



“Follow Jesus” Sunday Morning Adult Education Class

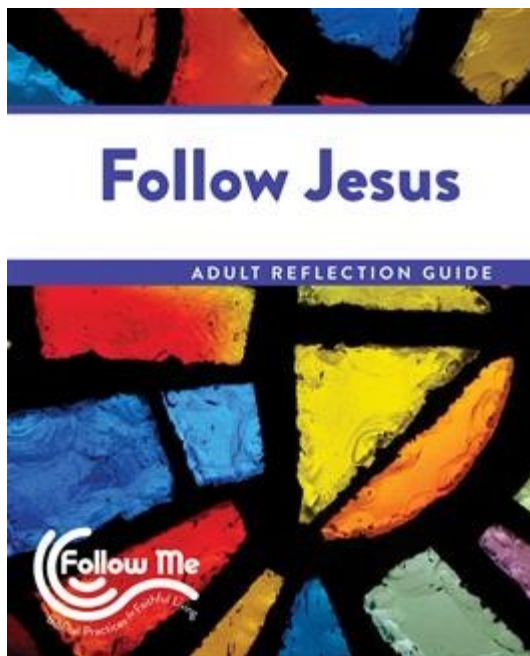
“Follow Jesus” is the new Sunday morning adult education class, beginning October 31 and running through November 21. The four-week class meets from 9:00-9:45 in the Fellowship Lounge and is led by Pastor Peter Sulyok.

What does it mean when we choose to follow Jesus with every decision we make? We can learn how following Jesus translates to loving God and neighbor and bearing witness to God’s love and justice in our everyday world.

The Adult Reflection Guide for the course is available in the church office. It includes the foundational essay, which dives even deeper into the biblical scholarship of each practice.

This is the second four-week study this fall as part of the *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living* curriculum recently published by PC-USA. The weekly topics are Accept Jesus’ Invitation, Follow Jesus in Community, See Through the Lens of Love, and Teach Others to Follow Jesus. All are welcome.

--Janet Simon, Christian Education Chair



From the Director of Music

You are invited to come sing for Christmas!



Festival Choir

A Festival Choir for the Christmas season will begin rehearsing on Thursday, November 18, at 7:30 PM. This choir will be preparing for the annual Candlelight Carol Service on Sunday evening, December 12 and the 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service.

The choir is made up of youth and adults from the Carmel choirs and members and friends of the congregation who enjoy singing but who cannot commit to weekly rehearsals year round.

Come and sing for this special festive Christmas season. Rehearsals will be on Thursday, November 18, and December 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 7:30 PM in the church sanctuary. We hope you can join us! Please tell Abby you are coming so a folder of music will be ready for you!

—Abby Palmisano

ROAM is Back!

A new and streamlined ROAM met for lunch and a chat on October 20th in Carmel Hall. We hope you were able to join us.

We will meet again in November and December, so mark your calendars for:

- Wednesday, November 17th, at 12:30 in Carmel Hall
- Wednesday, December 15th, at 12:30 in Carmel Hall

Under the circumstances (Covid is still around), we thought a bring-your-own-lunch get-together would be the best way to start. We have no plans for a program, just chatting, reconnecting, and catching up. Coffee and juice will be provided. Plan on a once-a-month lunch in November and December and we’ll see how it works.

Hope to see you there! Please remember your masks.

—Lynne Schutt

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Session Notes

The following items were among the activities, reports and business conducted over the month and during the Regular Meeting of the Session in October.

With thankfulness Carmel received a \$5,000 bequest, with no specific designation, from the Estate of Sally Hanline.

The Transitional Ministry Mission Team has been meeting regularly reviewing notes from the Vital Congregation zoom meetings. These notes along with the result of the Vital Congregational Survey that took place on October 17th will be used to write Carmel's Mission Study Report that will guide the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) in the search for a new Senior Pastor. Session assigned the Transitional Ministry Team with developing a list of seven candidates and seven alternative candidates to be called to serve on the PNC. The PNC will be a diverse representation of the congregation to include age, gender, race, role within the church and parent of current youth. The candidate list will be presented to Session for review and approval and then Session members will be responsible for contacting the candidates inviting them to be on the PNC. Once the list of PNC members is finalized they will go before the congregation for election.

The Congregational Life Committee received Session's approval for an Advent Celebration during the Sundays in Advent (November 28, December 5, 12 and 19). Each Sunday will be an after-church drive by event focusing on the Advent themes of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Each will also have a mission related theme. Again this year we will have themed Christmas trees to decorate and a 'giveaway' for attendees. The celebration will end on Wednesday, December 22 with a Refuge Reunion inviting members from previous years to attend.

The Property Committee continues to work diligently in maintaining our grounds and buildings. In October, with Session's approval a repair was made to correct a leak in the apartment roof.

Session approved to remove Laura Wiater from church membership roll, at her request

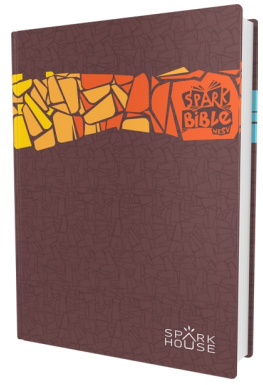
The Deacons received Session's blessing to contribute \$1000 to the ALS walk /the Absolutely Living Strong team, captained by Kelly Rose, in honor of Carmel's former Deacon, Wes Rose.

Finally, Session looks forward to welcoming Pastor Peter's daughter, Lydia to present, at an upcoming Sunday worship service, a "Minute for Mission" on Manna an organization that she is actively serving.

—Nancy Pinkowicz, Clerk of Session

Bibles Received

Three children of our church family received their own Bibles from Carmel last month. This year's recipients are Jocelyn Agbadan, Sonny Rossi, and Max Stein.



Children in third grade and up who participate in the church's education, worship, Refuge youth, or choir programs are eligible to receive their own Bibles for reading at home and with their parents. The version chosen for them is the Spark New Revised Standard Bible, a readable and interesting version of the entire Bible designed for youth.

Congratulations to this year's proud Bible recipients on this part of their faith journey and education.

--Janet Simon

From the Property Committee

An Interesting Piece of Carmel History

For many years, there has been a beautiful oil painting gracing one of the walls in the Lounge, a soft, tranquil beach scene. It was donated many years ago by member Janet Schuyler, her sisters, and their families in memory of their mother, Lillian Mae Graham, who passed in 1966 at the age of 87. Lillian lived in Glenside, raised her family here and attended Carmel. In her later years, Lillian took an interest in painting and took art lessons. Because of her interest in painting, Lillian's family chose to honor her by purchasing the painting and donating it to Carmel. Today it hangs in the lobby above the sofa, where it can be enjoyed by all who enter.



PennDOT bridge news

PennDOT will be having a formal ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the bridge at the corner on November 5th at 11:00. The ceremony will be in our main parking lot. Attendees will be PennDOT officials and representatives from both Abington and Cheltenham Townships. This has been a long time in the works. Carmel first got formal notice of the work in May, 2016!

PS please don't park in the lot between 9-1 that day. —Lynne Schutt



A Note From Transitional Pastor Peter... *Abundant Generosity Transforms the Heart for Service*

Dear Friends!

The month of November begins with **All Saints' Day** and closes with the **Day of Thanksgiving** soon to slide into the beginning of **Advent**. **All Saints Day** is a day we remember with thanksgiving those before us (and now!) who served (and serve) God faithfully, who inspired (and inspire) our faith and witness, who strengthened (and strengthen) our church family, and who now rest (work with God) with God in heaven (in creation).

What makes someone a saint? And are saints Presbyterian? Why do we observe All Saints' Day? I am grateful to **Frederick Buechner** and his description. He says:

In his holy flirtation with the world, God occasionally drops a pocket handkerchief. These handkerchiefs are called saints.

Many people think of saints as plaster saints, men and women of such paralyzing virtue that they never thought a nasty thought or did an evil deed their whole lives long. As far as I know, real saints never even come close to characterizing themselves that way. On the contrary, no less a saint than Saint Paul wrote to Timothy, "I am foremost among sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15), and Jesus himself prayed to God to forgive him his trespasses, and when the rich young man addressed him as "good Teacher," answered, "No one is good but God alone" (Mark 10:18).

In other words, the feet of saints are as much of clay as everybody else's, and their sainthood consists less of what they have done than of what God has for some reason chosen to do through them. When you consider that Saint Mary Magdalene was possessed by seven devils, that Saint Augustine prayed, "Give me chastity and continence, but not now," that Saint Francis started out as a high-living young dude in downtown Assisi, and that Saint Simeon Stylites spent years on top of a sixty-foot pillar, you figure that maybe there's nobody God can't use as a means of grace, including even ourselves.

The Holy Spirit has been called "the Lord, the giver of life" and, drawing their power from that source, saints are essentially life-givers. To be with them is to become more alive. (Originally published in *Wishful Thinking* and later in *Beyond Words*)



You will be enriched
in every way to be
generous in every way,
which through us will
produce thanksgiving
to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

Presbyterians observe All Saints' Day because **we treat each one of us as a saint**—a "life-giver"—someone God can and does work through to bring about God's justice, peace and love in our lives and in creation.

And the **saints here at Carmel** have been busy this fall, as **we strive to re-emerge from the disruption** we've experienced with the emergence of the Delta Covid variant!

September brought us the excitement of **new beginnings**—the start of groups, choirs, classes, programs, ministries and among them—Carmel Nursery School. We support parents with young children who make decisions regarding good safety for their children and youth: in the Nursery Room, Children's Church, Carmel Hall, the Game Room and the Loft—and zooming. Yet, we also feel that bit of a lingering melancholy with the official end of the slower days of summer. These **"beginnings" continued into October** as we have welcomed more folks at **in-person worship** as well as continuing to welcome those who **live-stream** with us from near and afar!!! We have the crisper days (and, of course, some rainier days as well); the turning of the leaves and their wonderful smell on the ground; the harvest of pumpkins and multi-colored gourds. We enjoy sitting by a fire and being warmed by hearty soup—and also sharing a meal around parking lot tables and bag-lunching it in Carmel Hall. It's also the start of a season when, hopefully, we feel wrapped—as in a soft, warm blanket—in a bounty of blessings. The harvest time is a time to be grateful and to offer thanks.

As we think about gratitude and giving thanks to God in this season, it is good that our thoughts also turn to our response to **God's abundant grace** and to how we will **embrace a lifestyle of generosity**. Perhaps you are just waiting for me to say it—yes, we are coming to the annual season of the

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stewardship campaign—again, one that faces the challenge of a time of Covid. Our **Transitional Ministry Team** is working through the seven marks of vital congregations, based on our study discussions and sermon series of the same name. The **U. S. Congregational Vitality Survey** taken at the end of October will offer a “portrait” of how many of us see our vital ministries here at Carmel. We look forward to sharing the learnings with you.

I am finding myself to be more and more energized by the **challenge** of “growing” or “transforming” ourselves and Carmel as **we live into these seven vital marks**, even as we make steps to formalize the **Mission Study** (for Session and the Presbytery Commission On Ministry approval) and as a congregation elect the **Pastor Nominating Committee** to begin the search for our new senior pastor.

November’s annual stewardship theme reminds all of us we are **stewards of the life and ministry God continues to give us**. Our journey leads us out of a mentality that focuses inward on survival—in the midst of Covid and societal disruptions—into a life that springs forth joyfully from a foundation of grace and faithfulness.

Carmel—you are a faithful and amazing congregation. We have accomplished much this year and now look forward with energy and joy to the year ahead—the search for the new pastor and the future beginnings with a new pastor, continued fellowship, and growing faith.

May we enter into our strong future in ministry and mission with the words of a Thanksgiving Prayer:

Holy God: we thank you for the blessings in our lives. We are so grateful for shelter, food, and the continuity of a faith community in a time of disruptions. We cannot pretend that this year is like every other year. We have worries and anxiety as we deal with a virus that continues to invade the peace and comfort of our lives and life together. Move us to care for each as we wear the mask, check in with cards, text messages, and phone conversations, and trust that good days are still ahead and you offer us the energy and skills to adapt and bring them on. Help us to use our experiences this year to grow our compassion and love for those whose life experience has been very different than our own. We pray as followers of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

As we **begin** November and as we move into Thanksgiving at November’s **end**, let us offer God thanks for the saints—those who have passed as well as those living—both of whom who **continue to inspire our faith**. I continue to give thanks for Carmel’s community of faith—for the sense of abundant life and ministry in this place.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Peter



Happy Autumn to you all! The Deacons hope everyone is well, and enjoying the change from the busy, hot summer into the crisp and crinkly fall.

If you are a family with school-aged children, please reach out! We are making and freezing meals that you can pick up or have dropped off, and can reheat on a night when you need a break!

The Deacons are grateful to have the opportunity to donate to the 2021 ALS Walk’s Absolutely Living Strong team, captained by Kelly Rose, in honor of our former Deacon and Moderator, Wes Rose.



Please reach out to us if there are any projects or causes for which you would like assistance from the Deacons, we are here to help!

Ongoing projects:

Ashley and Karen Bogle continue to make visitations to provide communion to those who can't make it to church.

If you are contemplating any spring cleaning, we ask that you remember the **Inter-Faith Food Cupboard** (located just inside the lobby). Please check for the current most needed items on the Inter-Faith Food Cupboard website at: <https://www.ifha.org/what-we-do/food-cupboard/>

Carol has kindly and deliciously provided many meals to members over the summer. If you could use a home cooked meal, don't forget **Meals in a Moment!** Carmel members, please reach out to Carol Moll (clmoll@yahoo.com) to request a meal.

As always, if you are in need of Deacon support or are interested in becoming a deacon (it's the bee's knees!), please reach out to me ampmp611@gmail.com or Pastor Ashley at pastorash80@gmail.com.

God Bless!

—Abigail Clayton



Congratulations

To:

Maria Santangelo, who has accepted a position with the Mayo Clinic as an Occupational Therapist.

and

Jennifer McKee, who graduated from Holy Family University on October 22nd with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She received the award for care and compassion.

Maria and Jen are the daughters of Beth and John Santangelo, and the granddaughters of Pat and Gene Morris.

Stewardship

Thank you for giving over \$500 to the Peace & Global Witness special offering. Over \$125 will be sent to Mothers in Charge, a group that is active in preventing violence and supporting those who have been victims of violence in the Philadelphia area.

This month all of us will be asked to carefully and prayerfully consider our estimate of giving to Carmel for 2022. Further information is still in the developmental stage. The estimated total will help the Stewardship Committee as it forms the plan for all that Carmel contributes to God's work inside our building, for missions, and in the surrounding community.

—Anne Newman



We need your help live-streaming Sunday morning worship! We only have a few volunteers who facilitate the livestream every week, and we need more! We will be happy to train! It is not difficult. Please contact Gary Moll at 215-264-0221 or e-mail garylmoll@yahoo.com

Letters to Carmel



Thank you so very much for the beautiful altar flowers delivered so kindly and graciously by Margie. They have brightened our home for the past two weeks as Jim continues to struggle from lack of energy due to arrhythmia problems these last several months.

~Jim and Barbara Thompson



Thank you for keeping my daughter, Tabatha Longstreth, in your prayers for 24 years. I hope you will continue to do so as she has struggled with brain surgery twice, and has made it through the latest on October 11th. Also, many thanks for the card signed by so many for my knee surgery, and the lovely flowers delivered by the shepherds who I missed by minutes. I don't know who came, but thank you!

~Margery Armstrong Reith



Louise and I wish to thank Nicole Bohlander for our visit and all the goodies. The soup was outstanding; you have me beat in taste! Brownies were scrumptious, and candy, too! We always enjoy talking with Nicole, our fellow choir member! What an asset to the Deacons and Carmel Presbyterian Church.

~Beth Cherry and Louise Robinson



I wish to thank my friend and fellow member of Carmel, Lynne, for helping me when Louise came home from the hospital. What a relief to know someone was visiting her while I shopped. Lynne, you are the greatest!

~Beth Cherry



Many, many thanks to all of you for your care and concern. For flowers, cards, phone calls, visits, meals, rides to and from appointments, letters, and, most of all, your kind thoughts and prayers. I am blessed to have such a wonderful church family. Thanks again to everyone for all you've done for me. Hope to be back among you soon. Miss you!

~Ruth Kucera



As members of the choir, we are happy to see more people attending services each week. We are glad to be able to share and grow in our faith on a regular basis. It is amazing to see how much a few of us can accomplish by working together. Imagine how much more we could do if there were more of us working in person. As was shared in a recent article in *Voice of the Redeemer*, being together again is a vivid reminder of the joy of being a part of this community...it is the presence of members that makes the worship powerful. We proved that when we all joined in singing "Praise the Lord" on Survey Sunday. The Sanctuary came alive again! We grow by attending and participating in worship services, Bible studies, and other Carmel activities. We miss seeing your (masked) faces and greeting you in person.

~Deb Gates and Anne Newman



November Carmel Nursery School News



November, 2021

A Time to Give Thanks

Thanksgiving Feast

On Wednesday, November 24th we will be celebrating our "Nursery School Family" and giving thanks. We will have our own Thanksgiving Feast the nursery school way. Each class donates special food and drink to be shared by all. The children all make and wear a costume befitting the holiday and sing

songs together and then it's time to EAT! The children will have parties in Carmel Hall . See your child's teacher for dates and items needed.



Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Claire's Gourmet sale. We appreciate your time, effort and support!



Happy Thanksgiving from Carmel Nursery School!

Sign up for the all-school REMIND
All you have to do is text @carmelnur to the number 81010

November Dates to Remember

- **Nov2- School Closed**
- **Nov.17 -Pick up Claire's gourmet orders**
- **Nov. 25 and 26** School is closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

December Dates to Remember

- **Dec. 17-** Holiday Parties
- **Dec.20-Jan.2-** School closed
- **Jan. 3-** classes resume
- **Jan 17-** School closed

REMINDERS!

Make sure to update your child's extra clothes for the season!

Have you paid your activity fee?



Wish list

Looking ahead to the Christmas holiday we are looking for some holiday items.

Santa hats (50 all the same from somewhere like Dollar General)

Christmas stockings(50 all the same from

somewhere like Dollar General)

Dollar store gift certificates to get small holiday items for seasonal activities.

Thank you for all of your support!



Please notice the STOP sign and cross walk in the back parking lot. This does not mean stop if someone is there it means stop all the time! Hopefully it will slow down all of the thru traffic as well.

Lectionary for November, 2021

November 7, 2021—All Saints' Sunday

1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

November 14, 2021

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

November 21, 2021—Christ the King

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm 93

Revelations 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

November 28, 2021—First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36



Please keep the following Carmel members in your prayers as they continue to heal:

**Ruth Kucera
Gwen Posante
Louise Robinson
Georg Simon**

IN MEMORIAM

Joyce Young joined the church triumphant on October 10. Joyce was a recent Carmel member, transferring from Roslyn Presbyterian, where she had been a long-time active member. Joyce had a long and successful career with Strawbridge and Clothier. Although dealing with significant health problems, Joyce continued to participate in Carmel virtual worship and Bible study. She always said that she had been blessed and wrote thank you notes to others who sent her cards. She is survived by a brother, sister, and several loved nieces and nephews. We give thanks for the life and love of this good and faithful servant!

Shepherds

The sheep are all herded back in their pens for the fall and winter. We are busy spreading the straw for the winter, helping out where we can for the head "SHEPHERD." We are wondering where is the flock, also the baby lambs? Our church is large and can handle all who come! We miss you all and have taken many precautions to keep you safe. Come and join us in our beautiful, peaceful sanctuary, we are waiting...

—Beth Cherry and Melissa Keller



Sunday, November 7, is All Saints' Sunday. Carmel will have a special remembrance during the worship service of those who have joined the church triumphant since the All Saints' observance a year ago. On this Sunday, we remember and honor the Christian faithful, both those throughout the church's history and those of our congregation who have died within the past year.

During the All Saints' Day worship service, each one of us can recall the loved ones, friends, and mentors now living in heaven whose faith in Christ inspired us and gave us joy. On this special day we glorify God for the faithfulness of the saints, and for the Lord's faithfulness to the saints.

Earl Rotenbury
Jean Oberholtzer
George Beck
Sally Hanline
June Thomas
Joyce Young

December 23, 2020
February 28, 2021
May 10, 2021
May 18, 2021
August 2, 2021
October 10, 2021

From the Director of Music

Rejoice in the Lord always!

Carmel's church choirs are open to all Carmel members and non-members. Your friends are welcome to join too.

The Children's Choir, for Grades K-2, rehearses every Wednesday from 5:00 PM to 5:40 PM.

The Junior Choir, for Grades 3-8, rehearses every Wednesday from 5:45 PM to 6:30 PM.

The Youth Choir, for Grades 9-12, rehearses every Sunday from 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM.

The Sanctuary Choir, for Grades 7 - adult rehearses every Thursday evening from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

The Carmel Handbell Choir, for Grades 6- adult rehearses every Monday evening from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

You are welcome to join in the choir at any time throughout the year. For questions please contact Abby Palmisano, Director of Music and Organist. Office phone number is 215-887-1074, Press 3.

All rehearsals are held in large spaces. We follow CDC and state and local guidelines. See you soon!
—Abby Palmisano



This month at our Church

- **Election Day, November 2**
- **All Saints' Sunday and Communion, November 7**
- **Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 7**
- **Veterans Day, November 11**
- **No Choir Rehearsals & No Refuge, November 24**
- **Thanksgiving Day, November 25**
- **Office Closed, November 26**
- **First Sunday of Advent, November 28**

advent CALENDAR

<p>Perform a random act of kindness</p> <p>1</p>	<p>two</p> <p>Donate food to a local food bank</p>	<p>Have a coloring contest</p> <p>three</p>	<p>four</p> <p>Buy socks for a homeless shelter</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Watch a favorite holiday movie</p>
<p>Make or buy a new Christmas ornament</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Let someone go in front of you in line</p> <p>seven</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Clean out and donate outgrown toys</p>	<p>Build a snowman out of cotton balls</p> <p>9</p>	<p>Take cupcakes to your local fire department</p> <p>10</p>
<p>Decorate a gingerbread house</p> <p>eleven</p>	<p>Help wrap a Christmas present</p> <p>12</p>	<p>thirteen</p> <p>Leave a happy note for someone to find</p>	<p>Have a game night in your PJs</p> <p>14</p>	<p>Make paper snowflakes</p> <p>15</p>
<p>Drink hot cocoa</p> <p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Make Christmas cards</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Bake Christmas cookies</p>	<p>Sing Christmas carols</p> <p>19</p>	<p>Take a family photo in front of the Christmas tree</p> <p>twenty</p>
<p>Read your favorite Christmas story</p> <p>21</p>	<p>Take a car tour of your local light displays</p> <p>22</p>	<p>Deliver Christmas cards to your neighbors</p> <p>23</p>	<p>Watch or attend a Christmas Eve service</p> <p>twenty-four</p>	<p>Read the Nativity story</p> <p>25</p>