

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

July 3, 2024

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IMPORTANT DATES

Faith Hope Circle is taking the month off. Happy Summer!

Saturday, July 13th at 9am - We are asking for any able-bodied volunteers to help us install the security cameras for the church. Please let us know if you can help. We are also looking for some equipment to help with the job, including Fish Tape. We would prefer to borrow rather than buy.

We will be having a fundraising meeting on July 21st after the morning service. We will be planning for the remainder of the year. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring ideas!

Church News

Thank you to everyone that helped with the luncheon for Joe and Shannon. It was lovely.



Outreach News

Happy Summer from the Outreach Committee. We will continue to collect boxed macaroni and cheese for the food pantry this summer. Just place your donation in the box located in the narthex. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Even though summer has just started, Anne Arundel County is working on their Back to School Program. We will be receiving the names of 10 elementary students in the Pasadena area in need of help with school supplies for the upcoming school year. As soon as we get the names we will be ready to purchase backpacks and get our project going. Watch this space for more information. Until then, keep cool.

Help Wanted

Our search continues for a new accompanist. Please share our job listing with anyone you may think qualifies. I have included in this email as an attachment a job listing flyer that can be distributed throughout our community. Please, please spread the word!! 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."

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.

An Encouraging Word

One of my favorite movies, now an oldie but a goodie, is the film "Always" starring Richard Dreyfuss, Holly Hunter, John Goodman, and Audrey Hepburn in her final movie role. It's the remake of the 1943 movie, "A Guy Named Joe". Essentially, it's a movie about the main character played by Dreyfuss inspiring a younger pilot after he is himself killed in an air accident. It's also about Dreyfuss' character "Pete" letting go of the earthly things he cherished, principally his girlfriend Dorinda. In a scene near the end of the film Pete is speaking to Dorinda who hears his voice in her head as though it were her own thoughts. There is a line in this scene that for me is especially striking. Pete says to Dorinda, "the love that we hold back is the only pain that follows us here". The love we hold back is the only pain that follows us beyond death. That for me is an amazing insight.

Like you, my life is a smorgasbord of opportunities that were taken advantage of and opportunities that were missed. If you're like me, you are grateful for and celebrate the opportunities you were offered and took advantage of. But the opportunities we miss? Those sting a lot. Some of these may be quite minor; "I wish I had done this, or I wish I had done that." But in the end, they leave no lasting deficit upon our lives. There are others that are major, and the lost opportunities turn into painful regrets. "I wish I had pursued that relationship." "I wish I had paid more attention to that situation, maybe things wouldn't have turned out as they did." "I wish I had supported them more and a tragedy might not have happened."

In John 13:34 Jesus declares, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." We are called to love others as Christ Jesus first loved us. We are called to love unconditionally with no promise of reward. When we embrace our opportunities to love others unconditionally, we will find our greatest fulfillment and our greatest joy. The greatest opportunities we have in life are the opportunities to love as God intends for us to love. When we do this, we will have nothing to regret. When we fail to love it will leave us with nothing but regret and such regret can poison our spirits.

In this life we have many opportunities to love and to withhold love. In every circumstance we face there is somewhere embedded in that circumstance an opportunity to love or to withhold love. I encourage you to use every opportunity presented to you to embrace others, no matter who they are, with the same love with which Christ has embraced you. For the love we hold back may truly hold us back, as in this life we journey toward God's 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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Office Hours – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9-2