

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

October 9, 2024

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Thank you...

To our Liturgists who read each Sunday. Our October schedule is...

10/13 – Warren Magruder, 10/20 – Jeri Hayden, 10/27 – Warren Magruder

To our Narthex Greeters that greet you each Sunday along with Fran of course. Our October schedule

is... 10/13 – Ernie Donaldson, 10/20 – Becky Bishop, 10/27 – Jen Harris

To our Coffee Hour Teams, The Fauconnet Family, The Johnson Family and Faith Hope Circle

IMPORTANT DATES

Funeral Services for Clara Bartholomee will be taking place here at the church THIS FRIDAY at 11am with a luncheon to follow.

We will be making Apple Dumplings this Thursday at 10am here in our kitchen. If you can help, we would love to have you!!

Our 3rd Annual Harvest Festival is THIS Saturday, October 12th!! The weather looks perfect!! Let all your friends and family know about all the fun that will be had at our Festival this weekend! 10-3

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!! We will begin taking orders on at our Harvest Festival. 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.

Other events around town...

Community Methodist UMC will be having a Blood Drive this Friday, October 11th from 8:30am to 2:00pm.

Galilee Lutheran Church will be having a TRUNK OR TREAT event on Saturday, October 26th from noon to 11:30. Please see the flyer located in the Church Hall for more details.

Stallings Funeral Home will be hosting a FREE Lunch & Learn event on Wednesday, November 6th at 11am at Stallings. During the informative session you will learn advance funeral planning options, how pre-planning provides peace of mind, how to protect your family from doubt and conflict during a time of loss, how to avoid mistakes, and more. RSVP by October 30th by calling 410-360-1770.

Church Financials

Here is the financial statement for August, our Expenses vs. Income. Please note that August is typically our leanest month income wise. We are hoping the September Statement will be better. So far shortfalls in giving are being covered by reserves and dividends from investments.

Expenses for August 2024	\$17,947.37
Income for August 2024	\$ 7,661.22
Net Income	(\$10,286.00)

Outreach News

There is widespread devastation in several states after Hurricane Helene. Many times after a disaster we don't know how to help. The United Methodist Church has a way we all can lend a hand. UMCOR, The **U**nited **M**ethodist **C**ommittee **o**n **R**elief has set up a special offering that will go directly to help those affected by Hurricane Helene. If you choose to help, please drop a donation in the collection on Sunday or send a check to the church. Please mark your donation as **Hurricane Helene**. We will see that it goes directly to the fund at UMCOR. Thank you.

An Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike

"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand."

Over the last few months, I've been trying to plan for the future. I've been trying to make decisions based on what I think will happen in the future. For example; one question I have to answer as I start looking at retirement requires me to figure out how long I need my retirement to last so that my money will last until I (and/or my wife Leslie) won't need it any more. How will I take my payout or disbursements from my 403b retirement plan? That doesn't seem like that hard a question until you realize that what's really being asked is: When do I plan to die? Yikes! Name me one person who nailed the answer to that question. Another question concerns what kind of Medicare plan do I think I'll need? Some plans work better with people with certain medical conditions than others. So, what kinds of medical conditions do I plan on having . . . 20 years from now? Tell me this isn't a government operation!

Of course I have other decisions I need to make as well, many of them based on an unknowable future. Sure, I can try to make educated guesses to increase my odds of making the right decisions. But we all know the adage about the "best laid plans of mice and men . . .". That phrase originated from a poem by the Scottish poet Robert Burns entitled "To A Mouse". "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men. Gang aft a-gley." Which translated becomes "The best laid plans of mice and men can often go astray." No matter what our plans are, and no matter how carefully we lay them, they can go wrong. Nothing is sure. Then of course there is the wonderful adage concerning the perversity of the Universe which states, "anything that can go wrong will go wrong" otherwise known as Murphy's Law. How in the world do you plan for that?

I guess the only sure thing about the future is that there will be taxes. We all know this adage: the only sure thing is death and taxes. Well Jesus took care of the certainty of death so all that leaves is taxes. The corollary to this of course is that the other sure thing about the future is that there won't be any death. (Of course, I could try to answer my life expectancy question regarding my pension by saying I expect to live eternally but I think that would mess up the computation.)

Here's the bottom line. We can plan all we want but unless you are clairvoyant nothing will work out exactly as planned. The one sure bet we have concerning the future can be found in God's love expressed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. No matter what, we will have God's love. No matter what, heaven awaits. God loves us so much that he sent his son to show us the way, to bring us healing, to even face and endure execution for our sake, and to show us that there is nothing sure about death.

As we make our plans for the future the one sure thing we can depend on is God's love. Investing in God's love through acts of love and kindness, feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, sheltering the homeless, and caring for the outcast is the best and surest investment we can make. Investing ourselves in God's word through study, devoting ourselves to God through prayer, and in providing for the needs of the church, the vessel of God's word, are the ways we invest in God's love and prepare ourselves for the future. The future is unknowable. There is in fact only one thing we do know about it – God will be there with us. Our surest investments for the future are to invest in that love, if we do, we can't lose. May we all consider this in all the decisions we make that concern the future.

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