

Announcements and Encouraging Word for March 8, 2023

This Saturday, March 11th at 1pm we will be having a Celebration of Life for Nobu Asaki here at Mt. Carmel. There will be a luncheon in the hall immediately after.

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 donate to the Trustees Fund or to the General Fund. Please complete the form attached (and found in your bulletin on Sunday and copies in the Narthex) 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 is Friday, March 31st.**

Holy Week and Easter Services

Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday) – April 6, 2023 – Communion – 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 7, 2023 – Worship Service – 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 9, 2023 - Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.

8231 Bayside Drive, Pasadena

(Home of Dave Shelton's Sister, Joanne)

Easter Sunday – April 9, 2023 – Easter Celebration Service – 9:30 a.m.

On Wednesday evening, March 22nd, at 7 p.m. there will be an important church meeting that everyone is invited to. THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER ARE STRONGLY URGED TO ATTEND! This meeting will be held in person and led by our District Superintendent Sarah Schlieckert. Not only do we need to put in a good showing, this meeting will be important and instrumental in setting our course as a congregation moving forward. The environment within which we do ministry has changed dramatically within the last several years. District Superintendent Schlieckert will be sharing with us some insights concerning demographics, the changed ministry environment, and resources we may want to consider as we plan for the future. She also wants to hear from you your thoughts concerning ministry as expressed by our congregation. **IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT COUNCIL MEMBERS BE PRESENT BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AS OTHER MEMBERS ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE AS WELL.**

From the Outreach Committee - "For the past six months we have been collecting food items for both NCEON and the local soup kitchen. Your contributions have made a huge difference to both organizations. Personally, I can tell you that it made a great difference to have extra items to add to the food bags at the soup kitchen. Outreach thanks everyone who helped with this project. The Maryland Food Bank has come through with extra food for both organizations, so we are temporarily stopping the food drive. We may pick it back up if the need arises.

Outreach is about to launch another local activity where everyone can help. But we are not quite ready to announce our plans. We are waiting until after Easter to start this project. I can ask you now not to clean out your linen closet just yet. Hmm, I wonder what that could mean? Watch this space."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! PASTA NIGHT WILL BE SUNDAY APRIL 2, 4-7PM. Buy your tickets today. \$12 for adults and \$8 for children. You can contact me by phone or email in the church office. We are also selling tickets on Sundays. **Please spread the word. I've attached a flyer. Please feel**

free to print it out and distribute it in the community. We need your help to make this night a success!

Are you following the church on social media? If not, you should! Our Facebook account is <https://www.facebook.com/mtcarmelumconnection/> And our Instagram account is <https://www.instagram.com/mcumc21122/>

Please share this with everyone!!! Mt. Carmel Child Development Center has an immediate opening for a full-time, energetic and creative teacher to work with their 2's, 3's, and 4's combined class. The hours are 7:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday (1 hour lunch break). A 90 hour Child Care Certification and a minimum of 1 year related work experience are required. If you want to work in a supportive, fun environment, this is the job for you! Please send a resume to Dawn Rey at mtcarmelcdc2@gmail.com.

From the Outreach Committee -

If you have prayer requests, even if you plan to share them at Sunday worship, you may forward them ahead of time to Jen at the church office and she will compile a list to be used on Sunday morning. The church email is mtcarmel21122@gmail.com and our phone number is 410-255-8887.

Prayer Cards are also available in the Narthex on Sunday morning. If you have a prayer or concern, we encourage you to fill out a card and it will be collected and read that morning.

We want to remind you that we are still using Zoom for our Sunday Services. Zoom allows you to join us from wherever you may be!! (Join us in your pj's with a morning cup of coffee) As most of you who Zoom our worship services know, I greet Zoom attendees as they sign on, take Zoom attendance, and assign names to phone numbers as phone callers sign on. I open the Zoom meeting at 9 a.m. to give people time to sign on. I encourage you to sign on early to avoid the crush of people signing on at the last minute. The earlier you sign on the easier it is for me to attend to the greeting responsibilities. It also gives us a chance to chat and share prayer requests. **If you should have any problems logging in, please alert Jennifer in the office.**

The Announcements and Bulletin for Sunday's service are included as attachments to this encouraging word. Please feel free to print them out and either bring them with you to the service or to use them as your guide as you Zoom the service.

An Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike

"Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." - 1 Peter 4: 8 – 10

It's that time of year again. It's time to change our clocks; this time by turning them ahead one hour. Interestingly it's only been only one-hundred and thirty-three days since we set them back and it will be a bit over two hundred and fifty days till we turn them back again. That's right, daylight savings time and standard time don't evenly split the year – go figure. Easter is approaching once again, as is Mother's Day, Father's Day, and the Fourth of July. Then somewhere on the far side of the Sun we'll

encounter Thanksgiving and Christmas once again, repeat ports of call as we sail together around the sun and through the universe.

We are all on a journey together. We are spinning around the sun at a speed of 67,000 miles per hour. We are whirling around our galaxy at 490,000 miles per hour. And we are traveling at the dizzying pace of 872,405 miles per hour toward the constellation of Leo, as we spin in the galaxy, as we spin around the sun. Are you dizzy yet?

We are all on a journey together, all eight billion of us and change, on this fragile spaceship called earth. Our safety on our journey really depends on one important thing – mutual respect and civility. Without respect for everyone else on the journey we will have a miserable time. We may not even make it to our destination, wherever that is.

So let's put this in perspective. You are on a plane. It's a long metal tube where you must exist for a period of time along with 150 other human beings of various sizes, shapes, races, genders, nationalities etc. Your safety depends to a great extent on the crew. But it also depends on everyone else. Have you ever been on a flight where one passenger ruins it for everyone else? They just loose it and start yelling at the cabin crew, shouting profanities, and they may even get violent. They become a danger to themselves and everyone else stuck in the long metal tube with them. Thankfully I've never had to experience this but I've heard that following Covid it was all the rage (pun intended) and that even now it's a common occurrence. There's nothing like a raving malcontent to ruin everyone's flight.

Well life on our planet is really no different than life on a plane. The scale is orders of magnitude greater but the same rules apply. On a plane there is no room for raving malcontents, neither is there room for them on this spaceship called earth. Civility is the key to a pleasant journey for everyone. Peter, who identifies himself as the apostle Peter, shares some sacred advice concerning our life together on this planet as we spin through the universe together. "Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." I guess that says it all.

That's all for today. I'll see you on Sunday either on Zoom or at in-person worship. Until then be well, stay safe, make good decisions in this Coronavirus environment, and in please stay connected to each other and to God.

Blessings & Peace, Mike