

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

January 22, 2025

Follow MCUMC on social media!

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

Weekly Schedules

Liturgist - Our January schedule is...

01/26 – Sari McLeod

Narthex Greeters - Our January schedule is...

01/26 – Gail Miller

RESCHEDULED FUNDRAISING MEETING - We will be having a quick fundraising meeting after this Sunday's church service. We will discuss upcoming events and potential dates. We will also do a quick recap of the Christmas Tea. All are welcome and input is ENCOURAGED!!

End of Year Giving Statements

Once again, to save paper and postage, the church will not be doing widespread printing up and distributing annual giving statements. Everyone can now easily generate their own statements from their Realm account whenever they like. ***If you do require a hard copy done the traditional way, please just let the office know and we can provide one.*** If you haven't accessed Realm and need a new invite sent, just let the office know. You can also see all your current giving and history all the way back to 2008. Below are easy step by step instructions to print your giving statements.

Accessing Giving Record & End of Year Giving Statements

To generate and print out giving statements from your Realm account-

- Log into Realm
- Click on "Giving" on the left side of the page. It will automatically show your gifts for *this* year, to date, to verify your gifts.
- For Yearly Statements, click the Filter button (that droopy triangle symbol) and change the Gift Date Range to "Last Year". then click the blue "Filter" button.
- To print, simply click the Printer Icon. A report will generate, and you can click the Printer Icon in that window to print your statement.
- Done!

Facility Use Updates

****All Day Play – Play Campus is a group of children that meet on Friday's. Below is an update from Elizabeth Mukhin, founder.**

Thank you, Mt. Carmel Church, for supporting my dream. I'm offering a fresh perspective on combating mental health struggles -- free play.

The dream is an affordable campus with flexible hours, where lifelong friendships are developed. We emphasize social/emotional well being by modeling kindness.

All Day Play meets on Fridays from 9am - 2pm. As the program expands, we hope to open additional days and evening hours as well.

The group was created to support homeschool families. Most attendees, but not all, are families with children who are homeschooled.

Members without children are welcome to join our community, including congregants. Each week is different and we don't have any expectations. Come, hangout, and see how the relationship evolves.

Many blessings come from mixed-age socialization.

Everyone leaves All Day Play in better spirits and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to grow this community.

Call or text for more info: 443-770-4466.

"All Day Play -- Play Campus -- Pasadena, MD" is the name of our Facebook group. You'll find pictures of what the group has been up to.

****Evolve Kids Care is an organization that will be utilizing our facility on Friday, Saturday and Sunday early evenings starting soon. Below is a short description of their services. More information can be found at <https://evolvekidscare.org/>**

Evolve Kids Care is a Nonprofit organization established in January 2022, dedicated to providing childcare solutions to allow parents in substance abuse recovery to network and engage in 12-step fellowship meetings.

If you have any questions about either of these two programs, please don't hesitate to contact us in the office.

Outreach News - A Year in Review

Our Outreach Committee has been working! If you happen to see one of these important people, Deb McMurtrey, Pat Johnson, Denise Calabrese, Leslie Fauconnet, or Warren Magruder, please thank them for their dedication. If you missed last week's update you can find it here

<https://mymcumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Outreach-Review-2024.pdf>

An Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike

People need community to survive. We humans are herd animals. The bible presents this fact right from the beginning. In Genesis 1:17 we read, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." One reason for this is of course procreation, "be fruitful and increase in number; fill the Earth and subdue it." In Genesis 2:18 we find more of God's reasoning for not making humans solitary creatures. "The Lord God said, "It's not good for the man to be alone, I will make a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18). We need community for

protection. We need community for our physical, spiritual, and emotional health. We need community for mutual support, and a sense of connectedness or belonging with others.

I'm used to having other people around me. When I know I'm truly alone I become anxious and restless, even fearful. I know not everyone is as troubled by aloneness, but I have a feeling that even those who consider themselves to be loners would have problems with an extended exile from other humans. Community is our natural state.

Many of you already know that I will be retiring at the end of June. I'm excited by this prospect but also a little frightened. I've been a member of this wonderful community called Mount Carmel United Methodist Church for fourteen years. Many of you have become good friends, some of you I consider family. But in a little over five months Leslie and I will be leaving this community behind. Oh, we'll be maintaining connections – but it won't be the same. What frightens me a bit is the prospect of connecting to another community. I pray it will be one as accepting of us as the Mount Carmel Community has been.

I do take great comfort in the fact that wherever we go we are already part of the community of Christ. We have been gathered by the love of Christ into this special community called the church. 1 Peter 2: 9 – 10 declares, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." Together in the community called church universal we are connected to glorify God and to support and care for each other. Here in this community that extends far beyond the walls of the local church we find strength, spiritual renewal, and a sense of purpose. I take even greater comfort in knowing that this earthly community is a mere reflection of an infinitely greater community called the Kingdom of Heaven where we all will be united in the glorious light of Christ.

So, here's the bottom line to all of this. We are social creatures created by God to be in community. In Christ, God has created a community of love and compassion that will surround and embrace us always no matter where we go in this world, or the next. We will never be alone. God is with us and placed us in a community where our needs are met, our spirit is filled, and which can never be left behind.

That's all for today. I'll see you on Sunday either on Zoom or at in-person worship. Until then be well, stay safe, and 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