



Students of Mellier Elementary School

Celebration MEDITATIONS

GOD HAS PROVIDED.
WE ARE CALLED TO MOVE FORWARD.



OCTOBER 4 - OCTOBER 10, 2026

WEEKLY THEME

We move forward through serving
our community and beyond.

PREAMBLE

As you use these meditations, offer a prayer for all who wrote them, God has given us a wealth of talent to serve God in this way. Please thank them.

All meditation passages are from NRSVUE except as noted.

Healing on the Sabbath

The Word. Luke 14: 3-4

And Jesus asked the experts in the law and Pharisees, "Is it lawful to cure people on the Sabbath or not?" But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him and sent him away.

Meditation.

This incident shows a conflict between two Jewish laws:

1. According to the Ten Commandments, "Thou shalt do no labor on the Sabbath, " and 2. Jesus' words "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Obviously, to the follower of Christ, we should seek to heal or help someone who is ailing or hurt, regardless of the day of the week. And this should be our calling in the days and years ahead as we grow in love.

JOY Prayer.

Thank You, Lord that we are not confined or hampered because of laws that prevent us from doing good to or for whomever needs us just because it is demanded of us by rules or laws. We are free to help wherever there is a need to do so. May our days ahead in the church be based on this command: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Amen

~ Pastor Paul Herring

Feeding the 5,000

The Word. Matthew 14: 16-18

Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me."

Meditation.

A happy memory of mine is when as a child, my Aunt would trust me with a short shopping list and send me to her tiny neighborhood grocery store at the end of the block. It was the kind where the old wooden screen door squeaked when you pulled it open and made a slapping sound when it closed behind you. It had only 2 aisles and the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Schmittel lived upstairs in the old house. It was the kind of store where the neighbors could run a weekly tab. I remember feeling like such a grownup when I carried the precious cargo back to my aunt. That's why I have always thought that the story of the miracle feeding of the 5000 was really a story of 2 miracles, with the first one being the boy headed home with 5 loaves and 2 fish, making a decision to hand it over to a couple of grown-ups he had never met. If he doesn't do that, there is no second miracle. It's a reminder to me that every miracle began with somebody (or somebodies) trusting and making a decision. That's what happened here at CUMC. Is there a decision God wants you to make? The results may be miraculous.

JOY Prayer.

Jesus, give me the courage to trust you. Help me to hear your still small voice in every decision I need to make today to follow your way, to bless others, and fulfill my needs. In your precious name I pray. Amen.

~ Rev Jim VanZandt (ret)

Philip and Eunuch

The Word. Excerpts from Acts 8: 27-31

And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure... And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him." English Standard Version

Meditation.

The church building is a place of worship, connection, growth, service, and forming disciples. The building only operates effectively for these purposes if properly maintained. The building needs to be cleaned, patched, and preserved to be used effectively. In the same way, Philip was prepared for the moment he was called to minister to the eunuch. He completed his preventative maintenance of reading and learning the scriptures before being called to his moment of ministry. He was one of the seven deacons who oversaw the church of Jerusalem before becoming an evangelist in Samaria. He is often confused of being the same as Philip the apostle, but he was the man who needed to study the teachings of early Christianity to effectively minister to the Ethiopian. The church building provides space to do your own preventative maintenance to be ready for your moments of ministry as a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Buildings stay in place. Temples go forth.

JOY Prayer.

Dear Jesus, show me how I can live more like you by preparing myself for my own moments of ministry. Guide me to spread your love across worldly divisions to those who are unlike myself. Thank you for walking with us in these moments and encouraging me to invite you into every thought, distraction, and interaction of my day. I leave the task to you of bringing me into moments of ministry for the good of your kingdom. Amen

~ Jason Weeber

Project SHARE

The Word. Romans 12: 20-21

Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Meditation.

Project SHARE has a rich history. In November 1984, a group of clergy and lay people convened to discuss the problem of food insecurity in Carlisle. There were many small food pantries, but they did not coordinate with each other. This led to the creation of Project SHARE.

While programs have been added over the years and distribution models have changed, Project SHARE stays true to its mission of reducing food insecurity in the greater Carlisle area, with the vision of "Nourishing Our Community...Awakening Hope. Beyond simply offering food, Project SHARE offers access to other local and regional resources that addresses the larger situation someone is facing. The Support Programming offers individualized support through one-on-one coaching and resource connections.

Through the years, CUMC members have volunteered to support Project SHARE. This meditation honors them and encourages others to support its worthy, Biblically-inspired mission.

JOY Prayer.

Dear Jesus, show me how I can live more like you by being helpful when someone is hungry. O Holy Spirit, open my eyes and my heart that I may see and understand another person's desperation. O Heavenly Father, grant me the energy and purpose to serve that person and to relieve their needs and introduce Christ to them. Amen

~ Charles L. Reynolds

Samaritan Fellowship

The Word. Philippians 2:4

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Meditation.

Paul is writing to the church in Philippi with which he had a good relationship and expresses his joy in their connection with him and with each other. He reminds them that they should act with humility and not with selfishness or conceit.

Hopefully, if Paul were writing to Carlisle UMC, he would like how we welcome everyone, no exceptions. What would he see as we try to live like Jesus? I think of the many ways in which we try to look to the interests of others like our support of Samaritan Fellowship, My Brothers Table, the Fruitbelt Farmers ministry, and more. Being aware of others reminds me of the words of The Servant Song (TFWS 2222): I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we see this journey through. I think Paul would like that song as much as I do.

JOY Prayer.

Holy Spirit, open our eyes and our hearts to those we meet today. Help us to live out the words of Micah to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. Amen.

~ Nancy Schoeps

Mission Trips

The Word. Zakari 9:12

"Nou menm prizonye k'ap tann delivrans yo, tounen, tounen non nan sitadèl kote n'a jwenn pwoteksyon an! Jòdi a, men sa m'ap di nou: n'ap resewa de fwa plis benediksyon pase soufrans mwen te voye sou nou an." (Bib La - Haitian Bible)

Zechariah 9:12 "Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even today do I declare that I will render double unto thee;" (KJV)

Meditation.

We have shared a partnership in Haiti for 15 years. Since my first trip to Haiti in 2011, I have connected the Haitian people to Zechariah 9:12 as "Prisoners of Hope." In our 2015 fundraising effort we stated "Why spend lots of money to send people instead of just sending the money? Money allows us to change lives, but sending people allows us to share more than "stuff" ... people allow us to share HOPE!!" It has been seven years since we have sent a team to Haiti yet despite the difficult situation in Haiti things at the Mellier School and Living Water Missions are more hopeful for a bright future. "The phrase "prisoners of hope" refers to those who, despite being in captivity or difficult circumstances, maintain hope in God's promises. It conveys the paradox of being constrained by hardship yet empowered by faith." We have often said of our ministry in Haiti, "Some people pray, some people pay, and some people go." For me it was the "mission trip", the going, that kept us connected in Haiti. While I have missed going to Haiti I have come to learn that the power of Hope doesn't rest in wishing I could return to Haiti but rests in the promises of God.

JOY Prayer.

Lord, grant us the wisdom to remain "Prisoners of Hope". May we see with the eyes of your heart how God is working through us, with our partners, Richwood United Methodist Church, Living Water Missions and Principal Fritz and the teachers at the Mellier School to bring hope and change the lives of children in Mellier.

~ Rich Charette

Limited Activity Members (LAMs)

The Word. Exodus 20:12

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the fertile land that the Lord your God is giving you. (CEB)

1 Timothy 5:8 And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (CEB)

Meditation.

Throughout the Bible, we learn that we are to honor and care for those who paved the way for us – our parents, our elders, our spiritual guides. At CUMC, our LAMs are the heartbeat of our history. They paved the way for us by showing us how to love and serve God. They rocked us as babies, taught us in Sunday School, encouraged us to memorize Bible verses, tamed us as teenagers, cooked church dinners for us, and cared for our church buildings.

Now they are no longer able, and so our Shepherds honor and care for THEM. We are family here, welcoming all to join us. God's promise in Exodus 20:12 is that by honoring and caring for those who nurtured us in the faith, our lives will be long on this fertile land God has given us.

God planted CUMC on fertile ground, that we may grow and prosper, as we honor those who brought us this far.

JOY Prayer.

Dear Jesus, we strive to live like you as we honor and care for our LAMs, those who faithfully followed you and patiently shared their faith with us. Help us to be a blessing to them, by assuring them that they are not forgotten as CUMC moves into the future. Help us, oh God, to love and live as they so patiently showed us how to do. Amen.

~ Joanne Reynolds