

## **Announcements and Encouraging Word for April 5, 2023**

### **Holy Week and Easter Services**

**\*\*\* There will be no Sunday School on Easter. Any children who come that Sunday are encouraged to go to church with their families and enjoy the music. \*\*\***

**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)**

### **Directions to the Easter Sunrise Service (6:15 a.m. Easter Day)**

- The address where the Sunrise Service will take place is 8231 Bayside Drive.
- From the Church continue east on Mountain Road.
- Continue straight onto Pinehurst Road. (Mountain Road will turn off to the right.)
- Continue on Pinehurst past the entrance to Downs Park – Pinehurst will make a sharp turn to the left.
- Continue on Pinehurst.
- Turn Right onto Oakdale Road (the second street to the right)
- Follow Oakdale Road one block to its end.
- Turn Right onto Bayside Drive
- 8231 Bayside Drive will be immediately to your left. (Address on Mailbox – Gravel drive.)
- Park as orderly as you can on the lawn – otherwise park along the street being careful not to park other driveways.

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

**We would like to thank all that helped make the Pasta Night a HUGE success!! Without our volunteers it never would have happened!! You are appreciated.**

**"Outreach News:** The Outreach Committee met recently to disburse funds to some local and global projects on your behalf. We have made donations to the following local charities: Arundel House of Hope, Bello Machre, Hospice of the Chesapeake, Meals on Wheels, and Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake. Global donations were made to the following: Doctors Without Borders, Engineers Without Borders, United Methodist Global Missionaries Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mairena, UMCOR special collections for U.S. Earthquake response, UMCOR special collection for Ukraine, and a United Methodist camper scholarship for one child to attend a week of church camp. We can only help these and other organizations because of your donations to Outreach or Missions. Our budget is separate from the church budget. We thank you for your generous ongoing support."

**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](mailto:mtcarmelcdc2@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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**

### **An Encouraging Word**

I've always loved the springtime. Where I lived as a child in New York the wintertime was a bit restrictive. Sure, there was plenty of snow to play in, but our outdoor activity was limited by the cold, extremely short days, and often just plain lousy weather. With the warming of spring and the lengthening of days our world expanded, and we were free to explore the lush fields and greening woods surrounding our home. As my brother, sister and I explored we were surrounded by signs of returning life everywhere. It was in the fragrance of the air, evident in the budding leaves on the trees, the birdsong, and an explosion of insects appearing everywhere. We were surrounded by the great mystery of life emerging from death. The returning spring presented us with seemingly limitless possibilities for play and exploration. The springtime has lost none of its wonder and mystery for me. It still presents the amazing possibilities of renewed life, victorious over the seeming death of winter.

It is here, in the midst of returning warmth, awakening nature, the lengthening of days, and the triumph of new life in our natural world that we celebrate the mystery of resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus that we celebrate presents possibilities that surpass our human limitations, the restrictions placed upon us by death's cold reality. Freed from the restrictions of death our world expands to the limitless possibilities and horizons of life without end.

Death has always presented an impenetrable barrier to human possibility. No matter the beauty of our days, the joy of our lives, or the glory of our accomplishments, death has always appeared as the

exclamation point marking our end. Jesus' death and resurrection removed the exclamation point and replaced it with a comma. Life and unimaginable possibility continue beyond the end of physical death. In this endless spring we are free to live joyfully - no longer hemmed in by the restrictions of human mortality. We are free to contemplate the endless possibility and wonder presented in life beyond death with the same joy and excitement of children released from winter's prison to explore the mystery of renewing life all around them.

My prayer for all of you is that you have a happy and joyful Easter, that you enjoy the returning warmth of Spring days, that you have the opportunity to explore and appreciate the wonders of new life exploding all around us, and that the liberating joy of resurrection and life everlasting overwhelm your hearts and set you free.

That's all for today. I'll see you on Sunday either on Zoom or at in-person worship. Please remember to join us for worship on Holy Thursday at 7 p.m. , Good Friday at 7 p.m. and on Easter morning at our Sunrise Service and Sunday morning 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