



Mount Carmel United Methodist Church
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MARCH NEWSLETTER 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

There is a basic flaw in the wording of the membership ritual that we use in the United Methodist Church – at least I think it’s a flaw. Now I might be opening a can of worms when I write this but it’s a flaw that I think leads to a basic misunderstanding. Let me explain. When we join the church we are asked to respond “I do” to this question: “Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, and uphold it with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?” It’s the word “gifts” that I’m having a problem with. It’s too weak a word for describing what we give back to God. Obviously the church is supported by our prayers. We need to pray for the church universal and our local church daily asking God to bless our ministry and empower us in that ministry. Our presence is crucial since we need to be present in the Body of Christ in order to benefit from fellowship and mutual support. We also need to be present in the Body in order to celebrate together the presence of God’s Spirit in which we all share. Service is also incredibly important since we are called to serve our Lord and not be served by him. We are called as a church and as individuals to be Jesus’ hands, feet, and voice in our world and community. It’s the word “gift” that I believe is misleading because, to put it simply, we can’t give God a gift of what already belongs to God! What we “give” to God is not ours to give – it never was.

Psalms 24:1 says this clearly; “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and all who dwell therein.” Leviticus 25:23 also supports this idea, “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants.” Rev. William R. Phillippe, a retired Presbyterian Pastor and author shares this illustration in his book on stewardship.

A law firm was engaged to clear the title of some property in New Orleans. The New York firm, in turn, engaged a New Orleans attorney to get the data from the records. The New Orleans lawyer traced it back as far as 1803, but the New York firm wrote him to say that he had not gone back far enough. In due time they received a letter that said:

Gentlemen,

Please be advised that in the year 1803 the United States of America acquired the territory of Louisiana from the Republic of France by purchase . . . The Republic of France in turn acquired title from the Spanish Crown by conquest . . . The Spanish Crown obtained it by virtue of the discoveries of one Christopher Columbus – a Genoese sailor who had been authorized to embark by Isabella, Queen of Spain, who obtained sanction from the Pope, the Vicar of Christ, who is the son and heir of Almighty God, who made Louisiana.

“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and all who dwell therein.” The ground we stand on, the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, the material we build our homes with, our very bodies and the abilities and talents we possess, as well as the wealth we obtain from the land and our toil all belong to God. So if it is God’s already, how can it be a gift we give to God?

The word “gift” implies that whatever the “gift” is belongs to us and that we can do with it as we please. But this is not the teaching of scripture which affirms over and over again, in both the Old and New Testaments that we are not the owners of creation, but rather occupiers and stewards. Genesis 2:15 tells us, “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” That is we were placed in our world to manage it and take care of it. We are stewards not owners. Once again this begs the question; how can we give what we do not own?

A better word to use would be “offering”. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines offering as, “something [offered](#); *especially*: a sacrifice ceremonially offered as a part of worship”. Our offerings are an integral part of worship in which we recognize God as the one who has created all that we have and has provided it for our enjoyment and use. Our offerings are a statement of God’s importance and significance in our lives and as we present them they become one of the means by which God continues to bless our world and our lives. A gift is a token of our esteem; an offering to God is a statement of what we believe. A gift is optional whereas an offering - of the kind implied by scripture - reflects our commitment to God to whom we are indebted for all we have been given to employ in the living of our lives. An offering is much more than a gift. The use of the word “gift” subverts the entire understanding that all we possess belongs to God and has been placed in our care and keeping.

Yes, you can just say it’s a matter of semantics. But the words we use shape our thoughts and our perspective. When we are talking about the relationship that we have with God it is important to be as precise as we can in the words we use to define that relationship. Otherwise misunderstandings can arise. There is a difference between giving a gift and presenting an offering. Gift giving is optional. The presentation of our offerings to God is compelled out of a sense of responsibility and commitment and reflects our belief in God as creator and sustainer. The offerings we present reflect our gratitude for all that we are entrusted with – even each breath we take, and the joy we experience as saved and redeemed people.

So when the plate comes around next Sunday what will you place in it? A gift of convenience? Or a tribute and offering to the one from whom all blessing flow?

Grace and Peace
Mike

The above article is submitted with the prayer that we all reflect on all that God has provided us. God has also provided the church as a place where we find fellowship, comfort, encouragement, and knowledge of God’s love. It is a gift and a blessing we need to care for. Prayerfully consider your level of giving - understanding that we are returning only a portion of that which already belongs to God. Remember that in God’s hands it will be used to ensure the continuation of Christ’s ministry through this church, this blessing, which we all love.

Dear Members and Friends of Mount Carmel Church

The special session of General Conference has met and voted on how the United Methodist Church will address the issues of ordination and the solemnization of marriage. The General conference has voted to adopt the Traditional Plan. This means that the restrictive language of our United Methodist Discipline will remain unchanged. I’ve included below a message to all of us from Bishop Easterling who is the Episcopal Leader of the Baltimore Washington Annual Conference.

Blessings and Peace - Mike

Beloved,

As the Special Session has drawn to a close, we are all in need of time to process a whirlwind of an afternoon. I invite us to center ourselves in God's deep and abiding presence.

May the words of the Epistle to the Romans found in Chapter 8 strengthen us for the days ahead. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

We will reflect upon the outcome of the Special Session on Saturday, March 2, in a [live-streamed town hall meeting](#), beginning at 9 a.m. Until then, may we hold one another in prayer.

Blessings and peace,
Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling

Three things to know:

- 1) The [Traditional Plan](#), as amended, was adopted by a vote of 438-384. Delegates further referred the Plan to the Judicial Council for determination if it is constitutional.
- 2) The [One Church Plan](#), which was endorsed by Bishop Easterling and the Council of Bishops, was not adopted.
- 3) **There will be a live-streamed event this Saturday, March 2**, starting at 9 a.m. Bishop Easterling and others will be speaking about the events of the Special Session. Join the live-stream at www.bwcumc.org.

Individual stories for further reading include:

[General Conference passes Traditional Plan](#)

[Traditional Plan Advances as One Church, Simple plans fail](#)

[Key GC2019 votes prompt anguish, satisfaction](#)

[Pensions, Traditional Plan top priorities during Legislative Committee process](#)

[Hundreds arrive to witness United Methodist history](#)

[Sweet hours of prayer begin GC2019](#)

FAITH HOPE CIRCLE

The Faith Hope Circle meets the 1st Thursday of every month at 11:45am. Members bring their bag lunches (drinks and desserts are provided) and enjoy fellowship and discussing ongoing projects. Some of the many plans involve preparing meals for those unable to get out due to illness or weather, organizing and preparing funeral luncheons, supporting various charities, disaster reliefs, and organizations, hosting Bingo for residents and patients at Glen Burnie Rehab, ETC. This lovely group is always looking for new members. Please contact the church office with any questions! 410-255-8887.

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 by phone: (410) 647-5885 or email: wapaul@yaho.com.

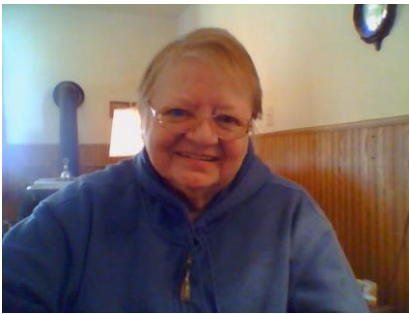
NEW MEMBERS

Please help us extend a warm WELCOME to Mt. Carmel's newest members!



Carolyn Edwards

I have been a Pasadena resident since 1976 and worked in the automotive industry for 40+ years. I'm retired and work part time at Downs Park, enjoy my 5 grandchildren, Ravens football, music and walking with friends.



Jeri Hayden

I am a retired accountant; and have lived in Pasadena for over 40 years. I enjoy reading, sewing, and some light woodworking.



Millie Jewell

I grew up on the Bodkin and have stayed near my roots. My 2 children went to Sunday School at Mt. Carmel. After a career in the Administrative field, I'm now retired. My passion is music and singing.

New Members (cont.)



Rick Kuzmik

Long time Pasadena resident, graduated from Towson University. Retired from UPS - worked here for 20 plus years. Enjoys all sports especially Nascar. Works part time at Himmel's Garden Center.



Kate Werner

I have been married for 18 years to my high school sweetheart, Rob. We have two sons in the Chesapeake cluster. For the past 12 years we have lived in Pasadena, but we recently moved farther into the peninsula. I am an English teacher in Queen Anne's county, but I would love to transfer to AACPS. In my free time, I love to read and be outdoors.

NEW MEMBER Contact Information

Carolyn Edwards

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ncarol1130@gmail.com

Jeri Hayden

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Millie Jewell

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Glen Burnie 21060 (410) 487-6406
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Rick Kuzmik

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nascarman388@gmail.com

Kate Werner

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(c) 443-623-8207
etak611@hotmail.com

BAPTISM

Clayton Raymond Wade (son of Jason and Mandy Wade and Grandson of Richard and Sharrie Wade) was baptized at Mt. Carmel on Sunday, February 17th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The current unit in Sunday School for the younger kids is about the teachings of Jesus as he traveled from town to town. We learn about the healings that occurred along the way. It's just too abstract for children and for some of us to understand when miracles happen. (No, Matthew, it is not magic.) But there are underlying lessons to take away from these stories.

Recently we learned about Jesus healing the 10 lepers. We learned about that terrible skin disease that banished those men from their homes, families, and friends to live by themselves on the outskirts of town. Jesus healed the lepers and directed them to the temple to see the priest. Only one man came back to thank Jesus for saving him from a life of misery. The underlying lesson – the big takeaway we talked about is gratitude. The leper had tremendous gratitude to get his life back.

We may not see such large miracles in our daily lives. But we can be grateful for all the little miracles that happen every day. People we know who go the extra mile. A simple “thank you” goes a long way. If you received a brownie from us that week, you were part of our lesson. Thank you.

We are currently planning our annual Heifer Day. We will let you know when the Kinder Farm 4-H group is available to help. We all love this event and we have invited the Child Development Center to join us again.

Deb McMurtrey, Sunday School

OUTREACH NEWS

The Outreach Committee met on January 29th to plan upcoming events and disburse some of our funds. When you give money to Outreach or Missions, it is separated from the money given to the General Fund. Our group meets several times a year to responsibly disburse the funds to programs locally and globally on your behalf. In January we were able to disburse funds to the following local programs: Arundel House of Hope, Happy Helpers for the Homeless, Hospice of the Chesapeake, NCEON, Habitat for Humanity, and B More Caring. We also sent monetary support to the two United Methodist missionaries – Sun Lae Kim and Nan McCurdy and her husband Miguel Mairena. We have supported these missionaries for years and are glad we are able to continue the global support through your contributions.

We set the date for the annual food drive for NCEON. For years we held the drive on Super Bowl Sunday. But recently we changed the date because, well, it was Super Bowl Sunday. The food drive for NCEON will be held on **March 10**, the first Sunday in Lent. Some people give something up for Lent and others take on something for Lent. We give you the opportunity to do both this year by contributing canned goods to this charity. We will be handing out paper bags as a reminder the week before the drive. We will again attempt to “stuff the truck” with canned goods to help this worthwhile local cause. NCEON stands for North County Emergency Outreach Network and is located in Glen Burnie.

Deb McMurtrey, Outreach Committee

SARAH'S HOUSE WISH LIST - March: Sheets and Pillowcases (new or gently used)

NEWS FROM MT. CARMEL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

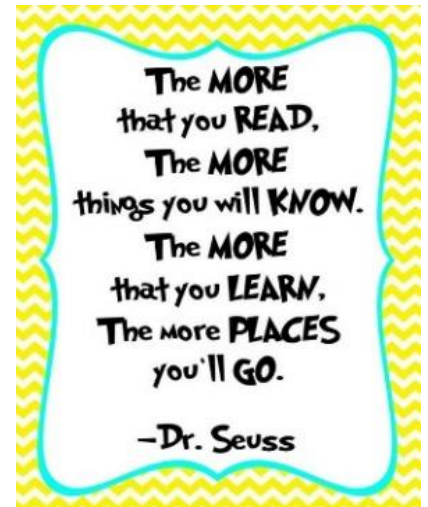
Welcome to March! Hopefully we are moving on to spring!

Thank you to everyone for your continued support with our past fundraisers, we are still waiting to receive our total profits, as we do I will share them with you. Our March fundraiser is our mixed bags which will be all month long, more information will be coming soon.

Our enrollment for our fall classes is looking really good. Our Pre-K classes are filled with a waiting list, and our Full Care four year old class is filled also. We have a couple of available spaces in our three's and four year old classes and also in our mixed full care class. Our am school-age program is filled with a waiting list and our pm school-age class has a couple of spaces available. 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.

Last month the Pediatric Dental Specialists visited with our pre-school classes to talk about dental health. They stressed how important it is to follow a daily routine of brushing, flossing, and proper eating habits. Each child received a bag with a flosser, toothbrush, a small toy & lots of great dental health information for their families. 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. Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, and Uncles, and any other adults please take time out of your day to read to your little ones, this is very important to their growth and development.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers for our school!
Dawn M. Rey, Director



JANUARY 2019 ATTENDANCE & GIVING

January Attendance: The average weekly Sunday attendance was 70.

January Monthly Giving: General Budget: \$10,353 / Restricted Giving: \$3,321.

*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.

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

DID YOU KNOW??

- We had 5 new members join Mt Carmel and 1 Baptism in February. See above articles!
- Our NEW Membership Software is up and running. Please contact the church office to update your email address (from which you will receive an invitation to log on to Realm and be able to manage your account.)
- The deadline for the April newsletter is March 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 add your name to our Email List. Please email mtcarmeL21122@gmail.com to receive your Newsletter by email!

Welcome to Realm!

Realm, our new church management and administration software is up & running! It is a state of the art, web-based program to help manage our church's social, administrative, and financial activities.

Everyone should have received an invite to log into their profile. If you haven't, check your spam folder and/or verify your e-mail address on file is correct with Betsy in the church office. (410) 255-8887. Being "cloud based", everyone can access Realm from home to better keep up with all the goings-on of church life.

You can use Realm as little, or as much, as you like! You can log on for more direct engagement, or just let the church administrative team man the reins for you as has always been. You can manage your own profile's personal information, check on your giving, organize committees & activities, and much more. We haven't scratched the surface of what its many capabilities are.

An important feature of Realm is its built-in on-line giving feature. You can keep up with your giving across the spectrum of available funds. Also text giving will be an option. ***All current e-givers will need to move over to Realm, as the old on-line system will soon be retired.***

To explore more about Realm and its features, please check it out at www.acstechnologies.com/products/realm.

Respectfully,
The Church Office & Finance Committee

*You are invited to our
Mount Carmel United Methodist Church*

Ladies Pink Tea



*Mt. Carmel UMC Fellowship Hall
4760 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD*

*Saturday, April 6th, 2019
11 am to 1 pm*

*Scones, Petite Sandwiches & Desserts
\$18.00 per person*

*Please reserve your seats
or reserve a table of 6 or 8*

*RSVP to Terry Fath
terfath@gmail.com or 443-224-5573*

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Andrea Barnes	01
Ethan Hein	01
Dick Corkrin	02
Taylor Huber	03
Terry Fath	06
Cathy Jones	09
Leo Smith	09
Tony Calabrese	11

Kim Garnett	12
John Steedman	12
Kristin Baker	13
Brandon Huber	13
Ella Harris	18
Ciara Tongue	18
Abby Paul	19

Ginny Stephan	20
Ernest Donaldson	23
Megan Byle	24
Allison Helowicz	29
Faith Schmitz	30
Tammy Hudler	31
Brett Meadows	31

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Frank and Mary Lou Hornig 3/2

Sean and Jennifer Harris 3/21

MARCH EVENTS

3/01 – 7pm Troop 412

3/02- 8am – 10pm – Troop 412 Spaghetti Dinner

3/03 – 10 a.m. – Worship, Communion Sunday

3/03 – 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Choir Cantata Rehearsal

3/04 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall

3/04 – 6:30 p.m. Trustees

3/05 – 10 a.m. - Forum

3/05 - 6:45 – 8 p.m. – **NO ASAP**

3/05 – 7 p.m. – Scout Troop 412 – Church Hall

3/06 – 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary

3/07 – 11:45 a.m. - Faith Hope Circle

3/07 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall

3/07 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

3/09 – 12 – 7 p.m. – Troop 412 Blue and Gold

3/10 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

3/10 - 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Choir Cantata Rehearsal

3/11 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall

3/11 – 7 p.m. – Finance Committee – Trinity Center

3/12 – 10 a.m. - Forum

3/12 – 6:45 – 8 p.m. - ASAP

3/12 – 7 p.m. - Scout Troop 412 – Church Hall

3/13 – 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary

3/14 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall

3/14 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

3/16 – 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. - SAT Class

3/17 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

3/17 - 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Choir Cantata Rehearsal

3/18 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall

3/18 – 7 p.m. – Admin Council

3/19 – 10 a.m. – Forum

3/19 – 6:45 p.m. – ASAP

3/19 - 7:00 p.m. – Scout Troup #412 – Church Hall

3/20 – 9:30 a.m. - Prayer Group – Sanctuary

3/21 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall

3/21 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

3/24 - 10 a.m. – Praise Worship – Sanctuary

3/24 - 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Choir Cantata Rehearsal

3/25 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall

3/26 – 10 a.m. – Forum

3/26 – 6 p.m. – Child Care Board

3/26 – 6:45 – 8 p.m. - ASAP

3/26 – 7 p.m. - Scout Troop 412 – Church Hall

3/27 – 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary

3/28 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall

3/28 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

3/31 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

3/31 - 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Choir Cantata Rehearsal

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

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.
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Tuesday:

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

Wednesday:

Prayer Group	9:30 a.m.
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Thursday:

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

LITURGISTS SCHEDULE

Carol Mosmiller	3/03/19
Phyllis Basil	3/10/19
Warren Magruder	3/17/19
Nancy Trimper	3/24/19
Nancy Trimper	3/31/19