

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

May 29, 2024

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IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, June 6 at 12:30pm the Faith Hope Circle will meet at Picantillo's Restaurant. This is in place of their regular meeting. All women of the church & community are invited to join us. Please let Denise Calabrese know if you will be attending.

Congrats to our GRADUATES!



Tyler Koontz

Tyler will be graduating from Chesapeake High School. He will be attending Lincoln Tech in June studying to be an electrician. Tyler is Audrey Cope's grandson



Lily Pedersen

Lily will be graduating from Wicomico High School. Lily is Pam Mertz's granddaughter.

LITURGISTS NEEDED!!

We are in need of Liturgists for Sunday Mornings. This is a wonderful and easy way to get involved. You do not have to read every Sunday. We put together a schedule that works with your availability. We would love to hear from you! Just contact the office if you are interested.

❄️ Outreach News

This summer the Outreach article is looking inward to the people who make our church services and service to others work smoothly. In this article we are highlighting those brave people who are the scripture readers. They actually volunteer to read Bible verses with those incredibly difficult names of ancient places and people most of us stumble over. This must take practice and sometimes research to get it right. In the most recent years we thank *Warren Magruder, Jeri Hayden, Sari McLeod, Penny Pellegrini, Carol Mosmiller, Joe Barnes, Carolyn Edwards, Nancy Trimper* and others who read before them. The readers make the service interesting and enjoyable. We thank these brave volunteers!

In Other VERY Important News

In our continued effort to enhance safety during our worship service, we are seeking individuals to post in the Narthex to keep an eye on the door and parking lot. This is in accordance with the suggestions police are making to all houses of worship. We had several individuals sign up this past Sunday. If you are interested in helping, please contact the office.

Speaking of enhanced safety, the church has purchased and received security cameras to put around the building. If anyone is knowledgeable in installation of such cameras, please let us know. We need a few able-bodied volunteers to help install these cameras as soon as possible.

Beginning soon, we will be publishing our monthly giving in the Encouraging Word and in the bulletin. This will not be a weekly announcement but a monthly one. This is in an effort to be more transparent with everyone.

From Pam Mertz - Craft sales during March and April earned \$78 for the general fund. Once again I'd like to thank Penny Pelligrini for donating her many quilted items. And thanks to everyone for your continued support!

The Pasadena Area Unity Cluster UMC churches is having a Young People's Camp Weekend at West River Camp in Annapolis on Friday September 6 – Sunday, September 8th. The weekend is for Children grades 3-7 and youth grades 8-12. I have attached the flyer to this encouraging word with more details.

Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike

This encouraging word is more informational than encouraging. It's more like a Confirmation Class lesson but some of you may find it interesting.

As you are reading this Donna Delawder, and I are attending the 240th meeting of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. For those unfamiliar with the organization of the United Methodist Church, an Annual Conference is a regional grouping of United Methodist Churches which meets annually under the supervision of a bishop for the purpose of organizing and administering ministry. Our Annual Conference includes congregations within the state of Maryland (west of Chesapeake Bay) Washington D.C., the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, and Bermuda. Our Bishop is Latrelle Easterling who also serves as the bishop of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. Each congregation is represented by one or several lay delegates depending upon congregation size and average worship attendance. The number of lay delegates is balanced by the number of ordained clergy who are members of the conference. Ordained clergy do not hold membership in any local church but are members of the conference. Our Annual Conference offices are located in Fulton, Maryland.

Currently the Baltimore-Washington Conference is further organized into eight regional districts which are: The Annapolis District, The Baltimore Suburban District, The Baltimore Metropolitan

District, The Washington East District, The Central Maryland District, The Greater Washington District, The Frederick District, and The Cumberland-Hagerstown District. Each District is supervised by a District Superintendent. Together the Bishop and the District Superintendents make up the Cabinet which, among other things, is responsible for the assignment and appointment of clergy to congregations. Our District Superintendent is the Rev. Sarah Schlieckert. This configuration of districts will most likely be changed by vote of the lay and clergy members of this year's conference so stay tuned.

Our Annual Conference has the distinction of being the oldest Annual Conference in Methodism and first met at the Christmas Conference in 1784 at Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, Maryland. At that conference two Bishops were elected to supervise the newly formed Methodist Episcopal Church in America. These were Bishop Thomas Coke, and Bishop Francis Asbury. This year's meeting, the 240th, is taking place at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel and Conference Center which is adjacent to Camden Yards. In fact, Bishop Easterling will be throwing the first pitch at the Orioles game tonight (May 29th).

Here are some highlights of what we will be doing at this annual conference. We will be voting to restructure the organization of the conference. If the vote carries, local churches will be organized into hubs of 8 to 12 churches. These hubs will be organized into six non-geographical districts based on population density. These in turn will be organized into two administrative regions. We will be voting on an Annual Conference budget. We will be voting to close four United Methodist Churches where ministry is no longer viable. We will be voting on matters concerning financial responsibility to retired clergy and spouses. We will be voting to increase or continue at present levels the equitable salary base compensation for clergy. The Council on Finance and Administration is recommending lowering the amounts local churches pay in apportionments – we will be voting on that recommendation. We will be hearing reports from various committees and councils. We will be commissioning 10 Deacons, Provisional Deacons, and Provisional Elders and we will ordain 13 Elders. We will recognize the retirement of 33 Elders. There will be a memorial service for all those former lay delegates and ordained clergy who have passed away in the preceding year. There are four resolutions that we will be voting on which, if approved, serve as guidance for local congregations as they do ministry. There will of course be times of worship and prayer intermixed with all of this. We will hear from several speakers. For early risers and attenders there will be bible studies each morning at 8 a.m. We will be sending nominations to the Jurisdictional Conference of Clergy members for possible election as a Bishop. (This is provisional since the General Conference decreased the number of bishops serving in the North-East Jurisdiction by two bishops – so the election of a new bishop may not take place.) Finally, the list of pastoral appointments will be read. These pastoral appointments will be effective on July 1, 2024.

As you can see there is quite a bit to be packed into three days. What is encouraging here is that the business and the ministry of the Annual Conference and the local churches continue even in the midst of controversy and change. In the ordination and commissioning of new Clergy, diaconal ministers, and Provisional Elders we celebrate God's calling upon these men and women and recognize that God's call never fades, it meets the needs of each new generation. We've been at this for 240 years now and each time grace, love, wisdom, the moving of the Holy Spirit have prevailed. May it do so for at least another 240 years. Please keep all of the lay delegates, ordained clergy, district superintendents, and our bishop in your prayers as we do this important work. That's all for today. Be well, be forgiving and gracious. Be safe, stay connected, and I'll see you in church or on Zoom this Sunday.

Blessings – Pastor Mike

Weekly Reminders

If you have prayer requests, even if you plan to share them at Sunday worship, please 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. (Join us in your pj's with a morning cup of coffee) I open the Zoom meeting at 9 a.m. to give people time to sign on. 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.**

Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church

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