

# Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

July 10, 2024

Follow MCUMC on social media!

<https://www.facebook.com/mtcarmelumcconnection/> AND <https://www.instagram.com/mcumc21122/>

---

## IMPORTANT DATES

**THIS Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

**There will be a Unified Board Meeting Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in the Church Hall.**

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

## ☀️ 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](mailto: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**

You have probably heard the adage that when God closes a door God opens a window. Well, my belief is that when God closes one door God opens another DOOR! Sometimes several. Some folks may be satisfied with the window, but I prefer to look for and expect a door. Especially when a ministry is the door that closes.

Over the last month our congregation has encountered several major changes, neither of which we were expecting. First, at the beginning of the month we received Shannon and Joe's resignation. Then at the end of the month came the regrettable but necessary closing of the Child Development Center. Ministries have seasons and those particular seasons have closed for us. The thing with seasons is that they keep coming! Spring always gives way to Summer, Summer to Autumn, Autumn to Winter, and Winter to Spring. It may seem that our ministry is facing a winter season. But we all need to remember that new life, growth, and opportunities arrive following Winter with the Spring. I have confidence that this will be the case for us as well.

Sometimes we invest a lot of time and effort in a particular ministry, but a time comes when God says no and redirects us. Such an instance happened to the apostle Paul. You can read about it in Acts 16: 6 – 16. This is the account of Paul's Macedonian call. Paul wanted very much to revisit and strengthen the churches he had started in the Asian province of Galatia during his first missionary journey. He also wanted to take the Gospel to unchurched areas beyond that region. He was traveling with Silas and Timothy, and they all wanted to head directly west. At least that was the plan, and they were on their way when God said no. "They had come to the border of Mysia and they tried to enter Bithynia but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. They were directed to Troas instead."

They had their plans and were very much invested in them, but God had a different idea and redirected them on a different journey. In this new journey they would meet Lydia. Lydia would be Paul's first Christian convert in Europe. She invited the three missionaries into her home where she and her entire household were baptized. She was a woman of great influence and helped extend the Christian gospel, one of the first missionaries into Europe. Here we see God definitely closing one door for Paul, Silas, and Timothy and opening an entirely different one.

This was certainly not the first time that God redirected a well-intentioned ministry, nor would it be God's last. The narrative serves to remind us that often we have well intentioned ideas of where we want a ministry to go and of how we want things to turn out and then God intervenes and says no. God has another plan in mind. I believe that is what is happening in our ministry at Mount Carmel. We need to enter into a season of prayer and discernment as together we begin to follow God on a new path, seeking new opportunities for ministry. The ministry of the Child Development Center has served its purpose and served well. Now it's season has come to an end. But a new season is beginning and with God's help we look to the future to discern what that future ministry may be. Joe and Shannon served God well while they were with us and led us along a wonderful and inspiring journey of music ministry. Now that season has come to an end and a new season is beginning. With God's help we will look to the future to discern new directions in music and worship ministry.

I invite everyone reading this to join in this discernment process through prayer and discussion. There will be opportunities this Fall to join in the conversation as we seek the new doors through which God will lead us.

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](mailto: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**

**4760 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122, 410-255-8887, [mtcarmel21122@gmail.com](mailto:mtcarmel21122@gmail.com)**

**Office Hours – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9-2**