



CarmelCourier



Newsletter for Carmel Presbyterian Church

Fall 2019

Greetings from the Deacons!

We hope you had a great summer, we sure did! A number of Deacons and Deacons-in-Training (Carmel youth!) were volunteer leaders at CPC Vacation Bible School's *To Mars, and Beyond!, July 28 to August 1.* It was a great experience to help dozens of kids ages 4-11 discover the wonders of God's universe through five nights of songs, crafts, games, science, reflection, and snacks.

We are grateful to VBS Families who contributed boxes, cans, and jars of various non-perishables to the Deacons-supported Inter-Faith Food Cupboard located in Roslyn. This Christ Is Calling Mission Outreach is organized by Nancy O'Brien. Please consider making regular contributions--a wallet-size list of most-needed items is available in a basket the narthex. Did you know that Inter-Faith Food Cupboard has a Facebook page? Search for it, "Like" it, and follow their posts and activities.

Care Cards and the Prayer Community continued over the summer--quiet but important ways in which Deacons provide support and care to the congregation. *The power of prayer is always strong! How about a power surge of prayer? Consider becoming a "CPC prayer warrior"--contact Pastor Ashley or Sue Lohoefer. In need of a visit or a home-cooked meal? Feel free to reach out about that too.*

The several dozen people who participated at the Aid for Friends Cook-in on June 23rd are thanked once again for cooking, baking, dishing, covering, labeling and bagging over 100 meals delivered to local shut-ins. Several family-size casseroles were also prepared for distribution by Nancy O'Brien. Congregation members Kerri Strike-Stahller and Bob Lohoefer are acknowledged for organizing this Christ Is Calling Mission Outreach supported by the Deacons. Another Cook-in will be organized during the fall.

Deacon Sue Lohoefer is scheduled to deliver a *Minute for Outreach Mission on September 22. We hope you'll be inspired to answer Christ's call. Several seats on the Board of Deacons will be available as of January. Deacons had opportunities over the summer at Coffee Hour to speak with a handful of members of the congregation about the board's work. If you're interested in learning more but we missed you, please approach any Deacon or Pastor Ashley to chat about what it means to serve--time commitment, Member Care programs and Outreach Mission projects.* —Taylor Tolton



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PresbyCarmel.org



FROM THE PASTOR:

Why Should I Believe THAT?

A practical, psychological, theological, biblical, and spiritual look at how deeply different things we believe or don't believe affect our lives and how certain beliefs can set us free.

Everyone lives with certain views about ourselves, humanity, and the world around us. For each one of us, these views have holes, inconsistencies and distortions. Additionally, these views often put us at odds with ourselves, other people, and the world-at-large. They determine the way we live, how we feel, and what we think. Through the centuries, Christianity has both helped and hindered our freedom from these distortions and our journey toward a more psychologically and spiritually healthy life. In this class we will attempt to explore the foundational ideas and beliefs which make the most difference to having a whole and connected life, individually and corporately. It is an amalgamation of the expressed desires of some Carmel members for study topics.

Join us in the Fellowship Lounge at 9:00 A.M. on the Sundays from the beginning of October through the end of November. Don't worry about missing a week – each class will stand on its own.

Rev. James W. Thornton



refuge

Join us September 11
Grades K-12

5:45 Grades K-2 Fellowship & Games
6:30 Dinner for all
7:00 - 8:00 Grades 3 -12 Fellowship & games
Parents...please join us on our first night for a mandatory parent's meeting at 6:30

Wednesday, 9/11/19 "Oasis" will meet on the opening night with "Refuge".

The next meeting of "Oasis" will be 9/22/19 at 7:00-8:00 and we will meet every Sunday Night in the loft going forward at the same time.

Join a choir in September - Make Your Life a Song to God.

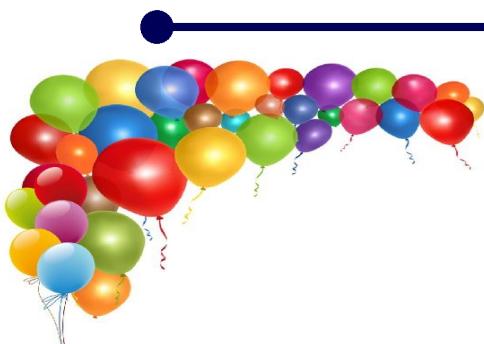
September is a wonderful time to join a choir. Mark your calendars now for our first choir rehearsals. (It's like free music lessons, only better!)

Children's Choir, for any child in Grades K-2, begins on Wednesday, September 11, from 5:00 PM to 5:40 PM.
Junior Choir, for any child in Grades 3-8, begins on Wednesday, September 11, from 5:45 PM to 6:30 PM.
Youth Choir, for anyone in Grades 9 - 12, begins on Sunday, September 15, from 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM.
Sanctuary Choir, for anyone in Grades 7 and above through adults, begins on Thursday, September 5, from 8:00 PM to 9:20 PM.

Handbell Choir begins on Monday, September 16, from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

You are invited to join a choir this year! All rehearsals are in the Choir Room. Please contact Abby Palmisano, Director of Music Ministries, at 215-887-1074 ext. 3, if you have any questions.

Hope to see you soon! —Abby Palmisano



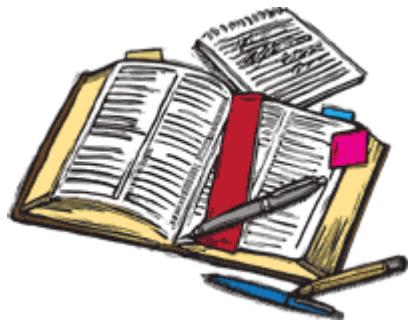
90th+ Birthdays

September 21, 1924 Jean Oberholtzer Turning 95

September 21, 1929 Jean Badger Turning 90

A Note from Pastor Ashley...

Late summer is often a season of frenetic planning for the upcoming Church year. Refuge, Oasis, adult education, confirmation, and yes – the mission trip for 2020: all of these things converge as we think about blessing backpacks and staffing small groups, coordinating dinners and re-convening committees. The mission trip planning team has already begun to pray for and envision the places we might go, with God's blessing, next summer.



With that being said, it's also a good time to think about why we do mission trips. There are great reasons to do ministry in a different context, which is always an eye-opening, heart-widening experience. The kids in our junior high connected in beautiful and sacred ways to those experiencing homelessness at Broad Street. They will forever view "the guy on the corner" differently because they have shared a meal with him. To those of us who served in San Juan, the "politics" of giving aid to Puerto Rico will never take precedence over the lives of the people there. They shared their homes and their lives with us – they are our brothers and sisters, without exception.

Most people come back from a mission trip seeing the world differently. Our vision and understanding of community is broader and clearer, more loving and more open. But despite the growth we can experience doing mission, there are also reasons that short term mission trips can be unhealthy, both for the people we serve and our mission trip teams. To that end, I think it's important to keep a few things in mind as we consider why we continue this work:

1. We are limited people with limited time who will accomplish a limited amount of work. If you're considering signing up for Summer 2020 (destination TBD), I hope this truth doesn't dissuade you. But confronting our limitations is probably a healthy way to begin any ministry. Most of us aren't construction experts, trained teachers, doctors or nurses. We offer what we can, but we need to maintain a sense of humility for why we're on the road in the first place. I would say that connecting to other people and being willing to share our hearts is probably the best reason to go anywhere, whether it's Center City or Tegucigalpa.

2. The issues of any community are complex. Alongside point number one, a week-long trip cannot solve the issues of systemic poverty, racism, economic decline or natural disaster that have plagued any one area. If we are genuinely concerned about the people we serve alongside, we will take the issues we learn about to the next level after a trip. We will engage in advocacy, social justice work, and yes, politics, to ensure that the sources of affliction are addressed. Repairing a porch is a wonderful and greatly-appreciated work; advocating for equal access to healthcare and utilities for the people of, say, Appalachia, means embodying the learning of the trip.

3. We aren't saving anyone, including ourselves. This may be the most dangerous illusion of all – that we are necessary, or virtuous, or even earning points with God for being out there doing "mission work." The hero model isn't helpful for the people we serve alongside, and it's downright fatal for our own spirituality. We bring our gifts and flaws to mission work, and the people we serve bring their gifts and flaws. Together, we create the community God intends for us all. Our shared humanity invites the presence of the Spirit: "where two or three are gathered, there I am also."

I'm proud that Carmel has historically chosen trips that are directed by the people on the ground that we serve alongside. In Puerto Rico, we worked with church members to help restore their roof and parsonage, projects that they requested and helped tackle with us. As we worked, we learned about each other's lives and faith, sang songs, ate and worshipped and laughed together. God was truly present in that place, for them and for us, together.

As our mission trip team convenes this fall and begins preparing for a new destination in 2020, I pray that we will experience the same call that came with such clarity two years ago. The Spirit's movement in our lives is never without purpose and a connection to the Kin-dom God desires to establish among us. May we with humility and joy embrace the work that is ever before us.

Peace –
Pastor Ashley



Peace and Global Missions (formerly Peacemaking)

"Peace is active, not passive; peace is doing, not waiting."

Since about 1950, each September the Peace and Global Missions special offering is collected as part of the Presbyterian Missions of the Presbyterian Church. These offerings are given to groups all over the world to help create peace. Some funds are given to help stop sexual violence on women and children and reduce the trauma they suffer. Other funds help people who suffer all kinds of political violence because of war or revolution.

Part of the program asks each church to choose a local organization to support with 25% of the donations received. This year the Stewardship Committee, with Session approval, has chosen *Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence*. *This group is diligently working to prevent gun dealers from selling guns illegally and from selling to those who buy guns only to sell them to those who are ineligible to buy them legally. This group sponsored the display of crosses Carmel had on our lawn in memory of the victims of the Parkland shooting in Florida.*

Beginning September 8, special envelopes will be in the pew racks for your donations. Remember to put your envelope number on the peace and global mission envelope. Dedication of the collection will be Sunday, October 6.

—Anne Newman

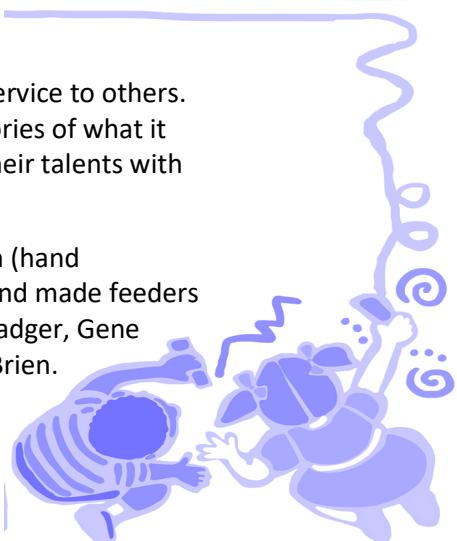
Children's Worship

As has been our tradition, during the summer months our program again centered on service to others. This year we were excited to welcome a Carmel senior each week. Our guests shared stories of what it was like "way back when", read books, told us about the many ways they have shared their talents with our church community, and helped us do our projects.

We made greeting cards, wrote a letter to our missionaries, Charles and Melissa Johnson (hand delivered on the evening they visited Carmel), made special treats for Fellowship time, and made feeders for our feathered friends. Many, many thanks to the seniors who visited with us: Jean Badger, Gene Morris, Joan Cramp, Dick Thomas, Ruth Kucera, Beth Cherry, Bev Mitchell and Nancy O'Brien.

September brings us back to our regular program where we follow the order of worship on a young child's level. All children preschool through 3rd grade are welcome!

—Karen Bogle



PROPERTY NOTES



New look to the library hallway

Just in time for Rally Day, the library hallway has a new look. The floor is now a wood-look vinyl plank in a nice natural oak finish. We removed the bookcases in the hallway, got rid of some of the books, and we're storing the rest in the library for the time being. We will work on finding space for them over the fall. The Fellowship Lounge kitchen also has the same new floor.

Coming soon - new fence in the parking lot

We are going to remove the old six foot high stockade fence at the lower end of the parking lot. We will replace it with a four foot fence that will be installed either on the stone retaining wall or immediately in front of it, at the end of the handicapped spaces. This will eliminate the weeds that grow up in the space between the wall and the fence.

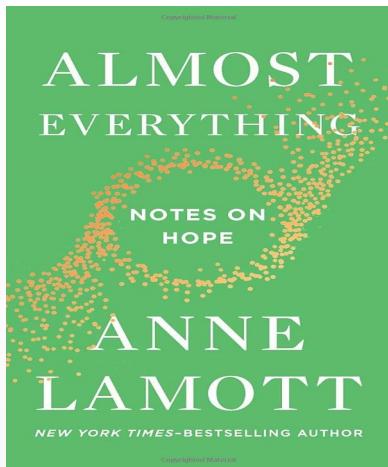
Carmel Hall Entrance

There used to be a big, blank wall between the kitchen doors and the entrance to Carmel Hall. Now, thanks to muralist Nicki Kohler, the wall is adorned with a beautiful apple tree and the name "Carmel Hall" in an Old English font. The big, blank wall is no longer blank and a welcoming sight to all entering Carmel Hall. This completes the work of the property committee, having already spruced up the entrance vestibule with paint, new lighting and a new door. Nicki Kohler is a professional artist, specializing in murals. She is the mother of a Carmel Nursery School child. Many, many thanks to Nicki for sharing her wonderful talent with us! —Lynne Schutt and Karen Bogle

Carmel Women's Book Club & Retreat

Fall 2019

The Carmel Women's Book Club is excited to announce our reading choice for the Fall session: *Almost Everything* by Anne Lamott. In a world that can be challenging, stressful, and downright depressing at times, Lamott finds hope in the smallest and most curious joys life has to offer. Maintaining her signature sense of humor and sarcasm, Lamott opens the door to important and spiritual conversations.



Praise for *Almost Everything*:

"Like a feminist C.S. Lewis, [Lamott] talks about God, politics and other unmentionables, and gently exhorts her readers, as she does herself, to find joy in a bleak and chaotic world: a leftie guru of optimism." —*The New York Times*

"Plenty of us have grown to trust Lamott's spiritual compass. We settle in quickly here, knowing just around the next sentence she might pry open our heart, and pack in truths we will mull long after we've put down her pages... Again and again, Lamott steers us in and out of the canyons and potholes of despair." —*Chicago Tribune*

The book club will meet weekly beginning in mid-September, and culminate with a retreat in the Poconos (11/2 -11/3). While we are not limiting numbers, we will be closing sign-ups by Sunday, September 8th so we can order books and plan meeting nights. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact Pastor Ashley directly with your interest.



Blessing of the Backpacks

On Sunday, September 8th (Rally Day), Carmel will also celebrate the Blessing of the Backpacks. This has become an annual tradition where everyone is invited to bring their bags - backpacks, briefcases, purses, diaper bags - to worship to receive a blessing. This year,

- ★ Pastor Ashley will have special pins to attach to your bag as we bless another year of learning, teaching, parenting, and working as a community.

Lectionary

September 1

Jeremiah 2:4–13, Psalm 81:1, 10–16

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16, Luke 14:1, 7–14

September 8

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 18:1–11, Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18

Philemon 1–21, Luke 14:25–33

September 15

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28, Psalm 14

1 Timothy 1:12–17, Luke 15:1–10

September 22

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:18–9:1, Psalm 79:1–9

1 Timothy 2:1–7, Luke 16, 1–13

September 29

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15, Psalm 91:1–6, 14–16

1 Timothy 6:6–19, Luke 16: 19–31

Vacation Bible School Recap

Carmel was filled with lively activities, Bible stories, and music during Vacation Bible School's "Journey to Mars and Beyond" from July 28-August 1. Nightly sessions explored where God's power can take you through Faith, Boldness, Kindness, Thankfulness, and Hope.

Attendance hovered around 45 students each night. It takes a village for VBS to happen, and 36 adults and teen/pre-teen helpers helped to lead activity stations of Games, Music, Imagination Station, Crafts, Snack/Reflection and also the four age groups from pre-K to grade 5. Additional volunteers helped out with men's build day for the space stage setting and also with decorating the narthex, chapel and Carmel Hall.

Pastor Ashley Rossi and planning team members Sarah Stein, Sue Lohoefer, and Jed Smith coordinated planning in the months preceding VBS. Pastor Ashley and Steve Brunozzi led nightly opening and closing sessions. Stefanie O'Gara and Jonathan Boyle were music leaders for the week.

Sarah Stein directed Crafts, assisted by Michele Jonas, Jillian Morton, Melissa MacFarland, Julianna MacFarland, Claire Maguire, and Linda MacFarland. Linda Parker headed Imagination Station, with Samantha Morton and Joelle Stein as her assistants. Leading the Snack/Reflection team was Joyce Kornfeld, along with able assistants Katey Schuyler, Chris Rice, Gary Moll , and Marleen Heintz. Steven Heintz directed Games, with additional help from Steve and Jess Brunozzi, Andrew Schuyler, and Michael Mutashobya.

The children were divided into four age groups, each with its own faithful leader and assistant(s): Venus, Crystal Podrost and Carol Moll; Neptune, Christine Morton, Julie Lent and Angelina Burke; Saturn, Taylor Tolton and Venus Agbadan; Jupiter, Jed Smith and Aidan Keller. Janet Simon, Joelle Stein, and Melissa and Julianna MacFarland served as floaters where needed.

At the registration table were Sue Lohoefer, Anne Newman, and Janet Simon. Sue Lohoefer served as registrar, master scheduler, and made name tags for all volunteers and children. Sarah Heintz worked with photography, and Sarah Heintz and Jed Smith handled tech responsibilities.

Gary Moll led the men's building team for the VBS journey through space, assisted by Jed Smith for galaxy decorations. The VBS decorating team included Gary Moll, Carol Moll, Jed Smith, Ashley Rossi, Chris Morton, Samantha, Jillian, and Kelsey Morton; and Janet Simon.

At the closing Thursday night program, parents and friends were the audience for enthusiastic performances by each age group of their own group's song, and all participants joined together for a final lively musical number from "Journey to Mars and Beyond."

A big thank you to all of Carmel's 2019 VBS volunteers. Your dedication and enthusiasm contribute to a memorable and enriching faith experience for the children of Carmel and the community. —Janet Simon

National Stamp Out Hunger

On May 11, the U.S. Post Office ran their annual National Stamp Out Hunger Day. The Inter-Faith Food Cupboard received donations from the Abington and Willow Grove post offices. This year the Ft. Washington post office donated over 9,000 lbs. of food, that was stored at Carmel. The enormous task of checking expiration dates, sorting and grouping like items was completed by these amazing hard working volunteers: Linda MacFarland, Melissa MacFarland, Jack Edwards, Carol Moll, Lynne Schutt, Pat Sorber, Mary Ellen Thomas, and Super Joe O'Brien.



Thank you!

Since July, the food cupboard has been giving approximately 100 lbs. per week to those suffering with food insecurity.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Carmel food cupboard.

-Nancy O'Brien

Notes from the Library

EDUCATED; A Memoir....Traces the author's experiences as a child born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, describing her participation in her family's paranoid stockpiling activities and her resolve to educate herself well enough to earn acceptance into a prestigious university and the unfamiliar world beyond. By Tara Westover. (We 364.15)

SMALL GREAT THINGS: A woman and her husband admitted to a hospital to have a baby request that their nurse be reassigned - they are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is black, to touch their baby. The hospital complies, but the baby later goes into cardiac distress when Ruth is on duty. She hesitates before rushing in to perform CPR. When her indecision ends in tragedy, Ruth finds herself on trial, represented by a white public defender who warns against bringing race into a courtroom. As the two come to develop a truer understanding of each other's lives, they begin to doubt the beliefs they each hold most dear. By Jodi Picoult, (F Pi)

HIDE AWAY; An Eve Duncan Novel.....Forensic sculptor Eve Duncan is back and now the stakes are higher than ever. Dramatic changes are on the horizon for Eve and Joe Quinn and their relationship may never be the same. By Iris Johansen. (F Jo)

TOP SECRET TALES OF WORLD WAR II: Here are riveting tales of patriotism and treachery, saboteurs, sleepers, and moles, giving fresh perspective on the best known interceptions and deceptions of the war...the breaking of the German code Enigma and Japanese code Purple, operation Overlord's successful disguise of the D-Day invasion, as well as little-known feats of civilian bravado in the face of danger. By William B. Breuer. (940.54 Br)

FOREIGN AGENT: A Thriller. In a safe house near the Syrian border, a clandestine American operations team readies to launch a dramatic mission. But before the team can launch, the safe house is attacked. The blame-storming back in Washington goes into full swing, focusing on how it might have leaked. As the search for answers mounts, Scot Harvath quickly finds himself at the center of the storm. How could ISIS have known the Americans were coming? By Brad Thor. (F Th)

THE HOUSE OF SECRETS: When Hazel Nash was six years old, her father taught her: mysteries need to be solved. He should know. Hazel's father is Jack Nash, the host of America's favorite conspiracy TV show, The House of Secrets. Now, years later, Hazel wakes up in the hospital and remembers nothing, not even her own name. She's told she's been in a car accident that killed her father and injured her brother. But she can't remember any of it. Then a man from the FBI shows up, asking questions about her dad, and about his connection to the corpse of a man. Trying to put together the puzzle pieces of her past and present, Hazel Nash needs to figure out who killed this man. By Brad Meltzer. (F Me)

Books for our young readers!

WHAT'S UNDER MY BED? Mary Ann and Louis told Grandpa that there was something scary under their beds. But then Grandpa told them about what had been under his bed when he was their age. By James Stevenson. (jF St)

HERE'S HANK; Everybody IS Somebody. When a well-known author visits their school, Hank and his two best friends get the chance to be her guide for the day and introduce her at an assembly, but the situation forces Hank to find creative ways to hide his struggles with reading. By Henry Winkler & Lin Oliver. (jF Wi)

I AM BILLIE JEAN KING Presents an illustrated biography of the tennis star, from her childhood and early competitive career to her role as an activist for equality in sports. This is only one of a series, "Ordinary People Change the World." We have the entire series in our library. Come in and check it out! By Brad Meltzer. (Me 796.34)

BISCUIT: I Can Read Collection! 3 Treasured Storybooks for Young Readers.

(1) Biscuit, (2) Biscuit Feeds the Pets, (3) Bathtime for Biscuit. By Alyssa Satin Capucilli. (jF Ca)

-Gail Warburton, Carmel Librarian



Session Notes

Submitted by Nancy Pinkowicz

During the summer months of July and August, Session did not meet but the Session Committees remained active in their faithfulness to the needs of Carmel. The following is some of what was accomplished during this time.

This summer's mission trip was to Purdue, Indiana to attend the PC-USA's Youth Triennium. We are thankful for the youth and adults who gave of their time to attend this once every three-year event.

During the last week of July Carmel traveled "To Mars and Beyond" for Vacation Bible School. Many thanks to Reverend Rossi, the volunteers and the Christian Education Committee for their time and commitment to a successful VBS for the youth of our community.

Reverend Rossi preached at Calvary Wyncote on Sunday, August 18 while their preacher was away. The honorarium that Reverend Rossi received was donated to Carmel.

The Outreach committee sent \$250 to Kirkwood Camp to provide financial assistance for a Carmel youth group participant to attend camp.

Session approved the Philadelphia Presbytery to hold their second Fall Fest at Carmel on Saturday, November 9.

At the request of the Stewardship Committee, Session agreed that 25% of the receipts from the Peace and Global Missions collection will be sent to *Heeding God's Call*.

Congregational Life and Christian Education Committees is planning a Rally Day Celebration for September 8, 2019.

Dr. Thornton working along with the Christian Education Committee are planning a new Adult Education program for this fall.

Finally, vacation leave was approved for Reverend Rossi from September 13 through September 15, 2019, and for Dr. Thornton from September 17 through September 22, 2019.

For more information, please be sure to read the related articles included in this edition or future editions of the Courier.

Death

Rose Ewing joined the church triumphant on June 30. A longtime Carmel member, she served as a Shepherd and was active in Carmel Presbyterian Women, especially with their rummage sales of many years. We extend our sympathy to her children Vera, Alan, and Stephen and to her three grandsons.



Births

Peter and Bailey Heckman, Jr. welcomed their new son **Bennett Prather Heckman** on June 26. His happy big sister is Annalise. Jan and Peter Heckman, Sr. are the proud grandparents.



Jack Robert Mahon, son of **Rebecca and Jeff Mahon**, born August 19, 2019. Grandson of Sue and Bob Lohoefer and great-grandson of Jean Badger.

Quinn Penelope Moll, born August 20, 2019, daughter of **Tyler and Cassandra Moll**, granddaughter of Gary and Carol Moll

Hospital/Prayer List

Sally Hanline





Food
Fun
Fellowship

Sunday, September 8th

11:00 am in Carmel Hall
(following the service)

---a Christian Ed & Congregational Life event---

Busy Summer at Carmel



→ Deacons' Cook-in for Aid for Friends



→ Visit from our Mission Partners in Zambia: the Johnsons



→ Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue



→ Carmel VBS: To Mars and Beyond

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Carmel Courier

September 2019

Carmel Courier is a monthly newsletter of Carmel Presbyterian Church. All visitors are welcome to worship with us each Sunday
Christian Education for adults from 9:00 AM-9:45 AM, worship at 10:00 AM, and fellowship time at 11:00 AM.

Nursery care available and Children's Church for those in preschool to 3rd grade during worship.

Rev. Dr. James W. Thornton is Pastor, Rev. Ashley B. Rossi is Associate Pastor and Abigail Vander Hart Palmisano is Director of Music.
Church office hours 9:00 AM-Noon and 1:00-3:00 PM on work days. Phone: 215-887-1074 Website: www.presbycarmel.org

Dated Material



Our Church
is Accessible
To ALL

CAST YOUR
BURDEN ON
THE LORD,
AND HE WILL
SUSTAIN YOU.

PSALM 55:22, ESV

