

Mt. Carmel UMC News and Encouraging Word

May 14, 2025

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Weekly Schedules

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

Narthex Greeters - Our May schedule is 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!! We will be power washing, playground maintenance, and general building maintenance. We will also be cleaning and organizing our sanctuary. All are welcome to come out and pitch in. If you have any questions, please contact me in the office.

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

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

I came across this little gem that I wrote in April 1997 – I think it still applies to our living right now.

The world was not a friendly or safe place for Jesus' disciples following the crucifixion. At best the world was indifferent. It was indifferent to the fear and pain the disciples were experiencing because of Jesus' crucifixion. Even following Jesus' resurrection, the disciples understood that the world was a dangerous place. Jesus' resurrection did not protect them from the physical discomforts and dangers the disciples expected to face. They were still subject to the uncertainty of a frightening, violent, and dangerous world. The events of the cross did not protect Stephen from being stoned to death. Nor did it protect Peter from his crucifixion on an upside down cross. Jesus' death and resurrection did not change the fact that the world was an indifferent and dangerous place. But, it did and does proclaim a God who is not indifferent to human pain and suffering.

Jesus made a promise to the disciples who had to exist in this world and serve in his name. "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live you will live also." (John 14: 18 - 19) This is a promise that no matter how

bleak the world may seem at times, Christ will be with us – comforting us, strengthening us, encouraging us, and assuring us.

We are shaken countless times by many of the things we see taking place in our world. We are reminded time and time again that the world is not necessarily a friendly or safe place. Yet Christ is with us. "And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another counselor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you." (John 14: 16 - 17) It is the risen Christ in us, with us, and working through us that will make the world a friendlier place and much less indifferent to human pain and suffering. We may not be able to stop the craziness or end the danger, but the Spirit of Christ will always help us overcome and get on with living in an uncertain world.

That's all for this week. I'll see you on Sunday. Until then be well, stay safe, and be in prayer 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