

Lots of NEW Announcements and an Encouraging Word for October 18, 2023

We are preparing for our celebration of All Saints Sunday on November 5th. If you have lost someone dear to you over the past year and would like them remembered during the worship service that day, please contact the church office with details. Our email address is mtcarmel21122@gmail.com or you can call Mon – Wed 9-2pm. We would also like to share a picture which you can forward to the church as well. Then please plan to be present when that person is remembered.

The Harvest Festival was a tremendous success! The rain certainly did not keep people away from the event! We want to send out a HUGE THANK YOU to EVERYONE who helped make this event a success. We had volunteers bake, cook soup, make apple dumplings, pick up necessities, man our tables at the event, help set up and clean up, help organize the games and crafts and do SO MUCH MORE!! We could not be prouder of our church and the CDC!!! Keep an eye out for a follow up meeting.

From Pam Mertz - During July, August and September, 17 rabbits and 2 dog collars were sold during coffee hour. Today, October 14, another 25 rabbits and hearts were sold during the Harvest Festival. The combined sales earned \$41 for the general fund. I will be selling Christmas items much earlier than usual this year since I will most likely not be at coffee hour during December. If anyone has any special orders for rabbits or hearts, please let me know before Thanksgiving. Thanks to all for your continued support!

Order your APPLE PIE TODAY! Chocked full of delicious fresh apples and made by volunteers at MCUMC. (*Speaking of volunteers, if you want to help make these delectable pies, please contact Jennifer in the office.*) All pies will be unbaked and can be picked up on November 21st from 9-2pm.

We are adopting a streamlined organizational model!

Our Administrative Council recently voted to adopt a "Single Board Model" as the organizational model for the church. This single board configuration streamlines the administrative functions of the several current administrative committees (SPRC, Trustees, Finance, Council) into one committee. We've been discussing this new administrative model since the beginning of the year and the council believes it makes sense for our church. The councils reasoning is as follows:

- It will enhance efficiency in decision making. Instead of running decisions through several boards, and or consulting with several different boards, decisions can be discussed and acted upon in one meeting.
- It will ensure that everyone is on the same page and all decisions are aligned with the mission and vision of the church.
- It will encourage a focus on mission outside the walls and discourage an internal focus where all our efforts are on just keeping the machine running. Yes, the administrative stuff is important but it's too easy to make that THE focus and lose sight of what we are supposed to be doing, that is making disciples and engaging in ministry beyond the walls. In this model the administrative requirements of

the United Methodist Discipline are met by the people on the one board – freeing everyone else to engage in ministries that make disciples.

- It will enhance accountability within the board and to the wider congregation concerning the mission and vision of the church.
- It will enable us to adequately fulfill the requirements of the United Methodist Discipline in regard to numbers of people serving on administrative committees – while at the same time reducing the overall number needed to fill administrative committees required under the current model.

This board will consist of nine members who will have voice and vote. Meetings of the Board will be open to everyone except for those meetings dealing with Staff -Parish relations which will be closed meetings. Members will serve a maximum of three years after which they will be required to rotate off. They may be reappointed to the board after at least one year's hiatus. In addition to the board there will be work teams (Missions, Education, Music & Worship, Building Maintenance, and Child Care Board) working at the direction of the board. These work areas remain unchanged. There will also be short-term task groups formed as needed. There will continue to be a Committee on Lay Leadership answering directly to the Church Conference. It is expected that the board will meet once a month for ten months in the coming year and in succeeding years.

The slate of officers sitting on the board is nearly complete and will be announced when approved, along with this new model, by the Church Conference on October 25th. It has already been approved by our District Superintendent. The new board will begin its work on January 1, 2024.

2023 ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our Church Conference takes place next week, Wednesday, October 25th, at 7:00 p.m. at Community United Methodist Church, 8680 Ft. Smallwood Rd. Pasadena. This annual Church Conference is open to all church members. Members of the current Administrative Board, people who have been nominated to the new Combined (Single) Board, and members of the Lay Leadership Committee (Nominations) are highly encouraged to attend due to the pending approval of the Single Board Model. IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU BE THERE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE if you are on one of these committees or nominated to the new one.

It is time for the Outreach Annual Autumn Food Drive to benefit the Pasadena Food Pantry (formerly the Soup Kitchen). We are starting a little early this year due to the very empty shelves at the Pantry. The Food Bank is doing a good job of supplying frozen meat and some staples but not enough to fill one bag. The Pantry must purchase or depend on donations for the rest.

There have been approximately 100 families served each month since June at this location. One of the new families explained that they started coming to the pantry because during the Covid Pandemic their family received \$250 per month in food stamps. Federal funding has been cut and they are now receiving \$25 per month to feed their family. It doesn't matter how you feel about food stamps, you can't feed a family on \$25.

We will be asking for certain items each month through November so you can help stock the shelves. For the remainder of **October, we are asking for pasta products and canned soups**. You can bring your donations to church and place them in the box in the narthex. Please keep in mind that the Seventh Day Adventist do not eat nor distribute pork products when choosing soups. The Outreach Committee thanks you for your help with this local mission.

SAVE THE DATE ALERT!! MCUMC and MCCDC will be presenting a Nativity Play Dinner Theater on Wednesday, December 20!!! Keep an eye out for additional information in the future.

Are you following the church on social media? If not, you should! Our Facebook account is <https://www.facebook.com/mtcarmelumcconnection/> 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 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

As I continue to be deeply disturbed by the events taking place in Israel, Gaza, and the Middle East I share this word with you, issued by the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church, as your encouraging word for this week.

October 9, 2023

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

In a world already consumed with political unrest and conflict, the recent attacks by Hamas against Israel only add to the reality that the prophetic words from Isaiah are needed now more than ever.

As a people who pray for and work toward peace, we in the United Methodist family are appalled, and dismayed by the animosities and inhumane actions undertaken by Hamas. The declaration of war

on the part of Israel as a result is also deeply saddening. In just a few hours since this latest outbreak of violence more than 1000 people have died.

We condemn the Hamas militants who have killed and captured civilians, women and children in Israel. We equally decry the deaths of innocent civilians, women and children caught in the crossfire of the Israeli retaliation in the Gaza Strip.

Our own Book of Resolutions (2016) states clearly, "We seek for all people in the Middle East region an end to military occupation, freedom from violence, and full respect for the human rights of all under international law."

As a result, today we call on all United Methodists to renew a deepened commitment to pray for those who have been injured, abducted, or killed, and to deepen our prayers for those who have suddenly lost a loved one.

The power of and belief in our intercessions cannot be underestimated. Pray for those who are providing support and care for those directly affected. More than that, pray that God's peace will permeate throughout the land and in the hearts of all those who are initiating this conflict.

In addition, we call on all congregations and leaders to begin initiating special offerings, directed to our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), to provide specific resources to assist in providing shelter, food, and other necessities to those who have been left homeless, helpless, and afraid.

Friends, we are called to be a people of prayer, a people of hope, and a people of action. Our role should never be minimized, especially in a time when global conflicts are emerging with more frequency. As we watch the news unfold, let us not delay in moving into meaningful responses.

Most of all, let us remain a people of hope who look to the fulfilment of those prophetic words by Isaiah. We look to the days when:

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. In that day, the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. (Isaiah 11:5-6)

May it be so. May it be so.

Amen.

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

President – Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church