

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

March 19, 2025

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Weekly Schedules

Liturgist - Our March schedule is...

03/23 – Sari McLeod, 03/30 – Warren Magruder

Narthex Greeters - Our March schedule is...

03/23 – Gail Miller, 03/30 – Jen Harris

The Unified Board will be meeting on Monday, March 17th at 6:30 in the Church Hall.

Mark your Calendars

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. We are also looking for a few volunteers to help us run the Church table. If you are interested, please contact Jen in the office. It would be MUCH APPRECIATED!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

A quick snapshot of services planned for Holy week and Easter:

Holy Thursday & Communion – April 17, 7pm

Good Friday – April 18, 7pm

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service – April 20, 6:15am – Location to be determined

Easter Sunday Celebration Service – April 20, 9:30am

Easter 2025 Memorials

In a time-honored tradition, Mt. Carmel UMC is honoring and remembering our loved ones by offering Easter Lillies for purchase to decorate the church. Or, you may choose to honor or remember your loved one by donating to the **Trustees Fund** or to the **General Fund**. To honor or remember family members or friends in whatever way you choose, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or in the lockbox on the Church office door. Checks should be made payable to Mt. Carmel UMC. **Deadline for Donations is Monday, April 14, 2025. The cost of Flowers is \$15.00. Please see the attached form or pick up a form in the Church Hall.**

Outreach

There is a current need at the food pantry we support in Pasadena. The Food Bank gave them many, many cases of Spaghetti sauce, **but no spaghetti.** Can we get help from our faithful helpers this week? I would love to show up next Monday with enough boxes of **spaghetti** to complete the food bags. Thanks for helping fill this local need.

An Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike

I've been thinking a lot about electricity lately. I'm currently getting our house in Frederick County ready for our occupation in June. However, the ceiling lights in the family room aren't working – and I can't figure out why. It should be a simple circuit, but the previous owner of the house is the one who installed it and he made it unnecessarily complicated. So, I've spent hours with my circuit tester trying to figure out why the lights aren't working. There's a break somewhere in the circuit, I just can't seem to find it.

A light bulb is really a very simple device. For the bulb to work electricity has to flow through it, not just into it. Look at any lamp and you will find two wires connected to the bulb, not just one. When electricity flows from one wire through the bulb to the other wire the bulb will glow. Cut one of the wires and nothing happens. Simply put, one wire takes energy to the bulb and the other takes it away again. Energy will also then leave the bulb in the form of heat and light. Cut or "short" the circuit and nothing will happen (and breakers might trip).

So why this simple tutorial about electricity? Just as electricity has to flow through the bulb for the bulb to light the room around it, so must Jesus' power to love, heal, and transform the world flow through us to shed Christ's light on the world around us. All too often when we consider Christ Jesus, we do so in terms of what Christ Jesus can do for us rather than what Christ Jesus can do through us. We shouldn't be thinking about what's in it for me when it comes to our Christian faith. Rather we should be considering what Jesus can accomplish through us.

The Gospel of Matthew reminds us, *"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

Is the power of Jesus to love, heal, and transform the world around us flowing through us? Or are we living in ways that "short-circuit" that power? As Christians we connect to our Lord through prayer, study, and worship. But to make a positive difference in the world we have to complete the other side of the "circuit" through ministries of service. We connect to the world through ministries that express the love of Jesus and bring healing to our world; acts that reflect Jesus' mission to "bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and set free those who are oppressed." In other words, we are called to live sacrificially, not only soaking up the love of Jesus but living it out in the world.

In this season of Lent we are called to reflect on the sacrificial acts of Jesus as our scripture readings bring us ever closer to the cross. In reflecting we should also consider our own journeys and how we

are bringing the light of Christ into the world. Is Jesus' power of love flowing through us or have we somehow become the short-circuit?

I consider myself to be a fair electrician and I know that with a little application of thought and problem solving I'll get to the route of my wiring problem. During this season of Lent, I intend to consider my connections to Christ and repair any shorts that present themselves. I invite you to join me in this work.

That's all for today. I'll see you on Sunday. Till then take care, be at peace, and stay connected to Jesus and the world where we are called to serve. 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

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Office Hours – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9-2