

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

February 26, 2025

Follow MCUMC on social media!

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

Weekly Schedules

Liturgist - Our March schedule is...

03/02 – Warren Magruder, 03/09 – Jeri Hayden, 03/16 – Warren Magruder, 03/23 – Sari McLeod, 03/30 – Warren Magruder

Narthex Greeters - Our March schedule is...

03/02 – Deb McMurtrey, 03/09 – Ernie Donaldson, 03/16 – Donna DeLawder, 03/23 – Gail Miller, 03/30 – Jen Harris

Mark your Calendars

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!!! 3rd Annual Pasta Night, Sunday, March 9th, 4-7. Tickets are \$12 for Adults, \$8 for Children 10 & under. To purchase please contact the office by phone or email or by just dropping in during office hours. **Tickets must be purchased by March 2nd.** *We have this deadline in order to get a fairly accurate count for purchasing purposes.* You do not want to miss out on this always **DELICIOUS** event!

Spring Flea Market, Saturday, April 5th, 9-1. Our Fall Flea Market was such a success that we decided to do it again! If you would like to reserve a table, please contact the office. Spaces are \$25, with limited tables available with each space if needed. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Outreach News

The next scheduled Outreach meeting is Monday, March 3rd at 1:30 pm in the church hall. We will be talking about upcoming events and budget items. ***We welcome interested friends. Please join us if you would like to be part of this committee that spreads joy out in our community and beyond.***

Churches helping Churches

Magothy United Methodist Church is having a fundraising night at the Texas Roadhouse on March 2nd, 11am-3pm. Attached is the flyer with all the information. **IMPORTANT,** you must present them with the flyer either printed or on your phone for 10% of your bill to go toward Magothy UMC.

Also, they will have a bake table set up in the restaurant, so save room for dessert!! Let's get in the habit of supporting our brothers and sisters in faith!

An Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike

If you are like me, you carry around with you a few regrets concerning wrongs you may have committed or hurts you may have inflicted, either against God or another person. I hope this word encourages you with the good news that we need not bear these burdens forever. This Encouraging Word is an abridgement of a sermon I delivered on October 6th, 2006.

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death."

- Romans 8: 1 – 2

One talent I used to have, which I'm still able to demonstrate from time to time, is my ability to create pink underwear. I didn't do it on purpose. I was also proficient in creating pink socks, sweatshirts, and dress shirts but my best work was the pink underwear. When I was in college and seminary, I didn't have a lot of time to spend on laundry. When I did a load of washing, I just stuffed everything in at the same time. Unfortunately, occasionally, something red and not colorfast would be included in the same load. The result was pink underwear. I also discovered that no matter what I did I couldn't make the pink underwear white again. Since I wasn't in the habit of wandering around in public wearing just pink underwear this really wasn't a problem. Still, knowing the pink underwear was there underneath seemed somehow unsettling. Of course this isn't a problem for the ladies; but for a guy? Then there was the possibility that I'd be in an accident and somehow the pink underwear would be exposed – mortifying!

So why am I talking about pink underwear? Human sin and brokenness is like pink underwear. No one may know you are wearing the sin but you. Just because no one else knows doesn't mean it's not there. The wearer of the sin knows, and that awareness can be troubling. It can make life sparkle a little less. Not only are you aware of the sin you are wearing, you also know its color. You are thoroughly familiar with the nature of your own sin and brokenness. Even though you are the only one who knows you are wearing that sin, it still hurts. It's hard to wear and it's hard to bear. And just like the dye of that pink underwear, this stain is permanent. There is nothing we can do to take the sin out. We're stuck wearing it and hoping no one else notices. **Sin is like my pink underwear; surprisingly easy to produce, permanent, and worn with shame and regret.**

Sin is a part of who we are. We are each a collection of thoughts and memories. Among those thoughts and memories are sinful and hurtful thoughts and intentions. Within us reside the memories of our sinful acts of commission or omission. It's a part of who we are just as all our other thoughts and memories are part of who we are. There is nothing you or I can do to separate that sin from the rest of the thoughts and memories that make us who we are. We can't wash it out. Our past sins and indiscretions, be they large or small, haunt us. We carry around within us the guilt for things we can't undo, as much as we would like to.

Now hear the words of Romans 8: 1 -2 as I quote them again, this time from Eugene Peterson's "The Message" paraphrase. "With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black

cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death.”

Paul is saying here that the stain of sin upon our lives can be removed along with all the guilt, regret, and remorse that goes with it. Whatever it was that we have done or failed to do can be blotted out, but not by us. The only one that can do that is Christ Jesus. Sure, we can try to cover things up. We can try to hide our sin in a flurry of good deeds and good works. We can change our lifestyles. But all this does is hide the sin that we are still wearing underneath. It’s kind of like putting a coat of paint over ugly graffiti – it only masks what is still there. Jesus is the only one that has the power to remove it completely and, in the words of an old hymn, make us whiter than snow. When we present our entire lives to Jesus, warts, stains, and all, trusting in Jesus’ forgiveness, Jesus will remove them all. They will no longer be a part of who we are. Our sins will no longer define who we are. It will be Jesus who defines who we are.

Next week we will be entering the season of Lent. During the forty days of Lent leading up to Easter we are called to reflect on the nature of our own brokenness and sin. We are called to acknowledge that brokenness to Christ Jesus trusting in His grace. We do this so that we may feel the burden of our sin lifted from us. Unburdened by past regrets we can live fully in the joy and love of Jesus. So I invite you in this holy season of lent to (please excuse the weird metaphor here) strip off the pink underwear of sin and put on Christ!

That’s all for this week. Be well. Be safe. I’ll see you on Sunday. Blessings & Peace – 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