



Pastor Peter's Sunday Morning Group Study at 9:00 am

An Invitation to Discover and Grow Your Hospitality to Others

This fall Pastor Peter offers you an opportunity to welcome others as God welcomes you! The Senior Pastor's Sunday morning study is "Welcome All" and is the first of a number of group discussion/studies in the Presbyterian Church's new curriculum: *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living*. Offered Sunday mornings 9:00-9:45 am, the four-week-study takes place Sundays, September 19-October 10 and will meet in the Church Lounge. We hope to hold the group "virtually" simultaneously – so stay tuned for zoom or Facebook Live instructions.

During the four-week time together we will be learning about... well... welcome. Welcome is also known as *hospitality*, not the hospitality industry, but the Christian practice of showing hospitality to others. Christian Ethics Professor Christine Pohl states:

Hospitality is not optional for Christians, nor is it limited to those who are specially gifted for it. It is, instead, a necessary practice in the community of faith.

As we prepare to learn more about the meaning of hospitality in the context of Christian faith, it is helpful to have a common definition in mind. The study guide offers this one:

Hospitality creates a safe, open place where a friend or stranger can enter and experience the welcoming spirit of Christ in another.

Welcoming others is certainly core to the Christian life. It's not always so easy to practice, how-

ever, even with those we love the most! It can be a joy but it can also be a challenge to create that open, safe space, especially when people impinge on our own comfort levels or are different from us or feared.

Here are the four core aspects of Christian hospitality, one of which we'll take on each week:

- Welcome others as God welcomes you
- See Christ in every person you meet: Friends, Stranger, and Enemy
- Know your gifts of hospitality and Encourage Others' Gifts
- Challenge *othering*

Each session will have a common flow. The aspect is introduced; a biblical text or two show where it appears in Scripture. We then see how Christians have practiced this aspect in the past and present. Finally, some ways to deepen your own practice are suggested—not to mention our own lively conversation and ideas.

See **ADULT STUDY** Page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Note from Music Director.....	2
Rally Day and Refuge.....	2
Pastor's Note.....	3
VBS Thank you.....	4
Nursery School.....	4
VBS Pictures.....	5-6
Cook-In.....	7
Session.....	8
Thank you notes.....	8
Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	8
In Memoriam.....	8
Stewardship.....	9
Deacons/Shepherds	10
Lectionary.....	10
Congratulations.....	10



Please hold the date for a new year of church choirs.

I am pleased to announce that all of our church choirs will be back this September for a new season of singing and ringing. Please hold the following dates and times for our first rehearsal.

Children's Choir, for anyone in Grades K-2, will begin on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 from 5:00 PM - 5:40 PM.

Junior Choir, for anyone in Grades 3-8, will begin on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 from 5:45 PM to 6:30 PM.

Youth Choir, for anyone in Grades 9-12, will begin on Sunday, September 12, from 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM.

Sanctuary Choir, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, will begin on Thursday, September 9, from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

Handbell Choir, for anyone in Grades 6-adult, will begin on Monday, September 20, from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

There are so many benefits to being involved in music at the church. In choir we sing our faith. Music commits things to memory that would otherwise be hard to remember. There are many times in our lives that scripture comes to support us in the ups and downs of life. Many times that comes to us in songs that we had learned in church. In our Carmel choirs we learn the fundamentals of music and achieve skills in music that will be recognizable beyond this church environment. Through choir membership friendships are formed. Medals and ribbons are given to grades 2-12.

All rehearsals will be held in several different large spaces in the Church. We will be following CDC and state and local guidelines. I can promise that you will receive more than you give, your time will be well-spent and the blessings will be many. The church will also be blessed by this wonderful ministry. Please contact Abby Palmisano, Organist and Choir Director, if you have any questions at 215-887-1074, press 3. To God be the Glory!

—Abby Palmisano

WELCOME
BACK, CHOIR

Coming up.....

FALL RALLY DAY

Sunday, September 26,

after worship



Light packaged lunch to take home or eat outdoors with Carmel friends behind Carmel Hall—Games for kids

Your Congregational Life and
Christian Education Committees

refuge

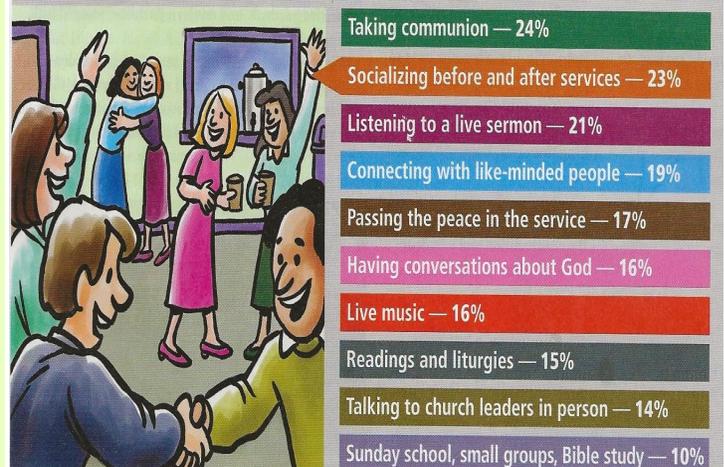
Refuge Update

Look for planning information about Refuge in September. Fall plans are being worked on now. We miss you and can't wait to get back together safely in person.

—Janet Simon for the Christian Education Committee



What people missed most about in-person services during the pandemic



From *Presbyterians Today*, July/August 2022

A Note From Transitional Pastor Peter...

How Do We Hear the Bible's Words and Grow Spiritually?



Dear Friends,

It would seem the quieter months of summer are behind us – if they ever existed!!! I hope you have found some peace and space to recharge after the year we had. With the relaxing of masks, exciting in-person drop-ins, and in-person meetings and worship, it appears **now** that the “quieter months of summer” will need to wait until **next** summer.... Is that your sense of this summer’s momentum?

Several of you at recent “in-person” worship have asked what scripture translation I use for readings in worship. Granted, it’s so similar to the current pew Bible – the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) – that most folks probably didn’t realize I use the Common English Bible’s (CEB) new translation in worship. Also, we print and email it each week I’m preaching in our live-streaming worship bulletin.

Don’t get me wrong! I love the NRSV translation and utilize it in my sermon preparation – among other translations. Many of my professors years ago were hard at work on the NRSV translation when I studied in seminary; and my parent’s professors were at work on the at-the-time very controversial RSV translation, that for many congregations, replaced the

King James Version (KJV). However, I have been very pleased with the Common English Bible and its development, able to use new scholarship and fresh discoveries of scrolls or newly translated parts of scrolls not available for the NRSV. The CEB isn’t simply a revision or update of an earlier translation; rather, it’s a bold new and intentional translation to meet the needs of Christians as they seek to build a strong and meaningful relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Several denominations (including Presbyterian publishing) got together academics, preachers and congregational reading groups to produce the new translation, where it was “test read” to hear how it was being heard. I received an early copy myself to offer input as a pastor. Their charge was to produce a biblically sound translation as well as one with readily understandable English for smooth and clear public worship reading and study. Those two goals can enhance church worship and participation as well as personal Bible study. The clarity and easy hearing of the story makes it very accessible for children and youth to hear the Bible for themselves.

For Bible Study, I generally still use the NRSV that I grew up with; but, in the worship experience, I want Scripture most readily accessible to all who come to worship. Most of society is not as Biblically

literate as Carmel, and I want all who enter Carmel’s doors to appreciate God’s Word when read and heard and not stumble over unknown and difficult theological words. Bible study is, of course, a different thing and the NRSV and its use of more complex theological language is fully appropriate (although I appreciate a number of translations present in the room as we study the passages.) I believe hearing the CEB and the opportunity we offer worshippers to read the NRSV in the sanctuary pew Bibles provides the best opportunity for hearers of the Word to hear the word and be challenged by its hearing.

Of course, it can be both puzzling, yet also rewarding to hear different words than the pew Bible translation. One can pick up nuances in the translations and that tunes the ear to hear God’s Spirit speak through the various translations. A group discussion or class on the History of the English Translation of the Bible would also be fun to do—perhaps in the fall. Please don’t hesitate to ask me more after worship or request a class. I’d love it!

Our **Transitional Ministry Team (TMT)** plans for early September to sift through the notes from our Seven Marks of Vital Congregations’ Mission Study as well as the reflections folks have sent in. While we did hear fond memories we’ve shared here at Carmel over the years, our challenge now is to make opportunities and experiences for new and meaningful memories. Together we learn to help each other patiently and wisely articulate a strong Christian voice for our congregation today. Our TMT will begin to shape what we heard, discover ways for further and deeper exploration, and will share our

See **PETER** Page 9



Thank You to Vacation Bible School Volunteers

Carmel's Vacation Bible School, Compassion Camp Loving Kindness, from July 25-29 saw an enthusiastic group of K-5th graders plus middle, high school and adult volunteers. Participants met outdoors outside Carmel Hall until threatening weather the last night to participate in music, a Bible story, yoga, crafts, games, a nightly closing skit, and take-home snack bags. Please see pictures of the fun on the following pages.

Participants for the week included 19 children, 12 adult volunteers and 14 youth volunteers for a total of 45. Everyone enjoyed being safely together in person again after last year's virtual VBS.

A big thank you to our faithful leaders and assistants who made it all possible! Director: Pastor Ashley Rossi, Music: Stefanie O'Gara and Jonathan Boyle, Yoga: Denise Abraham, Crafts: Sarah Stein, Games: Jed Smith, Snacks: Joyce Kornfeld with Katey Schuyler and Chris Rice, Age Groups: Venus Agbadan, Christine Morton; Registration, Scheduling: Sue Lohoefer; Dropoff and Pickup: Sue Lohoefer and Janet Simon.

The enthusiastic youth volunteers serving where needed were Alice Stein, Shaelyn O'Gara, Jillian Morton, Samantha Morton, Kelsey Morton, Olivia-Grace Lin-Ralph, Angie Burke, Joey Burke, Katelyn Newnom, Gwen Nolen, Gregory Gerhard, Tyler Canuso, Keira Huck, Julie Lent and Bella Lent.

The VBS team is also thankful for the Carmel members who contributed donations to craft bags for each camper and food items and meal preparation for our VBS Loving Kindness service project of 168 meals for Caring for Friends. (See separate Courier story.)

—Janet Simon

From **ADULT STUDY** Page 1

The *Follow Me* curriculum centers around biblical practices. Each week we'll enjoy some key biblical passages on hospitality and then on the action practices themselves. Our goal will be to deepen our understanding and live into the practice. A practice is a "verb" and all will be things Jesus did, said, or embodied. They will be things Christians have done over time. We will continue the "practice" in our time as we grow and deepen our ministry in this new time.

Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living is a 36-unit curriculum based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. Should this first unit be attractive to the group, we have the option of continuing with other four-week units, including a six-week unit for Lent!

Signup for the "Welcome All" study so we can order and provide you with your *Adult Reflection Guide*. You can call the Church Office to signup: 215-887-1074 or call Pastor Peter: 502-767-8104.



Carmel Nursery School News

August is a busy month at Carmel Nursery School. Preparations for the new school year are well underway. This year it looks a little different than previous years. Because of the pandemic and our school closure for a year, we are slowly growing the number of students enrolled. Our enrollment is a little more than 1/3 our capacity. We are trying to advertise on digital media but, if you think of it, spread the word about our wonderful little program to neighbors and friends. Don't forget we are a licensed Private Academic School with the PA Department of Education.

Of course, we are doing all the normal August preparations. The floors and carpets are being deep cleaned and we are planning and decorating each space for our new little ones. We are getting everything ready for another exciting school year!

Carmel Nursery School offers programs for children ages two to five. Children learn to function in a group while special attention is paid to individual needs. Our curriculum and objectives are designed to facilitate learning at each child's individual developmental level. Daily classroom activities include learning centers, music, art, math and reading readiness activities, literature experiences, and science and history lessons. If you or anyone you know are interested in any of the programs that Carmel Nursery School has to offer, please call the nursery school office at 215-886-7677. Or, better yet, schedule a tour and see why amazing things happen here!

—Leslie Arrowsmith

Compassion Camp Lovingkindness

Carmel VBS 2021



Opening and closing Bible stories and skits with Pastor Ashley and the Drama Team



Sarah Stein leads crafts groups



Snacks leader Joyce Kornfeld and team members Chris Rice and Katey Schuyler

Compassion Camp Lovingkindness

Carmel VBS 2021



Yoga sessions with Denise Abraham



Music led by Stefanie O'Gara and assistant Jonathan Boyle



Games with Jed Smith and his assistants



Carmel's LOVINGKINDNESS Shows

BAM! Emeril, Rachel, Martha and Snoop have nothing on Carmel's cooks who produced 166 nutritious meals for Caring for Friends, a 40+ year old non-profit organization that currently



distributes daily meals to over 2,000 homebound clients in the five county region. Most of the organization's friends are elderly individuals who could not otherwise remain in their homes without the support of the meals provided. Fulfilling a growing need, Carmel was happy to prepare Hispanic cuisine meals.



Cook-Ins in Carmel's kitchen are not new to our congregation, but using donated boxed, canned and bagged goods to

"prepare-at-home" one dozen complete meal trays per cook, was introduced last year during COVID, with good success. This approach continued in 2021 - partially due to convenience and preference, partially due to continuing caution. The Cook-In was



billed as an All-Church Service Project timed to incorporate Vacation Bible School participants and families as donors and cooks, allowing them to put *Compassion Camp: LOVINGKINDNESS* daily lessons into action!

Enjoy the photos of this *Christ is Calling* congregation-led project completed under Carmel's Board of Deacons. Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the following families and individuals

for their generous donations toward any one or more parts of the project: The Burkes, The Keshishians, The Rossis, The Steins, The O'Garas, The Lohofers-Mahons-Kozaks, Katey Schuyler, Nancy Pinkowicz, Kerri



Strike-Stahler, Margie White, Janet Simon, Jean Badger, Judy Vincent, Dick and Mary Ellen Thomas, Nicole Bohlander, Carol Moll, Abigail Clayton and Lynne Schutt. Also recognized is an anonymous donor of a \$50 Giant gift card!



Special thanks to Katey Schuyler for being the pick-up and delivery wing-man!
—Susan Badger Lohoefer, Cook-In Coordinator



Session Notes

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.

The Outreach Committee disbursed \$8,500 of Trust Fund B income to Mission Workers, Philadelphia Presbytery, Chester Eastside, Inc. and John Gloucester House. Session also approved two camp scholarships for the Rossi children to attend Johnsonburg Camp.

The Stewardship Committee continued their work in gathering updated membership information from Carmel members so our records can be up to date for when we welcome a new Senior Pastor.

At the request of the Stewardship Committee, Session approved to send 25% of the Peace & Global Missions collection to Mothers in Charge, a group that provides services such as grief support to individuals who have lost loved ones to violence, mentoring at risk adolescent girls and other support services to women returning home from incarceration.

During the last week of July 25 Carmel hosted in person Vacation Bible School. Many thanks to Reverend Rossi and the volunteers that made this year's VBS fun and a success.

Session approved the Property Committee's request to have tree work done behind the main parking lot and at the upper driveway that was needed as a result of a rain and wind storm in late July. The service was performed by Arader Tree Service at the cost of \$6,640.

Finally vacation leave was approved for Reverend Sulyok from August 2 through August 15, 2021.

—Nancy Pinkowicz, Clerk of Session



thank you

Dear Shepherds,

I would like to send a special thank you to Karen Bogle for the flowers and visit; it was very welcome! Thank you for the thoughtfulness.

God Bless,

Doris Wynne

Dear Carmel Friends,

I want to thank you for all of your well wishes on my 90th birthday. Also, the flowers were beautiful on the communion table — thank you to my sisters!

Louise Robinson

Dear Carmel,

I want to thank members for their phone calls, visits and flower deliveries. It is nice to be remembered.

Elsie Loane

Dear Carmel,

You did it again! Thank you Shepherd Ruth Kucera for delivering the beautiful flowers this past Sunday.

Fondly,

Rod & Arlene Hackman

"Come, let us return to
THE LORD.
He... will bind up our wounds."

Hosea 6:1, NIV

September
Birthdays
& Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to **Jean Badger**, who will turn 92 on September 21st.

Happy Anniversary to **Nancy & Joe O'Brien**, who will celebrate their 51st year of marriage on September 12th.



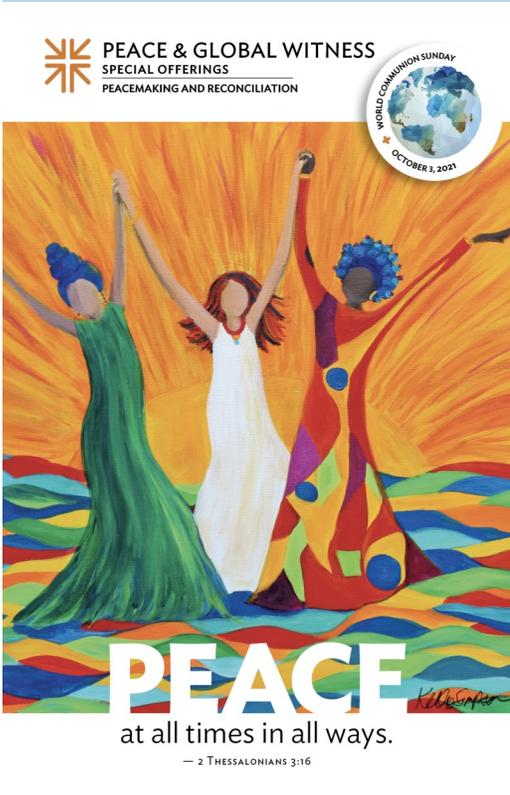
IN MEMORIAM

Long-time Carmel member **June Thomas** passed away on August 2nd. Please keep her family in your prayers.



www.presbycarmel.org

Stewardship



The **Peace & Global Witness** offering builds on the Presbyterian Commitment to Peacemaking established in 1980. 50% of our offering supports work for peace globally, 25% regional efforts, and 25% is directed by each congregation. Carmel Session has approved the Stewardship motion to send Carmel's 25% to Mothers in Charge - a group run by mothers who have lost a child or children to violence.

- Mothers in Charge runs multiple programs to cut down and/or eliminate violence including
- Support women returning home from incarceration
- Provide grief support for those who lost loved ones from violence
- Provide anger management in 9 weekly sessions to those who are referred from Philadelphia courts and probation offices
- Provide group sessions for children who have experienced loss
- Mentor at risk adolescent girls
- Provide skilled problem solving for incarcerated and at risk populations
- Work with public defender's office to provide appropriate defense
- Put out information to the public about the impact of violence, including working with national leaders
- Working against straw gun purchases
- Working to be sure background checks are complied with as ways to stop inner city killings

Special Peace & Global Witness envelopes will be in the pew racks beginning Labor Day weekend. Dedication of the offering will be during the World Communion Sunday, October 3rd.

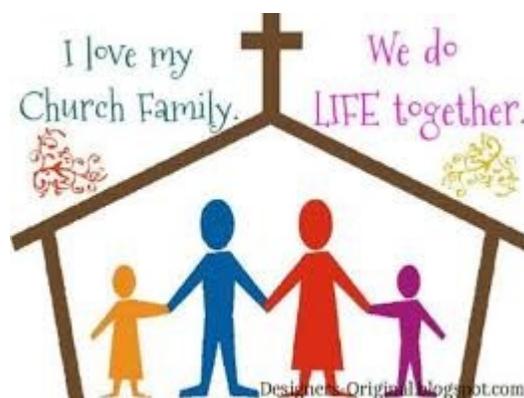
—Anne Newman

From **PETER** Page 3

thoughts with you for more feedback.

These seven marks of vitality will continue to guide us and become our strengths as we seek to become church for our future days:

- Life-long discipleship formation
- Intentional Authentic evangelism
- Outward incarnational focus
- Empower servant leadership
- Spirit-inspired worship
- Caring relationships
- And, ecclesial health



As we enter some unknowns this fall, your presence in worship, your financial support, your commitment to bring and welcome newcomers—these will all make and keep us a strong and vital congregation. We have a message to share, a church to love, plans to make and commitments to keep, and exciting new future opportunities as we continue to live into the faith. Thank you for your spirit and witness.

With grace and peace,

Pastor Peter



Warm Summer Greetings from the Deacons! We hope that everyone is safe, staying cool, and enjoying peaceful moments where they can be found.

We want to congratulate the Lohoefers and all the volunteers for once again making the Caring for Friends Cook-In a great success! The cook-in was able to further the Caring For Friends mission to provide food and friendship to homebound seniors and disabled, the homeless, and families with children in need in the 5-county Philadelphia region. The behind the scenes legwork and coordination of the event was made possible by the wonderful Lohoefers and of course it was brought to life by all the volunteers. Thank you everyone for your hard work and support! *For more information about the organization, you can visit <https://caringforfriends.org/>*

Ongoing projects:

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

If you are contemplating any springcleaning, we ask that you remember the **Inter-Faith 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/>

If you could use a home cooked meal, don't forget **Meals in a Moment!** Carmel members, please reach out to Carol Moll (cmoll@yahoo.com) to request a meal.

As always, if you are in need of Deacon support or are interested in becoming a deacon, please reach out to me ampmp611@gmail.com or Pastor Ashley at pastorash80@gmail.com.

God Bless! —Abigail Clayton

Shepherds

We are still looking for herders to help with our sheeplly duties. Arranging and delivering our beautiful flowers each week, and helping with the communion once a month is a small contribution to our lovely church and its congregation. We still have openings for memorials and honors to all loved ones . Please contact Nancy Rose for details and dates, her #215-886-4024 or the church office # 215-887-1074.

Enjoy your pasture the rest of summer and let's bring the sheep down from the mountains for fall , returning to our beautiful sanctuary!

Blessings to all! —
Melissa Keller and Beth Cherry , Co-Chairs



Lectionary

September 5th

Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146
James 2:1-10 (11-13)
14-17
Mark 7:24-37



September 12th

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 116
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38



September 19th

Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalm 54
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37



September 26th

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16
24-29
Psalm 19
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50



Congratulations!

Venus Agbadan became a U.S. citizen in late July.

Sarah Heintz Rutherford passed her State Boards as a Doctor of Physical Therapy and is employed as a physical therapist by Excel Physical Therapy.



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 garylmoll@yahoo.com

Birth Announcement



Congratulations to **AJ and Cassie Heintz** on the birth of their daughter, **Charley Marie**, on June 25th. All are doing well.