

Prayer Corner

Prayer of the Month:

"Prayer to the Holy Spirit"- Traditional Native American Prayer (UMCH #329)

O Great Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world, and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze; We need your strength and wisdom. Cause us to walk in beauty. Give us the eyes ever to behold the red and purple sunset. Make us wise so that we may understand what you have taught us. Help us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and steady eyes, so when life fades, like the fading sunset, our hearts come to you without shame. Amen

Celebration of Life: Dorothy (Dottie) Richburg

We send prayers to the family of Dorothy (Dottie) Richburg, who joined the church triumphant on Monday, August 19th. The celebration of life service will be held on Thursday, September 12th, at Camphor Memorial UMC, with visitation at 2 pm, service at 3 pm, and a repass afterward.

Celebration of Life: Matthew Mitchell

We send prayers to Jim Mitchell and family on the passing of his brother Matthew Mitchell who passed away peacefully on Thursday August 15th. His Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday September 7th in Racine, WI.

Prayer Requests

- Oglesby Family
- Sylvah Family
- Dr. Joi Lewis
- LaTonya Ross Hughes (Heart Surgery)
- Karen Morgan
- Calvin Morgan
- Willie P. McCoy, Jr.
- Sharon Martin
- Gary Martin
- Clifton Fuller
- Alton Campbell



Seniors and Homebound

- Verlene Booker
- Glenice Booker-Butler
- Margaret Carter
- James Cummings
- Shirley Cummings
- Ginnie Dennis
- Doris Douglas
- Charlotte Drake
- Johnette Houston
- Pat Jemie
- Carrie Lewis
- Barbara Wulf

Loving God. Loving People.

September 1, 2024



Uncommon Wisdom | Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Camphor!

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.

- † 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.



Prelude

† Acolyte

† Processional

Welcome/Announcements

Carlton Garner

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Carlton Garner

One: Lazarus, though dead, was called to life by Jesus.

Many: May we be called to the light of righteousness.

One: As others witnessed this resurrection, they believed in Jesus.

Many: May we, who have heard, believe in the power of Jesus to conquer our fears and doubts.

One: Praise be to God who has given us Jesus.

Many: Praise be to Jesus who has given us life. AMEN.

† Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Healing and Empowering God, we are sometimes so sure that things will not work out, we doubt even your ability to put things right in our lives. We lack such faith. But Jesus came to show us that our most dreaded enemy—death—can be overcome by faith. Heal our doubts and our longings for assurance and give us spirits of trust and hope. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

(From Ministry Matters)

(Worshippers May Enter)

This Week at Camphor UMC

Wednesday September 4th 4pm: Woman's Chorale Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday September 7th 9am: Trustee Meeting (Zoom)
 9am: United Church Ushers of MN Training (Sanctuary & Large Sunday School Room)
 10:30am: Worship Team Meeting (Conference Room)
 1pm: Woman's Chorale Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday September 8th 10am: Worship (Sanctuary and Live-Stream)

Camphor Bulletin Board

Vote 2024 (Social Justice Ministry)

As election season approaches, the Social Justice Ministry and ISAIAH are committed to boosting voter turnout among Black Minnesotans. Camphor Memorial UMC encourages your participation over the next 70 days!



Voter Pledge Sundays: From Sept. 8th to Nov. 3rd, visit the Narthex after services to pledge your vote and help us reach 200 pledges. Track progress on the Democracy Builder Goal Tracker. Ensure you and your household are registered to vote between Sept. 20th and Nov. 5th.

Free Family Night - Movie on the Lawn: Join us on Friday, Sept. 6th, from 6-9 pm at Rice & Arlington Fields (1500 Rice St.) for a screening of Inside Out 2. This event, with Ramsey County, focuses on mental health and includes voter registration support. Enjoy a free, family-friendly evening.

Black Minnesotan Research Briefing: On Sept. 19th, from 6-8 pm, join our virtual briefing for insights on Black Minnesotan voters and messaging strategies. Register at bit.ly/BlackMNVote.

Your vote is crucial—let's make it count!

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...We praise your name and join their unending hymn **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God, and power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

...now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Giving of The Bread and Cup

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

† Benediction with Blessings

Rev. 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)

[Verse 1]

**I love to tell the story, of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings, as nothing else can do.**

[Refrain]

**I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.**

[Verse 2]

**I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies, of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;
and that is just the reason, I tell it now to thee. [Refrain]**

[Verse 3]

**I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation, from God's own holy Word. [Refrain]**

[Verse 4]

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting, to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long. [Refrain]**

(Worshippers May Enter)



Call to Confession

Carlton Garner

Our confession is where we realize our desire for God and our hope for God's mercy. Admitting the truth of our lives is the first step toward wholeness and healing. So let us make our confession first, in silent prayer.

("Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'.)

(Offer silent prayers of confession)

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

God of mercy, you know us so well. We like to think that we can hide from You, but we are just kidding ourselves. You have offered to us new life, characterized by honesty, compassion, joy, and peace. You have invited us into ministries of peace and justice; but we have far too often turned our back on opportunities for service and witness to your transformational love. Forgive us for our stubbornness. Help us to turn around and listen to your words of hope. Remind us again that you require compassion and mercy in all who serve you; that you will guide our steps and our lives. Give us courage to truly be your witnesses in this world. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Carlton Garner

One: Even if you have transgressed and done what you know to be wrong, remember that God will heal and forgive you; sending you on your way to become a person of peace, hope, love and justice. Be at peace. God is with you.

All: Hallelujah! Amen!

(From Ministry Matters)

Passing of the Peace

Carlton Garner

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)

Stewardship Moment

Rev. Cynthia Williams

Offertory

† The Doxology

**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

John 11:28-44 (NRSV)

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" 38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Ministry of Music

Sanctuary Choir

The Sermon

Loose and Let Go

Rev. Cynthia Williams

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Cynthia Williams

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