

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

June 19, 2024

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IMPORTANT DATES

There will be no zoom this Sunday, June 23rd. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Please join us after the June 30th Sunday Service to honor Joe and Shannon Shanefelter. We want to properly thank them for all they have done for our church.

We will be closing the office early today in recognition of the federal holiday of Juneteenth. See more about Juneteenth below.

Church News

Our search continues for a new accompanist. Please share our job listing with anyone you may think qualifies. This same listing also appears on our website

<https://mymcumc.org/index.php/newsletter/> "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."

The July/August Edition of The Upper Room is now available. You can get your copy in the Church Narthex.

LITURGISTS NEEDED!!

We need 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

The Pasadena Community Food Pantry needs a mountain of boxed macaroni and cheese. Sometimes we get macaroni and cheese from the food bank. Sometimes it has to be purchased. Every week we prepare 54 bags of donated food. Each bag contains two boxes of mac and cheese. You get it. It does not need to be the premium blue box of mac and cheese. Store brand works. Let's see how many boxes we can gather before the end of June. Thank you for your continued support of this important local group.

The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth

On "Freedom's Eve," or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the Thirteenth Amendment did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.

The post-emancipation period known as Reconstruction (1865-1877) marked an era of great hope, uncertainty, and struggle for the nation as a whole. Formerly enslaved people immediately sought to reunify families, establish schools, run for political office, push radical legislation and even sue slaveholders for compensation. Given the 200+ years of enslavement, such changes were nothing short of amazing. Not even a generation out of slavery, African Americans were inspired and empowered to transform their lives and their country.

Juneteenth marks our country's second independence day. Although it has long celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans.

The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a community space where this spirit of hope lives on. A place where historical events like Juneteenth are shared and new stories with equal urgency are told.

This article can be found at <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-juneteenth>

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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