

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

March 26, 2025

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

Weekly Schedules

Liturgist - Our March schedule is...03/30 – Warren Magruder

Our April schedule is 4/6 – Jeri Hayden, 4/13 – Warren Magruder, 4/20 Sari McLeod, 4/27 – Warren Magruder

Narthex Greeters - Our March schedule is... 03/30 – Jen Harris

Our April schedule is 4/6 – Becky Biship, 4/13 – Deb McMurtrey, 4/20 – Jen Harris, 4/27 – Ernie Donaldson

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 Potluck Breakfast – in between Sunrise and 9:30 services

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.**

Easter Potluck Breakfast is BACK

Join us after the Sunrise Service or before the regular 9:30 service on Easter Sunday for a delicious Potluck Breakfast. There will be muffins, fruit and breakfast casseroles for your enjoyment. Please let us know if you are able to attend. Also, if you would like to contribute food, please let me know.

Local Community Church Events

Cecil Memorial UMC in Annapolis is offering Good Friday Dinners on April 18, 11am – 6pm.

Dinners, Snack Boxes and Sandwiches are all available. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Saturday, April 19, 8am – 11am – Community United Methodist Church in Pasadena is having an All You Can Eat Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. Adults - \$10, Children 2-12 - \$8, and children under 2 are free. Reservations are highly recommended, 410-255-1506 ext 100. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Outreach

For the past 8 years, our church has had the privilege of supporting the local Food Pantry. Your generous donations have made a remarkable difference in the lives of many families in need. As of now, ***the pantry has run out of donated food, and they are in urgent need of pasta.*** Last week, the spaghetti you donated was packed into 48 bags and distributed to area families, alongside plenty of spaghetti sauce. However, there is no more pasta left to accompany the sauce for the next two weeks, until the food pantry can restock from the food bank in mid-April. If you donated pasta last week, please know it was greatly appreciated and made an immediate impact. Now, we're asking for your help once more to keep the pantry supplied during this critical time. Let's come together as a community to ensure no family goes without a meal. Your continued generosity and support mean the world to us and to those we serve. ~ Thank you for your kindness, The Outreach Team

An Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike

"As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?"

- Psalm 41: 1 – 2a

There was a young man who approached a Christian hermit with this request; "show me how I can find God". "How great is this desire of yours?" asked the saintly man. "More than anything in the world", came the reply. The hermit took the young man to the shore of a lake, and they waded into the water until it was up to their necks. Then the holy man put his hand on the other's head and pushed him under the water. The young man struggled desperately, but the hermit did not release him until he was about to drown. When they returned to the shore, the saint asked, "Son, when you were under water, what did you desire more than anything in the world?" He replied without hesitation, "air!". "Well, then, when you desire to find God as much as you just then wanted air, your eyes will be opened to the wonder of God."

What are your greatest desires? What are the desires that give direction to our lives? Admittedly there are many desires that fill our lives. Many of them are trivial and some are less than worthy. Yet these desires direct our lives, and some may lead us to ruin. Nevertheless, desires are an important motivational force in the living of our lives. The Psalm that I quoted in the opening of this message declares what should be our greatest desire, the desire for God's presence in our lives.

Our lives are filled with many needs and desires. Our lives resemble a new house on moving day. Everything needed to make the house a comfortable home is present. The washer, dryer, range and dishwasher are present. The plumbing and heating are ready. The furniture has arrived and boxes of possessions are stacked everywhere. It's moving day chaos. Everything is present except there is no order. All that is needed is the owner to arrive and put everything in place, completing the home with their presence.

Our lives are filled with desires, needs, and priorities stacked here and there in a kind of chaos. But without the owner, God, occupying our heart, ordering and completing our desires, our lives will be incomplete. As we cultivate and pursue our desire for God, through attention to public worship, the reading of scripture, prayer, meditation and service our lives will come together. All unworthy and dangerous desires will be put away and our needs will be met. God will complete our lives in a way that all our other desires never will.

We all have many desires, worthy and unworthy, which are too many to name. I encourage you, no matter what your desires, to put the desire for God above them all. As you do, you will enjoy a level of living that the fulfillment of our other desires can never attain.

That's all for today. I'll see you in church on Sunday, until then care for yourselves and one another. Blessings and 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
4760 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122, 410-255-8887, mtcarmel21122@gmail.com
Office Hours – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9-2