

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

September 18, 2024

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IMPORTANT DATES

Services for Bud Jenkins will be held this Saturday, September 21st at 11am. A luncheon will follow in the Church Hall.

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.

In other news...

From Pam Mertz: During May, June and July, \$32 was raised for the general fund from craft sales. Although I will be out of town during the weekend of the Harvest Festival, I plan on making additional craft items to be sold there. I'm not sure who will be selling them for me, but thank you in advance to whomever does. As always thanks to everyone for your continued support.

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

One of my favorite toys when I was a child was a yellow "Mystery Spaceship" gyroscope toy. There was a crank that would be used to get the gyroscope inside up to speed. Once it was up to speed, I could balance it on almost anything. If I tried to upset it, it would find its way back to level – that is until the gyroscope stopped spinning and then it would bounce all over the place. I was fascinated by the magical way that it seemed to stay upright no matter what force was exerted on it. Just for the sake of interest I went to eBay to see if I could buy one and, sure enough, I can – for \$122.00 or best offer! So, I guess that purchase will have to wait.

The ethical challenges we face in this increasingly complicated world seem to be multiplying these days. We must make ethical decisions every day concerning work, family, finances, and dare I say it . . . politics. Sometimes, in fact quite often, ethical decisions present themselves without warning and we need to be equipped to make them. That is why it's important to have a strong moral center. I admire those who have a strong moral center. They are the ones that seem to be able to walk placidly through this world unfazed by the ethical decisions that confront them.

Having a strong moral center is like having a gyroscope governing our mind, heart, and soul. With a strong moral center spinning in our hearts, we can remain steady and true in situations that would otherwise confuse, frustrate, and threaten disaster. Having a strong moral center helps us keep stable in a world that is falling apart and where we are confronted with myriad ethical decisions. Some decisions and situations may rock us but, like that toy gyroscope, a strong moral center will help return us to stability and guide us through the ethical mazes that confront us.

A few years ago, a phrase that I remember becoming popular was "What would Jesus do?" or WWJD. This wasn't a new concept. The phrase became popular in the early 1900's following the publication of a book by Charles Sheldon in 1896 entitled, "In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?" The whole idea behind the phrase is to pattern our lives after Christ and, to the best of our ability, respond to the ethical questions before us as we believe Jesus would respond to them. That is make Jesus' life our moral center, our ethical gyroscope. But even in 1900 this was not a new idea. It was first put forward by Augustine of Hippo in 400 A.D. in his development of the doctrine of *Imitatio Christi* (The Imitation of Christ) which was further developed by Thomas a Kempis in 15th century. Again, the idea is to make Christ our moral center.

So how do we put all this into practice? How do we spin up our moral gyroscopes? We make Jesus' values our own. We find those values in scripture, especially in the red letters – those parts of scripture attributed to Jesus. I find a wealth of guidance regarding what Jesus valued in his Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5 – 7. Here I find that Jesus valued humility and so in my decisions I seek the path of humility. I find that Jesus valued compassion – so I try to follow the path of compassion in my ethical decision making. I find that Jesus valued forgiveness and turning the other cheek – so I follow the path of forgiveness in my ethical decision making. I know that Jesus valued peacemaking, so I try to follow the path of peace in my ethical decision making. I think you get the idea. We spin up our ethical, moral, gyroscope with the word and teaching of Jesus. We keep that operating at the center of our lives and we will find stability even in the midst of all the ethical storms we are facing.

That's all for today. Here's the tune to sing you through your day. I'll write again on Wednesday. Until then be well, stay safe, stay home – if at risk, and stay connected! Blessings & Peace, 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