

# Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

October 16, 2024

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## Thank you...

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR HARVEST FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS!!** Our event was a big success because of YOU!! Look for more details on just how successful it was coming soon. We will also be holding a follow up meeting soon. Please feel free to email me with suggestions for next year. How can we improve? What did we do well? What did we do *not* so well?

To our Liturgists who read each Sunday. Our October schedule is...  
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... 10/20 – Becky Bishop, 10/27 – Jen Harris

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

## IMPORTANT DATES

**We are preparing for our celebration of All Saints Sunday on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.** If you have lost someone dear to you over the past year and would like them remembered during the worship service that day, please contact the church office with details. Our email address is [mtcarmel21122@gmail.com](mailto:mtcarmel21122@gmail.com) or you can call Mon – Wed 9-2pm. We would also like to share a picture which you can forward to the church as well. Then please plan to be present when that person is remembered.

**Let's get real...we all need to clean out one or two nooks in our homes! Why not make some cash from doing so. Bring your unwanted items to our first Flea Market fundraiser that will be held on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 are selling Apple Pies again this year!!** The pies will be on a first come, first serve basis! You won't want to miss getting yours because they are *DELICIOUS!* Flyers can be picked up in the Church Hall.

**This year we will be ushering in the holiday season with our first Christmas Tea, Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 3-5pm. Tickets are on sale now!! Only \$12 a ticket. Please contact the office if you would like to purchase one, or two, or a whole table!**

## *Other events around town...*

Galilee Lutheran Church will be having a TRUNK OR TREAT event on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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)

## **IMPORTANT** **Outreach News**

**There is widespread devastation in several states after Hurricane Helene and Milton.** 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 those hurricanes. 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 US Hurricanes.** We will see that it goes directly to the fund at UMCOR. Thank you.

# An Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike

I'm currently getting our house in Sabillasville, Maryland ready for winter and for our eventual re-occupation. I'm discovering upon inspection that a great deal of work needs to be done. Before we can live in the house again it will need some repairs to the roof and possibly the foundation. Some of the windows will need weather stripping and some of the trim needs to be painted. Of course, the list is a bit more extensive than what I've shared with you, but you get the gist. The whole point is to make sure the structure can withstand the rigors of the coming winter and be a comfortable home for us the rest of the year.

Homes require a great deal of maintenance; in fact, I've never heard of a maintenance-free home. I've also discovered that if I don't stay on top of the maintenance, it can get away from me and become much more work in the future. A minor roof leak can become a major problem over the course of a few months. A toilet that runs constantly can overwhelm a septic system and the electric bill. A broken gutter can flood a basement. Neglecting home maintenance buys a lot of trouble.

Paul writes in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthian 6:19, "do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and *that* you are not your own?" (NASB) A temple is a structure meant to house or shelter that which is sacred or holy. According to Paul our lives can be considered the sacred dwelling places of God's Holy Spirit within us. Like any house, this house requires maintenance in order for it to remain firm against the rigors that assault our spirits, that could invade or compromise that which is sacred in all of us.

Paul uses another metaphor to describe preparing our lives to stand in the face of spiritual assault when he encourages us in Ephesians 6:10 – 18 to put on the whole Armor of God. "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." The materials he suggests to shield us include investments in the truth, always endeavoring to do what is right, attending to the study and internalizing of scripture, strengthening our faith, and proclaiming the Gospel of peace.

So, as I attend to maintaining my physical home to withstand the rigors of winter, I also need to give some thought to how I am strengthening the temple that is my life which is a dwelling place of God's spirit within me. What can we do to strengthen our faith to withstand the challenges that seem all too prevalent these days? The answer is simple. We strengthen the foundations of our faith through reading and meditating on scripture. We fortify the walls through serving God in ministries of compassion and proclaiming God's love. We fortify the roof through prayer. By doing so we will be able to withstand anything this world throws at us!

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](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**

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