

Prayer Corner

Prayer of the Month:

"For Beauty in the Mundane" Cole Arthur Riley -Black Liturgies

God of every beautiful thing. Make us people of wonder. Show us how to hold on to nuance and vision when our souls become addicted to pain, to the unlovely. It is far easier to see the gloom and decay; so often it sings a louder song. Attune our hearts to the good still stirring in our midst, not that we would give ourselves to toxic positivity or neglect the pain of the world, but that we would be people capable of existing in the tension. Grant us habits of sacred pause. Let us marvel not just at the grand or majestic, but beauty's name etched into every ordinary moment. Let the mundane swell with a mystery that makes us breathe deeper still. And by this, may we be sustained and kept from despair. Amen.

Prayer Requests

- Margaret LeFleur- Recovering from Surgery
- Michael & Juanita Hoskins: In the passing of Juanita's Brother, Ronald Joseph Walker

Covering in Prayer

- Brenda Anderson (Sister of Chaplain Irene)
- Gayle Anderson
- Johnny Barker
- Brenda Bolar-Ford
- Rakesha Eaton (daughter of Theresa Phillips)
- Courtney Green
- Larry Gray
- Gary Martin
- Sharon Martin
- Karen Morgan
- Willie P. McCoy, Jr.
- Karen Morgan
- Akudo Omeoga



Seniors and Homebound

- Verlene Booker
- Glenice Booker-Butler
- Margaret Carter
- James Cummings
- Ginnie Dennis
- Doris Douglas
- Charlotte Drake
- Johnette Houston
- Pat Jemie
- Joyce Neal Long
- Barbara Wulf

Loving God. Loving People.



585 Fuller Avenue | St. Paul, MN 55103
www.camphorconnects.org

August 17, 2025 | 10 am
By Faith: Let Us Look to God's Better



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.



August Sermon Series: By Faith



The book of Hebrews is letter of encouragement to discouraged Christians. It is a word to encourage those who have lost the courage to boldly walk out their faith. The letter is written to a people who found the division between the ideal and reality, deeply dissected. Over the next four weeks, we dive into a portion of Hebrews and reflect on God's action in Jesus that we might be strengthened in faith.

- August 10 - By Faith: Let Us Worship | Heb. 10:11-25
- August 17 - By Faith: Let Us Look to God's Better | Heb. 11:29-12:2
- August 24 - By Faith: Let Us Be Unshakeable | Heb. 12:18-29
- August 31 - By Faith: Let Us Be an Offering unto God | Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16

Prelude

† Bringing in the Light | Processional

Welcome Pastor Cynthia Williams

† CALL TO WORSHIP Mary Louise Archer

One: This is not just a time to reflect – this is a call to press forward.
God is not done yet – there is more, there is better, there is promise.

Many: By faith, we look beyond what we see – trusting God for what's yet to come.

One: There are generations behind us who believed without seeing the full picture. Now the baton is in our hands – and the race is still being run.

Many: We are surrounded by their witness and strengthened by their hope.

One: So lift up your eyes, lift up your heart – and don't let go of the promise. Jesus is the better. Jesus is the finisher.

Many: By faith, we run. By faith, we rise. By faith – we look to God's better and give God all the glory! Amen.

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

Camphor Bulletin Board

S.E.R.V.E. @ Camphor Memorial UMC

Sharing Every Resource, Voice, & Experience | "Because ministry takes all of us."



Are you looking for a way to use your gifts and make a meaningful impact in the life of our church? S.E.R.V.E. @ Camphor is your invitation to share your God-given resources, voice, & experiences in service to our community. This is more than filling a spot—it's about living your faith out loud & strengthening the body of Christ through love in action. Join one of the ministry areas below & let your presence be a blessing.

Usher Ministry: Help create a welcoming environment for worshippers.
Contact: Saran Cryer - sarancryer@gmail.com

Communion Stewards: Assist in preparing and serving Holy Communion.
Contact: Harold Golden - harold.golden@comcast.net

Digital Ministry: Support worship and outreach through technology.
Contact: Dr. Darlene Fry - darlene-fry1637@comcast.net

Christian Education: Help lead and grow our spiritual formation programs.
Contact: De Anna Conover - deanna.conover@state.mn.us

Special Event Volunteers Needed - 2025 Black Affair

Help make this special event a success! We're looking for volunteers to serve in the following roles:

Event Greeter - Welcome guests and assist with guest flow.

Silent Auction Assistant - Help organize items, assist guests with bidding, and support closing and bid verification.

Ticket Table Assistant - Assist with guest check-in, on-site purchases, and general event information.

To volunteer for the 2025 Black Affair, contact Dr. Beverly Hawkins via beverley.hawkins@comcast.net

Sermon Notes

sermon title:

key verses:

Prayers

† Morning Hymn

“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)

Centering Prayer (In Unison)

Mary Louise Archer

Gracious and Eternal God, we come this morning by faith – just like those who came before us. Some saw miracles, others endured trials, but all were looking ahead to what You had promised. Thank You for the legacy of faith that still inspires us to trust You for what’s yet to come. Today, we gather as people who are still hoping, still pressing, still believing. We come not because everything is perfect, but because You are faithful. Center us in Your presence and help us lay aside every weight that holds us back. Let our worship rise from a place of expectation, knowing You are not finished yet. We look to You, Jesus – the author and finisher of our faith. By faith, we worship You. In Your mighty and matchless name, Amen.

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

Passing of the Peace

Mary Louise Archer

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)

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

Scan the QR Code to give online via Square or PayPal!



† The Doxology

UMH 95

**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

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 (MSG)

Mary Louise Archer

29 By an act of faith, Israel walked through the Red Sea on dry ground. The Egyptians tried it and drowned. 30 By faith, the Israelites marched around the walls of Jericho for seven days, and the walls fell flat. 31 By an act of faith, Rahab, the Jericho harlot, welcomed the spies and escaped the destruction that came on those who refused to trust God.

† Scripture Lesson

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 (MSG)-Cont’d

Mary Louise Archer

32-38 I could go on and on, but I’ve run out of time. There are so many more—Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets. Through acts of faith, they toppled kingdoms, made justice work, took the promises for themselves. They were protected from lions, fires, and sword thrusts, turned disadvantage to advantage, won battles, routed alien armies. Women received their loved ones back from the dead. There were those who, under torture, refused to give in and go free, preferring something better: resurrection. Others braved abuse and whips, and, yes, chains and dungeons. We have stories of those who were stoned, sawed in two, murdered in cold blood; stories of vagrants wandering the earth in animal skins, homeless, friendless, powerless—the world didn’t deserve them!—making their way as best they could on the cruel edges of the world. 39-40 Not one of these people, even though their lives of faith were exemplary, got their hands on what was promised. **God had a better plan for us: that their faith and our faith would come together to make one completed whole, their lives of faith not complete apart from ours.**

12 1-3 Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we’d better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

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

Ministry of Music

Sanctuary Choir

Sermon

By Faith: Let Us Look to God’s Better

Pastor Cynthia Williams

Invitation to 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)