

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

June 5, 2024

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IMPORTANT DATES

THIS 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.

There will be no zoom for Sunday, June 16th and Sunday, June 23rd. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Church News

From Pastor Mike: "It is with a heavy heart that I must announce that Joe and Shannon, who have faithfully served for a great number of years as our musicians, have decided that is it time for them to step away and focus on other endeavors. And so, they will be leaving us at the end of the month. I will be saying more on this later and there will be an opportunity to more formally bid them good-bye but as for me, they go with my gratitude for all the ways they have blessed our worship and with my prayers for their joy and success wherever the future leads them."

Now the search begins for a new accompanist. Please share our job listing with anyone you may think qualifies. "Great opportunity for piano teachers/students to earn a supplemental income. Small, friendly church in Pasadena, Marland looking for an accompanist to play a baby grand piano on Sundays, one service each Sunday at 9:30 a.m., plus Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday early evening services. For additional information or to submit your interest, please call the church office at 410-255-8887 or e-mail mtcarmel21122@gmail.com."

Pastor Mike will be enjoying a little R&R starting Monday. He will be back in the office on June 24th. We do have an emergency Pastor if anything should arise. Please contact the office with any emergency during that time.

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.

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

Last week I had the privilege of witnessing what may be a once in a lifetime event; one that gave me a great deal of hope. It was at the 240th gathering of the Baltimore – Washington Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The final act of each conference is the commissioning and ordination of pastors. We commission local pastors, missionaries, and certify those men and women who are on their way to ordained ministry. Then we ordain individuals who have met all the requirements for full membership in the annual conference and ordination to Full Elder. In the United Methodist Church, a Full Elder is ordained to a ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Order, that is to preach the Word, perform the sacraments, and to order the life of the church. It is the equivalent of a priest in the Roman Catholic or Episcopal Church. As full elders we take the title of Pastor or Reverend.

To be ordained as a Full Elder in the church a person has to complete a four-year bachelor's degree and graduate with a high enough GPA to be accepted at an accredited seminary. They must then attend seminary which is an additional ninety hours of graduate work that results in a Master's Degree in Divinity or Theology (Divinity if they are going into parish ministry, Theology if they are

going to teach). As they are attending Seminary, they are also required to enter the Candidacy process for ordained ministry; first with the approval of their local churches Staff Parish committee and then with the supervision and approval of a District Committee on Ordained ministry. Then, usually during the final semester of their seminary education, they face examination by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry – a process that takes several days. After successfully completing all this, they are certified candidates for ordained ministry and must then serve several years under the supervision of the Board of Ordained Ministry before they are Ordained as Full Elders. They also must pass a battery of psychological tests, a criminal background check, and have a favorable credit report pulled. In other words, it ain't easy to become an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church.

Which makes the service of commissioning and ordination a very inspiring thing to witness. This year the experience of witnessing this ceremony was doubly inspiring for me. I witnessed a young woman whom I had baptized, and whom I had confirmed in the faith as a youth, kneel before the altar and, with the laying on of hands and the bestowing of the clerical stole, receive ordination as Elder in the United Methodist Church. As I watched I realized I was remembering being there with her at the start of her journey as I baptized her in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I remembered teaching her confirmation class. I remembered her confirmation as she became a member of the United Methodist Church. Now, 27 years later, I was witnessing Emily's ordination. It was an amazing and emotional experience for me.

This Sunday I will be baptizing another child of God named Ember. I have no idea how far she will go in the faith, but my prayer is that she will go all the way. Emily's ordination was the product, not only of her own effort, but the efforts of countless others, a community of faith, that embraced her, that taught her, that encouraged her and supported her all the way through. My prayer is that Ember will find the same support and encouragement all along her journey of faith. When I baptized Emily, I asked the gathered congregation "Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Emily now before you in your care?" They answered in the affirmative. I will be asking this congregation the same question with respect to Amber's being raised up in the faith. Realize that as you answer that question you are speaking for many as yet unknown who will stand beside us in caring for Ember. It is amazing the things God can accomplish in a person's life when they are supported lovingly and faithfully by a community of faith. Just look at Emily for confirmation of that.

God's church is alive. I was encouraged at that ordination service by reminders that God continues to prepare and call people to step forward to serve and guide God's church. We all need to realize we are all part of God making that happen and it all starts with a baptism and the promise of a congregation to care for, support, encourage, mentor, and teach each person as they begin their pathway to the Kingdom.

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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