



Mount Carmel United Methodist Church
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APRIL NEWSLETTER 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

As February drew to a close the special session of General Conference of the United Methodist Church voted to adopt what is called the Traditional plan as Church Law thus prohibiting members of the LGBTQ community from serving as ordained ministers. The adopted plan also prohibits United Methodist clergy from recognizing, solemnizing, or conducting same sex unions or marriages. There were some amendments in the legislation which may or may not be prohibited by the United Methodist constitution. These will need review from the Judicial Council. If found unconstitutional those amendments cannot go forward and will not be included in the Discipline.

So you may ask where does this leave us? Good question. Most of us are still trying to figure that out. We will have a better idea after the Judicial Council rules on the constitutionality of some of the provisions in the plan that was adopted. As far as I can tell we are pretty much where we were before all this started. Some of the prohibitive language in the discipline will be tightened and clarified. Otherwise little will change from the way we have already been dealing with the issue. The 2016 Discipline is still in force with the prohibitions concerning homosexuality that have been in the Discipline since 1972. The plan that was voted on will, pending Judicial Council Review, go into effect in January of 2020.

There is the possibility that some churches who are not in agreement with the direction the church is taking will be allowed what is called a gracious exit from the denomination – but that is one of the amendments that may not pass judicial council review. Even if it does pass review the bar is rather high and the reason for exit must clearly be the unwillingness of the entire congregation to live under the specific conditions of the traditional plan.

What the ruling does NOT do is ban members of the LGBTQ community from becoming members of the United Methodist Church, attending its programs and worship services, serving on committees, or assuming positions of leadership in the church – other than those positions that must be served by clergy. The United Methodist Discipline continues to affirm members of the LGBTQ community as people of sacred worth and of equal worth with every other human being. This may seem for many to be hypocritical – and they would be right, it is. As Bishop Eastering, our conferences episcopal leader has reminded us, we are an imperfect church filled with imperfect and hypocritical people for we all are hypocritical in some way. We must acknowledge and confess this failing and ask God for forgiveness. No one is perfect, the church least of all.

We need to be aware and repentant of the fact that as a denomination we have wounded members with this decision who are a growing part of the population. With this decision we have disenfranchised a number of people in the church – including young people who may not themselves identify as LGBTQ but who support their friends who are. This can't be good for the church especially in a time when church membership is declining. Unfortunately no matter what the outcome with this decision some group was going to be hurt and disenfranchised.

So we have some healing to do, we have some bridges to rebuild, and I believe we must ask God's forgiveness for the pain this decision is causing and the discrimination which is being allowed to exist in a denomination that has historically fought discrimination in all its forms. Those of us who are disheartened and disappointed need to remain faithful, patient and, most importantly, engaged in the conversations surrounding this issue. We also need to remember to never put a period where God has put a comma. God isn't finished with us yet. This

issue is by no means settled. Those who are joyous and exultant over this decision need to understand that God is NOT joyous or exultant over those decisions that cause another human being pain and anguish. That such decisions are made in the first place – or even considered - is a sign of our brokenness and imperfection. We need to take heart that God is about the work of perfecting us through the love of Jesus Christ. We need to be patient as God continues to do this perfecting work.

What can we do now? We can pray for unity within the church even in the face of differences. We can pray for and with those who have been hurt and disaffected from the church asking that God grant them comfort, peace, and hope. We can let them know they are of sacred worth. We can continue the discussion concerning homosexuality in the church and continue to move that discussion forward. We can be patient with the church and with one another realizing that God is not finished with any of us yet. As it is the season of Lent we can turn to God acknowledging and repenting those ways in which we have participated in or allowed the existence of discrimination of all kinds in our world – including discrimination against the LGBTQ community.

We need to remember that the mission of the church has not changed in any way and important work remains to be done. We continue to be called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We continue to be the presence of Christ in community; loving, guiding, and healing. There are millions who are unaware of God's love in Jesus Christ so we need to continue spreading the Word. There are many suffering under injustice, who live without hope, who face despair each day – we are called to continue being the hands and feet of Christ for them. There is a lot of work to be done. Be patient, be faithful, keep calm and carry on. One day we shall overcome!

Blessings and Peace - Mike

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@yahoo.com.

BAPTISM

Abel Bryan Lillard (son of Joshua and Darlene Lillard and Grandson of George and Cathy Jones) was baptized at Mt. Carmel on Sunday, March 10th.

WELCOME

We welcome **Lana Matovcik**, who has transferred membership from Fairview UMC to Mt Carmel. Lana has been a Pasadena resident since 2002 when her family moved here to be on the water. She is a semi-retired attorney, practicing business law. Lana has one daughter – recently married, and is looking forward to grandchildren! She loves singing in the choir and is very happy to have found a new church home. Contact info: 357 Edgewater Road, Pasadena 21122, imatovcik@verizon.net, 410-215-8080.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The younger kids in Sunday School are learning about parables. We are finding the lessons behind the Bible stories. The Middle/Sr. High class helped the church with an Outreach program in March by preparing the paper bags for the NCEON Food Drive. I thank them for their help with that project.

We are also learning how to make origami sheep and bunnies as we talk about our upcoming study about the Heifer Project. Please mark your calendars for April 28th. The Kinder Farm 4-H group will be set up in our courtyard with their animals. It is always great fun to have them join our study of how animals can help the quality of life in some areas of the world. We all love this event and we have invited our Child Development Center to join us again.

Now, all we can do is hope and pray for good weather for April 28th.

Deb McMurtrey, Sunday School

OUTREACH NEWS

Well, we did it!! **We filled Phil Rilee's truck with 55 bags of groceries for NCEON** on March 10th. I had my doubts; the weather was not great, and it was the week of the time change but everyone rose to the occasion and by the time church was over his truck was filled.

NCEON is a great local mission that our church has supported for more than 20 years. Not only do they give food to the needy, this organization helps people financially when they are in danger of being evicted or their power is about to be turned off. They also provide budget planning to help people long term.

I must thank **Warren Magruder** for obtaining the grocery bags from Angels Market. When you are shopping at Angels, please thank Tommy for his help. Angels supplies our bags every year. And, also a big thanks to **Phil Rilee** for stacking the bags in his truck on Sunday, the 10th and delivering it all to NCEON the next day. We could not have this food drive without Phil and his truck. Thanks to all for continuing this annual tradition.

The next Outreach activity will be delivering little Easter treats for our home-bound members and friends.

Deb McMurtrey, Outreach Committee

SARAH'S HOUSE WISH LIST - April: Bathroom tissue

CRAFT FUNDRAISER

Craft sales during January and February earned \$94 for the general fund. A special thank you goes to Penny Pelligrini for the quilted trivets and to Cathy Popp for the key rings. Thanks to everyone for your support of this fundraiser during the past 24 years.

Pam Mertz, Craft Fundraising Chair

NEWS FROM MT. CARMEL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Welcome to April and Spring! Thank you to everyone again for your continued support with our past fundraisers. So far to date we have raised over one thousand dollars in our fundraiser account which we will be using to upgrade our playground.

Our enrollment for our fall classes is looking great, many classes are filled, with a waiting list. Summer registration has begun for our summer camp programs. Please spread the word if you know of anyone looking for a wonderful Christian pre-school, or a fun-filled summer program. 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 our school-age program had a special visit from the **Clear Shark H20 program, "Oyster Games"**. They were taught about the history of the oyster industry from years ago until now, and were able to practice "oyster tonging". They also learned many different ways in which we can keep our Chesapeake Bay clean, and how we should be taking care of it.

Our pre-school classes enjoyed a special winter treat last month from the magician "**Wendy Woo Woo**". She performed many different magic tricks which included a live bunny. Wendy kept everyone engaged and laughing, what a great time!

We will be having a **St. Jude's Trike-a-Thon** on **Thursday, April 4th, and Friday, April 5th**. If you would like to donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital you are more than welcome to please let us know. This is not a fundraiser for Mt. Carmel Child Development Center, all of the monies collected will go directly to the hospital. This money will help treat childhood cancer and other life threatening diseases. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

April 16th and 17th we will be having our annual **Easter Egg Hunt**, and praying for a nice spring day! The children will enjoy hunting for many different colored eggs with special surprises in them. If you would like to donate any special surprises for our eggs we would greatly appreciate it.

Looking ahead: Our annual **Baltimore Zoo field trip** for all of our pre-school classes will be on **Thursday, May 2nd**. We are hoping for a beautiful Day! **May 17th** will be a **Paint Night** fundraiser here at Mt. Carmel, more information will come at a later date. Looking forward to seeing some future artists. **Pre-school Graduation** will be on **Friday, May 31st**.

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

NEW WOMAN'S MINISTRY

Girls Night Out... A woman's ministry to nourish your body & your soul. Pot Luck Supper with devotions/Inspiration & music. Come enjoy some fun, food and fellowship on the 1st Friday of each month... starting Friday, May 3rd at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Open to ALL women. Bring a friend and a dish to share. See Fay Reed with questions and stay tuned for more details to come.

FEBRUARY 2019 ATTENDANCE & GIVING

February Attendance: The average weekly Sunday attendance was 78.

February Monthly Giving: General Budget: \$13,718 / Restricted Giving: \$4,139.

*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??

- Our **June Newsletter is our Graduation issue**, where we will announce all Graduating Seniors from High School and College. Please submit info (and pic if you want) to Betsy at mtcarmeL21122@gmail.com.
- 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 May newsletter is April 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 be 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!

Easter 2019 Memorials

Would you like to remember or honor a loved one this Easter? You may do so by purchasing a flower to decorate the church or you may make a donation to the **Trustees Fund** or to the **General Fund**. To honor or remember family members or friends, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or in the lockbox on the Church office door. Checks should be made payable to Mt. Carmel UMC.

Deadline for Donations is April 14, 2019 & the cost of Flowers is \$ 15.00

I would like to order _____ flower(s) at \$15.00 each = \$ _____

and/or

Donation to the *Trustee Fund: _____ = \$ _____

Donation to the General Fund: _____ = \$ _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Please write names clearly and attach extra pages if needed. Flowers may be taken home after the 10am Easter service. Any questions please call Betsy Gregory (410) 255-8887.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Samantha Sanner	1
Gage Brumwell	3
Betsy Gregory	3
Lori Houtz	3
Abigail Meister	3
Annie Houck	5

Jennifer Arnold	11
Stephanie Groat	15
Tim Holth	17
Harrison Tongue	17
Gloria Paull	19
Richard Connelly	20

Warren Magruder	21
Bruce Hudler	23
John Romanchak	26
Owen Lester	27
Ryan Byle	30
John Schmitz	30

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Ernie & Stephanie Donaldson	4/03
Charles & Sarah Ann Parsons	4/07
Raymond & JoAnn Scanlon	4/07
Phil & Kelli Byle	4/15
Michael & Bonnie Bechtel	4/28
Dave & Donna Helowicz	4/28

APRIL EVENTS

4/01 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall
4/01 – 6:30 p.m. Trustees
4/02 – 10 a.m. - Forum
4/02 - 6:45 – 8 p.m. – ASAP
4/02 – 7 p.m. – Scout Troop 412 – Church Hall
4/03 – 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary
4/04 – 11:45 a.m. - Faith Hope Circle
4/04 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall
4/04 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
4/05 – 8 a.m. – Church CleanUp Day
4/05 – 11 – 1 p.m. – Ladies Pink Tea
4/7 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
4/7 - 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Choir Cantata Rehearsal
4/8 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall
4/8 – 7 p.m. – Finance Committee – Trinity Center
4/9 – 10 a.m. - Forum
4/9 – 6:45 – 8 p.m. - ASAP
4/9 – 7 p.m. - Scout Troop 412 – Church Hall
4/10 – 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary

4/11 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall
4/11 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
4/14 – 10 a.m. – Palm Sunday – Sanctuary
4/14 - 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Choir Cantata Rehearsal
4/15 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall
4/15 – 7 p.m. – Admin Council
4/16 – 10 a.m. – Forum
4/16 – 6:45 p.m. – ASAP
4/16 - 7:00 p.m. – Scout Troup #412 – Church Hall
4/17 – 9:30 a.m. - Prayer Group – Sanctuary
4/18 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall
4/18 – 7:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Communion Service – Sanctuary
4/19 – 7:00 p.m. – Good Friday Choir Cantata
4/21 – EASTER SUNDAY
6:15 a.m. - Sunrise Service: Home of Marvin Heptinstall
7:00 a.m. – Pancake Breakfast at Mt. Carmel
10 a.m. – Easter Worship Service – Sanctuary
4/22 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall

4/23 – 10 a.m. – Forum
 4/23 – 6 p.m. – Child Care Board
 4/23 – 6:45 – 8 p.m. - ASAP
 4/23 – 7 p.m. - Scout Troop 412 – Church Hall
 4/24 – 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary
 4/25 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall
 4/25 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
4/28 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

4/29 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall
 4/30 – 10 a.m. – Forum
 4/30 – 6:45 – 8 p.m. - ASAP
 4/30 – 7 p.m. - Scout Troop 412 – Church Hall

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.

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.

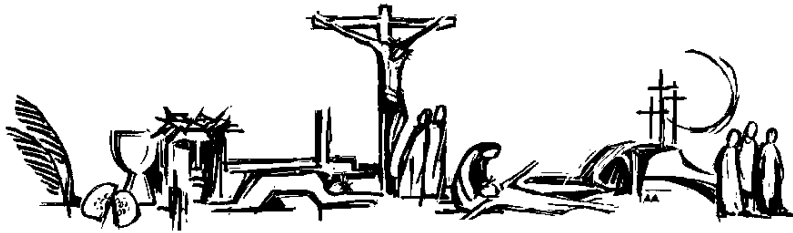
LITURGISTS SCHEDULE

Carol Mosmiller	4/07/19
Phyllis Basil	4/14/19
Warren Magruder	4/21/19
Nancy Trimper	4/28/19



Happy Easter!

2019
Holy Week Services



- April 14th Palm Sunday Worship**
10:00 a.m.
Mt. Carmel Church
- April 18th Maundy Thursday Communion Service**
7:00 p.m.
Mt. Carmel Church
- April 19th Good Friday Choir Cantata**
7:00 p.m.
Mt. Carmel Church
- April 21st Easter Sunday Sunrise Service**
6:15 a.m.
At the Home of Marvin Heptinstall
5130 Mountain Road
Pasadena, Maryland
- April 21st Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast**
7:00 a.m.
Mt. Carmel Church Hall
- April 21st Easter Sunday Worship Service**
10:00 a.m.
Mt. Carmel Church