

# Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

March 5, 2025

Follow MCUMC on social media!

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

---

## Weekly Schedules

**Liturgist** - Our March schedule is...

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

**Narthex Greeters** - Our March schedule is...

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

**Faith Hope Circle will meet Thurs. March 6th at 12:30.** All ladies of the church & community are welcome. Bring your lunch; dessert will be provided. If you signed up to bring items for the hygiene kits, please bring them Thursday.

## Mark your Calendars

**THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!!! 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pasta Night, is THIS Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 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. We've extended the deadline! **Tickets must be purchased by TODAY, MARCH 5!** *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! **WE ARE ALSO IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS!! PLEASE CONTACT JEN IN THE OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP.**

**Spring Flea Market, Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## An Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike

"As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness."

- Ezekiel 34:12

Sometimes I think we lose sight of just how precious we are to God; that our lives, our hopes, fears, predicaments, and struggles all matter to God. In Luke chapter 15, Jesus compared God's joy of finding one of his lost ones to the joy of a woman who had ten silver coins but then lost one and who

lit a light and swept her home diligently searching until the coin was found. Jesus said the joy of that woman finding her coin is equal to that of God in finding a lost soul. We are that important!

This teaching of Jesus holds a special place in my heart because I knew that woman. But it wasn't a lost silver coin, it was a lost diamond and the woman was my mother. My mother, brother, sister, and I were out shopping for new school clothes. I was thirteen years old at the time. While my mom was checking out, I went ahead to the car with my brother and sister. We sat in that car for about ten minutes and mom hadn't come out. So, I sent my brother and sister back into the store to see what was taking mom so long. Another ten minutes went by and still no mom, so I went back into the store myself to see what was taking so long. (I wasn't the most patient teenager). Back in the store I found my mom, brother, and sister crawling around on the carpeted floor of the department store. They were obviously looking for something and I could tell that mom was near to tears. So, what had happened?

As mom was checking out, she noticed that the diamond was missing from its setting in her engagement ring. Thinking she had snagged it in some clothes on a rack, they were revisiting every place we had been in the store – on their hands and knees – searching for this tiny diamond. Well, I wasn't the most sensitive teenager either. I was mortified and embarrassed and beat a hasty retreat back to the car fearing I'd get dragged into the search. After a few minutes they all arrived at the car. I was sitting in the front passenger seat and happened to be looking down as mom opened her door. Just as the door opened, I saw the sunlight reflect off a tiny bright object on the floorboard. I reached down for the source of the flash of light and retrieved the diamond. If I had been embarrassed before I now had tremendous reason to be embarrassed. Mom burst into tears of joy and began smothering me with kisses. She was really making a scene. The celebration lasted for what seemed to be an eternity and ended with us all being taken for ice cream. I'll never forget my mom's overwhelming and exuberant response to finding that tiny diamond. Jesus tells us that God's response to finding you and me is just as powerfully joyous – we are that important to God.

It's easy for us to feel somehow small and insignificant against the backdrop of everything that's happening in the world right now. We may even feel at times that we really don't matter in the big scheme of things. But each one of us matters a great deal to God. Jesus' teaching assures us of that. But even more we are assured of mattering to God in the event of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, as we are reminded in John 15:13. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

That's all for today. Be safe, be well, and 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](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**

**4760 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122, 410-255-8887, [mtcarmel21122@gmail.com](mailto:mtcarmel21122@gmail.com)**

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