

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

September 11, 2024

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The Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike is BACK!!!!

IMPORTANT DATES

Services for Bud Jenkins will be held on Saturday, September 21st at 11am.

SAVE THE DATE!! Our 3rd Annual Harvest Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 12th!! Flyers are now available!! Please take one and post it somewhere in the community. We NEED HELP GETTING THE WORD OUT!

ORDER YOUR HOMEMADE SOUP NOW!! Attached are order forms for our wonderful homemade chicken noodle soup, chili, cornbread and apple dumplings. All made with love by the folks at Mt. Carmel.

One person's junk is another person's treasure!! Our first Flea Market fundraiser will be held on Saturday, November 9th, 9-3. This is the same day as the very well attended Chesapeake High School Craft Event so we are expecting a lot of drive by traffic!!

We are selling spaces NOW!!

Our church members will be able to set up on the Friday before our event!!

Rentals:

Space only \$15.00

Space with a 6 ft round or rectangular table \$20.00

Space with an 8 ft rectangular table \$25.00

Spaces with tables available until sold out

Indoor and outdoor spaces available on first come first serve basis

Please see our flyer in the Church Hall. Take some to hand out! We have purposely scheduled this on the same day as the CHS Craft Fair to maximize traffic. If you would like to rent a space/table or need more information, you can contact Jen in the office.

We will be selling Apple Pies again this year!! Keep an eye out for the order forms. The pies will be on a first come, first serve basis! You won't want to miss getting yours because they are *DELICIOUS!*

This year we will be ushering in the holiday season with our first Christmas Tea, Saturday, December 7th. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Jen in the office.

UPDATED - DONATIONS NEEDED

The Harvest Festival needs your donations! We are looking for:

- ~ bubble wrap we can use for scarecrow stuffing
- ~ candy for our trick or treaters
- ~ baked goods for our bake table

~VOLUNTEERS!

Outreach News

We continue to support our local food pantry. Thank you all for helping with this ongoing project. I saw a nice food fairy donated lots of canned goods this week. Thank you to that nice person. We will continue to gather boxed macaroni and cheese for the next few months. We give out 2 boxes of mac and cheese in each food bag. Last week we gave out 56 bags of food. That's 112 boxes of mac and cheese that went out the door. So, keep them coming, folks.

Help Wanted

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 From Pastor Mike

Several weeks ago, my brother and I had the opportunity to drive past the old family home in Watertown N.Y. It's the home where my grandmother and great-uncle grew up. It's the home where my mom spent her childhood before they moved to Syracuse. It was home for my great-uncle Laurence until he passed away in 1976. It was where I lived with my mom, dad, and little brother for six months when I was four years old. I have many wonderful memories of that place. It's a grand old Victorian house and I remember that it was filled with many high-ceilinged rooms each of which provided great adventure for little boys. I remember the long dark and mysterious stairways to the upper floors and cavernous attic where I was allowed to play on rainy days accompanied by the whisper of rain on the roof. I also remember the basement and especially the coal bin where I was NOT allowed to play – but did anyway. I remember it being a happy place that was always filled with love and joy.

When my brother and I drove by several weeks ago we were crushed by what had become of that beautiful home. It's located on Winslow Street which is the eastern extension of Paddock Street. As we drove along Paddock Street, we were impressed with all the grand Victorian homes that line it, all of them immaculate and stately. But then Paddock Street became Winslow Street, and the neighborhood changed dramatically. Many of the houses lining that street are also Victorian but very careworn. Many empty and broken windows were evident. There was an abundance of missing siding, collapsed

porches, and trash and junk scattered across un-mowed lawns. Our old house seemed to have fared a little better – but not much. The once grand porch was sagging, and risers to the steps were missing. The paint was peeling and the stately elms that once stood in front were gone – reduced to stumps. It was evident that the house was occupied but hopelessness radiated from every window. What a difference one block makes!

I realize that outward appearances often have little bearing on what's going on inside, but I also know that the homes we live in often do reflect the personalities of those who occupy them. The homes on Paddock Street reflected pride and joy, the ones on Winslow Street reflected just the opposite, hopelessness and despair.

As I thought about this experience and the outward appearance of dwelling places and how those appearances may reflect what's going on inside, the words of Paul, recorded in 1st Corinthians, came to mind. "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" – 1 Corinthians 3: 16. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own." 1 Corinthians 6:19. Much like the outward appearances of those homes on Paddock and Winslow Streets reflect the joy or despair of those who dwell within them, so our outward appearance reflects the hope and joy of the presence of God's Spirit within us or its absence. As we present ourselves to the world around us, what does the world see as it drives by? Does it see the hope and joy that reflects the presence of God's spirit? Or does it see a life filled with fear, and despair? We need to do some self-examination and ask ourselves; do our lives reflect the presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Or have we allowed our fears, our prejudices, and our discontent to drive the Spirit away leaving only the shell of what was once, or could still be, a grand edifice?

I encourage you to fill yourselves with the things of God's Spirit. I encourage you to seek ways of reflecting the Holy Spirit within you so that when others see you, a dwelling of the Holy Spirit, they may see and know hope and joyful expectation. I encourage you to follow the instruction of Paul found in Philippians 4:8, "And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." In doing so we will fashion ourselves into a lovely and stately dwelling reflecting the presence of the Holy Spirit.

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