

Carmel Courier



Carmel Presbyterian Church, Glenside, PA 19038 December 2021/January, 2022



Worship with us this Christmas

Christmas Eve Family Service ~ 4:30 PM

Christmas Eve Communion Service ~ 9:00 PM

Candlelight Carol Service 2021



All of Carmel's Choirs and soloists and Handbell Ringers will present Carmel's annual Candlelight Carol Service

on Sunday evening, December 12, 2021 at 7:30 PM. The congregation will also join in singing beloved Christmas Carols. Come and enjoy the sounds of the season in the beautifully decorated sanctuary. Nursery care is available for small children during the service. A plate for donations will be placed at the door.

Invite your friends, family and neighbors to this wonderful tradition at Carmel Church. It is Carmel's gift to the community.

—Abby Palmisano



**Annual Meeting -
Sunday, January 30th**

The Annual Meetings of the Congregation and Corporation are scheduled to be held on Sunday, January 31, 2022 immediately following worship. Please mark your 2022 calendars and plan to participate in this important event in the life of our congregation!

*Save
the
Date*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Website.....	2
Pastor's Note.....	3
Congregational Life.....	4
Stewardship.....	4
Session.....	5
Nursery School.....	6
Refuge	7
Deacons.....	7
Flowers.....	8
Thank you notes/Birthdays.....	9
Music Memorial Form.....	10
Lectionary.....	11
Shepherds.....	11
Anniversaries.....	11
Change of Address.....	11
Flower Memorial Form.....	12

New-and-Improved
WEBSITE




Welcome to Carmel's New Website!

It's here!!! Carmel's new and greatly improved website! See what it's all about at www.presbycarmel.org There are lots of photos, including church events, Carmel's stained glass windows, Carmel groups for all ages, our mission and community outreach, and much more. You can click on links for the current livestream worship, past services, the daily lectionary, or to send a prayer request or make a financial donation.

Carmel's project team leaders Janet Simon and Kim Williams, along with fellow project team members Ken Schuyler and Rev. Peter Sulyok, have been hard at work with our website provider Worship Times since January, 2021, on this redesign and upgrade. Carmel was one of Worship Times' early customers, and the company hopes to use our website as an example for other churches hoping to upgrade.

New features include "Pastor's Blog", with a welcome to the website message from Pastor Peter, a "What's Happening at Carmel" section, links to Carmel's local and area mission causes, easy ways to access the Courier, and detailed information about the

Carmel Nursery School. Multiple access points are provided through a Navigation Menu Bar, and clickable photo links. Yes, there will still be a calendar. Clicking on the upper circular church photo will always bring you back to the Home Page.

We can also use your help. Carmel board members and committee chairs have already pitched in with descriptions of their programs and activities. Providing so many photographs late in the pandemic was a challenge. If you take cell phone or camera photos, shoot some at Carmel activities, including worship, and send them to Mary Kate Nolen at office@presbycarmel.org At present we can especially use photos of past Carmel Christmas events and services such as the Candlelight Choir Service, (other than past Christmas brunches which are not needed).

---Janet Simon



The Greatest Gift-Giver

When we give each other Christmas presents in [God's] name, let us remember that he has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans — and all that lives and moves upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused. And to save us from our own foolishness, from all our sins, he came down to earth and gave us himself.

—Sigrid Undset for *Newsletter Newsletter*, December 2021





A Note from Transitional Pastor Peter...

Join Me in the Advent of Christmas & the New Year 2022!

Dear Friends!

This is my first **Advent and Christmas** with you **In-Person**.

I look forward to joining you in many of the restored, as well as some new Carmel festive traditions, as we head into the **New Year!** We will gather around the **Advent Wreath** each Sunday as families light one more candle as we prepare for Christ's coming again into our life. Then, at our Christmas Eve Service, we each light a small candle and together—as they slowly **illuminate** the room—we experience the One for whom we have been waiting and who is the **Light of Life** and who brings us **Joy**.

As I think about **Advent** this year, the **Joy** so many of us experience at Christmas is the joy of receiving. And this is good—because it is often **very** difficult for us to receive. We want things or people; but it is often hard to receive them graciously. We anticipate receiving many good things at Christmas.

Yet to receive, one first has to give—or someone has to give. The **Joy** we have at Christmas comes only because first “God so loved the world that God gave...” Giving and receiving; receiving and giving: they are two sides of the same coin. **Each of us responds to the gift God has given us and we pass on the love to others.** Giving and receiving are both gifts! God has given them to us and it is up to us to be able to accept them and pass them on.

And each year it's a challenge—to **really** consider what Christmas means. Of course, we'll say we do that every year; yet take some time again this **Advent** to really ponder the meaning of the season for you and for Carmel and our future. The first participants didn't have that comfortable a season!



- Imagine how comfortable an unwed pregnant teenager would be...
- Imagine a man accepting and raising an infant whose very presence is a daily reminder that he's not the father...
- Imagine shepherds sleeping outdoors being awakened by heavenly voices—sounds great, until you realize that it's

terrifying...

- Then, imagine foreign dignitaries who realize they must flee the country by another route to avoid returning to the court of a tyrannical despot...
- Oh, and Caesar's annual taxes...

This is no story about hanging Christmas ornaments on a tree or placing lights on a home. God's entry into the world was really something of a scandal—and is at heart a **gift to receive and pass on**.

Session and its committees plan several special **Advent and Christmas activities** and services this year—much different than our more modest pandemic Christmas last year. Inside the *Courier* you will find a number of them:

- Month-long **Advent after-church drive-by celebrations**, Sundays November 28 and December 5, 12 and 19 that focus on **Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love** (with a *mission* related to each theme) as we decorate themed Christmas trees again with a 'giveaway' for attendees and *info* on Carmel groups to join and volunteer opportunities;

Be part of the *Festival Choir* and sing for **Christmas** at the *Candlelight Carol Service* and the *Christmas Eve Service*;

See **PETER** Page 8

Congregational Life Advent Events

The Congregational Life team received such wonderful feedback for our Advent celebration last year, we decided to host a similar series this year. Beginning on Sunday November 28th, please plan to decorate the trees of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love during each week of Advent. Bring your ornaments from home or make one using the supplies stored in the box under the portico. We so look forward to watching the beautiful scene on the front yard develop over the weeks.



In the foyer, you'll find a prayer wall and supplies you'll need to



add your prayer requests to it. We hope to pray for each other and with each other - our prayers of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love will also build into a beautiful and powerful visual statement leading up to Christmas.

Last, but not least, we would like to provide a small gift for the congregation throughout Advent. It's a hustle-bustle time of year and it's easy to neglect ourselves when we're rushing to do 'all the things.' Each Sunday after the Service, we'd love to send you home with warm soup, warm bread, warm cookies. Drive up to the kitchen door and drive home with lunch.

As it is THE most wonderful time of year, and Carmel members are wonderfully generous people, we will attach a mission component to each week. If you'd like to participate, watch the All-Church emails or Carmel's Facebook page for details.

Mark your calendar, just after church, Nov 28, Dec 5, Dec 12 and late afternoon/early evening on the final Sunday of Advent, Dec 19.

--Melissa Deacon, Congregational Life Committee

Stewardship

Christmas Joy Special Offering

Advent begins November 28 and with it comes the Christmas Joy special collection. 50% supports pastors who encounter unexpected catastrophic events in their retirement that even careful planning could not foresee. The other 50% provides scholarships and other help for students of communities of color to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Many of those helped become pastors.



Special envelopes will be inserted in the orders of worship in December. Use the same method of giving but be sure to include Christmas Joy and your envelope number for directing your gift. Dedication of this collection will be December 19.

2022 Giving Envelopes

Envelopes will be available beginning in December on the tables behind the chapel. Look for them and take them home with you. For 2022 most of us will find that our numbers have been changed. We ordered fewer boxes to cut down on waste. 800 and 900 numbers will remain the same.

Per Capita

At the beginning of each year, Carmel is billed \$32 for *each confirmed member* of the church. The money is shared by General Assembly, the Synod, and Philadelphia Presbytery. This year Presbytery will support the search of our Pastoral Nominating Committee as it works as well as other help we request.

—Anne Newman



Session Notes

Church Officers in the Class of 2023 were elected by the Congregation on November 21, 2021. In accordance with Carmel's Bylaws, our newly-elected officers will be ordained and/or installed during a morning worship service in January.

The Session expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Elders David Campbell, Kent Dyer, Anne Newman, Lynne Schutt and Dick Thomas as they complete their terms of service ministering so faithfully to our congregation as a ruling elder in the Class of 2021. Session welcomes newly elected Elders to the class of 2024 and all will begin active service following their installation in January.

The following items were among the reports and business conducted during the November Stated Meeting of the Session.

Session approved the Transitional Ministry Team recommended candidates to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee. All were approved by the Congregation on November 21, 2021.

Session thankfully approved Christian Education's recommended leaders and volunteers for 2021-2022:

Refuge and Oasis: Joyce Kornfeld, Katey Schuyler, Melissa Deacon, Gary Moll, Jake Smith
Nursery: Marleen Heintz, Katey Schuyler, Christina Rice
Children's Worship: Melissa MacFarland, Karen Bogle

A contract with JCA Cleaning Solutions to provide the cleaning maintenance of the church and Nursery School was approved by Session. The Property Committee will be the main contact with JCA Cleaning Solutions. The Property and Personnel Committees are also forming a group of volunteers similar to Carmel's former "Merry Men" to handle the non-cleaning duties such as

room/table set ups and minor church repairs.

The Property Committee received Session's approval to contract with Critter Control to treat a squirrel infestation in the manse, especially in the ceiling of the front porch, for the sum of \$4,695. Payment to come from the manse rental fund.

Session approved the Deacons' request for the disbursement of a total of \$6,000 from the Deacons Fund through the Mission Interpretation Proposal to the following organizations – Bethanna, Caring for Friends, Dawn's Place, DePaul House, Face to Face, Gemma Services and Interfaith.

Save the date: **The Annual Meetings of the Congregation and Corporation** are scheduled to be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022. Please mark your 2022 calendars and plan to participate in this important event in the life of our congregation! More details about how the meetings will be conducted will be communicated to the congregation closer to the meeting date.

—Nancy Pinkowicz, Clerk of Session



Director: Leslie Arrowsmith

December Carmel Nursery School News



Holiday Program

Christmas Program

Carmel Nursery School will have a Holiday program that will take place on Friday December 17th . We are still working out the details but will let you know as soon as we have everything finalized. The children will have holiday parties on Wednesday and Thursday the 15th and 16th. Please check for a sign up sheet for holiday party donations..

Thank You!

Many thanks to all of the families who bought and sold the Claire's Gourmet food . The staff and I would like to thank you for your time and donations to all of our fundraisers. Your support means a lot to us! This was our best sale ever. Through your support and generosity we are able to purchase new and exciting things for our school.

Evaluations

Children going to Kindergarten will have their first conferences in January. Look for a sign up sheet in the classroom soon.

Check us out on Facebook

You will be able to keep up with all that we are doing and maybe see a picture of your child in action at school! Like us at Carmel Nursery School.

Sign up for reminders by texting @carmelnur to the number 81010

Please Note!
Classes will resume on Friday, January 3rd, 2022.

Happy Holidays to you and your family from the Staff of Carmel Nursery School!

December, 2021

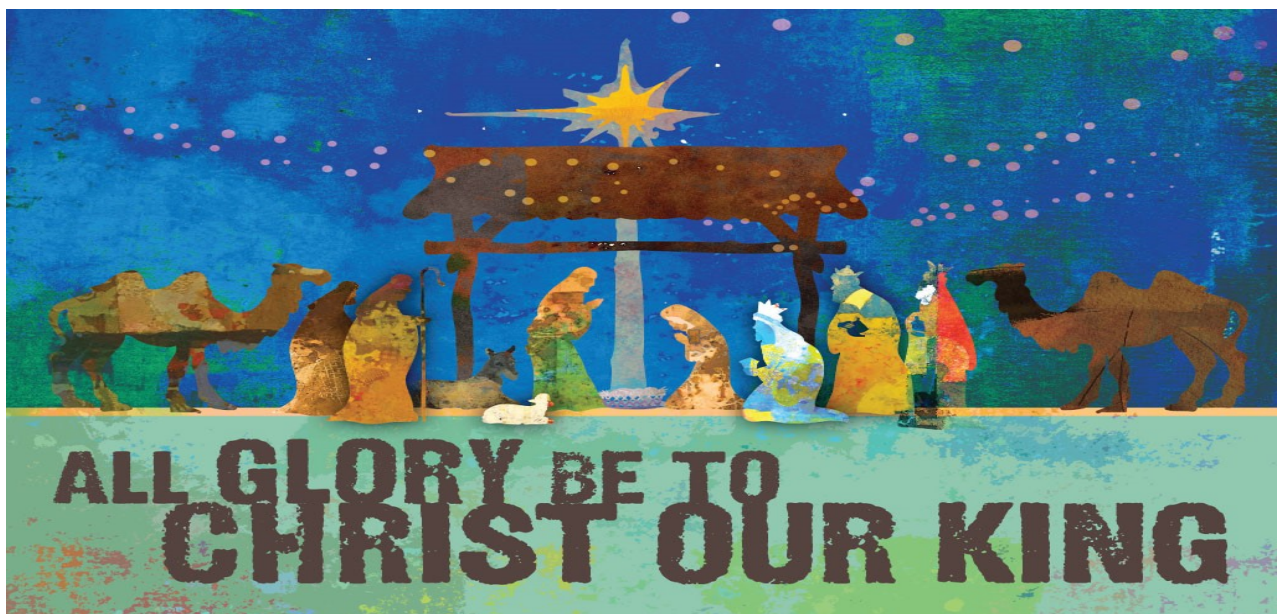
December dates to remember

- ✓ Dec. 17—Christmas Program and Party
- ✓ Dec. 17-Last day of school before winter break

Classes resume on January 3rd

January dates to remember

- ✓ Jan 3rd. Classes Resume
- ✓ Jan 17- School Closed
- ✓ Jan. Pajama Parties—date to be announced



REFUGE

Refuge - Welcome back!

Refuge is back and busy! November was our gratitude and thanks month - we created a gratitude tree, made placemats and thank you cards for the nursing home next door,



baked cookies to remind everyone that they sparkle and made our own Thanksgiving dinner. In December we prepare for Jesus' birth!
—Joyce Kornfeld

--- REFUGE CALENDAR ---

DECEMBER

1	Advent - Hope
8	Advent - Peace
15	Advent - Joy & Love
22	No Refuge - Merry Christmas!
22	No Refuge - Happy New Year!

JANUARY

5	Let Your Light Shine
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Glad tidings dearest church members! Here we come a-wassailing along the Courier pages, so fair to be seen; love and joy come to you!

“C-O-L-L-E-G-E, we want to send you treats for free!” We are asking for the congregation’s help in creating an updated list of our members in college, so we can send them goodies throughout the year. Please email Abigail at ampm611@gmail.com with the college student’s name, year, email, and mailing address!

Ongoing projects:

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

In this time of caring for others, we ask that you remember the drop off point for the **Interfaith-Food Cupboard** (located just inside the lobby). Please check for the current most needed items on the interfaith food cupboard website at: <https://www.i-fha.org/what-we-do/food-cupboard/>

Carol continues to provide delicious meals for our Carmel families. 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. 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!

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!

As always, if you are in need of Deacon support or are interested in becoming a deacon (we're absolutely not grinchies!), please reach out to me ampm611@gmail.com or Pastor Ashley at pastorash80@gmail.com.

God Bless!

—Abigail Clayton



From PETER Page 3

Christmas music and flower memorials donations due by December 5th;

Find your joy and share in an **Advent/Christmas progressive sanctuary decoration** project, where you and your family help anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth: wreaths and swags one week, trees and lights the next, finishing the final week with candelabras and poinsettias (dates and times inside);

And, of course the **Christmas Eve Services: Family Service** (4:30 pm) and **Christmas Eve Communion Service** (9:00 pm); and Much more as the Pre-School and Carmel groups **celebrate the season!**

I look forward to joining with you at these special Carmel events. Do plan to attend as many events as you are able and **make your goal to attend each Sunday in Advent—in-person**, as you are comfortable—as we give and receive love to God and to each other!

I hope this **Advent** time is for you—as it is for me—a **time to rededicate ourselves to nurturing the love of God in our lives** so we might **truly** rejoice this Christmas and give to others.

May you find the baby in the manger this year in a new way! And live into that new way as we begin a new year 2022! **Merry Christmas! And Happy New Year!**

With Christmas grace and peace,

Pastor Peter

FLOWERS

Did you notice that every Sunday service there are beautiful flowers displayed in front of the communion table for all to enjoy? These weekly flowers are provided by Carmel from the "flower fund." In addition to Christmas and Easter memorials, members can dedicate a memorial for a loved one during any time of the year. Your memorial is included in the Sunday bulletin of the particular Sunday you choose. Your contribution then helps defray the costs from the flower fund. Our good neighbors from Penny's by Plaza continue to charge only \$30.

After the Sunday service, these flowers are then separated into smaller arrangements and distributed by the Shepherds to people in our congregation that are ill, celebrating special events in their lives, or just in need of cheering up. I am sure you have read the letters of appreciation that are printed in the Courier.

Here are some available dates for 2022:

Jan.- 9
Feb-27
Mar - 6,27
Apr- 3
May- 1,15,22
June- 5, 26
July-3,10
Aug-7,14,21,28
Sept- 18
Oct.- 16,30
Nov.-27
Dec.-4



If this needs explanation or you want to reserve a date, please call me at 215-880-7897 or email @:nancybrose@comcast.net

Thanks,

Nancy Rose



DEAR CARMEL,

Thanks so much for the lunch that was delivered by Nancy O'Brien on Halloween Day. Everything from soup to nuts was delicious. Nancy went the "extra mile" by WALKING our food to our house as our street was blocked at the last minute!

~Bill & June Garrett

Thanks so much for the beautiful flowers that Melissa delivered for my 90th birthday. It was a very nice surprise.

~June Garrett

A big thank you to our Carmelites who have helped us to recover from "Ida." We have a lot to be thankful for: Ron and I are safe and well-cared for in our temporary apartment at Springhouse Estates. We have had so many visits and calls from Carmel and so many gifts for which we are very thankful. We loved the colorful flowers that Beth Cherry and Louise Robinson delivered to our new apartment. They were the most colorful thing here (the walls are all white, as is the carpeting.) The arrangement was so full that I was able to share with two other people that needed a "cheer-up."

Ron and I certainly have so very much to be grateful for! Thank you again!

~Ron & Patty Maddish

Thank you for your cards, congregational letter and well wishes during Georg's hospitalization and recuperation. Special thanks to Deacons' Meals in a Moment cooks Carol Moll, Melissa Deacon, and Katey Schuyler for the delicious meals, and to Nicole Bohlander and Tom for the authentic German zwiebelkuchen. Two bouquets of flowers provided by the Shepherds have brightened our home. We are grateful to all of you.

~Georg & Janet Simon



What a nice surprise! A visit from Dave Rice bringing a beautiful bouquet of flowers from Carmel. It is wonderful that members are not forgotten as they age! Love to all!

~Jean Badger

Many thanks to Nicole Bohlander who brought me the lunch bag from Carmel. Let me tell you, I enjoyed everything contained in it — especially the soup! I need the recipe. Previously, Nicole had brought me some of her homemade chicken soup, and it was delicious! Nicole, you are so thoughtful and I deeply appreciate it!

~Kay Bauer



Happy Birthday wishes to

Allen Hansen, Sr., who will turn 99 on December 8th

And

George Brecht, Jr., who will turn 91 on December 15th.

Enjoy your special day!

Christmas Music Memorial

A special music memorial at Christmas time is intended to provide instrumental and vocal music to enhance our Christmas services. If you wish to contribute to this special music memorial please fill in the form below and mail it back to the office.

If you have any questions, please call Abby Palmisano at 215-887-1074, press 3. Please fill in all the information.

The deadline for these memorials is **Sunday, December 5, 2021.**



Cut here

Please fill in all the information.

*Please mail to the church at
100 Edge Hill Road, Glenside, PA 19038
Thank you*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
or IN HONOR OF _____

FROM: NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____ *ENVELOPE NUMBER* _____

Sunday Lectionary Readings

DECEMBER

December 5 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 12 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 19 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:47-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

December 24 Christmas Eve Communion

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14
(15-20)



December 25 Nativity of the Lord/ Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20

December 26 1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14

JANUARY

January 2 2nd Sunday of Christmas Communion

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1(1-9) 10-18

January 9 Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



January 16
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 23
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

January 30
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30



Shepherds

Happy Holidays! We, in the stable, hope you all have a blessed Christmas Season. We're hoping you have signed up to be a Shepherd or signed up a friend. The sheep and lambs are coming back to church in herds! Or, so we hope and pray they will! Our sanctuary is always so beautiful for the Christmas season, please do not miss it. Don't forget Candlelight Service - fill those pews! Take care, enjoy your family, friends, and church friends this joyous season!

—Beth Cherry & Melissa Keller



To:

Gene & Pat Morris,
who will celebrate
their 59th on
December 1st

and

Rod & Arlene
Hackman, who will
celebrate their 61th
on January 21st



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 garyl-moll@yahoo.com

Christmas Flowers

If you wish to contribute to the Christmas poinsettias which will keep with our Advent season sanctuary traditions this year, please fill in the form below and mail it with your check to the church. **A contribution of \$15.00 for up to 2 dedications** will adequately meet our needs. Dedications can be "in memory of" or "in honor of". The flowers are delivered by our Shepherds to Carmel family shut-ins, those in nursing homes, and those who have recently suffered the loss of a family member.

Thank you.

If you have any questions, please call **Deb Gates at 215-887-1852.**

The deadline for these dedications is **Sunday, December 5.**



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Please fill in all the information. \$15.00 for (2) dedications in total.
Please mail to the church at 100 Edge Hill Road, Glenside, Pa 19038.
Thank you.

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

BY _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____ *ENVELOPE NUMBER* _____