



**Mount Carmel United Methodist Church**  
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**JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2020**

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

There was a time that I could run two miles in a little over 11 minutes. That was a long time ago, before distance running went metric. I was on the High School Track team and I had been training for a couple of years. No one in their right mind could expect me to come close to that time these days. I'm sixty pounds heavier (and no it's not muscle – it's the other stuff), I'm forty-five years older, and I spend most of my time sitting on my butt. I'm not going to be going anywhere fast these days.

Recently I've been pondering the sorry state of my physical condition and thinking seriously about getting back on the track. I don't expect that I'll be able to get anywhere near duplicating my high school two mile time. But it would be nice to complete a 5K race without ending up in an emergency room or forcing those cheering me on to wait too long past sunset. So I've started moving all the junk out of the makeshift exercise room we have in the basement of the parsonage. I've ordered a new tread for the treadmill. That was the easy part. Now I actually have to use the equipment in that room. And yes I know I've made this kind of resolution before – maybe this time I'll actually do it.

Don't expect me to break any records. I know I'm going to have to do a lot of work and put in a lot of miles before I'll be able to enter a 5K without making a fool of myself. Preparing to run any race is going to take dedication, commitment, and a lot of preparation and hard work. I will probably also need oxygen tanks, a defibrillator, and ambulance standing by. Whatever I do, I will have to do it in easy stages and gradually.

In Hebrews 12 verse 1 Paul encourages us as Christians to “run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” Christian discipleship is very much like a race in that it demands preparation, dedication, and spiritual strength. It is in fact a long distance marathon with many obstacles, difficult terrain, and far too many opportunities for discouragement. Like a race, mature Christian discipleship demands adequate training and conditioning if we expect to finish the race in good form.

Unfortunately the race course of Christian discipleship is littered with spiritually exhausted, injured, and discouraged runners who entered a race for which they were not prepared or conditioned. They've dropped out of the race and now lay panting alongside the course discouraged and in pain because they were not spiritually prepared for the race. They heard the call to run the race of discipleship but took on too much before they were ready.

The ministry of Jesus Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is difficult and challenging and demands a great deal from laity and clergy alike. The demands placed upon those of us running the race of discipleship are far different and in many ways more difficult than those that were placed on disciples that have gone before us.

If we are serious about our discipleship and our desire to serve Christ in ministry then we need to take the time and effort to train and condition ourselves for the race. The greatest thing we can do for the sake of the church's ministry is to make use of all the opportunities we have to grow spiritually. Entering into ministry without good conditioning and preparation is unnecessary and spiritually harmful.

An intentional ministry of preparing mature disciples of Jesus Christ is one of the goals identified by our recent strategic planning process. The strategic planning team felt that this would be a crucial step in ensuring the health of our congregation and the individual spiritual health of our members and constituents. One of the ways we will be engaging in the ministry of intentional discipleship is through offering an ongoing workshop in which participants will work on strengthening their own discipleship and, at the same time, learning how to invite others into the path of discipleship and service to Christ. The first of these workshops will be launched in January. Right now we are identifying those people who would be interested in being part of the pilot group. Then we will decide on a regular weekly time to meet. This will be a rewarding time of self-discovery and mutual support as we explore our challenge to become effective disciples together. We will be using what is called the accountable discipleship model and using a workbook entitled “Discipler – An Interactive Guide” to

guide us through the process. If you are interested in this please let me know. A sign-up sheet will also be available in the entry area outside the sanctuary.

There are several other opportunities to engage in discipleship formation offered by the church and we all need to take advantage of them. Bible studies like ASAP help us to better prepare for the ministries God wants us to engage in. Discussion groups like the Weekly Forum are also helpful. There are several bible studies underway at Mount Carmel UMC including the new discipleship workshop and everyone is welcome.

The members and friends of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church have been called to bring the light of the risen Christ into the lives of those around us who are desperate for a word of hope and comfort. If we are to do this effectively we will need to prepare and condition ourselves for the race we have been called to run. When we do this we will find our offerings of ministry a joy rather than a painful burden and our efforts rewarding beyond measure.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Mike

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Please see the attachment to this Newsletter email for the complete 11page Strategic Planning Report from Griff Hall. If you are not seeing this Newsletter by email, you may stop into the church office for a printed copy.

Lisa Blakeney –  
Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair

## **FAITH HOPE CIRCLE**

We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at 11:45am (September – June) 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**

**We meet again January 7<sup>th</sup>!** We will review the Old Testament from the point of view of **Amy-Jill Levine**, Professor of Old and New Testaments at Vanderbilt University. She is not only well-informed, but is very interesting and often down-right entertaining! Hope to see you this Tuesday - or any Tuesday since there is no prep or homework, just learning and laughing. Questions – call Bill Paull at 410-647-5885, [wapaull@yahoo.com](mailto:wapaull@yahoo.com).

**CRAFTS** - Craft sales during September and October earned \$15 for the general fund. Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

Pam Mertz

**SARAH'S HOUSE WISH LIST** – January – Trashbags. Donations can be brought to Fellowship Hall and placed in the labeled container (inside the cabinet by the Admin office.)

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Sunday School had its own Advent Wreath that we lit every week and talked about the coming of Jesus. When you are young Christmas is a magical time. It is not usually about the coming of Jesus but the coming of Santa and sometimes difficult to get the young ones to understand the true meaning of Christmas. But we keep trying. And, I'm really tired of telling them that even though I'm old, I did not know Jesus when he was growing up.

The Middle/Sr. class continues to learn and grow in their faith each Sunday. We made Christmas cookies (adding one ingredient at a time and molding and shaping our dough). We likened this to how we are each still sitting on the potter's wheel. God isn't finished with us yet. We then added some colorful sprinkles to remind us of all our blessings we receive from God as we grow.

Thanks to Leslie Fauconnet and her team of workers. Our kids, along with some from the Child Development Center, had a great time with the "No Rehearsal" Christmas play. I was not sure how that was going to work out, but it was great. She had all the costumes ready, the scenery set in place and cute narrators. Thank you, Leslie. And thanks to the people who made Coffee Hour something very special that day. It was lots of work, but I think everyone had a good time.

Our Sock and Mitten tree in the hall was a great success. Sunday School along with the Child Development Center collected socks, gloves, mittens and hats for children who do not have a way to keep warm this winter. All the items were distributed on December 21<sup>st</sup> to children who may be homeless. Thanks to all who helped with this project.

Deb McMurtrey  
Sunday School

## **PRISON OUTREACH**

**Warren Magruder** helps to run our Prison Outreach and with the assistance of **John Schmidt**, delivered 4 boxes of books and 200 Christmas Cards and Stamps (donated by an anonymous angel in our congregation)

## OUTREACH NEWS

Whew! We did it! This little “light on the hill” has once again shown the community and beyond that we are all heart. This committee planned many opportunities to help others during the Christmas season. And everyone pulled together to make each project a success during what we called our “Season of Giving”:

**Thanksgiving Bags-** Because of you, we were able to provide 71 bags of Thanksgiving canned goods to the clients of the Pasadena Soup Kitchen.

**Holiday Sharing -** Because of you, we were able to provide Thanksgiving meals, Christmas meals and presents to 5 families and 5 seniors in our area. Counting the Christmas presents, we made a difference to 27 people through this program.

**Gently Used Toys –** Because of you, we were able to provide a huge (really huge) number of great toys for the children of the clients at the Pasadena Soup Kitchen. Between stuffed animals, trucks, and games, there were too many toys to count. I will tell you that every toy made a difference. One Monday at the Soup Kitchen we were busy, and I heard a lady breathe funny when I passed by. I turned to see if she was alright and she was crying. She said they were Happy Tears. Her family had a rough month with a loss of a job. She was unsure what Christmas was going to look like for her family and was overwhelmed with the kindness she found that day. This was because of you.

**Cookie Bake -** So many chocolate chips! My goodness we had so many cookies to pack up and give to Steve on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Our goal was to match 135 dozen we provided last year. But...When all the cookies were packed up and counted there were 211 dozen! **That is over 2,500 cookies!** A special thanks to Miss Amy’s and Miss Kylie’s Nursery School classes. They decorated our bags and made 18 dozen sugar cookies for us. We exceeded our goal because of you.

The Outreach committee thanks each and every one who participated in any of our “Season of Giving” projects. Our church is indeed a light on the hill.

Deb McMurtrey  
Outreach Committee

## NEWS FROM MT. CARMEL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. Thank you all who supported our **boxed card fundraiser, we were able to earn \$325.00.** We will be using this money towards new playground equipment in the spring.

December 7<sup>th</sup> was our **second annual Christmas vendor event**, not as much traffic coming through as last year but we did have a good time! Thank you all so very much who came out to support our school. Our annual **preschool Christmas program** was held on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, what a great time it was! The children sang, enjoyed some delicious snacks with their families, and had a special visitor, you know the man in the red suit! Thank you again Mr. Bill for always taking the time to come in and share the holiday spirit with all of us. We enjoyed having all of our families together especially this time of year.

**Fall registration** for our in-house families will begin on Monday January, 27<sup>th</sup> and end on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>; all other families will be able to register starting Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. If you know of any families who would be interested in our many different programs we offer, please let me know.

The center will be closed from Monday December 23<sup>rd</sup>- Wednesday January 1<sup>st</sup>, and will re-open on Thursday January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020. The center will also be closed on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> for an in-service/training day for all teachers. Each year we are required to take training classes per Maryland State Department of Education to keep our center license current. This year's topic is on "Communicating with Parents/Families".

If you or anyone you know would like to come in and read a book to one of our classes you are welcome to do so, let me know and we can schedule a time that is convenient for you. Reading is so important to all of our little ones, and I know they would enjoy having a new face come in and read.

Thank you all for all of your support and prayers throughout the year.

Dawn M. Rey  
Director

**GIRL'S NIGHT OUT (Woman's Ministry)**

**We will NOT meet in January.** Mark your calendars for **Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** for the next get togethers. Girls Night Out is an open invitation to ALL women to share a couple of hours of fun, food, fellowship and a short devotion. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month throughout the year. Ladies, this is an opportunity to share some fun time together without any expectations or commitments involved. **We start with a pot luck supper at 6:30pm.** Please join us. Bring a friend and a dish to share.

*"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."  
~Matthew 18:20 NKJV*

**November 2019 ATTENDANCE & GIVING**

**November Monthly Giving** – general budget: \$18,443/ restricted giving: \$6,405.

**November Attendance** – average weekly Sunday attendance was 67.

\*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.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Richard Mertz	04
James Steedman	04
Richard Reed	05
Marilyn Crandall	06
Penny Pellegrini	06
Kerry Calabrese	07
Audrey Cope	07
Shaun Ebaugh	08
Zachary Ebaugh	09
Leslie Fauconnet	10

Joyce Steedman	12
Philip Rilee	13
Sean Harris	14
David Gresham	16
Gail Miller	17
Travis Garnett	19
Ruth Rilee	21
Nancy Smith	22
Laura Adams	23
Michael Ann Jones	23

Jennifer Scanlon	24
Kathryn Sanner	25
Lisa Blakeney	27
Kelli Byle	27
Raymond Scanlon	27
Danny Barnes	29
Dennis Beuerle	29
Jennifer Harris	30
Zachary Shelton	30
Gavin Loughrey	31

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

James and Joyce Steedman 1/1  
Theodore and Laura Sanner 1/13  
Nick and Penny Pellegrini 1/31

## JANUARY 2020 EVENTS

### **12/29 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary**

12/30 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall  
1/01 – Happy New Year  
1/02 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall  
1/02 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

### **1/05 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary**

1/06 – 6:30 p.m. – Trustees Committee  
1/06 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall  
1/07 – 10:00 a.m. – Forum  
1/07 – 6 – 8:00 p.m. – Additional Worship Mtg  
1/07 – 7:00 p.m. – Scout Troup #412  
1/08 – 9:00 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary  
1/09 – 11:45 a.m. – Faith Hope Circle  
1/09 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall  
1/09 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal  
1/10 – Newsletter article deadline

### **1/12 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary**

1/13 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall  
1/13 – 7:00 p.m. - Finance Committee Mtg.  
1/14 – 10:00 a.m. - Forum  
1/14 - 7:00 p.m. – Scout Troup #412  
1/15 – 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Group – Sanctuary  
1/16 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall  
1/16 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

### **1/19 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary**

1/20 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall  
1/20 – 7:00 p.m. – Admin Council Mtg  
1/21 – 10:00 a.m. - Forum  
1/21 - 7:00 p.m. – Scout Troup #412 – Church  
1/22 – 9:30 a.m. - Prayer Group – Sanctuary  
1/23 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall  
1/23 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

### **1/26 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary**

1/27 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall  
1/28 – 10:00 a.m. – Forum  
1/28 – 6:00 p.m. – Child Care Board Mtg.  
1/28 - 7:00 p.m. – Scout Troup #412  
1/29 – 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Group – Sanctuary  
1/30 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall  
1/30 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir 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.

### Tuesday:

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

### Wednesday:

Prayer Group 9:00 a.m.

### Thursday:

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

## LITURGISTS SCHEDULE

Carol Mosmiller 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
Phyllis Basil 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
Warren Magruder 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
Nancy Trimper 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday



## 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

**Fresh Flower Fee:** The cost of fresh flowers on the alter has increased to \$30. Silk flower fees remain the same (a donation of your choosing.) Please continue to put your payment in the offering on the day you have requested the flowers.

**TOY DRIVE** For 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Soup Kitchen: These are the tables the clients can take from at the soup kitchen.



**Cookie Bake! Mt. Carmel donated 211 Dozen Cookies!**

**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU** to **FRAN JOHNSON** for all of your incredible assistance with the Newsletters each month!