

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

September 25, 2024

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IMPORTANT DATES

SCARECROW MAKING DAY!! On Tuesday, October 1st 10-12 we will be assembling the kits for the Harvest festival scarecrow making. Anyone who can come and help is welcome. Please let Jen in the office know via email or phone. Thanks!

ORDER YOUR HOMEMADE SOUP NOW!! DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 4th!!! 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.

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!**

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.

An Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit." John 3:8

In this quote from John, Jesus is explaining to Nicodemus the workings of the Holy Spirit. As Jesus explains, we really don't know how the Holy Spirit works, but we can see what it does. Those who give themselves over to the Spirit and allow themselves to become instruments of the Spirit, join in the amazing and beautiful dance through which God works to transform the world. Others may witness this beautiful dance, wonder at it, and perhaps be drawn into it themselves.

Here is an illustration that I hope makes my meaning clear. A few days ago, as I was standing out behind the parsonage, I noticed this amazing flock of birds circling and dancing through the sky. I think they were starlings. There must have been hundreds of them wheeling and winding through the sky in marvelously coordinated patterns. It was as though some unseen air traffic controller was telling each bird how to dip, turn, and climb in formation with the birds around it. It's called murmuration and scientists admit that they don't understand it. How the birds manage to do what

they do remains a mystery. Of course, there are theories about how this works, but none of them are satisfactory. So, we just have to enjoy the dance and be amazed.

I like to think that the birds are being directed by some unseen force, a shared intelligence perhaps that moves them through their intricate patterns. We can't see what directs and moves them, but we can see the beauty of what they are doing and be moved and perhaps in some way inspired. When I see murmuration, I'm inspired and amazed by the beauty and intricacy of God's creation. I am humbled.

The Holy Spirit works among the faithful in the same way, blowing wherever it pleases, directing the faithful in an intricate dance of ministry through which others are cared for and inspired. We really don't understand how it all works or how the Spirit moves, but we can see and experience what it does. We are all connected in a mysterious way with each other and with God that allows us to do wonderful and amazing things. God's work is done through us. In this others can see God's love, God's beauty, and be inspired themselves to join in this wonderful Spirit moved dance.

The encouraging word today is that when we open ourselves to the Spirit's direction through prayer, study, worship, and caring ministry for others we become part of a Spirit directed dance that is inspiring and humbling. We can't see the Spirit, but others can see what it does through us! Together we are a beautiful creation of God, a reminder to humanity of God's love and grace moving through the world. We are part of a Spirit choreographed dance that feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, shelters the homeless, comforts the grieving, cares for the forgotten, inspires the searching, and brings hope to all. We are part of that amazing movement in the world. In that knowledge may we each be humbled, inspired and encouraged.

That's all for today. I'll see you on Sunday either in person or on Zoom. Until then be well, stay safe, and in please stay connected to each other and to God. 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