



From the Transitional Pastor's Study

Moses was the first Transitional Pastor!

Almost from the beginning of his encounter with God, Moses was to be a guide and interpreter of God to the people. Yet he did not set foot in "the Promised Land." Like a Transitional Pastor, Moses worked with the people and journeyed with them along a specific way and for a certain period of time. But then took his leave once the group began to move into their new situation and with new leadership.

John the Baptist was the second Transitional Pastor!

Like Moses, John the Baptist was also God's mouthpiece for a change in the status quo of humanity but was not to be present to witness the effects of those changes. "Prepare the way of the Lord" was John's cry; similarly, today's Transitional Pastor calls out, "Prepare the way for the next chapter in ministry!"

Moses and John the Baptist had challenges, yet neither had to deal with a coronavirus pandemic! You do. We do. The past seven weeks or so—doesn't it seem more like seven months—have been challenging. We've experienced uncomfortable challenges with technology—Zoom and Facebook Live and Facetime and Live Streaming—to allow the safety of social distancing while still maintaining community that so defines Christian life together. We've wondered what's going on. We've made mistakes. We've also absorbed good learnings.

And we've done all this as we've said goodbye to our pastor of many years and welcomed a Transitional Ministry to begin to lay the groundwork for the next chapter in our mission and ministry with our next pastor. As we've taken these steps forward, we have proven we can rise

to challenges when they present themselves. We've found new ways to connect to each other with technology, and also when technology is not available. It's been amazing!



In my first Session meeting two Sundays ago and this past Sunday's meeting with the Board of Deacons I/we've learned the business of the church can move forward with great success via meetings that are not in person. We've lived into the adage we've shared for years and years: "The Church is not a building." We've grown and discovered new ways of being church that will help us live into the next chapter of this pandemic as well as offer indications for our next chapter of ministry serving this community and beyond. You have stepped up and stepped out to meet the needs of the church family in new ways. You are a gift to God's Church. And you will carry your ministry forward into God's new future.

See **PETER** Page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Virtual Worship.....	2
Session.....	2
Deacons.....	3
Choir Appreciation.....	4
Wednesdays in the Word.....	4
Graduation Information.....	5
Nursery School.....	5
ROAM.....	5
Stewardship.....	5
Deaths.....	6
Thank You's/Congratulations.....	6
Lectionary.....	7
Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	7

Virtual Worship During Covid-19

Carmel has been holding Sunday morning virtual online worship services since March 15 and expects to continue through May and beyond according to PA and Montgomery County guidelines for Covid-19 social distancing. The services are available via Zoom or Facebook Live on your computer, tablet or smart phone and also by telephone call in.

Worshippers have appreciated the opportunity for pre-worship greetings, the familiar order of worship bulletin, children's story time, meaningful lectionary-based sermons, sharing of prayer concerns, virtual partaking of communion elements, and a growing amount of hymns and music. Our thanks to Pastor Ashley Rossi for her worship leadership and simultaneous incorporation of technology, to Abby Palmisano and David Campbell for their music efforts, and to the volunteer lay worship leaders. We welcomed transitional Pastor Peter Sulyok at the April 26 service, and Pastor Peter preached and shared Communion with us on May 3.

An added benefit of Carmel's worship services during these unusual times has been the ability of Carmel members and friends who live at a distance to participate—locations noticed include northern Pennsylvania, Georgia, Florida, Washington D.C., and Seattle.

Virtual worship attendance during March, April, including our Holy Week services, and into May has done well. Carmel would love to welcome those of you who have not yet joined in sharing God's presence with us in worship.

--Janet Simon



If you have been missing out on sharing in worship with the Carmel family, here are ways to join us:

A link for ZOOM video worship and the worship bulletin goes out on the Carmel e-mail list from church secretary Mary Kate Nolen on Friday or Saturday. Occasionally the group e-mail drops some people, so contact a friend if you didn't get it. If you haven't provided your e-mail address to the church, please send it to office@presbycarmel.org.

The e-mail also includes the phone-in access, which several members can attest works well. This doesn't change: call 1-929-436-2866 or 1-301-715-8592, meeting ID: 842 851 1409 on your phone. The Carmel Facebook page posts worship information on Sunday morning and goes live just before the worship service. If you need assistance in learning ZOOM, contact Pastor Ashley in advance at 215-870-7170 or pastorash80@gmail.com.



Session Notes

During this time of social distancing Session has continued to meet regularly via video conference. The following items were among the reports and business conducted and approved by Session during the Regular April Meeting.

Session approved for Carmel to submit an application for funds under the Government's Paycheck Protection Program to help with meeting weekly salary and building maintenance expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Session approved the continued suspension of the use of church facilities for worship and all other activities until May 30, 2020 to be compliant with the required COVID 19 social distancing. Weekly worship will continue virtually via Zoom and Facebook.

The Outreach Committee will disburse monies from Trust Fund B totaling \$4,500. \$1,500 will go to Presbyterian Hunger Program and \$3,000 will go to Presbytery Unified.

During this time of social distancing and our need to conduct worship and other church activities remotely it has become very clear that Session needs to assess and discuss an upgrade to the church's technology. Session approved the formation of a technology task force. Gary Moll will lead the task force with Jay Raulinaitis and Ashley Rossi as members.

Finally, Session welcomed with open arms our newly hired Transitional Pastor, Reverend Peter Sulyok. It was great to officially have Peter at Carmel and for him to participate in our April meeting. Session is looking forward to working with Peter.

--Nancy Pinkowicz, Clerk of Session

PETER from page 1

As we begin a Transitional Ministry here at Carmel Presbyterian Church during this interim between senior pastors, we know our time together will be relatively short (perhaps two years). Yet these days are important in the ongoing call and work of this congregation—perhaps even more important as we acknowledge the challenges of the pandemic even as we seek and clarify Carmel's future direction. Please do not be hesitant nor consider it unimportant to involve me in your thoughts and concerns. This is the time to reflect on, and deal with, issues of grief and endings, trust, congregational identity, and expectations for the future. While social distancing does not yet allow physical church office hours, I am available. Please call or email me and I can arrange a Zoom or Facetime or we can have a regular phone conversation. My cell phone is 502-767-8104 and my email: peter-sulyok@aol.com.

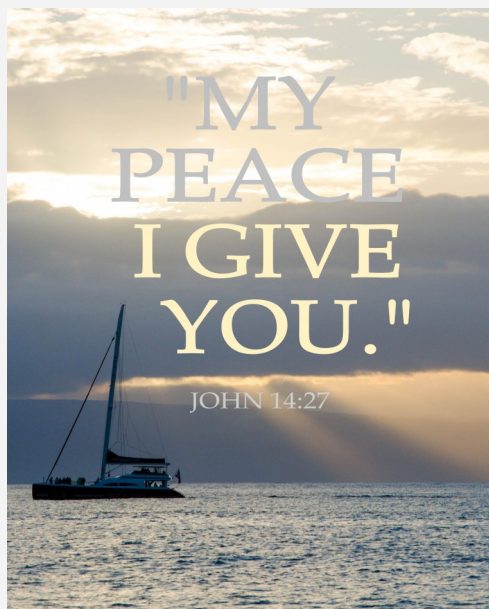
With the intension to seek to move forward into the next longer-term ministry, I am eager to hear your perspective on Carmel Presbyterian Church's life—what is happening, what has happened and what may yet happen during our Transitional Ministry in the service of Jesus Christ.

My family and I are glad and thankful for the warm welcome we have received. See you "in" worship Sunday!

With God's grace and peace,

—Peter Sulyok

Transitional Pastor
Carmel Presbyterian Church



Socially Distant Greetings from the Carmel Board of Deacons!

The world has changed since the last time I sat down to write. The way we worship, the way we live, and the way we interact has all changed. The Board of Deacons wants to make sure you are aware that we are willing and able to provide help to those in need at this time. We have volunteers available to pick up groceries and supplies for you if you are in need. We also have our Meals in a Moment program still running, so if you are in need, do not hesitate to contact us. We can provide the meals with no contact if needed.

I am scared. I like knowing what is going to go on in my life week after week. This is unlike anything most of us have ever had to deal with. The uncertainty, the worry, and the fear sometimes feel overwhelming. I know I am not alone in this fear. I also know I am not alone in this world. I have my family, my neighbors, and my friends who are here with me. You are not alone. As a church, as a community, as a family, we are here for each other.

The Deacons want to thank all of you for your continuous outpouring of donations to the Inter-faith Food Cupboard. The Food Cupboard provides a variety of foods to low-income residents of Montgomery County to reduce food insecurity and improve nutrition. Recently, the services they provide have been needed more than ever before. Many families are feeling the impact of temporary layoffs, reduced income, and lack of access to food. The Interfaith Food Cupboard has guidelines on their website for no contact drop off, as well as their modified hours of operations, on their website. You can follow Inter-Faith Food Cupboard on Facebook to get updates on the state of the food cupboard and see just how significant your donations are. Type or copy and paste this link into your internet browser and like and follow the page to see posts on your news-feed: [Facebook.com/Inter-Faith-Food-Cupboard-118883421466896/](https://www.facebook.com/Inter-Faith-Food-Cupboard-118883421466896/)

The deacons are excited to welcome Pastor Peter Sulyok to our Carmel family. Peter is known for his ability to care for his flock, and we know his presence with us will be felt.

As always, if you are in need of Deacon support or are interested in joining, please reach out to me at jedediahsmith77@yahoo.com or Pastor Ashley at pastorash80@gmail.com.

—Jedediah Smith

Choir Appreciation

Grateful thanks and appreciation to all our choir members.

At this time of year Carmel would like to recognize all of our choir members and its leaders and thank them for their gifts of time and talent here at Carmel Church. Carmel's worship is enriched each week by your leadership through music. To God be the glory.

Children's Choir (Grades K-2)

Nathaniel Morton, Brent O'Gara, Jocelyn Agbadan, Sonny Rossi, and Maxwell Stein.

Junior Choir (Grades 3-8)

Isla Orner, Kai Orner, Summer Orner, Sarah Peters, Ava Jonas, Madlyn Sweeney, Olivia Grace Lin-Ralph, Kaleb Little, J. D. Rossi, Alice Stein, Kelsey Morton, Shealyn O'Gara, Jillian Morton, Samantha Morton, Joelle Stein, Lia Keller and Olivia Brunozi.

Youth Choir Singers (Grades 9-12)

Venus Agbadan and Evelyn Abraham

Sanctuary Choir (Grades 9-adult)

Nicole Bohlander, Deborah Gates, Doris Golingan, Linda MacFarland, Anne Newman, Nancy Pinkowicz, Lois Randel, Lisa Scholly, Barbara Thompson, Barbara Thornton, Venus Agbadan, Beth Cherry, Leslie Donaghy, Barbara Knox, Heide Miller, Louise Robinson, David Campbell, Ruth Kucera and James Thompson.

Handbell Choir

Bertha Campbell, Nicole Campbell, Neve Coelho, Mary Hausner, Betsy Manzinger, Madi Manzinger, Mark Manzinger, Barbara Podrost, Crystal Podrost and Kathy Stokes.

Substitute ringers: David Campbell, David Stokes, Olivia Brunozi and Lois Randel.

Heather Coelho and Abigail Palmisano, *Co-Directors of the Handbell Choir*

David Campbell, *Choral Assistant* and Lynne Schutt, *pianist for the Children's Choir and Junior Choir.*



Join us for *Wednesdays in the Word*, our weekly adult Bible study via Zoom at 10 AM or 7 PM with Pastor Ashley Rossi. This focuses on a different Biblical passage each week. We read together and then share ideas on our own reactions to the passage. Do we like the author's views or react negatively to them? Does anything strike us as particularly meaningful in our present times? Why in the world did the pastor choose this passage?

The passage and Zoom links are sent out the day before on the Carmel e-mail list and Carmel Facebook page. You can also participate if you don't have online access by calling 1-929-436-2866 or 1-301-715-8592, meeting ID: 842 851 1409 on your phone. If you would like any assistance with either Zoom video conferencing or phoning in, contact Pastor Ashley at 215-870-7170 or pastorash80@gmail.com.

Wednesdays in the Word is your opportunity to share with fellow Carmel members and our pastors in a personal look at Scripture. It's easy—you can dress casual and don't have to get up earlier on Sunday morning. Coffee or tea drinking is welcome, and so are visits by your pets. Join us next Wednesday! —Janet Simon

Graduation Information

Do you have a 2020 graduate at home? Let us know! Please forward any graduation information for you or your family member to the office at office@presbycarmel.org for inclusion in our next issue of the *Courier*. Please include the name of the graduate, school from which they are graduating, and any future plans they might have. This is an unusual year for these graduates, and Carmel would like to celebrate them and let them know that we are proud of them and all that they've achieved!



Carmel Nursery School News

We just found out that Carmel Nursery School has been awarded Best of Glenside for Child Care! This is a wonderful accomplishment and we couldn't be happier.

We are so proud of all of our staff, and thankful for the time, loyalty and love they give to help make Carmel Nursery School such a fabulous place for our children!

Please share if you would like, we are accepting new students for the next school year!
— Leslie Arrowsmith, Director



ROAM: Retirees On a Mission

ROAM will resume meetings in the Fall.

The Wednesday afternoon circle will meet again in September.

Stay safe, and we look forward to seeing you again then! —Pat Moris

Stewardship Notes

Thank you to all of you who contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing collection. The total received was \$560.00. That was an amazing amount for the six week collection period when we met in the sanctuary for only two weeks. One of the recipients of this collection is the Presbyterian Hunger Program. The Outreach Committee distributed \$1500 to Presbyterian Hunger Program from Trust Fund B because there is an additional need during this world-wide pandemic.

The committee has saved over 70% by finding another company to provide our giving envelopes for 2021.

Remember that while the building is closed, there are salaries and bills to be paid. There are several ways for each family to give as it is able during the this time.

- 1) Arrange with Mary Ann Welsh, our business manager, to join the EFT program to automatically pay your pledge each month.
- 2) Donate directly from Carmel's website (presbycarmel.org) using your credit or debit card.
- 3) Set up with your own bank's internet bill payment to send money to Carmel directly.
- 4) Send a check to Carmel (at 100 Edge Hill Road, Glenside, PA 19038). The business manager will deposit the checks as they arrive into Carmel's bank account.

Whatever you do, do it prayerfully. God is and will be with us and keep us in his hands.

On the last Tuesday of February, Walt Newman rang the bell at Fox Chase Cancer Center for finishing his infusions, aka chemo. To his surprise, he received applause from all the patients in the waiting room and the nurses, as well. He is currently cancer free. The whole family thanks Carmel for the care and support you gave us. Thanks be to God for watching over us!

—Anne Newman





Alma Ash Leadbeater, a lifetime member of Carmel, joined the church triumphant on March 29. She was the wife of the late Howard Leadbeater. Alma was a pianist and sang in the choir at Carmel, as well as serving on the Session. She spent her career as a reading specialist and then Supervisor of Reading for the Abington School District.

Alma is survived by her children, Holly Watson and Corey Leadbeater, as well as 14 grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Please remember them at this time.

Alma's long-time friend and colleague, Diane Misko, sent the following note to Carmel.

"I am a friend of Alma Leadbeater, who recently passed away. Alma and I go way back in the Abington School District. Alma was a devoted member of Carmel Pres. for many years. I know she served on a council, probably played the piano or organ, and helped out in countless other ways. Please accept this donation in her memory."

Sincerely, Diane Misko



Longtime Carmel member Roger Post passed away on May 5. Roger was an active participant in the life of Carmel over many years, including church boards, Sunday School teacher, and adult education, and phoned in to recent Carmel online worship services. He was the husband of the late Joan Overholt Post.

Roger enjoyed the family get-togethers of the large Post clan. He provided a home for several great-nieces and nephews, including Carmel Deacon and youth advisor Jack Edwards. Please remember Roger's family in their time of mourning.



Carmel extends sympathy to Lois Herbine and family on the passing of Lois's mother, Olga Bliss, on April 26.



Thanks for the flowers I received from the Lampe Memorial. I called Abbie, his daughter, and she told me the memorial was done in February since that was the month her father came to Carmel as a Senior Pastor, and also the birthdays of Missy and Esther. I've known Abbie since she was a little girl!

—Kay Bauer

Many, many thanks to everyone who kept all of us in your thoughts and prayers while Steve had major surgery and recuperated with us for two weeks. Special thanks to: Jim and Ashley for hospital visits; shepherds Beth and Kristin for flowers; the choir for their care and concern; Carol Moll, Linda MacFarland and Nancy Pinkowicz for delicious meals; and Barb and Jim Thompson for their call from Florida. We are so thankful for all the kind thoughts and healing prayers. Steve is doing very well and was cleared to return to work on March 2.

With grateful appreciation — *The Kucera Family*

Thank you for all the calls, cards, meals, and prayers during my recent illness. I was humbled by the outpouring of love. I am so blessed to be a part of this church.

In God's Love — *Lisa Lent*

Congratulations

Declan Patrick O'Hara, son of John and Dawn O'Hara, was baptized on March 1. Welcome to the Carmel Church family!

Christine Vincent married Wuaner Ventura on April 24. Best wishes to the newlyweds!

Pentecost is Sunday, May 31st.

THEY SAW WHAT
SEEMED TO BE
TONGUES
OF FIRE
THAT SEPARATED
AND CAME TO REST
ON EACH OF THEM.



ACTS 2:3. NIV

Sunday Lectionary Readings



MAY

May 17

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

May 24

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

May 31

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

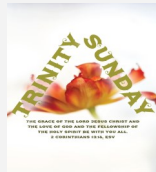


JUNE

June 7

Trinity Sunday Communion

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20



June 14

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15
Psalm 116
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 21

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

June 28

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42



Happy Anniversary to...

Rich & Ruth Kucera, who celebrated their 53rd on May 6th

Samuel & Cornelia Jetter who celebrated their 58th on May 7th

Harry & Sandy Hurlburt, who will celebrate their 61st on June 6th

Charlie & Mary Ann Beck, who will celebrate their 57th on June 15th

Jim & Mary Eby, who will celebrate their 60th on June 17th

Jim & Barb Thompson, who will celebrate their 57th on June 22nd

Bob & Cindy Gerhard, who will celebrate their 52nd on June 22nd

Ray & Nancy Rose, who will celebrate their 55th on June 26th

Walt & Anne Newman, who will celebrate their 57th on June 29th

Happy Birthday to...

Earl Rotenbury, who will turn 91 on June 1st!

Enjoy Your Special Days!

Carmel Presbyterian Church
100 Edge Hill Road
Glenside, PA 19038-3099

Carmel Courier

May/June 2020

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. Peter Sulyok is Transitional 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

