



VOL. 1 ISSUE 5 · NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of Camphor Memorial UMC



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Reflection on Election Day Eve

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP LANETTE PLAMBECK

As I write this, I am preparing to leave for our Council of Bishops gathering the first week of November. I have asked our communications offices in the Dakotas-Minnesota area to release this statement on Election Day Eve. Even though the outcomes of the presidential and other critical elections remain unknown, I knew I wanted to speak into this moment in our history.

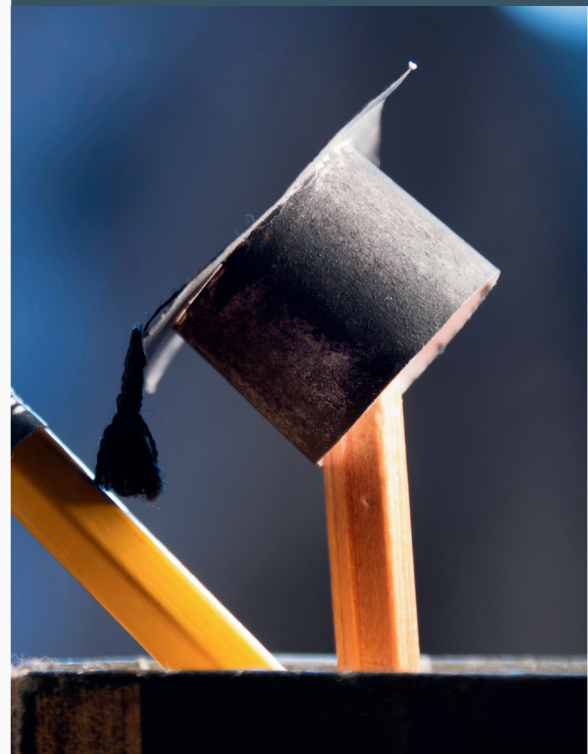
In the days following the release of this message, many of us may be caught up in a feeling of elation or despair—or perhaps experiencing a whole host of emotions as we struggle to make sense of how our elections will impact global, national, and local concerns. Whatever the result, we are invited to remember that our calling as Christians is deeper than any temporal event or passing season. Our anchor, our hope, is firmly rooted in Jesus Christ, who calls us to steadfast love, patience, and humility regardless of the external circumstances.

If the aftermath of elections brings tension, protest, or even violence, may we find strength and wisdom together in the core of our faith. This is a moment when the church is called to stand firm in the call to love our neighbors and work toward reconciliation. Through our prayers, presence, and service, we bear witness to a vision of peace and beloved community that transcends fear and conflict. If there is violence—or even the threat of violence—let us respond to unrest with empathy, courage, and the steadfast belief that grace can create new pathways where none seem possible.

Dear ones, we are living in an age marked by division, disinformation, and tactics—sometimes even by foreign powers—intended to disrupt our democracy and deepen discord among us. Let us call on the peace of Christ in every setting we find ourselves in, because what we see in the world also can show up in our churches. In reflecting on the theology of Karl Barth, I am struck by how he emphasized that the peace of Christ is not just a feeling or a temporary resolution of conflict, but a transformative reality that believers “pass through” as they encounter Christ himself. For Barth, Christ’s peace is active and ongoing, achieved through reconciliation with God and extended to all of creation. This peace, he argued, was not merely individual but communal, reshaping relationships among people and between humanity and God.

“Whatever the result, we are invited to remember that our calling as Christians is deeper than any temporal event or passing season. Our anchor, our hope, is firmly rooted in Jesus Christ, who calls us to steadfast love, patience, and humility regardless of the external circumstances.”

-BISHOP LANETTE PLAMBECK



Reflection on Election Day Eve (Cont'd)

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP LANETTE PLAMBECK

In “Church Dogmatics,” Barth stressed that the peace of Christ transcends human understanding and challenges human-made structures of power and division. As we pass through Christ’s peace, it compels us to actively work toward justice, healing, and unity in the world, inviting us to participate in God’s ongoing reconciliation. This experience of Christ’s peace is deeply rooted in grace, making us agents of peace in a world that deeply needs it.

In the face of these complex challenges we are facing, our calling as followers of Christ is to seek truth, foster unity, and offer ourselves as instruments of peace. We are not meant to mirror the hostilities of the world but to reveal a love that holds fast, even when challenged. We are to be a people of the Great Commandment. We are to extend Christ’s peace and presence into the world.

Furthermore, in the Wesleyan tradition, we are reminded of the profound commitment to live with “holiness of heart and life.” John Wesley understood that the practice of our faith transcends political victories or losses, calling us instead to a life where our actions reflect Christ’s love and grace. This election is a moment, but our witness to the world is a lifetime journey. Our purpose as disciples is not swayed by the direction of public opinion or policy but is defined by our commitment to the ways of Jesus.

Holding to the character of Christ means striving to be peacemakers, bridge-builders, and carriers of hope. It means we respond to others—especially those with whom we disagree—not with hostility or judgment, but with the humility and kindness that Jesus demonstrated. We are to speak truth, advocate for justice, and extend compassion in ways that invite healing and foster genuine community.

In uncertain times, it can be tempting to fall into despair, resentment, or anger. Yet, as Wesley taught, we are empowered by grace to rise above these fleeting emotions and ground ourselves in holy love: love that listens, love that forgives, love that works tirelessly for the dignity and worth of all people.

“Let us call on the peace of Christ in every setting we find ourselves in, because what we see in the world also can show up in our churches.”

-BISHOP LANETTE PLAMBECK



Reflection on Election Day Eve (Cont'd)

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP LANETTE PLAMBECK

May we move forward from this election with the resolve to embody Christ's character more fully, living as a light in the world and a beacon of the peace that surpasses all understanding. And may we trust that God is at work as we walk together in faith, choosing to embody hope and extending love in all seasons.

A Prayer for Steadfastness and Peace

Gracious and loving God,

We come before you, uncertain of what lies ahead but certain of your steadfast presence with us. As we stand in the wake of this election, we ask that you fill our hearts with peace, guiding us to hold fast to the character of Christ, who is our true foundation.

Help us to respond to both joy and disappointment with humility and grace. Teach us to be peacemakers in a world that is too often divided, to be bridge-builders where others might create barriers, and to be compassionate listeners to those who feel unseen and unheard.

Grant us the courage to embody your love in every thought, word, and deed so that we may be agents of your hope and vessels of your peace, sharing a vision of justice, kindness, and mercy that points others to you.

May your Holy Spirit fill us with the strength to love even when it is hard, to forgive when it feels beyond us, and to trust in your wisdom that exceeds all understanding.

May our lives bear witness to the transforming power of your grace in every season.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our guide, our Savior, and our hope. Amen

“Help us to respond to both joy and disappointment with humility and grace. Teach us to be peacemakers in a world that is too often divided, to be bridge-builders where others might create barriers, and to be compassionate listeners to those who feel unseen and unheard.”

-PRAYER FOR STEADFASTNESS
AND PEACE



Methodist Corner

Camphor Memorial UMC is a predominantly Black/African American Church who is part of the United Methodist Church, a global connection whose mission is "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World". Being rooted in Jesus, Grounded in Wesleyan theology, inclusive of all people and being engaged in the work of Justice and Reconciliation, we strive to grow in our love with God, with one another and the community we are called to serve. Check out to see what is going on in our connectional system

News Across the Connection



Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church



Scan the QR code to visit the official page of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church. Stay informed about the leadership, initiatives, and important updates from our bishops. It's a great way to connect with the heart of our denomination and learn more about their work in guiding the church globally.



UM News
FAIR. FAITHFUL. TRUSTED.

Scan the QR code to access the latest news and updates from across the entire United Methodist Church connection. Stay up to date with important stories, events, and initiatives happening worldwide, and see how our global church is making an impact in communities everywhere.



Minnesota
Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church

Scan the QR code to visit the official page of the Minnesota Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Discover the latest news, upcoming events, and initiatives from our conference. Stay informed about how we are serving our communities and advancing the mission of the church in Minnesota.



"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

JOHN WESLEY

Fun Corner-September's Answers

Here are the answers to September's Fun Corner

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?
2. What are the names of the Gospels-The first four books of the New Testament?
3. What is the last book of the New Testament?
4. What is the longest book of the New Testament?
5. What is the shortest book of the New Testament?
6. What Old Testament book is referred to most frequently in the New Testament?
7. What Old Testament verse is most frequently quoted in the New Testament?
8. What is the shortest verse in the New Testament?
9. Who wrote more New Testament books than anyone else?
10. What person is mentioned more often than anyone else in the New Testament?



September's Answer Key

1. 27
2. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. Revelation
4. Acts
5. 3 John
6. Isaiah (419 times)
7. Psalm 110:1 (18 times)
8. "Jesus wept." (John 11:35)
9. Paul
10. Jesus



Fun Corner-Out of Order: Old Testament

Write Answers Here

For each of the following sets, challenge yourself to arrange the four Old Testament books in the order they appear in the Bible.

Test your knowledge of the biblical sequence and strengthen your understanding of the scriptures!

1. Leviticus, Genesis, 1 Kings, Exodus
2. Lamentations, Isaiah, Jeremiah, 2 Chronicles
3. Nahum, Jonah, Habakkuk, Micah
4. 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, Numbers, Song of Songs
5. Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Job, Proverbs
6. Haggai, Zephaniah, Malachi, Zechariah
7. Joel, Hosea, Daniel, Ezekiel
8. Esther, Nehemiah, Job, Ezra
9. Judges, 1 Samuel, Deuteronomy, Joshua
10. Amos, 2 Samuel, Proverbs, Ruth

- 1.
- 2.
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- 10.



Answers will be given in the January Edition!



Prayer Corner

When we unite in prayer and openly share our needs with God, a profound sense of strength emerges. Let's invest some time in prayer, lifting up the concerns and requests listed in our prayer corner:

Prayer Requests

Crutchfield Family
Dave Anderson
Gordon Edmond
William Watkins, Jr.
Dr. Joi Lewis
Calvin Morgan
Karen Morgan
Willie P. McCoy, Jr.
Sharon Martin
Gary Martin
Clifton Fuller
Alton Campbell
Melvin Henderson

Seniors and Homebound

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

**“Let us then approach
God’s throne of grace
with confidence, so that
we may receive mercy
and find grace to help us
in our time of need.”**

-HEBREWS 4:16 (NIV)

Prayer of the Month

**“A Prayer of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Italy, 13th century”
United Methodist Book of Worship #530**

Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



December

Learn about what is happening at Camphor this month!



Ongoing

Sundays

10am= Worship (Sanctuary & Live-Stream)

Events

Thursday December 5th

3pm= COVID Vaccine Clinic (Lower Level)

Saturday December 14th

1pm= Camphor Book Club (Flava Coffee & Cafe)

10:30am=Worship Team Meeting (Conference Room)

Wednesday December 18th

Camphor Memorial UMC 105th Birthday (Church was founded on December 18, 1919)



Advent Series: Worship for Children and Youth



Children will prepare a puppet drama, “The Birth of Christ” during Advent, starting Sunday, December 1. Children and youth will join their families for worship on December 1, 8, and 15, and the children and youth will be dismissed during worship to go to Sunday School rooms to learn Bible stories about Jesus’ birth, make puppets, and prepare a puppet drama for December 22. Children will be able to take the puppets home with them after December 22. We are inviting children to be puppeteers and youth to be narrators for the script and readers in worship.

Rev. Dr. Theresa Mason will lead the lessons and direct “The Birth of Christ,” which acts out Jesus’ birth with puppets. We are looking for parents, grandparents, and others who can help at least one Sunday during worship with the children while they prepare. We also need adults who can help with the stage and be on the floor with the children during the puppet drama on December 22. If you can help, please contact Rev. Theresa Mason at revtmason@live.com or text her at 651-900-4822.

Additionally, the Voices of Grace Children’s Choir, under the direction of Kevin Jackson, will be preparing to sing on December 22. For more information about the choir, please contact Coral Garner via coco.garner57@gmail.com. We look forward to celebrating the season together!

Camphor Connects Hub



All Black Affair: Picture Gallery

Scan the QR Code to view photos from our unforgettable first annual "All Black Affair." To access the gallery, simply enter the password: GO+All Black.

Enjoy reliving the memories from this spectacular event!



2025 Thomas Scholarship Applications Now Available

Applications for the Thomas Scholarship for 2025 are now available in the church narthex and on the office countertop downstairs. To be eligible, applicants must be planning to enter or currently enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate, or vocational program for the fall of 2025. Last year, scholarship awards ranged from \$500 to \$2,500.

November is our Special Giving Month for the Thomas Scholarship Fund. You can make a contribution by using your white offering envelope or donating online through the Camphor website. Please make sure to note "Thomas Scholarship" on your check or donation.

As part of our Special Giving efforts, we're also raffling two tickets to the Vikings vs. Chicago Bears game on Monday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. Raffle tickets will be sold after church services.

If you're interested in helping sell tickets, we'd love your support! Please contact Rhonda Jones-Webb for more information or if you have any questions.

Thank you for supporting the Thomas Scholarship Fund and our future students!



Camphor Connects Hub

Worship/Music Ministry

- Rehearsals (All held in Sanctuary):
 - Sanctuary Choir:
 - Every First and Third Wednesday (4 pm-6 pm)
 - Every First and Third Saturday (1 pm-3 pm)
 - Woman's Chorale
 - Every Second Wednesday (4 pm-6 pm)
 - Every Second Saturday (4 pm-6 pm)
 - Voices of Grace
 - Every Fourth Wednesday (6 pm-7:30 pm)
 - Every Fourth Saturday (1 pm-2:30 pm)
- Rose of Sharon Praise Dance Rehearsal: Every Second and Fourth Saturday (9am in Sanctuary)



UMM and UWF



United Women in Faith

General Meeting: Every Second Saturday at 10am
(Fellowship/Narthex Area)



United Methodist Men

General Meeting: Every Second Saturday
at 10:30am (Conference Room)

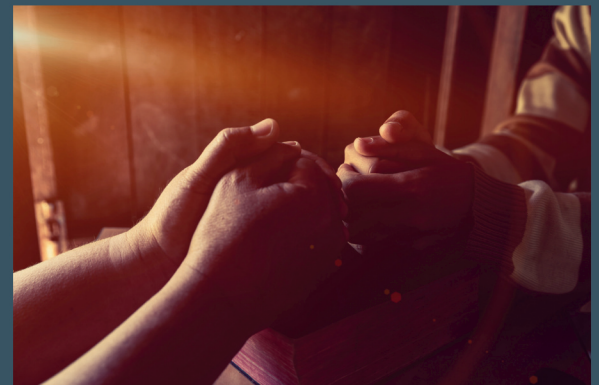
Ministry Teams Events

Usher Team Meeting: Every First Sunday
(12 pm in Conference Room)

Trustee's Meeting: Every First Monday
(6:30 pm via Zoom)

Congregational Care Team: Every Third Sunday
(11:30 am in Conference Room)

Admin Council: Every Third Tuesday
(6 pm via Zoom)





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**Office Hours (effective 9/22/24)
Tuesday & Thursday 8:30am-4pm**

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"Growing in our relationship with God, one another, and the community God has called us to serve."

