



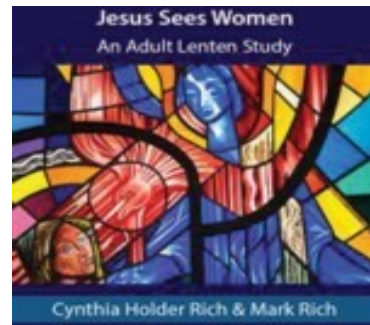
Join us for Palm Sunday Worship
Sunday, March 28th at 10:00 AM

Live Stream Available:
 Carmel's YouTube Page
 or
 Dial-In to Carmel's Worship Zoom number

INSIDE this Issue

- Palm Sunday Weekend Event..... 2
- Lenten Devotionals.....2
- Directories..... 2
- Deacons..... 2
- Pastor's Note..... 3
- Lectionary..... 3
- Session..... 4
- Volunteers Needed.....4
- Happy Birthday..... 4
- Happy Anniversary..... 4
- Special Dates..... 4
- Thank You's..... 5
- One Great Hour of Sharing.....5

Sunday Adult Education Lenten Study



“JESUS SEES WOMEN”

February 21 through March 28 for 6 weeks
Sundays, 9:00 AM—9:45 AM via Zoom

Examine the Gospel stories about Jesus’ interactions with women to shed light on how we are called to be disciples of Jesus in our own time. Jesus talked to, befriended, ate and celebrated with, and healed women. He was revolutionarily different than others in his society in the way he saw women.

This class is for both men and women. It will be taught by members of the congregation and the pastors. A participant’s guide will be provided weekly, which you are encouraged to read in advance, and there will be opportunities for discussion.

The ZOOM link will come with your Sunday worship materials on Fridays.

February 28: The woman who stole her healing,
 Mark 5:24-34
 Shame and honor; Jesus and death

March 7: The woman who claimed her place,
 Mark 7:24-34
 A mother on a mission

March 14: The woman who had 5 husbands,
 John 4:1-42
 Hate and conflict; Living water

March 21: The woman who saw and anointed Jesus,
 Mark 14:3-9
 The female prophet unlike any other

March 28: The woman who was set free on the sabbath,
 Mark 13:10-17
 Bondage and freedom; Remember the Sabbath



Give Us This Day.

Congregational Life is hosting a **Palm Sunday Weekend Drive-By Event. On Saturday, March 27th 1pm-3pm** swing by Carmel's kitchen door (we expect the whole parking lot to smell amazing) and pick up a loaf of Cinnamon or Cinnamon Raisin Bread.

There's so much we've had to put on hold, figure out how to do differently, even give up entirely as a result of the pandemic. Pastor Eby's Easter Bread is such a beautiful tradition here at Carmel, we'd like to give everyone a chance to enjoy a loaf this year. The idea of our congregation 'breaking bread together' during Holy Week is truly comforting.

Please email Melissa Deacon mdeacon782@comcast.net to reserve yours. Wit or witout (raisins, that is)

'Lord, we know that we find you and each other at the table, so please make us hungry for larger tables. Even in times of social distance, show us how our daily bread can bring us together.'

Lenten Devotionals

We have begun the 40 days of Lent!! We have two wonderful resources to help you and your family prepare for your own Lenten journey. Christian Ed is providing two devotionals - a family-friendly coloring guide "*Reflections of the Heart*" from Illustrated Ministry, and a beautiful adult guide from A Sanctified Art. Contact Pastor Ashley or the Church office to pick up your copies or request a drop-off.



Church Directories Now Available



Carmel's 2021 Directory is now available in the Church Office. Please call Mary Kate at 215-887-1074 to make pick-up arrangements.



Hello from the Board of Deacons! We hope you are staying warm and safe during the winter weather - Brrr!

First off we are excited and blessed to welcome Jeanne Simon to the Board of Deacons, hailing from Washington D.C.! Having a remote Deacon is a new step and we truly look forward to serving with you!

CALLING ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS! Please reach out to the Deacons (ampm611@gmail.com) for a special treat! Just let us know your name, email, and mailing information... goodies to follow!

We are still looking for registrants for the below programs- please reach out if you have any interest!

MEALTIME LOVE — Are you a Carmel family with school-age children? Would you like a prepared family meal? Our Deacons are here for you! Email Joyce Kornfeld jkkornfeld@comcast.net and say 'yes'. Also include any family food allergies and a preferred night of the week.

CARMEL BUDDIES— Hi Carmel Seniors! Are you spending a lot of time at home and missing your human connections? Deacons would like to connect you with our youth through a new pen pal program. We'll even supply the note cards and stamps. Want to join us? Email Joyce Kornfeld jkkornfeld@comcast.net (or call 215-884-9314) with your name, address and your top 3 interests.

As always, if you are in need of Deacon support or are interested in becoming a deacon, please reach out to me ampm611@gmail.com or Pastor Ashley at pastorash80@gmail.com.

God Bless! — Abigail Clayton

From the Transitional Pastor's Study

This Lent—Receive God's Good Grace, Compassionate Love and Renewing

Dear Friends!

While February is only 28 days long, with all February's snowstorms, it sometimes feels like it lasts six weeks. Similarly, while the **Season of Lent** is only 40 days long (remember, Sundays aren't included because the **Lord's Day** is always a Witness to the Resurrection), there are times when I'm sure Lent is at least 10 weeks long!

As this newsletter arrives—whether by snail mail or via the web—we will have already experienced Lent for several weeks. Say part of your **Lenten Discipline** is fasting; I can imagine it might be rather trying right now. Or, if you gave up chocolate or swearing, perhaps you're becoming irritable missing your daily fix of cocoa solids or by the money you're putting in the cuss-jar each time you didn't catch yourself! Maybe you've enhanced your daily spiritual practices, following the **Carmel Lent Study** brochure (don't have one, message the Church Office) or your own discipline of daily scripture reading and reflection or setting aside five minutes at the beginning and/or end of each day for special prayers, and the earlier enthusiasm is running low.

It doesn't really matter which it is. When your Lenten ardor begins to drag, what does **matter** at that time is to remember **why** we observe Lent in the first place. Lent is a church season of **self-reflective meditation**—a time of **repentance**. We examine **how** we have been living. We consider our discipleship. In the cold, quiet days and



long nights of winter, I always like to say we have the opportunity to take “a **breather**” from our busy-ness that can often prevent us from self-reflection and purposeful action. We take time to remember what **discipleship** is—how we live into and live out our life as followers of Jesus.

Lent is God's time given to us to **assess** how we're doing. Hopefully, this Lent we are motivated; our faith is strengthened; and we grow closer as God's family. As we anticipate Holy Week and the journey to the cross, let us remember **the cross has two beams**: one goes up to **receive God's good grace** and the other goes out to **share God's compassionate love**. This Lenten time is your and my opportunity to **receive God's renewing power**.

So, as we continue now the second half of the Season of Lent and we become more and more anxious for Easter's arrival, let us take a minute—take ten minutes—and think about what it **means** to follow Jesus. In that discovery, let us find renewal. Let us prepare ourselves to hear the Easter Good News of the Gospel: “He is risen! He is risen indeed!” Because there's a week coming when we will be invited to follow him right to the foot of the cross.

Will our disciplines have equipped us?

Grace and peace,

Pastor Peter

Lectionary



March 7, 2021:

Exodus 10:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22



March 14, 2021:

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107
1 Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21



March 21, 2021:

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51 *or* Psalm 119
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33



March 28, 2021:

Palms: Mark 11:1-11 *or*
John 12:2-16
Psalm 118
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31
Philippians 2:5-11



Session Notes

The following items were among the reports and business conducted during the Regular Meeting of the Session in February:

The Nursery School Advisory Board for 2021 were approved and are Katey Schuyler, Chair; Jan Heckman, Christian Education Committee representative; Julia Lohoefer Kozak, Congregation member; and Karen Bogle, Property Committee liaison.

Session agreed to continue the suspension of worship in the Sanctuary up through March 14, 2021, which is when Session will meet again. The reopening of the Sanctuary to the congregation for Sunday worship continues to be a top priority of Session. The Church Reopening Task Force is working on the process, procedures and training needed to open the Sanctuary to the congregation for Sunday worship taking into careful consideration the availability of the vaccine, the current percentage rate of COVID cases in the State of Pennsylvania, the health safety of the congregation and, the health safety of the church staff that need to be present on Sundays for worship.

Session approved the use of the sanctuary for the confirmation of Jillian Morton and Audrey Abraham on Sunday March 7, 2021. Also approved is the baptism of Audrey Abraham on the same date.

The Reading of 2019 Session Minutes and The Church Record Book was completed by the Philadelphia Presbytery and approved without exception.

At the request of Reverend Sulyok, a Session Retreat was scheduled for February 20 to be held via video conference.

Carmel received \$10,000 from the Roger Post Estate and Session agreed to place the funds into two accounts. \$5,000 is going to Trust Fund A and \$5,000 will be placed in a special projects account for future use.

A few members of Session were honored and proud to attend the January Presbytery Meeting to witness the installation of Reverend Rossi as the Moderator of Presbytery for 2021.

— *Nancy Pinkowicz, Clerk of Session*

Volunteers Needed!



LIVE STREAMING: We need your help live-streaming Sunday morning worship! We currently only have two volunteers who facilitate the livestream every week. We will be happy to train! Please contact Gary Moll at 215-264-0221 or e-mail garymoll@yahoo.com

— *Gary Moll*

SHEPHERDS: To all members who enjoy involvement with our service and flower delivery, we need two more persons for Class of 2023. Fun arranging the flowers and giving to deserving members who need a pick-me-up or work hard for our church. When we open up with in-person service, we will help organize the elements. Please consider joining this board. Thank you.

— *Melissa Keller and Beth Cherry, Co-Chairs*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to **Nancy Phifer**, who will turn 94 on March 21st!




March

Special dates

- World Day of Prayer, *March 5, 2021*
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, *March 14, 2021*
- St. Patrick's Day, *March 17, 2021*
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2021*
- Holy Week, *March 28 – April 4, 2021*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 28, 2021*

Happy Anniversary

To **George and Peggy Ann Beck**, who will celebrate their 52nd Anniversary on March 22nd!





Thank You's

Dear Carmel,

We would like to thank everyone involved in our "Comfort and Joy" lunch. The food was delicious and we loved everything! Thanks also to Nancy O'Brien for delivering it to us.

It's so nice to be part of this church.

Fondly,
June and Bill Garrett

Dear Carmel Family,

Thank you so much for the many cards and letters you all sent after the death of Patrick's mother, Catherine Deacon. We were so touched by your kindness. The Molls arrived with a beautiful meal that kept us fed for days; Mary Ellen brought a beautiful arrangement from the church; former Pastor Jim Thornton led a service we'll treasure always; and Abby Palmisano helped me in a wonderful musical way.

We're so grateful for our Carmel family!

Sincerely,
Melissa Deacon

Dear Carmel,

Just a little note to thank you for the Valentine gift that Linda MacFarland dropped off. The cheesecake cupcake was delicious. I also have to confess that cheesecake is my favorite!

Thank you again,
Gwen Posante



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and the Self-Development of People (SDOP) - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, **OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.**

PHP reminds us that caring for creation means, besides teaching how to produce healthy food, caring for the environment is essential. PHP planted 51,000 trees across multiple countries. Presbyterians purchased more than 63,000 pounds of fair-trade coffee and 1,097 congregations (Carmel is one of them) purchased eco-palms for sustainable forestry and livelihoods.

PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church. It cares for communities affected by crisis and catastrophic events. In 2020 \$2.5 million was for COVID-19 response in the US and 57 countries.

Through **SDOP** people in economically poor communities have opportunities to develop solutions to their own challenges. When we have reopened for services, there will be brochures and special OGHS envelopes on the table by the order of service. Please take one of each. Donations can be made in the same manner as you give your weekly gift. Be sure to include your envelope number. You will be one of the "repairers of the breach" (Isaiah 58). Dedication of the OGHS collection will be Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021. —*Anne Newman*

