

THE SUMMIT

A newsletter for the families and friends of Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church

Dear Mt. Carmel Family and Friends,

January is named for the Roman god Janus who had two faces one looking forward and the other looking backwards. January is a time for looking back and reviewing the year past and also a time for looking ahead at the year (and years) ahead. On Saturday, January 6th from 9am to noon I am inviting anyone and everyone to come to the great room to help us review and evaluate this past year and then look forward and begin to map out where God is leading us in 2024.

One of the things that I have talked with a few people about is to read through the Bible this year. Some people from the church and I have done this in year's past and are inviting others who might be interested to join us in doing it this year. Rather than just plowing through the books of the Bible one at a time, which is the way I did it the first time when I was a freshman in college, we will encourage people to use a plan that includes some readings from the Old and New Testaments each day. The one I like and will be using is found at: [Bible Reading Plans - Old/New Testament - NIV - Today's Reading \(biblegateway.com\)](https://www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans/old-new-testament-niv-todays-reading). I will be reading these in the New International Version (NIV) as I have not read through that version before. You can sign up to the plan and also to have a daily reminder with the readings sent to you.

Along with that on January 1st I will be shifting my daily 5-Minute Bible study on YouTube [PastorJeffChilds - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/PastorJeffChilds) to give me an opportunity to focus on something in one of the readings each day. Those who watch it will be able to add comments and questions which I can then address throughout the day. I pray that 2024 will be the Year of the Bible here at Mt. Carmel.

This year I will be writing a daily devotional each week based on all of the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew.

Have a blessed 2024,
Pastor Jeff

January

January 7 (Communion)
"Dare to Dream"
Genesis 28:10-19

January 14
Human Relations Day
"Discover Your Identity"
Genesis 28:16-22

January 21
"Your Burning Bush"
Exodus 3.1-10

January 28
"Lose Your Big Buts"
Exodus 3.11-14; 4.1, 10-12





Card Shower

Chester Redmond will celebrate his 98th birthday on January 14. His family would like to shower him with cards. You can send your card to Chester at
Chester Redmond
5955 Quinn Orchard Road
Apt. 220
Frederick, MD 21704



Welcome New Members

On Sunday, December 17th we welcomed 8 new members: Dave and Pam Carlson, Jeanie Carter, John Forino, Phyllis Hollibaugh, Jeff Simonsen, and George and Beth Weisgerber, bringing our total number of new members this year to 12. We anticipate that in this new year we will welcome new members each quarter. Please help us spread the word and invite people to come join us.



Christmas Caroling

Four hearty souls braved the rain and went caroling over at the Spring Ridge Apartments where we were joined by three residents as we strolled up and down the corridors singing beloved carols. Members of the choir are planning on going out singing for former choir members in early January.



Blue Christmas

On Wednesday, Dec. 20 we gathered in the sanctuary along with people from the New Market UMC to reflect on how difficult it is during Christmas time for people who have lost loved ones. Comforting scriptures and reflections were shared. Then people were invited to come to the altar railing and light a candle in memory of their loved ones and share a little bit about them. For those in attendance it was a very meaningful service.



HELLO JANUARY



**Join A Bible
Study This
Year!**



Winter Weather Advisory

This winter: don't think twice, take our advice! If you wonder if you should drive to church some snowy Sunday morning the answer is No. Stay home and stay safe. Pastor Jeff will record the 9:30am and the 11am services on Facebook live from home for us. Based on the forecast and the weather conditions of the parking lot, an official determination will be made by 7:30am if the services are canceled. The cancelation will be posted on our website, sent out on the new mobile app by text, and sent by email.

Bible Study of the Gospel of Mark

This semester starting on January 9, 2024 Pastor Jeff will be leading two sessions each week through May studying the Gospel of Mark one chapter a week. Tuesdays at 11am he will lead one in person at the Spring Ridge Apartments. There have been a few people from the larger community coming and joining in with several residents from the apartments for this study. For those who would prefer an evening study there is one at 7pm on Wednesday online on Zoom.

[CLICK HERE](#) to join the meeting by Zoom.

The weekly questions will be available on the church website, in the weekly emails, and in the literature rack in the gathering hall. Come join us this year.

Sunday Morning Adult Study

All interested adults are invited to come join in Sunday morning Bible Study as we begin 2024! After concluding a study of the Trinity and taking a short break for the holidays, both Sunday morning classes will be resuming on Sunday, January 7th.

·Classes meet each Sunday morning in the Mt. Carmel Conference Room.

·Two class times are available: 9:30-10:30am and 11:00am – Noon

·The topic for each class will be determined at the initial meeting on January 7th. ·Classes are led by Sharla Worley—please contact Sharla if you would like more information, sharlaworley@juno.com or text/call 301-514-0306. You may also contact the church office.

·These studies are for ALL. Whether you have never participated in a Bible study or have participated in dozens, we will all be learning! ·All you need to bring is yourself, a heart for learning about God, and a willingness to be in fellowship and community.

Care Team Corner

The Care Ministry Team's annual Christmas "Shovunda" Party, filled with fun and joy, was held at Ann Thompson's warm and cozy home. Thank you, Ann, for hosting this delightful time of fellowship and laughter, and Pastor Jeff for joining us before heading to a meeting! We shared a wonderful Italian dinner, then assembled our Christmas care packages. They included: Christmas tree night lights, wooden Nativity ornaments, fuzzy socks, ChapStick, oranges, Advent Devotionals and Christmas cards and were delivered; many thanks to the Care Team members who generously donated these items! Our final event of the evening was our "Shovunda" gift exchange. The amusing gifts that were unwrapped always bring good hearted humor!

Many thanks to Pastor Jeff, Ann Thompson, Diane Sweeney, Lynn Harden, Terry Granger and Trish Mason for helping to pack the College Care Packages after the November 26th church service. We received lots of positive feedback from those receiving the boxes of goodies!

Looking for something new to get involved with for the New Year? You are welcome to join the Mt. Carmel Care Ministry Team! Plans for 2024 are underway and it is going to be an awesome year for us! Our next meeting is January 11th and is always on the second Thursday of the month. Please contact Terry Granger at 301-514-2379 or at RTJEB@hotmail.com for more information about any of the above happenings. The Care Team sends warm wishes for good health and much happiness to you and yours in the New Year ahead!

Lunch Bunch Dates

January 9 (Tuesday)

Mountain View Diner at 11:30 a.m.

1300 West Patrick Street, Frederick

February 22 (Thursday)

Golden Corral at 11: 30 a.m.

5621 Spectrum Drive, Frederick



Care Team
Christmas Party

Mission News

Christmas Offering

Thank you for your support for Heifer International. We collected \$1245.00 as alternative Christmas gifts and \$1220.00 for the Christmas Eve offering, which had a donation match of 1232.20 and brought the total given by Mt Carmel to \$3697.20.

Beyond that, Heifer International is matching all gifts given this year by four which brings our total gift this year to \$14,788.80.



Monthly Missions

Spring Ridge Elementary School In the fall we started a collection drive for hygiene/household items for families with children who attend there. These items are needed because they are not covered under the SNAP benefits. We will identify the top 3 needs each month. Collections can be dropped in the bin under the coat rack across from the Conference Room.

January Needs: Toilet paper, Hand soap, Trash bags

Linton Homeless Shelter has ongoing needs for things to help as they minister to people at the shelter. Collections can be dropped in the bin under the coat rack across from the Conference Room.

January Needs: soups, hot chocolate, Tea bags, hand/feet warmers



Thank-you From Spring Ridge Elementary School For Jesse Tree Gifts

Dear Friends,

Words cannot express how grateful we are at Spring Ridge Elementary for all the ways you support us throughout the year. Our families are able to access hygiene products through your generosity on a monthly basis, and your members help to ensure that our kids have gifts to open during the holidays. Thank you for thinking of our students and helping to ensure they are able to be at school to learn each day.

With love and gratitude, Debbie Shaw and the Spring Ridge Staff.

Capital Campaign

Thank you to everyone who pledged their support to help pay down the church mortgage through the "Piece of the Pie" Capital Campaign. Over the next three years of the campaign we will ask new people joining the church to support not only the budget but also the paying off of the mortgage. So to date we have \$367,000 pledged plus \$30,000 pledged this year in the budget, and an anticipated \$200,000 in payments from the Hope Preschool totaling just under \$600,000. The Finance Team anticipates paying off \$100,000 or more in early 2024 which should bring down the mortgage interest payment allowing us to pay off the loan a little sooner.

Robotic Team And Lego Fundraiser Thank-you!!

Thank you to Tao Tao, his parents Routing Yang and Xiaonao Liu, and his robotics team for hosting a fun demonstration and Lego fundraiser on December 10. Everyone had fun learning about the team and the fundraiser raised \$1190 to the Building Fund. Thank you to Tao-Tao and his team!

Mi-Mi And Me Coat Drive Thank-You!!

A big thank you from KJ Stine for all the coats donated for his coat drive in honor of his Mi-Mi! Kenny collected and washed over 200 coats. Below are some pictures of KJ delivering the coats.



THANK YOU

JANUARY

Children's Ministry

Children's ministry had a meaningful advent season, including being involved with different missions, fun activities & of course a celebration! We look forward to a new year and discussing our reflection of 2023 and our vision for 2024. Wishing you all peace, comfort and blessings this Christmas season. Michele Stine



January Sunday School

January Sunday School topic we will stick with tradition and discuss our vision of 2024. We will continue with the books of the Bible along with church service related lessons.

Let your
Light
Shine



For more information about the Children's Ministry program or volunteering at Mt. Carmel contact Michele Stine. Michele.Stine@hopemtcarmel.org

Worship with Us Each Sunday

Sunday Services:

8:15am Peaceful Chapel Service: Begin your Sunday with a peaceful time of worship. Communion, prayer, scripture, and message weekly!

9:30am: Join us in the sanctuary for a traditional service.

Adult, Children, Youth Sunday school and Nursery

11am: Join us in the second-floor Great Room for a contemporary service with our Praise Team.

Adult Sunday school, Children's Church and Nursery

Facebook Live and YouTube

You can view the 9:30am and 11am services on our Mt Carmel Facebook and YouTube pages each Sunday.

Join Our Sunday Services By Zoom:

Each week we will provide Zoom links to both our 9:30am and 11am services for those who are not feeling well or prefer to continue to worship online. Zoom links are available in our Thursday and Sunday church emails. If you do not get our emails, contact the church office at 301-662-1303.

Giving Instructions:

Sunday:

Place your offering in the collection plate.

Your Bank:

You can schedule monthly gifts straight from your bank; this is a secure, no-fee option.

Vanco:

This provides another secure online option. Follow the link on the church website (www.hopemtcarmel.org) to donate through the secure Vanco site.

GivePlus+ App:

Download the free GivePlus+ mobile app and search Mt Carmel UMC. Log in or donate as a guest.

Mail your offering directly to Mt. Carmel:
Mt.Carmel UMC, 9411 Baltimore Road, Frederick, MD 21704



REV. JEFF CHILDS
revchilds@outlook.com
315-729-4464

CHURCH OFFICE
301-662-1303
Donna Clawson (Church Administrator)
(Cell) 301-418-0863
Donna.clawson@hopemtcarmel.org

CHURCH WEBSITE:
www.hopemtcarmel.org