



Mount Carmel United Methodist Church  
4760 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122  
(410) 255-8887 (410) 255-6619 fax  
[Mtcarmel21122@gmail.com](mailto:Mtcarmel21122@gmail.com)  
**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2019**

---

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

As I write this letter to you it isn't even Thanksgiving yet but what I really need is Christmas. We celebrated All Saints Day only a couple of weeks ago and already I'm yearning for Christmas. If it were up to me I'd be putting our Christmas tree up and decorating my home right now. I desperately need the Christmas Spirit overwhelming me. In fact I think many others are right there with me. I need to hear the angels declaring, "Peace on Earth and good will to all people." We need peace! We need good will! We need it and yearn for it right now because we have so little of it.

It also seems we are filled with fear; the fear of change and loss. It lies underneath all the negativity that seems to be a part of our world right now. I need to hear angels declaring, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Christ, the Lord."

We are a nation torn apart by political/ideological differences. Good Christian people are making judgments about other good Christian people based, not on that person's faith but, on that person's political affiliations and ideologies. It seems that people these days are less apt to be immersing themselves in God's message of hope and salvation and more focused on political messages of anger and division. We seem to be more afraid of what we think will be taken away from us than we are hopeful and joyful in what has been given to us; namely an assurance salvation and new life where the destructiveness we experience here no longer has any power.

What we need is good will for and between all people. We need to be reminded that as Christians, fear and anger, judgement and division, are not a part of our narrative. Our narrative, our story, is a message of hope, love, forgiveness, joy and peace, born into the world on Christmas day. We must never forget that. We must always celebrate it. We must always communicate it in the face of all the negativity that is out there in the world right now.

If we lose sight of our story which began long ago in Bethlehem, then we really will be lost. If we allow the negative rhetoric that we are hearing on every side drown out the voice of Jesus in our hearts then the victory promised in Jesus will not be ours. I have no doubt that God's narrative of love, peace, and hope will be victorious but if we let the anger of this world drive it out of our hearts we will be in deep spiritual trouble. So you see a lot is at stake here. Our very souls are at stake here. The soul of our nation is at stake here.

It is up to us, those of us who truly claim Jesus as our Lord, to be the angels of our age declaring to the world the good news of Jesus' birth. We have a message of hope, love, joy and peace, which can drive the negativity and anger from our world. May the song of the angels, the message of the angels, be our song and our message! God has acted decisively in our world to save us from the soul crushing power of hate, fear and the anger they produce. God has stooped down into our world so that we may know first-hand that our God is a God of hope, love, forgiveness, compassion, and peace! I encourage each of you reading this message to focus on these things. I encourage you to tune out the negative rhetoric that seems to be all around us and replace it with the message of the angels. Proclaim it in all you say and all you do. Because everyone needs Christmas right now and every single day of the year. This is our message:

*"Do not be afraid! We bring you good news of great joy for all people,  
a savior has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord."*

Blessings and Peace – Pastor Mike

# Mt. Carmel Merry Christmas 2019



Dear Mt. Carmel Friends and Family,

We are excited about Upcoming Events at Mt. Carmel for you and your children. We hope you will join us for any and all of them!



## **No Rehearsal Nativity Play**

Sunday, **December 8<sup>th</sup>** (following the 10am service)

Each child will have the opportunity to participate in the play (costumes & guidance provided) followed by light and healthy Snacks for actors and their families. Please bring the children to Sunday School (10am) while you enjoy our worship service.



## **WinterFest**

Saturday, **December 14<sup>th</sup>** (3-7pm) at Mt. Carmel

Tree Lighting, Games, Visit from Santa, Music, Food, Crafts for Sale and much MORE!



## **Mitten Tree**

We are teaming up with the Mt. Carmel Child Development Center to collect socks, gloves, mittens and hats for children who do not have a way to keep warm this winter. You don't have to be in Sunday School to participate. Let's fill that tree!



## **Cantata**

Join us for the Mt Carmel Choir's Cantata on Christmas Eve at 6pm.



## **Christmas Eve Services**

Children and Family Service: 4pm

Cantata, Communion, and Candlelight: 6pm

Music and Meditation: 8pm

Christmas Eve Service: 9pm



## CHRISTMAS 2019 MEMORIALS

Would you like to remember or honor a loved one this Christmas? You may do so by purchasing a poinsettia to decorate the church; or, instead, you may prefer to make a donation to the general fund or to the trustees fund. To honor or remember family members or friends, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or mail to the office. Make checks payable to Mt. Carmel UMC.

### **Deadline for Poinsettias and Donations: Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019**

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias at \$15.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

and/or

Donation to the Trustee Fund: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to the General Fund: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Given by:* \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Given by:* \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Given by:* \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Given by:* \_\_\_\_\_

Attach extra page if needed. Please print names clearly. **Flowers should not be taken home until after the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.** Questions - please call Diane Malat, 410-437-5507.

Paid by: \_\_\_ cash \_\_\_ check \_\_\_\_\_ check # ( \_\_\_\_\_ date counted)

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 2019**

Children and Family Service: 4pm  
Cantata, Communion, and Candlelight: 6pm  
Music and Meditation: 8pm  
Christmas Eve Service: 9pm

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

So the Strategic Planning Committee has met 6 times over the past 7 months and after a lot of hard work from approximately 25 faithful participants, we have come up with 3 primary objectives in an attempt to grow our church through worship, resources and members.

The objectives include:

- (1) development of a stewardship campaign through “donations” of time and resources,
- (2) enhancing worship by developing a discipleship program, and
- (3) adding an additional service

Going forward, a team has been created for each objective that will be meeting to work out the details, recruit more members, assess resources, set up timelines for implementation, etc. Please keep an eye out for more detailed information to follow and if you have any questions about any of the objectives see: Phyllis Basil regarding Stewardship, Pastor Mike regarding Discipleship Program, or Lisa Blakeney regarding the Additional Service.

Lisa Blakeney – Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair

## **NURSERY SUPERVISOR NOTICE**

I'm excited to announce that we now have a Nursery Supervisor for the Sunday service. **Taylor Sade** will bring her enthusiasm and love for children to Mt. Carmel. Many of the congregation may already know her as she is the granddaughter of **Marilyn Crandall**.

Taylor is currently working as the Business Office Manager for Futurecare in Arnold during the week and is looking forward to this new responsibility at the church. She is the mother to 2 ½ year old, Jackson and the fiancé of **Robert Minetree**.

We are thrilled to add Taylor to our staff as she is a perfect fit for this job. Please take a moment on Sunday to welcome Taylor in her new position.

## **THE FORUM**

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).

## FAITH HOPE CIRCLE

**Annual Christmas Luncheon**  
Thursday, **December 5, 2019** at 12:30 PM  
**The Sunset Restaurant**, Glen Burnie, MD  
(Reservations required)

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.

**SARAH'S HOUSE WISH LIST** – December – Batteries (AA, C, D) Donations can be brought to Fellowship Hall and placed in the labeled container (inside the cabinet by the Admin office.)



## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **December 14, 2019**

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual FAMILY WINTER FESTIVAL (3-7 p.m.)**  
**Tree Lighting Ceremony, Music, Food, Crafts, A visit from Santa,**  
**Holiday Boutique, Games, and Much More.**



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The younger group in Sunday School has been learning about the **life of Moses**. The kids thought it was cool that he was rescued by a princess as a baby and he got to live in the palace as a child. (It kind of sounds like a Disney movie in the beginning.) When Moses was grown and the pharaoh would not release the Hebrew slaves, some of the kids thought having a lot of frogs jumping around would not be so bad. But when we talked about lice, blisters, locust, darkness and other plagues, they quickly changed their minds. I think it will be good to start the next unit about Jesus' birth.

The Middle/Sr. class is having lively discussions and activities in the trailer. This group helped the Outreach Committee put together the Thanksgiving bags for the Soup Kitchen - a great help and teaching moment.

Please stay after church on **December 8** to see the combined Sunday School and Child Development Center **No Rehearsal Christmas Play**. It should be fun to watch, and I hear there will be extra goodies at coffee hour.

Look for the **Sock and Mitten tree** set up in the hall. We have a combined project with the Child Development Center to collect socks, gloves, mittens and hats for children who do not have a way to keep warm this winter. You do not have to be in Sunday School to participate. Adults can help us decorate the tree. Let's see how many mittens and gloves we can get on that tree!

Deb McMurtrey, Sunday School

## OUTREACH NEWS

The Thanksgiving turkey will soon be cooked, pies gone, and the pots and pans finally put away. It's time to get serious about Christmas. We want to thank everyone who participated in the Thanksgiving canned good project for our friends at the Soup Kitchen. Those friends were very happy and grateful to receive your gift of food. There is still time to get in on the fun the Outreach committee has planned for Christmas. We are asking our members and friends to find one project that interests you and participate with a giving heart:

1. **Gently Used Toys** – for our friends at the Pasadena Soup Kitchen. We are collecting gently used, clean toys including stocking stuffers, puzzles, books, etc. for a give-away table at the Soup Kitchen in December. We are collecting those items now. If you are a grandparent check your spare bedroom for outgrown toys, buff them up and bring them in.
2. **Cookie Bake** – Bakers, start your ovens! We will gather for fellowship, a light dinner and cookie counting on **Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** in the hall from 4:00 – 8:00 pm. You can bake your cookies here or bring them ready to package that evening. Last year we contributed about 133 dozen cookies to be handed out to the homeless. We will also take cases of water at this event. This is a fun evening. Please come join us!

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in all the Outreach projects throughout this year. We wish everyone a joyous Christmas!

Deb McMurtrey , Outreach Committee

## NEWS FROM MT. CARMEL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Happy Happy December! Welcome to winter! I hope everyone has their snow shovels ready to go, I heard we are going to have a cold and snowy winter. We have been very busy at Mt. Carmel CDC since school started in September. We have had many fundraisers this year so far and I would like to thank everyone who has supported us. The **Rumor Meal** fundraiser earned us \$101.55, **Ledo's** earned us \$195.57, and the **31 Totes** earned us \$228.00. The money collected will be placed in our fundraising account and will be used for new items around the center. We have already purchased a couple of new shelving units/book cases for our classrooms which the teachers were very excited about. The swings on the playset will be replaced with colorful, rust proof seats and chains. We are very excited for all of these items we can now purchase. Our **Book Fair** was one of our biggest fundraisers, we exceeded last year's amount which was \$3,500.00 to \$3,600.00 this year, Wow! We were able to earn \$1,700.00 in the scholastic catalog, allowing each class the ability to shop for their classroom.

Thanksgiving preschool celebrations will be held on November 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>, with many different activities and special snacks in each of the class rooms. Preschool will be closed on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>, and the center will be closed early on the 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm, and closed all day on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving with their families.

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**, is our second annual **Christmas Vendor Event** here at Mt. Carmel. Stop by to do some Christmas shopping and grab a quick bite to eat. Many different vendors will be here from 10:00-2:00pm. **Lula Roe, Mary Kay, Thirty one, Custom signs and crafts, and Paparazzi jewelry.**

Our **Annual Christmas Program** will be on Friday, **December 20<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00am. The children will sing and have light refreshments with their families along with a surprise visitor from the man in the red suit. Thank you again Mr. Bill for putting smiles on all of our children faces and the adults as well!

The center will be closed from December 23<sup>rd</sup>-January 1<sup>st</sup>, and will reopen on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year! Thank you all for all of your support and prayers throughout the year.

Dawn M. Rey  
Director

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

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. Our last gathering for this year is coming soon so mark your calendar now.



**Friday, December 6, 2019**

**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*

## October 2019 ATTENDANCE & GIVING

October Monthly Giving – general budget: \$12,591/ restricted giving: \$3,431.

October Attendance – average weekly Sunday attendance was 69.

\*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.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Margaret Benson	12/2
Asa Mulkey	12/2
Grace Blakeney	12/9
Ben Hallam	12/10
Barbara Way	12/14

Phyllis Basil	12/16
Maria Fauconnet	12/18
Sarah Davis	12/19
Bill Paull	12/21
Jacque Mulkey	12/23

Michael Fauconnet	12/27
Joe Shanefelter	12/27
Jack Stephan	12/28
Courtney Lenz	12/31
Jennifer Lenz	12/31

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

David & Nicole Shelton	12/03
John & Darlene Schmitz	12/15
Bill & Laura Adams	12/23

Mike & Terri Drebitko	12/29
Gerry & Terry Fath	12/30
Joe & Shannon Shanefelter	12/30

## DECEMBER EVENTS

### **12/01 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary**

12/02 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall

12/02 – 6:30 p.m. – Trustees Committee

12/03 – 10:00 a.m. - Forum

12/03 – 7:00 p.m. – Scout Troup #412

12/04 – 9:00 a.m. – Prayer Group – Sanctuary

12/05 – 12:30 a.m. – Faith Hope Luncheon

12/05 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall

12/05 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

12/06 – 6:30 p.m. – Girls Night Out

12/07 – 8:00 a.m. – Church Cleanup Day

12/07 – 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – CDC Vendor Fair

### **12/08 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary**

### **12/08 – 11 a.m. – No Rehearsal Nativity Play**

12/09 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall

12/09 – 7:00 p.m. - Finance Committee Mtg.

12/10 – Newsletter article deadline

12/10 – 10:00 a.m. – Forum

12/10 – Child Care Board Meeting

12/10 - 7:00 p.m. – Scout Troup #412

12/11 – 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Group – Sanctuary

12/12 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall

12/12 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

12/13 – 4:00 p.m. – Cookie Bake

### **12/14 – 3-7 p.m. - WinterFest**

### **12/15 – 10 a.m. – Worship - Sanctuary**

12/16 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall

12/17 – 10:00 a.m. - Forum

12/17 - 7:00 p.m. – Scout Troup #412 – Church

12/18 – 9:30 a.m. - Prayer Group – Sanctuary

12/19 – 6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts – Church Hall

12/19 – 7:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

### **12/22 – 10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary**

12/23 – 6:30 p.m. – Tiger Cubs – Church Hall

12/24 – 4:00 p.m. – Children & Family Service

12/24 – 6:00 p.m. – Cantata, Communion & Candlelight Service

12/24 – 8:00 p.m. – Music & Mediation

12/24 - 9:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service

12/25 – Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas

*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 is \$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.