



Celebration MEDITATIONS

GOD HAS PROVIDED.
WE ARE CALLED TO MOVE FORWARD.



OCTOBER 11-18, 2026

WEEKLY THEME

Look back and thank God.
Look forward and trust God.

All meditation passages are from NRSVUE except as noted.

Looking Back

The Word. Jeremiah 29:11

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Meditation.

There are moments in the life of a church when it is important to pause and look back. We look back not simply to remember what we have accomplished, but to recognize what God has done among us. Jeremiah spoke these words of hope to people who were living through an uncertain season. Their future did not look the way they had imagined, yet God reminded them that their story was not over. God was still present, still faithful, and still leading them toward hope. The same is true for us.

As we celebrate what has been completed, we also remember that God is not finished. So today, take a moment to look back with gratitude, and then give thanks for a God who has been ever faithful. Then look forward, trusting that the God who has brought you this far will continue to lead you. The future is not ours to control. It is ours to enter with faith, courage, and hope.

JOY Prayer.

Jesus, thank you for the ways you have been faithful in my life. Help me remember the moments when you carried me, provided for me, and gave me hope. Thank you for the people whose generosity, prayers, and faithfulness have helped shape this church and my own journey of faith. Help me encourage others as they have encouraged me. Give me a grateful heart for the past and courage for the future. Show me how I can use my gifts, my resources, and my life to be part of what you are doing next. In Your Beautiful Name, Amen.

~ Pastor Quin

SERVE Pillar Dreams

SERVE is about sharing the love of Christ. Jesus cared for both the spiritual and physical needs of people. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, welcomed those on the margins, and paid particular attention to the least, the last, and the lonely. That same calling continues to shape who we are today.

As we look to the future, our dream is that SERVE will become an even deeper rhythm of life across our congregation, that every person at CUMC will discover a place to serve, using their gifts, finding a cause they are passionate about, practicing daily acts of kindness, and joining with others in hands-on service and generosity.

We pray that we will continue to be both incarnational and contextual, being the hands and feet of Jesus while paying close attention to what is needed here and now. We will work towards existing and new partnerships with local organizations that grow stronger as we work together in the areas of housing and shelter, food and hunger, and children. Rather than trying to do everything ourselves, we will continue learning from and serving alongside those who understand the needs of our community best.

We pray for SERVE leaders who connect the passions of our congregation with the needs around us, of mission opportunities locally and beyond, and of a church known not simply for what happens inside its walls, but for the difference it makes throughout Carlisle and beyond.

As we move forward, may we keep asking where God is already at work and how we can join in. May we build deeper relationships and continue sharing the love of Jesus Christ through our words, our actions, and the way we live each day.

~ Pastor Quin

Connect Pillar Dreams

The **MISSION of the CONNECT Pillar** is to create avenues of caring that unite us as God's family. We do this through caring ministries, opportunities to play and meet others, and praying together both in our church and in our community: CONNECTed to one another; CONNECTed to God's wider church; and CONNECTed with God. I envision these changes below.

First, some of the current CONNECT groups will undergo changes. What was needed as we came out of Covid and started worshiping in a new building may no longer be as relevant. Churches often mirror schools – quick to add new programs and very slow to abandon old ones. Someone said, "If schools were a B-52 bomber, eventually adding new programming would keep it from flying!" Some programs might change their names; others might change their goals and others might end. ***There will be changes.***

Second, a growing number of CUMC worshippers regularly view our services online, and yet, some may never step inside our doors. I dream of the development of CONNECT programs to reach out to these folks to help them feel that they really belong even from afar.

Third, I foresee a new initiative aimed at our near neighborhood communities forming around 333 South Spring Garden St. – those living in Harbour Village, the Residences at Seven Gables, Dawn Ridge, Smith Farm Apartments and Townhomes, and the Sable Chase Development. CUMC has a rich opportunity to nurture these persons and families as they move into these neighborhoods. This will be truly exciting for CUMC.

~ Kerm Leitner

GROW Pillar Dreams

Live Like Jesus! We all know our CUMC tag line inside and out! For many of us, it may have been awhile since we've considered what that really means. We can take a look at the Ten Commandments and combine them with Matthew 7:12 (So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets), and PRESTO! That's living like Jesus! But is it more than that?

For CUMC Adult GROW, the answer is YES! Jesus was a man on the move and was always encountering new situations. Through it all, one thing remained constant: His desire to do God's will. To do that, Jesus needed to know how to apply God's will to his life. This meant spending time studying the scriptures and talking with His father. It meant growing in his understanding of God's will. The same is true for us. As our lives change, we need to know **how** to live like Jesus in the moments we face. That's where GROW studies are invaluable. We learn from each other and we learn from God. My dream is that every adult in our CUMC family will participate in a GROW study at least once a year. Go deeper with Christ and **Live (more fully) like Jesus!**

~ Sharon Edwards



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PRAYER INITIATIVE

Pray for 3 minutes, for 3 things, for 30 days.

Leadership Council Dreams

Forward Thinking - Dream Bigger and Bolder

While gratitude roots us in God's past faithfulness, trust propels us into the future with hope. Trusting God means believing that the same God who has been faithful in the past will continue to be faithful in the days ahead.

We know that God's vision for us is never-ending. We are called to be a forward-thinking church - one that honors the past, rejoices in the present, and steps boldly into the future God is preparing for us. God is calling us to dream bigger, to reach further, and to love deeper than ever before.

In the days ahead, the Leadership Council's dream is that we will carry the spirit of this celebration into every ministry, every outreach, and every relationship. Let us be a church that sees beyond the walls of our building, that listens to the needs of our community and world, and that responds with compassion and creativity. Let us be a people who pray with expectation, serve with humility, and give with joy - knowing that every step we take in faith brings us closer to the vision God has placed before us. I believe the same God who blessed us in the past will guide us into even greater works for His glory. The seeds planted during this time of joy will grow into testimonies that will inspire generations to come. And as we move forward, we do so not in our own strength, but in the power of the One who has promised to be with us always.

~ Kathy Charette

Visioning

The Word. Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Meditation.

Immeasurably more. These 2 words capture the feeling of wonder and gratitude that arise as we look back and give thanks for the remarkable journey from 3 churches to one vibrant, growing, Jesus-centered church that is debt free and moving forward together into a future that is yet to be written. One of the gifts of remembering and giving thanks for the past is what it gives in return - a firm foundation to step into the future and dream of all that God has yet to do. God has brought us to this point and God will carry us forward. My prayer is that our thanksgiving for God's 'immeasurably more' of this journey will keep us humble about the limits of our own vision and open to God's 'more'. To give us an open posture to the future and the Spirit's moving and leading us even beyond what we can see or imagine today. God is not done with us yet and God's vision is always bigger than ours. Who knows how many new people will come to follow Jesus at CUMC, what ways the Carlisle community and beyond will look more like God's kingdom, or how far God will lead us beyond Carlisle to fulfill our mission and vision.

Worship is the center of our life together because it is the rhythm of faith that helps us remember all that God has done and be open to that future. I pray that worship will continue to be a place where all people experience God's goodness and learn to trust in the Spirit's nudges. May our worship always be our center as we glorify God and are sent forward to the 'more' that only God can see!

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JOY Prayer.

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we pray that we might become more like Jesus who found his center in prayer and worship. He had a deep trust and radical surrender to your will and vision. Open us in our times of worship and prayer to the ways that your Spirit is nudging us beyond ourselves and beyond our own limited visions to invite others to follow Jesus. Keep us, your church, free from stagnation and open at all times to the 'more' that you have for us. May our hearts stay soft, our minds open, and our hands and feet ready to move at the impulse of your love. Amen.

~ Rev Jake Waybright

The Family of Celebration Meditation Writers by first order of appearance

Charles L. Reynolds	Michelle Williams
Pam Reynolds	Don Schoeps
Georgeann Laughman	Sharon Edwards
Sue Baxter	Roger Woods
Eric Born	Lois Kielkopf
Gloria Taylor	Pastor Paul Herring
Uriah Moore	Jason Weeber
Joy Felty	Nancy Schoeps
Rev Jim VanZandt (Ret)	Rich Charette
Parker Heberlig	Joanne Reynolds
Rhonda Dyson	Pastor Quinton DeBeer
Linda Hooper	Pastor Jake Waybright
Erin Stefanic	Kerm Leitner
Barb Druck	Kathy Charette