

Prayer Corner

"An Eastertide Prayer"

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

God of Resurrection, we come before You in this Eastertide season rejoicing in the power of Your risen Son. You have called us out of darkness into marvelous light, yet we sometimes live as though the stone is still sealed; You have given us new life, yet we cling to old fears and weary habits. We confess that we do not always walk in the fullness of resurrection hope, nor love You or our neighbors with bold and living faith. Lord, renew us by Your Spirit and awaken what You have placed within us.

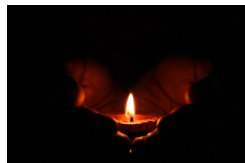
As we journey through these days of resurrection joy, strengthen us to live as people set free—free to love, free to serve, and free to stand for justice. Remind us, O God, that You have sustained our people through every trial and lifted us by Your mighty hand time and time again. Let the same power that raised Jesus renew our joy and restore our communities. Create in us steadfast hearts, deepen our faith, and send us forth as living witnesses of Your grace and glory. In the name of the Risen Christ, Amen.

Prayer Requests

- Florence Deputie
- T. Mychael Rambo
- Democracy, Voting Rights, & Civic engagement
- Global Community
- Our Children & Young Adults
- Our Community

Seniors and Homebound

- Betsy Calkins
- Ginnie Dennis
- 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

May 17, 2026 | 10 am
Living the Resurrection | Ascension 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.

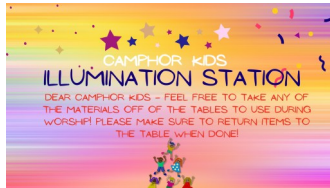
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- † All stand
- * Please be Seated

Where indicated, speak or sing the words in **bold**

Centering Moment: Our Daily Bread

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



The Illumination Station is a table for youth and families where youth can take items to use during worship before joining Children's Church, and where Akudo will also provide handouts and announcements for families to pick up.

Prelude

† Bringing in the Light | Processional

Welcome

Pastor Cynthia Williams

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. William Petty

One: We are resurrection people, yet some of us still carry fear, failure, and shame.

Many: We know what it is to wrestle with wounded places and hard memories.

One: Still, Jesus tells the disciples to remain in Jerusalem—the place where they had fallen apart.

Many: Because God often transforms us in the very places that once broke us.

One: Before ascending, Christ speaks peace and promises the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many: So we do not face our Jerusalems alone—we are strengthened by His presence.

One: Christ has ascended, but His Spirit is still moving among us.

Many: So we rise in this Easter season, trusting God to lead us forward in resurrection power. Amen.

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

Camphor Bulletin Board

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

Community Announcements: Information about events happening in the community may be placed on the table in the Narthex for sharing.

This Week @ Camphor Memorial UMC

Tuesday, May 19th

6 pm | Admin Council Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 20th

6:30 pm | Bible Study (Fellowship/Narthex & Zoom)

Saturday, May 23rd

10 am | Trustee's Meeting (Conference Room)
1 pm | Voices of Grace Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday, May 24th

Pentecost Sunday

8:45 am | Adult Sunday School (Conf. Rm)
10 am | Worship (Sanctuary & Live-Stream)

Thriving in the Third Act | June 8th



Join us for **Thriving in the Third Act**, hosted by the Fund Development Ministry, on June 17, 2026 from 11 am-2 pm at Camphor Memorial UMC. This gathering will offer fellowship and important information on topics including fraud and scam protection, wills and healthcare directives, and protecting income. Space is limited and RSVP is requested by June 8, 2026 by emailing bevohawkins@gmail.com.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Join us every Wednesday at 6:30 pm for Bible Study, offered in a hybrid format (in person in the Fellowship/Narthex area and via Zoom). We are currently studying A Walk Through the Book of Romans, exploring how God's grace through Jesus Christ calls us to grow in faith and live it out daily. Zoom Information can be found in Camphor Connects. All are welcome!



Calling All Worshippers: Music Ministry Gathering



Join us Saturday, May 23, from 10:00 am-12:00 pm in the fellowship/narthex area for a Music Ministry Gathering. Food will be provided as Pastor Cynthia and Winston Holt, Minister of Music, share reflections from the worship conference they attended in Dallas, Texas, and the vision for music ministry at Camphor.

Whether you participate in music ministry, are interested, or simply curious, we invite you to come. **Questions? Contact the church office at 651-224-0341 or office@camphorconnects.org.**

Serve on the Communications Team

At Camphor, how we tell our story matters as we grow in our relationship with God, one another, and the community we serve. Our Communications Ministry helps capture and share what God is doing in and through our church, and we're looking for volunteers to serve in simple, meaningful roles:

Content Capturers: take photos and short videos during Sunday services and events.

Content Organizers: upload and organize photos/videos.

Distribution Assistants: help with social media, the website, and newsletters.

No experience is needed—just a willingness to serve and be part of the team.

Interested in joining? Email Hannah Jackson Matthews, Communications Coordinator, at communications@camphorconnects.org to learn more.

Community Event | June 4th



Join the Camphor United Methodist Men and the Saint Paul Police for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship on Thursday, June 4, from 5:00-7:00 pm on Camphor's grounds. This free community gathering is a joyful opportunity to strengthen connections with our neighbors and surrounding community. Enjoy free food, games and activities, giveaways, and a fire truck for all ages!

† Hymn of Praise

"Blessed Assurance"

AA/HH 508 | UMH 369

[Verse 1]

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

[Refrain]

**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.**

[Verse 2]

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]**

[Verse 3]

**Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]**

(Worshippers May Enter)

New Members Reception

Pastor Cynthia Williams

We joyfully welcome Dynese Diggs and Olayinka Ige into the life and fellowship of Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church.

...Perfect them in love

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Centering Prayer (In Unison)

Rev. William Petty

God of truth, power, and promise, God who meets us in the places we would rather avoid, we come as people carrying our own Jerusalems. In a world shaped by fear, shame, and wounded places, we need Your presence because resurrection calls us to face what we fear with honesty and hope. As Christ ascended, He did not leave us alone, but promised power for the journey ahead. Speak peace into every anxious heart and remind us that You meet us in broken places with grace, truth, and strength to rise again. Resurrection gives us courage to stay, heal, and move forward in the power of Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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

Passing of the Peace

Rev. William Petty

At this time, children and youth are invited to Sunday School and as they make their way, 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!"**

(Children & Youth are invited to Sunday School | Worshippers May Enter)

Intercessory Prayer

Rev. William Petty

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!



† The Doxology

UMH 95 | AA/HH 651

Ministry of Music

Sanctuary Choir

† Scripture Lesson

Luke 24:36-49, 53 (NRSVue) Dr. Rhonda Jones-Webb

36 While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 37 They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate in their presence. 44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

Ministry of Music

Sanctuary Choir

Sermon

Facing Your Jerusalem

Pastor Cynthia Williams

Invitation for Prayer

Pastor Cynthia Williams

(Those who desire prayer, want to become a member or be anointed 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)

Join us Sunday, May 24 for Pentecost Sunday as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit—wear red as a sign of the fire and power of Pentecost!