I believe it was an old Aretha Franklin song but it some it all up here. It went “Signed, sealed delivered, I’m yours”. Although all three persons of the take part in our inheritance, it is the Holy Spirit who takes the lead role in guaranteeing or insuring our future inheritance. It is through the Holy Spirit that my inheritance is signed, sealed and delivered. The Bible is clear that the Holy Spirit comes into the life of every believer at the very moment he or she becomes a believer. In Paul’s day, important documents were sealed with wax and then imprinted with an identifying symbol, usually by pressing a signet ring into the wax. And that seal had three major functions, each of which helps us to understand something about how the Holy Spirit secures our inheritance for us. It is a mark of ownership, a symbol of preservation and an indication of a completed transaction. There are many things Christians believe about the Holy Spirit. In fact, lots of Christians argue about what they believe about the Holy Spirit. Yet all Christians agree that the Holy Spirit brings freedom, the freedom to experience salvation, the freedom to be secure with God, the freedom to move forward spiritually, the freedom to serve God. They may disagree on exactly how that all happens, but these agree that where the Spirit of the Lord is there is salvation, security, growth, and service. This comes through the Holy Spirit’s work to draw us to Christ, through his indwelling, his empowering, and his giving. As you consider all that the Holy Spirit does in your life, what plans can you make that will allow the Spirit to operate in your life better? Seek out to allow the Holy Spirit to operate in your life the way God intended for your life.

Like Jesus in this story, we, too, are faced with temptation. It is always Satan, our enemy that brings temptation to us. God will never tempt anyone. How do we handle temptation? What do we do? Often we can give in to how we feel, even thinking it’s not that bad. Sometimes temptation to do what’s wrong comes disguised as something that seems alright. Looking at it on the surface often doesn’t look too bad. And after all, ‘everybody’s doing it’. But don’t be fooled. Satan has a way of disguising it. We need to follow Jesus’ example. How did He respond to Satan’s attacks? Each time Jesus answered Satan, He answered with scripture – ‘It is written….’ We need to know what the word of God says. The other thing to remember, is that Satan also knows scripture, too – but often it is used in the wrong way. Is there anything you find you get tempted with? Maybe you feel tempted to lie so you don’t get in trouble, or take something you want that is not yours, or say mean things to someone because they may have said mean things to you. There are so many things Satan tempts us to do that we shouldn’t do. When you feel tempted, the best thing to do is to pray to Jesus to help you. He knows how you feel because He was tempted too. By M.S.Lowndes

Close in prayer together. © By M.S.Lowndes

Prayer for the Week

Come Holy Spirit, guide me in all things. Bend me to your will. Make your will my own. May I be bold enough to follow and to serve. Amen.
Have you ever wished you could read someone’s mind? Here Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of God. He then goes on to teach us that we who are believers in Christ have received the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. That is the gospel message, and even more! We have the spirit working in us and have so much power we don’t even realize it. If we want the power of the Holy Spirit to be active in our lives, it takes US choosing to follow His leading, and actively seeking His guidance in our life. It’s like the old story of the poor couple barely scrapping out a living on an old dusty farm in Texas. Life was hard but through perseverance they made it by but just barely. Then one day oil was discovered out in their field. All of a sudden, they were rich but the resources had been there all the time. They just were not tapped into it. This is too often what happens to the Holy Spirit. We have been given this incredible resource but some are just unaware of the benefits you can have and others just simply don’t allow Him to enrich your life with His wisdom and understanding and joy.

How does a person receive the wisdom of the mind of Christ? How does a person operate in the power of the Holy Spirit? Why do we not tap into this source? What do we need to do to be in touch with His Spirit?

What risks do you take in life? Why would mission be a risk for us? How can mission be a natural part of our life and ministry of the church? What prevents you from risk taking? How do the quotes speak to you?

What does it mean to walk in the Spirit? Life in the Spirit means to follow His lead and remain in His control. It is life controlled by the Spirit of God. This life has a mind focused on serving Christ. This individual’s desires are not selfishly controlled but are controlled by the will of Christ. If you are a believer, the Spirit is always in you for the purpose of lovingly leading you. If you are not in step with the Spirit of God you will be controlled by the flesh. You will live an existence which is dominated by sin. Your will focus on self and selfish things. The desires will not be Godly desires. The two mind sets are heading in opposite directions. The mindset dominated by the desires and activities of the sinful nature is death. The mindset dominated by the desires and activities of the will of God is on the way of eternal life. Each person is responsible for which mind he seeks. Your responsibility is to set his mind on living in submission to the indwelling Holy Spirit or to focus his mind on Christ. Every person is either under the control of the Spirit or under control of the old nature, either on a road of peace or on a road that leads to death. Walking in the Spirit is living with Him as the director of our lives.

Who controls your mind? How does the Spirit of God influence your decisions? What ways do you seek his guidance?
Pray in Christian sympathy for Faye Shelnutt, aunt of Pat Talley, and family in the loss of Faye’s daughter, Susan. Pray for good care for Faye, who is having health concerns.

Pray in Christian sympathy for the family and friends of Ron and Carol Buckles, friends of Eve Ginnings, in the loss of their son Simon.

Congratulations to Mark-Alexander and Megan Hicks on the birth of their new daughter, Charlotte, born June 2.

Wednesday
ESUMC Prague Update 6:30 pm
Choir Practice 7:30 pm

Thursday
UMW Day Circle 12:00 pm

Friday
Frosty Parrot Fundraiser 6:00 pm

11:15 am Celebration

Prelude

Greeting

Call to Worship: Spirit of the Living God UMH #393

Hymn of Praise: Great is Thy Faithfulness UMH #140

Children ages four through the finish of second grade are dismissed for Children’s Worship.

Offering

Anthem

Doxology: UMH #94

Sermon: Comes, Sends, Teaches!! Acts 2

Communion

(Sugar and Gluten free crackers will be served with the individual juice cups. Please feel free to utilize these as you desire.)

Hymn of Response: Trust and Obey UMH #467

Benediction: Numbers 6:24-26 (On screen)
ESUMC Prague Update
Join us at 6:30 pm this Wednesday, June 19 as we visit with former
CUMC Pastor Rev. Michelle McKinnon-Young and her husband, Gary
Young. Michelle and Gary have been living and working in the Czech
Republic for two years now, and have much to share with us about their
experiences at ESUMC Prague, a ministry partnership between the
Johnson City District and the Czech District of the United Methodist
Church. Bring a dessert to share for an evening of information and
fellowship.

Breaking Free Women’s Bible Study
Want to delve deeper into God’s Word? Join us for Beth Moore’s
“Breaking Free” study. This is a 10 week study focused in the book of
Isaiah. The first meeting will be on Sunday, June 23 at 6pm. It is open to
women of all ages. Contact Lindsey Hunter at jlhunter05@gmail.com for
more information.

Shepherd’s Storehouse
The Shepherd’s Storehouse is not accepting donations at this time.
Thank you!

A Call For Hospitality
Share the hospitality of CUMC! Last Sunday Rev. Amodei shared a
sermon on radical hospitality. Now is the time to act! Come be a greeter
and spread a smile on Sunday mornings. There will be a training on
Sunday, June 23 at 10:00 am in the Gathering Space. Help Cherokee be
the church you want to attend!

UMW Day Circle: Learn About ESL
Calling all Cherokee women. Join the United Methodist Women Day
Circle on Thursday, June 20 at noon in the Tapestry Sunday School
room. Enjoy a great lunch, laugh and pray. And hear Roz Gann explain
the ESL program that has taken off at Cherokee and also at ESUMC
Prague, Czech Republic. We hope you can join us.

Choir Practice
Choir practice will be held this Wednesday, June 19 at 7:30 pm.

Enjoy Frozen Yogurt and Support VBS in Prague, Czech Republic
Yes, you read that right!! You can go to the Frosty Parrot in the Earthfare
Plaza on Friday, June 21 from 6-10 pm and mention the Prague Mission
Trip. The VBS team from Cherokee, including our own Hannah Money
and Amelia Brown, will receive a portion of the profits. What an easy and
delicious way to support missions. We hope you will help us spread the
word and will come out for yogurt. Thanks!

Church Inventory
CUMC staff is currently working on taking an inventory of our resources
and furniture so that we can better utilize the supplies on hand. If you see
a sticker on something within the building, please do not remove it.
Thanks!

Camping Supplies
If you brought camping supplies to help decorate for VBS, it is time to
take your supplies back home. All of the camping equipment is in the old
Cokesbury space, so feel free to pick it up this week or on Sunday. Thank
you all so much for helping to set the atmosphere for a very successful
week of VBS!

Al-Anon
Do you love someone who may have a problem with alcohol or drugs?
You are not alone. Come learn how the Serenity Prayer can work miracles
in your life. Join us in the Hospitality Suite every Thursday at 7:00 pm.
Contact Beth Blasinski at 773-5353 if you have any questions or for more
information.