

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

May 7, 2025

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<https://www.facebook.com/mtcarmelumcconnection/> AND <https://www.instagram.com/mcume21122/>

Weekly Schedules

Liturgist - Our May schedule is 5/11 – Warren Magruder, 5/18 – Sari McLeod, 5/25 – Warren Magruder

Narthex Greeters - Our May schedule is 5/11 – Ernie Donaldson, 5/18 – Donna DeLawder, 5/25 – Gail Miller

We will be having a Clean-Up Day on May 17th at 8:30am. Please mark your calendars!! More to come about what to expect from the day. *Stay tuned!*

The Unified Board will be meeting on Monday, May 19th at 6:30 in the church hall.

CHECK IT OUT

Our church hall is being used once a month to host the local Dena Moms group. Take a look at what a fantastic group of moms and kiddos we have enjoying our facilities!



CALL TO ACTION

From Stephanie Donaldson – “My dear sweet Co-Worker Alexis Smith and her family, lost practically everything in a house fire including their sweet doggy Leggo. They will be displaced for at least 6 months to a year. Some of their immediate needs are clothes. Mostly for Alexis and their 2-year-old son Levington.

Alexis wears: Top - Size Medium, Bottoms - Size 4 or 6, Shoes - Size 8 and Levington is a 4T.”

MCUMC would like to start a collection for the young family. If you have anything you could donate, clothes or gift cards for example, please bring them to the church. We will be collecting items in the church office and Narthex. Spread the word to the community. Remember, small donations makes a BIG difference. If you have any questions, please contact Jen in the office.

Outreach

The Food Pantry we support has received spaghetti from the county's food bank. Thanks to everyone who has helped with the pasta project. It made a big difference to area families in need. We are back to asking for boxes of macaroni and cheese. This is among the items the food pantry has to purchase on a weekly basis to round out the grocery bags. I've seen area stores selling their brand for as little as \$.59 per box. Let's help as much as we can during the remainder of April and May. *The mac and cheese drive is on!* Thanks, from Outreach.

An Encouraging Word from Pastor Mike

There is software installed on my computer that I can use to edit my digital photographs. I wish that I knew how to use it. In fact, I have seen others use this software to do amazing things with their photographs, the potential is limitless. As can be expected with powerful software like this, it's complicated. It will take time for me to familiarize myself with the different applications and tools that it offers. It will take time and effort to figure it out and learn how to use it. If I cared to, I could purchase entire books that are devoted to using this program and learn how to get the most out of it. Yet reading them also takes time and effort. I guess that it's a matter of getting out of the software what I put in to learning it. If I really want to release this software's potential to create great gallery quality photographs I am going to have to spend time using it. It's a case of getting out of it what I put into it.

Church membership works in the same way. As Christians and members of a congregation we have tremendous resources available to us for living joyful and fulfilling lives. In fact, the potential for joy and fulfillment offered by the church is limitless. The power of the Holy Spirit encountered in the ministry and fellowship of the church is amazing! But for many of us it is a potential that remains untapped. This is because, all too often, we don't bother to take the time to really get engaged in the church's ministries. We don't put a lot of effort into exploring the opportunities for spiritual growth that it offers.

The more engaged we become in the work of the church, the more we will get out of it. It's as simple as that. If you really want to unleash the potential for joy and fulfillment presented by the ministry of the church, engage in its ministries.

Church is more than attending a worship service on Sunday mornings. Of course, that doesn't hurt and many are sustained by this weekly routine. Yet there is so much more to be found here when we participate in prayer groups, bible studies, mission projects, and the work of the boards and committees that sustain our ministry. When we dive into church membership and engage ourselves in exploring the breadth and depth of what the church has to offer, we will find ourselves growing in ways that are amazing. It's our participation in church that unleashes the potential for good that the church holds for our own lives and the lives of others.

I preached a sermon a few years ago about the difference between being participants engaged in the ministry of the church and being bystanders or observers of the church's ministry. One group is growing, the other probably isn't – at least not the way they could. One group has a stake in the success of the church's ministry, the other group – not so much. One group gets much more out of church, the other comparatively little.

I've met many people who confide in me that they really don't get a lot out of church. I usually respond by asking if they really tried to get anything out of church – did they really get engaged in its work and in its ministry? Did they really explore its potential for their lives? After all, when it comes to church, what you get out of it depends a lot on what you put into it.

I encourage you, if you have not already done so, to get involved in the ministry of the church. Join a bible study when one is offered. Form a prayer group. Volunteer for a ministry. Accept a position on a board or committee when offered. When you do this you can't help but develop a deeper relationship with fellow Christians and a deeper relationship with Christ.

If all the facets of your life were displayed like icons on a computer screen does the icon entitled "church" get a lot of use? Do you even know how to understand and work with the software that is unleashed when you open that icon? Or is "church" something in your life whose potential remains largely untapped? Don't just wish you knew how to use this icon. I invite you to explore the wonderful software for living that God has given us in the church. Explore it, engage in it, learn it, and let "church" open up possibilities in your life that you never imagined!

That's all for today. I'll see you in church on Sunday. Until then take care, be at peace, and care for one another. 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