafe | February 22nd**

You are invited to the Black Legacy & Healing Open House at the Black Youth Healing Arts Center on Sunday, February 22, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Come celebrate Black legacy through stories of local elders, the culture and cuisine that fueled the civil rights movement, and shared community learning. The afternoon will include yoga with Bro. Ra, drumming and dance, KRUMP, singing with T. Mychael Rambo, an open mic, and free food.



All are welcome at the Black Youth Healing Arts Center, 643 Virginia Street, St. Paul.