

## **Announcements and Encouraging Word for April 19, 2023**

**Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> the Child Development Center will be having a Spring Vendor Event from 9-3.** There will be lots of vendor tables, food, games, crafts, face painting and more!! I have attached the flyer for you to share. You won't want to miss it! If you are interested in baking for the Bake Sale, please contact Jen in the office.

**Is someone in your house graduating high school or college?** If so, please let us know so that we can celebrate them. Please contact the office to let Jen know who it is and their future plans.

**One last bit of good news regarding our Pasta Night Fundraiser,** we netted \$1274!! Again, I want to thank EVERYONE that volunteered, sold tickets, bought tickets, baked, cooked, and made signs and flyers. We all look forward to making this an even bigger success next year. If you have any suggestions on how to improve or what we did well, please don't hesitate to contact me and let me know.

**From Pam Mertz:** During January, February and March \$90.00 was raised for the general fund from the sale of rabbits, hearts and quilted items. Thanks for your continued support and a special thank you to Penny Pellegrini for her beautiful quilted items.

**"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/>

**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**

Sometimes I think my family thinks I'm just a little off. I enjoy watching historical documentaries and reading about historical events. Yes, I realize it's kind of geeky but I'm O.K. with it. My children, when they come out of hibernation in their rooms and see me watching a documentary about WWII or one about the tragedy of the Trail of Tears, will quickly retreat to their rooms. I know Leslie would prefer to watch something else. Yes, I'm nutty about history. I think history is immensely interesting and knowing it is critically important.

When I was working in the public school system a few years ago I realized that STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) was becoming more and more the focus. History along with art and music were becoming the forgotten stepchildren of education. That is terribly unfortunate since art and music foster an appreciation of beauty, creativity, alternative modes of expression, and symbolic language. History is the story of how we came to be as we are now. It gives us a sense of identity and teaches us valuable lessons to guide us into the future. In order to know where we are going, we need to know where we have been. A student of history cannot help but notice history repeating itself in the contemporary issues we are facing. We ignore the lessons of history at our own peril.

A case in point would be the remembrance earlier this week of the Holocaust. Tuesday was Holocaust Remembrance Day marking the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Why should we remember? First to honor those who were murdered in the Holocaust, but also to assure that such a thing does not happen again. Sadly, this is a continuing possibility in our currently dysfunctional world and given the rise of certain groups on the political landscape. In examining our history, we can discern danger signs for the present.

A few years ago, I inherited my great uncle's genealogical research. I have file boxes filled with photocopies of records, photos of ancestors, records of births and burials for the Hyatt and Keeler branch of the family. I have a few records for the Thompson and Fauconnet family as well. Someday, when I have the time, I'm going to continue that work, because it's important. These are the records of the people who brought me to where I am today. To dishonor their contributions would be to dishonor myself. I cherish the years I spent with my grandparents and my parents and all that they taught me, I stand on their shoulders. I need to understand where they came from and what they went through and the knowledge they have passed on. To ignore that would be to discount the greatest gifts they have given me, knowledge, heritage, and a sense of identity.

The same goes for our history with God. History is the arena within which God's acts of salvation have transpired. God's presence with us in our past, in history, is something to celebrate and cherish. To disregard God's acts in history would be to dishonor the God of our present and future. Salvation history seeks to know and understand the redemptive activity of God throughout history in order that we may more closely understand and conform to God's intentions in our present and future. It is the foundation upon which we support our faith, upon which our faith is built, a foundation which we

need to continue to honor. To disregard the God of our past would weaken our faith and leave us without direction as we move into the future. Like I said earlier, to know where we are going, we need to know where we have been.

Exodus 20:12 reminds us to "Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long in the land...". The broader interpretation of this commandment is that we honor not just our birth fathers and mothers but that we honor also the lessons taught us by those who have gone before, that our days may be long in the land. Our heritage is important, the lessons of human history are important, the lessons of God's salvation history are important if we are to move successfully into a blessed future.

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, and please stay connected to each other and to God.

Blessings & Peace, Mike