



## **Heartbeats along the way: The Christ-dwelling Heart**

*"I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love."  
Ephesians 3:16-17*

Centuries ago, Paul wrote this inspiring prayer to the churches in Ephesus. It is completely relevant for us in 2018 and for the years ahead. It is a prayer we can all pray for Carlisle UMC.

As we continue to praise God for the steady forward progress of our building program and for the steadfastness of the committee in maneuvering us through the several earthly approvals that will lead to the groundbreaking event later this year, let us also prepare our hearts to receive this new church building, and to use the gifts God gives us to invite and bless many others who do not know Jesus to experience the love of our Savior.

I'm a firm believer in this: that God has called every one of us to this time and to this journey to be a bright light of the Truth of the Gospel in a world desperately seeking peace. To do this, I believe we must let God shape ourselves into the church family that is able to welcome our neighbors all around us, and demonstrate the Love, Mercy, and Power of God as shown in Christ Jesus.

Paul reminds us that we did not get to this point on our journey by our own strength, but by the power of the Holy Spirit working within us, individually and as a fellowship. It's the same Spirit which has been working in the world since the first Pentecost. Let's remain open to the power and inspiration of that same Spirit. Let's give our hearts to be its dwelling place so that even as we journey we can remain rooted and grounded in agape love.

*"O Christ, as You led and inspired your Church through ages past, lead this church family to be your instrument for witness and service in this community and to the ends of the earth. We pray in your name and for Your Glory. Amen."*

~ cl reynolds