

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

December 11, 2024

Follow MCUMC on social media!

<https://www.facebook.com/mtcarmelumcconnection/> AND <https://www.instagram.com/mcumc21122/>

Thank you...

Our Christmas Tea was a really nice event on Saturday and a lovely way to start the holiday season. It took a lot of participation from so many people to make it work and I want to thank everyone who helped. Many people cooked, baked and donated, and your contributions were so appreciated. I really want to thank Pat Mulkey, Marilyn Williams, Jennifer Harris, Becky Bishop, Sari McLeod, Deb McMurtrey, Cathy Jones, Donna Delauder, Gail Miller, and Jeri Hayden. Your help was invaluable. (If I forgot anyone, I do apologize. Your help was just as appreciated.) One more time, this was a special way to celebrate, made even more special by all the people that helped make it happen. Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and the happiest New Year! ~Sarah Ann Parsons

A special thanks to Leslie, Paul and Stephen Fauconnet for helping to make our church hall look so festive. Thanks also to Becky and Curtis Bishop for once again doing a dynamite job with the tree in the Sanctuary. And the window wreaths and our Nativity Scene were put up by our very own Pastor Mike!!

To our Liturgists who read each Sunday. Our December schedule is...
12/15 Jeri Hayden, 12/22 Warren Magruder, 12/29 Sari McLeod

To our Narthex Greeters that greet you each Sunday along with Fran of course. Our December schedule is... 12/15 Becky Bishop, 12/22 Jennifer Harris, 12/29 Ernie Donaldson

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

IMPORTANT DATES

The next Unified Board meeting will be on Monday, December 16 at 6:30 in the Church Hall.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 7pm. Please join us for this beautiful service.

Outreach News

Holiday Sharing is in full swing. We are still collecting pasta products and boxed macaroni and cheese for the local food pantry. ***Their shelves are currently empty. Please consider making the holidays your "Season of Giving".*** And, as always, we thank you for your support.

An Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike

“Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light”.
– Professor Albus Dumbledore

Yes, that’s right, I’m quoting Professor Dumbledore, something he said in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban – the movie - though I’m sure he said it in the book as well. I know a few of my Christian brothers and sisters condemn the Harry Potter series because it’s about Witches and Wizards but I happen to find a great deal of wisdom reflected in those pages. I welcome wisdom wherever I can find it. The quote above is an example, and very appropriate these days – especially leading up to Christmas.

With Christmas we celebrate the day when God turned on the light for humanity struggling in darkness. With Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem God illuminated the darkness of our world overcome with the brokenness of sin and despair. God cast a glorious light into our world to drive away fear, hopelessness, and doubt. That light continues to shine today, in part through the work and ministry of the church.

Yet it often seems that darkness is overcoming the light. This is especially so in these times when intolerance, incivility, various prejudices, and a generalized fear seem to be getting the upper hand. Yes happiness, hope, and joy are available if we remember to turn on the light. But how do we turn on the light? Sometimes, amid my own doubts and fears, I feel like I’m stumbling around in a dark basement, waving my arm in the darkness feeling for the light pull chain and despairing at not finding it. How do I turn on the light?

Then I remember, the light switch isn’t that hard to find. It can be found through prayer and worship; it can be found in the words of scripture and through embracing others in Christ name and allowing myself to be embraced. The light of Heaven, Christ light, is available but we each must take an active part in turning it on. God empowers us in the work of lighting the world and driving away the darkness, but it is for us to do so. And we do this by remaining connected to God through prayer, worship, meditating on scripture, and serving others in Christ’s name. We drive away the darkness by remaining connected to one another through a caring fellowship that embraces the darkness away.

In the third Harry Potter movie, Prisoner of Azkaban, Harry drives away evil through remembering and envisioning the love of family and friends. He employs the joy of those memories in driving the darkness away. We can do the same, turn on the light as it were, by remembering and sharing the love of Jesus in the joy of Christian fellowship with one another and everyone we meet.

That’s all for today. Take care, let your light shine, and I’ll see you on Sunday. 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

4760 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122, 410-255-8887, mtcarmel21122@gmail.com

Office Hours – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9-2