

Notes from Cheryl Continued

It even produced a prayer:

Reflections: A Prayer for Our Times Gracious God, In this unfolding era, where circuits hum and algorithms learn, Open our eyes to the wonder and responsibility of your creation. Let not our hearts grow anxious, but help us listen for your call—In the face of change, grant us wisdom; in times of uncertainty, anchor us in hope. May we use every tool, every gift, for the good of all, and the glory of your name. Amen.

When I read all this at first I said, “Oh, no! I wanted AI to be secondary to Hope and how God’s call weaves into our Hope for the transformation of the world (See United Methodist Mission Statement). Then I decided the way it came out was exactly right. We have these new tools at our disposal. The world is changing every day. We must pick up and move forward, not dwell on the past and say, “Why do we have to change?” The world and the people in it have already changed and we as the church should be leading the way.

What does it mean to be called by God in a world where machines can compose music, paint masterpieces, or write persuasive arguments? God’s call is as ancient as time and as immediate as the present moment. It is not diminished by technology; rather, it is made all the more vital.

As AI assumes greater roles in our lives, we are summoned to remember our unique vocation: to love God and neighbor with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Our calling is not to retreat from new realities, but to engage them with wisdom and compassion. We are asked to discern where technology can be an instrument of healing, justice, and reconciliation—and to resist its use for harm, division, or exploitation.

Our gifts—creativity, empathy, critical thought—remain irreplaceable. AI may replicate patterns and process data at scale, but it cannot know the joy of forgiveness, the ache of longing, or the hope that persists against all odds. In answering God’s call, we bring something to the world that no algorithm can provide: the indwelling of the Spirit and the willingness to walk by faith, not by sight.

Couldn’t have said it better myself.

Pastor Cheryl

P.S. Soon we will have a brochure listing many possibilities for you to find an opportunity to serve the church, making disciples, building relationships. Be praying for God to make your call obvious – everyone is called!

Holiday Greenery ON SALE NOW

Our annual youth fundraiser has officially begun. Get yourself and someone you love these beautiful greenery items for this holiday season. Nothing says home for the Holidays like a fresh evergreen wreath, garland or centerpiece! With two options to choose from you can have your items shipped directly to the church for pick up or directly to someone special's door step. Every item purchased helps support our youth. Funds are used to help our youth attend Bridgeport Summer Camp each year. You can scan the QR code below to place your order online or you make contact Jamie Bourcy at (903).243.3038 or youth@fumccommerce.org for help or to place an order in person.



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