

## **An Encouraging Word and the Announcements for August 30, 2023**

### **There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS SUNDAY**

**Please sign up to volunteer at the Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 9-2.** Sign up sheets are located in the church hall. There are so many ways to volunteer. If you can't make the event, there are several shifts that are during the week that leads up to it. Volunteer to make a sweet treat to sell at our bake table or to come in and make soup or to help set up on the day before. **We are also in need of clothing for our Scarecrow making station. We are looking for old, used children's clothing sized 5/6-9/10. Donations can be dropped off at the church.** Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church and the Child Development Center are working hand in hand to make this a fun, successful, family fundraising event! We hope you can join us! If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Harris 410-255-8887 or [mtcarmel21122@gmail.com](mailto:mtcarmel21122@gmail.com)

**Community Shred Event at MCUMC Saturday, September 16, 11-1.** Come and have your old, sensitive documents shredded for FREE! It's easy! Just pull into the parking lot, a helper will then retrieve your documents for your vehicle, then give you your boxes or bags back. That's it! Sensitive documents can include but are not limited to old checks, old bills, old receipts, old papers, old income tax forms. NO PLASTIC BAGS!! Not sure of what to shred? I found this article online that might help out...<https://www.forbes.com/advisor/personal-finance/financial-documents-what-to-save-what-to-throw-away/>

**CHOIR: Attention all singers! We would like to get the choir going again if we have enough singers.** Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, September 28th. (We are waiting until then because our son is getting married the week before!) If you or someone you know loves to sing, please contact me. If you have any questions, please also let me know. Joe and I look forward to making music with you! Shannon Shanefelter, 410-925-3122 [scshanefelter@gmail.com](mailto:scshanefelter@gmail.com)

**The Child Development Center has an Amazon Wish List to make this year a success!!** If you would like to donate, please check out the list and order directly from this link, [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/25GDKJMQRN5EV?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/25GDKJMQRN5EV?ref=wl_share)

**Faith Hope Circle will begin the fall season with a meeting in the church hall on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm.** All women of the church and community are cordially invited. Please bring a bag lunch and drink. We look forward to seeing you!

**There is still time to join our next Zoom Bible Study beginning Tuesday, September 19th, at 7:00 p.m.** The Study is authored by Adam Hamilton and is entitled Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple. This will be a six week study examining the life, faith, and character of Simon Peter. You can purchase the book from Amazon or Cokesbury. If you are interested in joining, please contact Jen in the office 410-255-8887 or [mtcarmel21122@gmail.com](mailto:mtcarmel21122@gmail.com)

**The Pasadena Business Association is hosting an All You Can Eat Crab Feast on September 25<sup>th</sup> 6-10pm at Twain's Tavern.** Includes: #1 male crabs by Seaside, crab soup, pit beef, ham, turkey, Primo baked ziti, mac & cheese, cole slaw, dessert, domestic draft beer and soda. Proceeds go to benefit the Mountain Road Memorial Flag Site. Please visit

<https://pasadenabusinessassociation.com/event-5369044> for more information and to purchase tickets.

**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**

So, you've put in a long ten-hour day at work. It was a frustrating day where nothing seemed to work right. You're getting ready to clock out, you've put your equipment away, and you're looking forward to a few hours of sleep before you get up and have to do it all over again. As you're locking up a celebrity comes by and asks you to open up again and also give them a hand with a special project. What do you do? Most people would probably say "come back tomorrow". You're just tired, hungry, frustrated, and want to get some sleep.

That's the situation faced by Peter, the one that Jesus would call "the Rock", the guy that would end up denying Jesus three times (no one said you had to be perfect to be a disciple). Peter and his brother Andrew were fishermen. They had spent a fruitless night fishing and had returned empty handed. They had pulled the boat up on the shore and were mending their nets getting them ready for another night of fishing after they had eaten and rested. They were tired, hungry, frustrated, and ready to go home. Then this preacher they had heard about, and had briefly met, came by and asked them to grab their nets and put the boat back into the water so that he could preach to the crowds that were following him.

I'm sure Peter really didn't want to do that, yet he did, without comment or complaint. They rowed the boat back out so that it was drifting just offshore. The sun was getting high, it was getting hot,

and Peter was probably thinking about his wife and the meal she had waiting for him (that's right Peter was married). Finally, Jesus finishes preaching but instead of asking Peter to take him back to shore he asks him to toss his freshly mended, dried, and neatly folded net back into the water. This of course means that when he eventually gets back to shore, he's going to have to do the mending, drying, and folding of the thing all over again. Many people probably would at this point say enough is enough and just ignore Jesus and head back to shore. Not so Peter. Without comment or complaint, he does as Jesus asks and is rewarded with one of the largest hauls of fish he ever had. That's when Jesus tells him that he will make Peter a fisher of men.

Peter would go on to be the "Rock" upon which Jesus would build his church. He would be the most mentioned disciple in the gospels, the one whose office continues even now to be occupied by a succession of Popes. Just an ordinary fisherman, not that well educated, tired, frustrated, and hungry, and probably not all that excited about doing what Jesus asked but did it anyway. That decision took him to an amazing place.

Now a shift of scene. It's 2023 and like most people you're over committed one way or another. Like most of us you battle day in and day out with the frustrations of modern life. A member of the church's Leadership Development Committee (the nominations committee) contacts you and asks you to volunteer to serve in an important administrative or service role in the church. Most evenings, after a busy day, you know you are tired and ready for some rest and recuperation. Sitting in meetings is something you may have been doing all day, it's not your first choice of what you want to be doing on your evenings or during your time off. You may even think that you're being asked to engage in something that might be a waste of your time. Like Peter getting ready to row the boat back out into the water, there are things that you would rather be doing. So how will you respond?

Granted, I'm not Jesus, not even close, nor are any of the people on the Leadership Development Committee, but when we approach you, we are inviting you to do Jesus' work. It may not be glamorous or exciting, but it is important and we wouldn't ask if we didn't think you could do it. There will be frustrations, perhaps some inconvenience, and a bit of self-doubt; all forms of ministry include these things. The rewards may not be immediate though there will be fellowship and laughter along the way.

Peter was certainly inconvenienced. Yet Peter was the "rock" upon which Jesus built his church. He wasn't the only rock. The church is built of many "rocks", faithful people who like Peter, were and are willing to engage in Jesus' work even though they may be tired, busy, and over-extended. They may have other things that they would rather be doing. Yet, like Peter, they've picked up an oar and started rowing. And let's not forget that like he did with Peter, Jesus is taking us all on an amazing journey to an amazing place, and to get there we're all going to have to get into the boat and row. Along the way Jesus will show us how to fish for, help, and care for people. He will show us how to make a positive difference in this world.

So, either myself or a member of the Leadership Development Committee may be contacting you soon. Will you pick up the net, get in the boat, and start rowing? Or will you head home?

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