



## Welcome to Carmel

Carmel received John Kelly III and Elizabeth Kelly as church members during the June 2 worship service. On this special day for the Kelly family, their daughter Thea Grace received the sacrament of baptism. We are happy to have them join the Carmel family.



## Way to Go, Julianna!!

My niece, Julianna MacFarland, recently competed in the 50th Anniversary of the Special Olympics PA Summer Games at Penn State University! Her sport is Equestrian! She earned 3 medals during her 3 days of competition; 2 Gold and 1 Bronze! Equitation! Julianna is the daughter of proud parents and church members, Dace and Angie MacFarland and granddaughter of Linda and Ed MacFarland!



## Stewardship Committee

Welcome to the summer season and vacation time! Be prepared by making a list of all the clothes you need to pack and all the activities you intend to do. Please remember to add keeping your pledge to Carmel up to date throughout the summer to your list.



## Congratulations Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton

Congratulations Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton Carmel recognized and thanked Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the ministry at the June 16 worship service and Fellowship Time. Dr. Thornton was ordained on June 15, 1979 by the Presbytery of Pittsburgh at the Parkwood Presbyterian Church in Allison Park, Pa. Reverend Thornton was born and raised just outside of Pittsburgh, PA and graduated from Geneva College in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in biblical studies. In 1979, he graduated from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, in Massachusetts, with a Masters in Divinity.

His first call was as Assistant Pastor to the Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church, a 1600 member church in New Castle, PA. In 1982, he became solo pastor at the Mount Jackson Presbyterian Church, also in New Castle, and served them for 10 years. During that period, he served on a task force for the national PC-USA church on "eco-justice," which reported to the General Assembly in 1990, where its findings were adopted.

Simultaneously, he completed his doctoral program and obtained a Doctor of Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (Reformed Focus) in 1990. His most recent called position prior to Carmel was as executive pastor at Pine Street Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, across from the Capitol, where he served from 1991 to 2003 as Associate Executive Pastor. Dr. Thornton began his ministry at Carmel in the fall of 2007 and has also been active in the work of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

**Congratulations Pastor Jim on 40 years of faithfully shepherding God's people, and thank you for all you do for Carmel.** *—Janet Simon*

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## From the Deacons

"Happy summer from the Board of Deacons! We hope you enjoyed your hands on mission opportunity at the Aid For Friends Cook-In last month. Up next we hope to have more opportunities such as collecting gift basket items for families, chances to join our board and help fulfill our member care duties, and any special projects that you would like Deacon support for. See our bulletin board and inserts for more details to come. As always, if you could use some faithful support this season or feel called by Christ please reach out to your district deacon."

"That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;"

--Ephesians 3:16"



## Lectionary—July & August 2019

### JULY

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 9)—July 7 Semicontinuous Complementary 2 Kings 5:1–14 Isaiah 66:10–14

Psalm 30 Psalm 66:1–9 Galatians 6:[1–6] 7–16 Galatians 6:[1–6] 7–16 Luke 10:1–11, 16–20 Luke 10:1–11, 16–20

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 10)—July 14 Semicontinuous Complementary Amos 7:7–17 Deuteronomy 30:9–14  
Psalm 82 Psalm 25:1–10 Colossians 1:1–14 Colossians 1:1–14 Luke 10:25–37 Luke 10:25–37

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 11)—July 21 Semicontinuous Complementary Amos 8:1–12 Genesis 18:1–10a

Psalm 52 Psalm 15 Colossians 1:15–28 Colossians 1:15–28 Luke 10:38–42 Luke 10:38–42

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12)—July 28 Semicontinuous Complementary Hosea 1:2–10 Genesis 18:20–32 Psalm 85  
Psalm 138 Colossians 2:6–15 [16–19] Colossians 2:6–15 [16–19] Luke 11:1–13 Luke 11:1–13

### AUGUST

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 13)—August 4 Semicontinuous Complementary Hosea 11:1–11 Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–23

Psalm 107:1–9, 43 Psalm 49:1–12 Colossians 3:1–11 Colossians 3:1–11 Luke 12:13–21 Luke 12:13–21

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 14)—August 11 Semicontinuous Complementary Isaiah 1:1, 10–20 Genesis 15:1–6

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Psalm 50:1–8, 22–23 Psalm 33:12–22 Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16 Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16 Luke 12:32–40 Luke 12:32–40

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 15)—August 18 Semicontinuous Complementary Isaiah 5:1–7 Jeremiah 23:23–29

Psalm 80:1–2, 8–19 Psalm 82 Hebrews 11:29—12:2 Hebrews 11:29—12:2 Luke 12:49–56 Luke 12:49–56

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 16)—August 25 Semicontinuous Complementary Jeremiah 1:4–10 Isaiah 58:9b–14

Psalm 71:1–6 Psalm 103:1–8 Hebrews 12:18–29 Hebrews 12:18–29 Luke 13:10–17 Luke 13:10–17

### VBS Registration is Open

#### Are you ready for VBS at Carmel Presbyterian!?!?

This year we're going to blast off with the first VBS to land on Mars! We'll become Voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take us. We'll lift off to distant planets on special missions to collect power sources. Along the way, we'll learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible, and that God is always with them, too. Add to the adventure with out-of-this-world fun, learning, and timeless Bible stories that inspire kids to give glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine!



Registration links can be found at [www.presbycarmel.org](http://www.presbycarmel.org) and on our Facebook page: [@carmelpresbychurch](https://www.facebook.com/carmelpresbychurch). Kids ages 4 through grade 5 are welcome! See you soon!! Sunday 7/28 – Thursday 8/1 6:30 – 8:30 PM

### Celebrating 50+ Years Anniversaries

Alan & Beth Cherry	8/3/1957	62 years
William & June Garrett	8/15/1953	66 years
Henry & Cynthia Taylor	8/17/1968	51 years
Earl & Joan Rotenbury	8/25/1962	57 years



### 90th+ Birthday Celebrations!

Doris Gologan Turning 90 August 22, 1929



### Men's Build Days

For the past few years, we have had some amazing sets for VBS courtesy of our Men's Build Team! Join us after worship on 6/30 and 7/14 as we prepare for a Mars space adventure. Special thanks to Gary Moll for leading the effort to create our space station.



### Triennium

Six Carmelites will be heading to the PCUSA's Triennium this summer in Purdue, Indiana. Triennium is a once-every-three-years event that gathers senior high-aged youth from all around the world for a week of fellowship, service, faith exploration, and worship. Please pray for Evelyn Abraham, Aidan Keller, Aidan Rose, and Jimmy Scholly, as well as chaperones Pastor Ashley and Gary Moll, as they embark on this adventure from 7/16 – 7/20.



### Hospital/Recuperating Prayer List

Gail Warburton  
David Campbell, Sr. (n.m.)



**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

This month's editor: Sarah Renio  
Next Courier deadline: Aug. 9  
S.Renio@gmail.com

## RECENT CHALLENGES TO ABORTION: What the Bible says and doesn't say

Over the last few months, states have enacted laws in an effort to overturn *Roe v. Wade* by legally defining fertilized eggs as human beings with the same constitutional rights that born children have. "*Life begins at conception*," they argue. The proponents of such laws often make their case on religious grounds, so it's worth asking what the Bible says and doesn't say about it.

The fact is that the Bible doesn't talk about abortion. Hence, there is no biblical passage that directly supports an anti-abortion position. It does, however, suggest when a human being's life begins. *Genesis 2:7 is the clearest. The first human became a "living being" when God blew into its nostrils and it started to breathe.* Thus, biblical writers thought that human life begins when you start breathing. It ends when you stop. That's why the Hebrew word often translated "*spirit*" ("*life force*" might be a better translation) literally means "*wind*" or "*breath*."

Of course, there are a few passages (like Jeremiah 1:5) which talk about someone being loved and called by God before birth (a favorite billboard tactic of anti-abortionists). But read within their contexts, these passages aren't at all germane to the subject. Indeed, there are other passages that say someone was called by God before they were even conceived, yet no one makes the case, based on these texts, that human life begins before conception.

The only biblical verses I've read which directly address the legal status of "*seed*" in the womb come in a brief section of Old Testament case law. *Exodus 21:22-25 describes a case where a pregnant woman jumps into a fight between her husband and another man and suffers injuries that cause her to miscarry. Injuries to the woman prompt the normal penalties for harming another human being: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a life for a life. Killing the woman is murder, a capital crime. The miscarriage is treated differently, however -- as property loss, not murder. The assailant must pay a fine to the husband. The law of "a life for a life" does not apply. The fetus is important, but it's not human life in the same way that the woman is.*

This is only a brief summary, but the point is – if someone wants to take a stand against abortion on the grounds that a fetus is equal to a born child, you can't use the Bible to do so. "*Life begins at conception*" is a faith statement without biblical support. In fact, there is a strong scriptural argument that goes the other way.

*Dr. James Thornton*

### Session Notes

Submitted by Nancy Pinkowicz

The following items were among the reports and business conducted and approved by Session during the Regular June Meeting of the Session. Session received into membership Elizabeth Rose Kelly and John David Kelly, III on Sunday June 2, 2019. The new members were received by the congregation during corporate worship on June 2. Session approved Dr. Thornton's request for vacation leave from July 30 through August 4 and August 27 through August 29. The following disbursements from Trust Fund B as recommended by the Outreach Committee (Evangelism) were approved by Session.

- \$1,000 to Missionaries Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar (Mexico)
- \$500 to General Mission Personnel
- \$2,000 to Philadelphia Presbytery
- \$1,100 to Presbyterian Youth Triennium in support of Carmel's participants

Session also received a report from Alice Jacobs concerning the successful fundraising results of the Designer Bag Bingo that took place on June 7<sup>th</sup> at Carmel Hall. The event raised approximately \$5,000 for the benefit of The Leukemia Foundation. Although Session will take a break from their regular monthly meeting during July and August the work of Session and their committees will continue during the summer months. Unless a special meeting is required, Session agreed to meet again in September. **For more information, please be sure to read the related articles included in this edition of the Courier.**



### Graduates

Tara Jacobs, daughter of Alice Jacobs, graduated from Penn State on May 5, 2019 with a BS and RN.

Nathan Rose, son of Wes and Kelly Rose and grandson of Ray and Nancy Rose, graduated in the top 10% of his class from Abington High School. He will be attending Haverford College in the fall, and plans to be a pre-med biology major. He has also been recruited to play on the Haverford lacrosse team. Go Black Squirrels!

Eric Podrost, son of Barbara Podrost, graduated from Montgomery County Community College with an Associates Degree. He will be pursuing his Bachelor's Degree at Temple University, with a major in secondary education.

Richard Newman, daughter of Richard and Colette Newman and granddaughter of Walt and Anne Newman, graduated from University College of Dublin with a BS in radiography. She will begin working in a hospital in Dublin in August.

JoHannah Newman, daughter of David and Kristina Newman and granddaughter of Walt and Anne Newman, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS in Psychology from Messiah College. She will begin working on the Therapeutic Support Staff for Dauphin County in the fall.

Patrick O'Brien, grandson of Nancy and Joe O'Brien, graduated from Norristown Area High School on June 13th. He will be attending Alvernia University in the fall, where he will major in Physical Therapy and play on the baseball team.

