



## From the Transitional Pastor's Study

Now that the weather becomes much hotter with high humidity that I was warned was coming, Jeannine and I look at our yard and wonder when we can pull the weeds in our overgrown gardens. What has slowed us down also is not really knowing what is flower and what is weed?! Things we think are weeds in 5-10 days turn into beautiful flowers. See the photo for a flower now blooming that we have no idea what it is! But I'm glad I didn't pull it up earlier as a weed!



Of course, every gardener is eager to show the *dahlias*, *roses*, or *lilies*, but what about the *petunias*? I've never had anyone invite me into their yard to look at *petunias*. We display the earliest *tulips* and the last *poinsettia*, but no one ever parades a *petunia*. Brides carry flowers ranging from *edelweiss* from the mountains to *lilies* of the valley; but no bride would consider carrying a *petunia*! When in seminary, Jeannine and I planted *petunias* in the flowerbox on our married student housing. In the evening we'd pluck the older blossoms and more multiplied in the morning.

But everyone ignores the *petunia*! And yet it goes on blooming. It's time someone appreciated it. Perhaps pastors are unusually sensitive to flowers because they remind them of people. In fact, any group of people has about as many varieties of "plants" as does the garden.

Every group has its *roses* that must be handled with kid gloves to avoid pain and hurt; its *azaleas* that produce only if the soil and sunshine is exactly to their liking; its *irises* quickly susceptible to rot if it is not

constantly in the sunshine. We could go on and on—from the *aster* that wilts; the *snap-dragons* that rust; the shrinking *violets* that need to be encouraged; the stubborn *glads*, who cannot be bent; the regal *chrysanthemum* that stands out in the crowd, and fits into the situation only if it is in command; the tender *morning glory* that blooms in splendor at the beginning of the day, but fades at noon. Every variety of people needs some special attention to make it bloom—**except** the *petunia*.

Perhaps now you understand why the *petunia* is so dear to the pastor's heart. They are those persons who go right on doing their part without any special attention. No one fusses over them or pampers them or cultivates them. No one stops to compliment them or praise them for their dependability or loyalty.

See **PETER** Page 5

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## Session Notes

The following items were among the reports and business conducted and approved by Session during the Regular June Meeting of the Session via video conferencing.

The Congregational Life Committee held virtual coffee hours as a meet and greet with Pastor Peter for each District which began the week of June 15<sup>th</sup> and continued through July.

The Property Committee is working on the repair of one of the stone pillars along Edgehill Road which was damaged as a result of an automobile accident. Also, several trees on the Church property were damaged during a recent rain and wind storm requiring trimming clean up and removal of debris.

Session approved the Deacons June Mission Interpretation proposal with funds going to the following organizations: Bethanna, Face to Face, Dawn's Place, Caring for Friends, DePaul House and Interfaith Food Cupboard.

The Church Re-Opening Task Force prepared guidelines so Carmel can safely open the church building when we can begin gathering and worshiping in person. In addition to in person worship, the guidelines provide that the service will be live streamed for those church members who may prefer to attend worship from home.

The Technology Task Force is now reviewing technology needs specifically related to live streaming of church services.

Session approved the Korean Church to return to meeting in the church building in accordance with our reopening guidelines and Pennsylvania government requirements. Currently the Korean Church video broadcasts their service with only two people who attend in person who both are in the same family.

With the exception of the Korean Church, Session approved to extend the suspension of all church activities, including worship, at the church building through July. Worship will continue via Zoom and Facebook Live.

—Nancy Pinkowicz. Clerk of Session

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](mailto:office@presbycarmel.org).

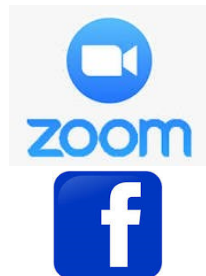
The e-mail also includes the phone-in access, which several members can attest works well. This doesn't change: call 1-929-436-2866 or 1-301-715-8592, meeting ID: 842 851 1409 on your phone. The Carmel Facebook page posts worship information on Sunday morning and goes live just before the worship service.

If you need assistance in learning ZOOM, contact Pastor Ashley in advance at 215-870-7170 or [pastorash80@gmail.com](mailto:pastorash80@gmail.com).



Carmel will be worshipping online via Zoom and Facebook Live each Sunday through the end of July, with further schedule announcements to come. We welcome all to worship with us virtually on your computer, tablet or smart phone, and also by telephone call-in. A new recent feature was Fellowship Time in break-out groups following the postlude.

Carmel is happy to continue to welcome in online worship members, friends, and family who live in various parts of the country. Share God's presence with us in worship Sundays at 10:00 AM. —Janet Simon





Dear members and friends,

We are not certain when we will be able to hold in-person worship services in the sanctuary. It will depend on our ability to live-stream the service for those who prefer not to attend in person. We're working on it! In the meantime, we're sending you the guidelines that will be in effect when we do open. We hope these guidelines will make you feel safe and be safe as you return to worship. You will receive these again as we move forward.

1. If you are feeling sick with a fever, cough, sore throat, have been exposed to covid-19 confirmed case in last 14 days, or have elevated risk due to an underlying medical condition, please stay at home and worship with us electronically.
2. Masks must be worn at all times when you are in the church building. You will not be allowed in without a mask. Please put your mask on before you enter the church building.
3. When you arrive, using the lobby entrance only, a greeter will direct you to a hand sanitizing station and a table with the bulletins. Please use the sanitizer, take a bulletin and proceed to the sanctuary.
4. There will be a collection plate in the back of the church for your offering.
5. In order to maintain social distancing, we will use every third pew. Do not sit in the pews where the seat cushions are turned up.
6. Family units may sit together. All other worshipers should sit six feet apart.
7. During the passing of the peace, please stand in place and give the peace sign to those around you.
8. The service will include hymns sung by a soloist. Please stand if you are able and enjoy the hymns silently.
9. Hymns and lectionary readings will be included in your bulletin. Please do not handle the pew bibles and hymnals.
10. We will not be offering communion initially.
11. After worship, ushers will dismiss us by rows to maintain social distancing. Please maintain proper distance and do not linger in the church or lobby.
12. There will be no children's worship, nursery, or fellowship time until further notice.
13. If you must, please use the restroom near Fellowship Lounge. The water fountain will not be available. The office will be locked.

In grace and peace,  
Session



Greetings and Happy Summer from the Carmel Board of Deacons!

Weathering this storm of change brought upon us by COVID-19 has been no easy task. Though our worship is still taking place at a distance, God is still in our hearts uniting us. We look forward to a time where we can worship together again, but understand that to do so now would needlessly put all of us at risk.

As part of our mission interpretation, the Board of Deacons made a \$2000 donation to the Inter-faith Food Cupboard to help support their efforts to reduce food insecurity and improve nutrition. The Inter-faith Food Cupboard provides a variety of foods to low income residents of Montgomery County. They are constantly in need of non-expired, non-perishable food items. If you would like to make a donation, their hours for donation drop off currently are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm. The address is 1250 Easton Road in Roslyn, PA, 19001. They can be reached by phone at 267-318-0607. You can also check their website at <https://www.ifha.org/what-we-do/food-cupboard/> for the most up to date list of items needed and hours of operation.

The Board of Deacons is planning on meeting virtually throughout the summer to plan and help where needed, so if you are in need of Deacon support or are interested in joining, please reach out to me at [jedediahsmith77@yahoo.com](mailto:jedediahsmith77@yahoo.com) or Pastor Ashley at [pas-torash80@gmail.com](mailto:pas-torash80@gmail.com). —Jedediah Smith

## Peacemaking

***“If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!”***

During the last month, we have heard and seen some horrible ways humans treat other humans. The quote from the Peace & Global Witness (Peacemaking) literature says, “Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.”

As we struggle to think of ways we can make our world better, we may consider donating to this collection. The campaign begins in September so there is time to prepare. More information will come in the next Courier issue. —Anne Newman

## Vacation Bible School at Home



Join us for Virtual Vacation Bible School (V-VBS!) this summer, July 26 – 31. Each evening, we’ll have a unique program from Illustrated Ministry’s Compassion Camp for kids ages 4 through entering Grade 5. During our week at Compassion Camp together, we’ll learn more about how much we’re loved. We’ll explore how to be kind to others - and we’ll celebrate that each of us is made just the way God intended!

Every night will feature songs, Bible stories, crafts, coloring and conversation, and even yoga! While we can’t be together in the church during the week, we’re planning a special parking lot celebration on Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. The V-VBS team is also working hard on some take-home bags that will help you get ready as a family for a week of fun.

You can register online at [presbycarmel.org](http://presbycarmel.org). Don’t forget to sign up for our *private* Facebook group (Compassion Camp VBS at Carmel Presbyterian Church). We will share videos, songs, crafts, and photos there – and you can too! Hope to see you at the end of July.

—Pastor Ashley

## Mission Trip Cancelled

The Mission Trip planned for this summer, which would have travelled to rural Appalachia with the Appalachia Service Project, has been cancelled due to concerns involving Covid-19. We hope to be able to continue our mission trips next year.

—Pastor Ashley



**PETER** from page 1

But, like the *petunia* in the garden, they don't seem to mind. They don't expect to win a blue ribbon; they cause no trouble. Like the *petunias*, they just keep on blooming the very best they can. All kinds of people make this world. Every pastor knows that some varieties will always need special attention to help them bloom; it is expected. This is all in a day's work, but when that day is finished, and has been especially difficult and disappointing, there arises from the quiet of a pastor's study, a very simple prayer—

*Dear Lord, Thank you for the petunias! Amen.*

In this uncertain time of the coronavirus infestation, many thanks to all who see a need or a task and take it on as their calling. Our committees are needed more now perhaps than during a regular ministry year as we discern together how to be church in our new situation that – in all projections – seems to be our situation for some time to come.

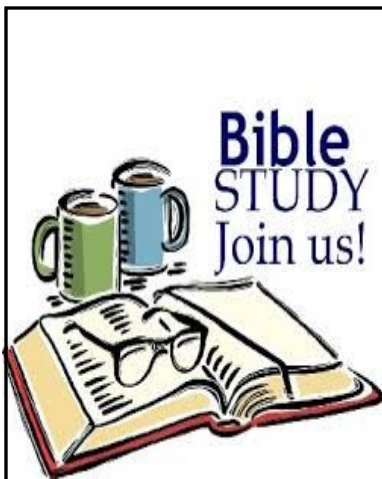
Let's use this time as an opportunity to be a church for others as outside our walls we reform who we are as a church and find the ways to continue to be church. Thanks to the petunias who help upkeep and prepare our grounds and buildings to be ready re-opening – whether it be in two months or a year. Let's all be petunias as we move into new "territory" to discover new ways to maintain and be more relational with each other and care for those in need. As you garden, enjoy your *petunias*!

As always, in our shared Transitional Ministry, please do not be hesitant or consider it unimportant to involve me in your thoughts and concerns. These days are important in the ongoing call and work of this congregation—even more important as we acknowledge the challenges of the pandemic even as we seek and clarify Carmel's future direction. This is the time to reflect on, and deal with, issues of grief and endings, trust, congregational identity, and expectations for the future.

The district "Meet and Greet" are moving steadily forward. While I would appreciate a larger "turnout" at the zoom gatherings—nevertheless, the six meetings to date have helped me to connect faces and names together as we move forward into the next longer-term ministry. Your perspectives have shed light 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. 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 have a regular phone conversation. My cell phone is 502-767-8104 and my email: [petersulyok@aol.com](mailto:petersulyok@aol.com).

With God's grace and peace,

*Peter Sulyok*



Join us for *Wednesdays in the Word*, our weekly adult Bible study via Zoom at 10 AM or 7 PM with Pastor Ashley Rossi or Pastor Peter. 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](mailto: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. Join us next Wednesday!

—Janet Simon

## Congratulations, Class of 2020!



Carmel would like to congratulate all of those graduating in this most unusual year. Your perseverance is applauded.

- Valerie Santangelo, daughter of Beth and John Santangelo and granddaughter of Gene and Pat Morris, graduated from Temple University College of Public Health with a Doctorate of Physical Therapy.
- Mark Frenzel-Sulyok graduated from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he studied global business and leadership.
- Samantha Beil graduated from Abington High School and will attend the Maryland Institute, College of Art.
- Patrick Rumsey graduated from Abington High School.
- Jeremy Bottinger graduated from Abington High School and will attend University of the Sciences, majoring in Biomedical Sciences, pre-med track.
- Billy Jacobs graduated from Plumstead Christian Academy and will attend Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, to study software engineering.
- Carter Gates graduated from Abington High School and will attend Lafayette College to study mechanical engineering.

***Well Done, and Good Luck in All Your Future Endeavors!***



## Meet and Greet with Pastor Peter

Congregational Life has arranged for a wonderful way to get to know our new transitional pastor. Small groups, divided by district, have been invited to join a Meet and Greet Zoom on Tuesday and Thursday of each week. It's a great opportunity to share your thoughts about Carmel's past and future with Pastor Peter. The Zooms began on June 15th and will continue until July 20th. Zoom information will be sent out via e-mail the week that your district is to meet. Please grab a beverage of your choice and come meet Pastor Peter!

— *Melissa Deacon*

## Sunday Lectionary Readings



### JULY

#### July 5 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49. 58-67  
Psalm 45 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13  
Romans 7:15-25a  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

#### July 12 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34  
Psalm 119  
Romans 8:1-11  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

#### July 19 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a  
Psalm 139  
Romans 8:12-25  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

#### July 26 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28  
Psalm 105 or Psalm 128  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## AUGUST

#### August 2 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31  
Psalm 17  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14:13-21

#### August 9 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28  
Psalm 105  
Romans 10:5-15  
Matthew 14:22-33

#### August 16 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15  
Psalm 133  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

#### August 23 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10  
Psalm 124  
Romans 12:1-8  
Matthew 16:13-20

#### August 30 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15  
Psalm 105  
Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

## Treasurer's Notes

We are grateful to our members who continue to financially support Carmel throughout the COVID19 pandemic. Without your steadfast giving and receipt of the PPP loan, it would be difficult for Carmel to continue to pay its staff, maintain the campus and provide limited activities and services to our members. Following is the June year to date operating or general fund results:

Total Income - \$ 211,000

Total Expenses - \$ 214,000

We would like to remind members that pledges can be mailed in, donated via PayPal or a monthly automatic withdraw can be set up. Please contact the office for more information.

## Office Hours During the Pandemic

Some of you have called the office and have not gotten an answer. This is because our office staff is mainly working from home, and they are not in the building for the regular 9-3:00 office hours everyday. If you have e-mail, please use the church e-mail address: [office@presbycarmel.org](mailto:office@presbycarmel.org). If you don't have e-mail, please call the office and leave a message. Someone will return your call. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call either Pastor Ashley's cell: 215-860-7170 or Pastor Peter's cell: 502-767-8104. Thank you for your understanding!



## Science Touches Christianity

Join Elder Eric Krieg for his thought-provoking and enjoyable series, *Science Touches Christianity*. Many fascinating, timely subjects will be covered. Upcoming topics will include:

**Thursday July 16** will be "**Consider the ant - the timeless advice of Proverbs 6:6-9**" Revisiting the 4000 year old information and lesson on earth's most successful tiny creature. There are interesting Science and ethical questions about our relationship with the life forms that have been here long before and will remain long after us.

**Thursday July 23** will be "**It's the end of the world . . . again**" A quick look at the Christian's embarrassing temptation to think the book of Revelation is about our generation as well as 10 possible end of the world scenarios Science says could happen.

**Thursday July 30** will be "**Science discoveries with theological repercussions**" A list of things - many discovered more recently, that every theologian should know.

**Thursday August 6** will be "**The search for the soul**" - the naturalistic model vs transcendent. New brain science discoveries. Could sentient beings someday have microprocessors?



**Thursday August 13** will be "**Science advancement to avoid**" Engineers rarely stop and say, "I can make this - but perhaps I shouldn't". After reviewing a list of bad mistakes from the past - discuss where to put on the brakes on 'Progress'.

**Thursday August 20** will be "**The secular and religious views on our responsibility for the earth**" We will review some of the ways earth has been greatly damaged and misinformation that keeps it going. We will review the update Christian theology of caring for the earth. We will discuss the multi-generational efforts our descendants might take in coming centuries.

The Zoom information follows, and the link will be used for as long as the series lasts. More information available from [erickrieg@gmail.com](mailto:erickrieg@gmail.com)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75419569346?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75419569346?pwd=cHpuY014dFpFeXdBVHBB3YIRDYWNWdz09)

[pwd=cHpuY014dFpFeXdBVHBB3YIRDYWNWdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75419569346?pwd=cHpuY014dFpFeXdBVHBB3YIRDYWNWdz09)

Meeting ID: 754 1956 9346

Password: Carmel

## Carmel Nursery School News

The Nursery School has been closed since March, but we didn't stop communicating and guiding our students. From March until June each teacher held virtual group sessions and posted art and enrichment activities on our Facebook page and through an educational app. Our music teacher conducted a full music class each week for the children, and our Yoga instructor posted 3 or 4 mini yoga classes, as well. We also had a drive-by graduation and moving up ceremony. All of the teachers were lined up in the back parking lot (socially distanced and masked, of course) and as the children were driven up, they were handed their certificates and any belongings they had left behind. We had bubbles, balloons, and end of year gifts for each of them. It was really sweet, and we had almost all of our 94 students drive through.

So now the hard part. What to do in September? We would ultimately like to open in person, but are waiting to see how things may change. We do have a smaller enrollment, but we have enough to start. We also need to be aware of the school district because we have many teachers with elementary age children. If the schools alter their plans it will affect our teachers as well. Prayers for our return to normal as soon as safely possible.

—Leslie Arrowsmith



## Property Committee Notes



In spite of the pandemic, the property committee has been checking and maintaining the church property. We discovered a few leaks in the sanctuary roof in the front near the lectern. Paul Scullin repaired a number of slates in the area of the roof near the east transept.

The heavy rain and wind storm on June 4<sup>th</sup> brought down a lot of limbs and small trees along the fence at the upper end of the parking lot. The debris has been removed, and there was no damage to the fence.

Once again, a driver knocked down a pillar in front of the church. It was one of the pillars at the lower driveway, nearest Mt. Carmel Avenue. The accident happened overnight on June 4-5, nobody saw or heard it, it wasn't reported to the police, and there was no vehicle debris at the scene. Manero will rebuild it and insurance will cover the loss.

Dick Thomas and custodian Ed Reilly painted the old scout room near the gym and repaired the concrete floor. Ed is in the process of painting the coat room, a project sorely needed but wouldn't have happened but for the pandemic. Thank you Ed!

Finally, many thanks to Dick Thomas, who checks the church property inside and out every day. If anything is broken or leaking or needs fixing, Dick catches it.

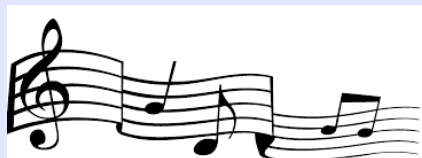
—Lynne Schutt

## Choir Notes

I hope that you are doing well. I miss being with everyone and hearing you sing on Sunday mornings. Not being able to lead the hymns from the organ and hearing your voices has been very hard for me. I am thankful for everyone who has offered to help sing on our online and Zoom worship services. If you are someone who would like to volunteer to sing during our online offertory, just let me know. Looking forward to the day that we can join our voices together again.

God bless you and keep you safe.

—Abby Palmisano



~ **Sarah Heintz and Tyler Rutherford** on their May engagement.

~ **Sue Lohoefer** on her retirement after 42 years with Upper Dublin Township as Director of Parks and Recreation, and most recently as Facility and Community Affairs Manager for the Upper Dublin School District.

~ **Bertha Campbell and Mary Hausher**, Carmel's nursing twins, on their retirement after 42 years with Abington Hospital, now Abington/Jefferson Health, as registered nurses in maternity and labor and delivery.

## Anniversaries

*Happy Anniversary To:*

**Dick and Mary Ellen Thomas**, who celebrate their 50th on July 11th. Enjoy your Golden Anniversary!



**Alan and Beth Cherry**, who celebrate their 63rd on August 3rd.

**William and June Garrett**, who celebrate their 67th on August 15th.

**Henry and Cynthia Taylor**, who celebrate their 52nd on August 17th.

**Earl and Joan Rotenbury**, who celebrate their 58th on August 25th.



Happy Birthday to **Doris Goling**, who will turn 91 on August 22nd!

Please keep **Pat Sorber** and **Gene Morris** in your prayers as they continue to recover.



Carmel mourns the recent passing of **J. Edward Schmidheiser, Jr.**

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

# *Carmel Courier*

July/August 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](http://www.presbycarmel.org)

## **Dated Material**



Our Church  
is Accessible  
To ALL

Delight  
in the yourself  
**LORD**  
and he will give you the  
DESIRES of  
your  
*Heart*

PSALM 37:4

