



Mount Carmel United Methodist Church
4760 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122
(410) 255-8887 (410) 255-6619 fax
Mtcarmel21122@gmail.com
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” So begins the third chapter of Ecclesiastes, the first eight verses of which testify to the reality of change. But even in the midst of change we need to remember one thing; “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8) There is at least one thing we can be sure of in life, change will happen whether we want it to or not. People change, perspectives change, institutions change, our world changes, and the universe itself is always in motion – it never stops changing. We may not like change. It disrupts our comfort zones. It challenges our perspectives. It can be uncomfortable, difficult, and sometimes painful. Yet I also believe change is important for our emotional and spiritual growth and can become an invitation to take another step toward spiritual and emotional maturity.

I believe it’s important to understand change as a way that God moves us forward toward a more complete understanding of Godself. As the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, stated, in this life “we are going on to perfection”. The implication here is that we are not there yet, we are not perfect yet – especially in our understanding of God. Our lives are filled with opportunities to refine and adjust our understanding of who God is and who we are in relation to God; to move toward a more perfect relationship with God. Many of those opportunities are introduced through change. We need to understand that change is always an invitation to grow. We can treat change as a threat and try to avoid or prevent it, but in doing so we may be refusing an invitation to grow.

As we adjust to change in our lives we grow. I can think of a number of changes in my life that were bad, or at least I thought so at the time. But those changes often made me a stronger person, a better person, and broadened my perspective in life. When I was just entering my teen years I did not want to move to Maryland and leave my comfortable and familiar life in upstate New York. But I realize now that my life there was relatively sheltered in comparison to the life I was introduced to when we moved to Bowie. The change helped me grow in ways I would not have had I remained in New York. When I was in middle school I was uprooted from the school where all my friends were to a new school inside the D.C. beltway as part of an effort to desegregate schools. That was a frightening and uncomfortable change, but it broadened my perspective yet again. I became aware of what it was to be a minority and came to understand how terrible and false racial stereotypes can be. My world and my perspective became much more inclusive.

I believe that God invites, or allows, change to happen in our lives because it is through change that we grow – ultimately closer to God. Maintaining the status quo rarely provides the fertile soil we need to grow. The bottom line here is this; whether we like it or not change will happen, and when it does it’s an invitation for us to grow both emotionally and spiritually. We need to be willing to grow in response to the changes that come our way.

Why all this talk about change? I bring it up because change is going to happen in the United Methodist Church. It’s going to happen this month when the special session of the General Conference makes decisions concerning the United Methodist church’s stance on the issue of homosexuality, the ordination of gays and lesbians, and the legitimacy of performing same sex unions. I don’t have a clue what that change will look like though I do have

suspensions. What I do know is that the church will look different. Whatever the change is I will view it, not as a threat, but as an opportunity to change and to grow.

Will this change the way we do things here at Mount Carmel United Methodist Church? Probably not a lot. There is one other thing we can be sure of in life, the mission of the church does not change. The way we do ministry, the contexts within which we do ministry, the situations our ministries will address will change, but our mission will remain the same. Here at Mount Carmel we will still be “The presence of God in community, loving, guiding, and healing.” The work of our church will remain the same, reaching out in Christ-like love to the people around us and connecting them to God through ministries of love, acceptance, and compassion. As far as I know the mission of the United Methodist Church won’t be changing either. It will still be “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” No matter what is decided later this month we still have the work of Christ to do. One friend reminded me the other day that the Church is of Christ and so no matter what happens the church will remain.

Through the month of February I encourage you to be in prayer for the United Methodist Church and our witness to the world. Pray that we may continue to set the example for Christ-like love lived out in ministries of love, acceptance, and compassion.

Blessings,
Pastor Mike

THE FORUM

The Forum meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM in the portable. Our Winter into Spring subject is called Faith and Reason. We will be reviewing and discussing a series of conversations that the journalist Bill Moyers had with a variety of writers including Salmon Rushdie, Margaret Atwood and Pema Chodron. Join us and make an interesting conversation even more interesting. For more info contact Bill Paull (wapaul@yahoo.com, 410-647-5885).

SARAH’S HOUSE WISH LIST - January: Heavy Duty Trash Bags

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

During the winter months Sunday School always struggles with attendance. It’s harder to get motivated in the cold weather. But we have strong lesson plans and dedicated teachers who show up every week. We are ready for your children and grandchildren to come learn about God’s word. And, sometimes we even have snacks. Now that is something to think about!

Deb McMurtrey, Sunday School

OUTREACH NEWS

The Outreach Committee is always looking for ways to help people locally and globally. In this very uncertain time in our world and our country maybe we need to be more aware of the needs of our own members and friends. These are anxious times. The world seems to be in turmoil. At the time of this writing we are in a partial government shutdown with no end in sight. All these unsettled feelings affect everyone in some way. The world has always been in turmoil and politics will always divide us, but it seems we are unable to escape the uncertainty.

We need to help each other through this anxious time. For the month of February, let us try to be kinder to each other. Think of it as a Valentine present for the entire month to the members and friends at Mt. Carmel. Take a moment and speak to everyone you see. And try to see the positive in what we are doing. This congregation is full of people doing good things every day. Let us acknowledge that to each other.

The traditional Outreach activity for February is the annual NCEON Food Drive. We will be conducting that later in the month. But in the meantime, let us reach out to each other and share the love of God.

Deb McMurtrey
Outreach Committee

NEWS FROM MT. CARMEL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Welcome to February; the Love Month!

Lots of snow in January, let's hope February is drier and calmer. We have had two fundraisers this past month, the Escape Proving Ground, and Chuckie Cheese. We will let everyone know how successful they were in the months to come. Thank you all for your continued support with these fundraisers. Our one and only fundraiser for February is at the Green Turtle Restaurant on Tuesday, February 19th from 11:00am -11:00 pm enjoy a break from cooking your family dinner! We hope to see everyone there!

The end of January we started open enrollment for our fall programs. We will be having an open house on February 7th and 8th from 10:00am-12:00pm for outside families. Please spread the word if you know of anyone looking for a wonderful Christian pre-school. We have many different programs to choose from, part time or full time classes and we also offer a before and after school-age program. We work with our local Elementary school, Bodkin Elementary which transports our school-agers between school and Mt. Carmel, we are very appreciative for the service they provide us.

Our pre-k classes take a monthly walking trip to the library, they have learned how to check out a book using their library cards and return them when they are due. Reading is a big part of their development so read, read, and read more!

Thank you all for your support and prayers for our school!

Dawn M. Rey
Director

DECEMBER 2018 ATTENDANCE & GIVING

December Attendance: The average weekly Sunday attendance was 68.

December Monthly Giving: General Budget: \$21,134 / Restricted Giving: \$3,385.

*The reporting of attendance and giving figures is behind, due to information for the most recent month not being complete at the time of publication.

CRAFT SALES

Craft sales during November and December earned \$74 for the general fund. Thanks for your continued support, and especially to Penny Pellegrini for making her quilted items for me to sell. -Pam Mertz

THE BIRTHDAY CLUB

Your birthday can be a cause for celebration not only for you and yours, but for many whom you don't even know by including a novel idea in your birthday plans. If your name is on this month's Birthdays list, go buy a children's book (infant through teen) and put it in the Sarah's House box located just outside the church office. The book will be used in the Sarah's House reading ministry and will give a lasting memory to a homeless child. Even if you are not on the Birthdays list, children's books (either new or gently used) are always needed.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Fay Reed	1
David Shelton	2
Harrison Tongue	2
Shannon Shanefelter	2
Pat Johnson	4
Marcy Lenz	5
Violet Harris	6
Donna Woods	8
Gage Vest	8
Jessica Rilee	9

Brian Arnold	10
Brenda Larsen	11
Jessica Scanlon	11
Barry Nichols	11
Billy Whitted	13
Lill Sears	13
Kim Nielsen	14
Darlene Schmitz	16
Linda Schatz	18
Austin Houtz	21

Gregory Smith	23
George Braun	23
Emily Demougeot	24
Alyssa Frasier	24
Joshua Coleman	26
David Eisenhardt	27
Benjamin Davis	28

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Earnie and Pat Johnson 2/24

Realm is HERE!

Realm is our new church management and administration software. An overdue update to our old Church Helpmate program, Realm is a web-based product with numerous improvements to how we can manage our social, administrative, and financial activities. Now rather than a program quietly running in the church office, “in the cloud” we all have access to better keep up with all the goings-on of church life.

How will this affect you? As little or as much as you like! Seamlessly providing all the functionality of the old software, everything will be managed in the background as before. BUT, because it is a web based application, you will have the ability to log on and manage your own profile, check on your giving, organize committees and activities, and so much more. We’re just starting to get into all the features it provides...

On-line giving *will* change. As it is a built in function with Realm, so there is no need for a 3rd party company to provide service. Also text giving will be an option, with the ability to donate on the go to a whole list of funds.

More Realm news will be coming as we explore and implement the features of the program. We are updating Realm to include your email information so we can send you an invite to join. We have sent 112 invites this past week. If you have not received an invite, please let the office know by calling Betsy at 410-255-8887. (Check your Spam folder just in case) For now, you may want to check it out yourself at www.acstechnologies.com/products/realms.

Respectfully,
The Church Office & Finance Committee

Hello Mt. Carmel eGivers!

Starting as soon as you’re ready, you too can be a Mt Carmel e-Giver! Let us know and we will be happy to help you get setup.

Financial Secretary
Dave Shelton

FEBRUARY EVENTS

2/03 – 10 a.m. – **Worship, Communion Sunday - Sanctuary**

2/04 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall

2/04 – 6:30 p.m. Trustees

2/05 – 10 a.m. - Forum

2/05 - 6:45 – 8 p.m. - ASAP

2/05 – 7 p.m. – Scout Troop 412 – Church Hall

2/06 – 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary

2/07 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall

2/07 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

2/10 – 10 a.m. – **Worship – Sanctuary**

2/11 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall

2/11 – 7 p.m. – Finance Committee – Trinity Center

2/12 – 10 a.m. - Forum

2/12 – 6:45 – 8 p.m. - ASAP

2/12 – 7 p.m. - Scout Troop 412 – Church Hall

2/13 – 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary

2/14 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall

2/14 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

2/17 – 10 a.m. – **Worship – Sanctuary**

2/18 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall

2/18 – 7 p.m. – Admin Council

2/19 – 10 a.m. – Forum

2/19 – 6:45 p.m. – ASAP (Last meeting until Jan. 8th)

2/19 - 7:00 p.m. – Scout Troup #412 – Church Hall

2/20 – 9:30 a.m. - Prayer Group – Sanctuary

2/21 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall

2/21 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

2/24 - 10 a.m. – **Praise Worship – Sanctuary**

2/25 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall

2/26 – 10 a.m. – Forum

2/26 – 6 p.m. – Child Care Board

2/26 – 6:45 – 8 p.m. - ASAP

2/26 – 7 p.m. - Scout Troop 412 – Church Hall

2/27 – 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary

2/28 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall

2/28 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

A complete calendar of events can be found at <http://mymcumc.org/events/>

LITURGISTS SCHEDULE

Carol Mosmiller	2/03/19
Phyllis Basil	2/10/19
Warren Magruder	2/17/19
Nancy Trimper	2/24/19

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday:

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
Nursery	10:00 a.m.

Monday:

Tiger Cub Scouts	6:30 p.m.
------------------	-----------

Tuesday:

Forum	10:00 a.m.
ASAP	6:45 p.m.
Boy Scouts	7:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Prayer Group	9:30 a.m.
--------------	-----------

Thursday:

Cub Scouts	6:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	7:15 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW??

- The deadline for the March newsletter is February 10th
- There are still some openings on the Altar Flower Chart. Please sign up to honor or remember a special event or person. If you would like Fresh flowers, please indicate that on the chart and Betsy will order them for you. The cost is \$25 and your payment can be made on the Sunday you have selected by labeling an envelope and putting it in the offering plate. Silk flowers can requested! Just put your donation in a marked envelope with your information - and place it in the offering. Please note that Silk arrangements belong to the church and should not be removed after the service.
- You can still add your name to our Email List. Please email mtcarmeL21122@gmail.com to receive your Newsletter by email!
- If you wish not to receive the Newsletter by email, simply call Betsy at 410-255-8887.
- You may add to this column by emailing the office at mtcarmeL21122@gmail.com.