

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

November 6, 2024

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Thank you...

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

11/10 – Warren Magruder, 11/17 – Sari McLeod, 11/24 – Warren Magruder

To our Narthex Greeters that greet you each Sunday along with Fran of course. Our November schedule is... 11/10 – Gail Miller, 11/17 – Ernie Donaldson, 11/24 – Becky Bishop

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Faith Hope Circle will meet this Thursday, Nov. 7 at 12:30 in the church hall. All women of the church & community are invited to join us. Please bring your lunch; dessert will be provided.

Make sure to visit our first Flea Market fundraiser THIS Saturday, November 9th, 9-3. Spread the word!!

We are looking for volunteers to help make our Apple Pies this year. We will be assembling the pies on Monday, November 25th at various times during the day. We are also looking for donations of ingredients to make the pies. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer or contribute, please call or email Jen in the office.

This year we will be ushering in the holiday season with our first Christmas Tea, Saturday, December 7th, 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...

Friday, November 15th at 7pm Pastor Sheldon Brown presents Friday Night Live at Union Memorial United Church in Davidsonville, MD. Tickets are \$15 per person

Sunday, November 17th at 3pm Calvary United Methodist Church Christmas Concert Series presents Jung Park performing works by Bach, Gershwin, Liszt, Ravel and More! This event is Free.

Sunday, December 1st at 2pm Trinity Church of Annapolis welcomes Dr. Karen Jung-Yeon Yim a former pianist at Trinity and is an award-winning musician. She will perform works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Schumann. A free will offering will be taken for the performance.

Outreach News

Outreach is working on our annual Holiday Sharing program for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have asked the county for the names of three families and two seniors to provide a nicer Thanksgiving and Christmas in the Pasadena area. We are anxiously awaiting the names so we can get moving on the program. Keep in mind that most people prefer to receive gift cards to a grocery store instead of actually buying groceries for them. Watch this space for more information.

An Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God, I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" - Psalm 56: 3 - 4

Here's a saying that I got tired of hearing my dad preach; "If everyone jumped off a cliff would you follow"? Usually, the occasion for hearing this was my doing something stupid; usually because my friends did it and goaded me into it. I'm not going to run down the list. Take my word for it – I did a lot of stupid things because "so and so" did it. I'm not saying that peer pressure was a real problem for me. Let's just say my youth was filled with opportunities to give in to peer pressure and I rarely let an opportunity pass me by. I never did jump off a cliff, but I did jump into a lot of other things that I probably shouldn't have; simply because my friends did it.

Societal pressure, political pressure, peer pressure or whatever other kind of coercion you are dealing with in your life can be real problems especially if they lead us into ethically questionable territory. It takes courage to stand up to this kind of pressure. In the words of Albus Dumbledore, Harry Potter's headmaster, "It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends." It takes courage to stand up for God in an increasingly secular world. It takes courage to live out the ideals proclaimed by Jesus in the Sermon On The Mount. It takes courage to love our enemies and pray for our persecutors. If it weren't for their courage there would be no saints of the church. Courage is an indispensable Christian and biblical virtue that we need to nurture in the core of our being; a settled habit of mind that guides us as we make the crucial decisions that always lay before us.

A wonderful example of this kind of courage can be found in the actions of Daniel as recorded in the sixth chapter of Daniel in our Old Testament. Daniel had been placed in a position of authority over a number of provincial governors in the Babylonian Empire. These governors resented Daniels' favor with the King and conspired to create a law making it illegal for anyone to pray to anyone but the King. Disobedience was to be punished by being thrown into a den of lions. Well Daniel was faithful to God and continued in his prayers to God going against the law of the land.

"Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God." Daniel 6: 10 – 11

You probably know the rest of the story. Daniel is thrown into the lion's den where, because of his faith, he is protected from harm by an angel. Daniel's faith (a virtue already discussed) had a lot to do with this positive outcome, but it took courage born out of that faith to resist denying God in order to save himself.

The situations we are facing right now in the world demand a courageous faith that will not buckle under social, political, or peer pressure. As Christians we are armed with faith and trust in God, God's guidance given through scripture and the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and a knowledge of God's justice and righteousness. On all of this we are able to stand courageously against the tides of what may seem popular, conventional wisdom, or just plain human stupidity. Yes it may seem at times that the world is jumping off a cliff, but as we nurture the virtue of courage within us remaining faithful to God, we may avoid jumping off with the rest of them.

That's all for this week. Pray for each other and pray for me. God is with us, we are not alone. Thanks be to God! - 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