

August 18, 2021



MIDWEEK MESSAGE

CARMEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FROM THE PULPIT SIDE

Have you heard the old fable about the Sun and the Wind getting into an argument? It seems that each claimed to have the most power. So, they decided to make a test and see which really did have the greatest strength. As a man walked along a country road, the Sun said to the Wind, *“Let me see you blow that man’s coat off.”* So, the Wind blew and roared and whistled and became very blustery. But the man’s coat stayed where it was. Indeed, he buttoned it up, turned up the collar, and wrapped it around himself so tightly that finally the Wind just had to give up. Then the Sun went to work. Brightly it shone, gradually becoming warmer and warmer. At first the man turned down his collar, then he unbuttoned the coat, and before long he took it off and carried it on his arm. The Sun had won the contest.

I believe the Sun won because it had the right idea. In essence, the Sun said, *“I will make the man want to take his coat off.”* The Wind tried to do it by force...the Sun by persuasion. It reminds me of the old saying: *“You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.”* (I’ve never really understood why anyone would want to catch flies in the first place, but that’s another story!)

Some pastors try to get people into the church by the “fire and brimstone” method. But Jesus had a better idea. His plan was to warm the hearts of people by telling them of the wonderful love and kindness of God, and, in that manner, help them want to be faithful.

I believe that’s the method we should all follow. We want to encourage everyone to seek out God’s love, not in a way that warns of dire consequences, but in the affirming sense of shared fellowship and grace. The Apostle Paul said that love, in the Christian sense, *“...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.”* That may be pretty naïve by our world’s standards, but, oh my, how the world needs that optimism! Thank you, Lord, for warming our hearts to the point that we want to follow you in a spiritual relationship with God. Blessings to all...and,

*I’ll see you in church,
Frank*

Remember: “Love God...Love Neighbor...Get the word out!”

Technical Problems Plagued Service

If you tried to view last Sunday’s service (Aug.15) on our Facebook page but couldn’t find it, there was a good reason...it wasn’t there! In attempting to implement our Region’s covid recommendations, we opted to use a video for our hymns. In so doing, we were informed that we inadvertently used some copyrighted material that wasn’t cleared for use. So, Facebook took the service off. This is a glitch we encountered before, simply due to lack of clarity on what can be used. We will certainly try to not let this occur again. Hymns and songs will be presented live from now on. Thank you for your understanding!

Happy Birthday, Elnora!

Today, August 18th, is the 99th birthday for our long-time member, Elnora Osler! We extend our congratulations and best wishes to her for a wonderful day.

You may wish to send her a belated birthday card to:

751 Hawthorne Drive, Carmel 46033. God bless you, Elnora!

99
Years
Blessed
&
Loved

Church Welcomes First Day Students

August 12th was the first day of school for Carmel Clay High School. To welcome and greet the students, Amanda Wray and Pastor Frank were busy passing out gift bags to those utilizing our parking spaces. The bags contained pens, pencils, note pads, snacks, and a welcoming note from our church. We greatly appreciate Mandy's efforts in putting the bags together, and they were a hit with the students. A couple of thank you responses are included below:



I just wanted to say thank you for the kindness shared with the students on the first day of school. Erik was really touched by the kind volunteer who was out early to greet him and give him the thoughtful treats. Thank you so much to you and all who made that possible. What a thoughtful idea. Thank you again.

I have no idea who was in charge of the effort, but I just wanted to send a note of appreciation. It was such a kind thought to send the kids off to school with a gift bag. I'm not sure the teens always express thanks, but I wanted to make sure the gesture didn't go unnoticed. What a nice gentleman there was handing out the bags! My heart was touched by the kindness.

Memorial Service

A memorial service for long time member, Diane Neely, will be held on Saturday, September 4th, at 11:00 a.m., here at Carmel Christian Church. Rev. Don Schutt will present the service. (from Donna Carrier, Diane's daughter.)

Peace Garden Update

This past week we harvested 130 tomatoes (69 lbs.), 63 cucumbers (33 lbs.) and 37 peppers (8 lbs.). Our totals thus far for the year are 270 cucumbers, 515 tomatoes and 269 peppers weighing 499 pounds. This equates to 2,821 servings. Thanks to everyone that has helped with the Peace Garden this year. The United Methodist Church food pantry sincerely appreciates our donations.

Volunteers Needed - Scripture Readers and Greeters

The church is in need of people who are willing to serve as Greeters and Scripture Readers. If you are interested in serving in either role please contact Dianne, the church admin, at (317) 846-5033 or email the church office carmelchristian@sbcglobal.net.

Jerry's Book Signing

Greetings, CCC Friends:

I would love to invite you to my Interfaith Forum/Book Signing on August 29th, Sunday, at 4:00-5:30 pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. (100 W. 86th St., Indianapolis)

We will have our forum from 4:00-5:00, when faith leaders who wrote prayers in the book will have conversations with each other and the audience, and then time for people to purchase a hard copy and get it signed. The book, *The Peacemaker's Path*, is also available on Amazon. Blessings, Jerry.

Take Me Out To The Ballgame!

Our church has enjoyed a baseball outing to Victory Field in the past, but was unable to do so last year due to the pandemic. But now things are more open, so a date has been selected to reconvene our summer tradition. On Sunday, August 29th, we invite you to travel to the 'ole ballfield and take in a game with the Indianapolis Indians vs. the Louisville Bats. Game time is 1:35 pm. We have only 7 tickets still available at \$14.00 each. If you wish to go, sign up on the reservation sheet in the narthex. *See Pastor Frank anytime to ensure a ticket!* Let's enjoy a great American pastime!

Directory Update

Please update your directory with the following information:

Scott, Laurel & William Vowels - 17366 Tribute Row Noblesville, IN 46060

Tiffany Ingles - 6734 Apperson Drive Noblesville, IN 46062

Passing of a Church Friend

It is with sadness that we learned of the death of Enos C. Taylor, Sr., who passed last Saturday. Enos was a friend of our church for quite some time. The arrangements through Bussell Family Funerals is not known at this time. We will pass that information along as we get it. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Enos' family and friends.

Sermon Title: "But You Gotta Have a Boat!"

Like the Psalmist's message of hope, Jesus challenged his followers to abandon the meaningless, to rise above the mediocrity, to reject the shallow conformity of mass culture...and put out into deeper waters. Two thousand years ago, those fishermen left everything and followed Him. Today, we must decide whether or not we can follow that example...to put Christ first in our lives, above the empty nets of secular morality, and cast off for deeper waters, where our rewards will be great. But, you gotta have a boat!

Scripture for Sunday, August 22

Psalm 140:12-13; Luke 5:1-11...

"All the kings of the earth will give thanks to you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth. And they will sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord, for though the Lord is exalted, yet he regards the lowly; but the haughty he knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you will revive me; you will stretch forth your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand will save me. The Lord will accomplish what concerns me; your lovingkindness, O Lord, is everlasting."

"Now it came about that while the multitude were pressing around him and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; and he saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake, but the fishermen had gotten out of them, and were washing their nets. And he got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And he sat down and began teaching the multitudes from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' And Simon answered and said, 'Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but at your bidding I will let down the nets.' And when they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish; and their nets began to break. And they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came, and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!' For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not fear, from now on you will be catching people.' And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him."

Prayer Concerns

Please remember these folks and their families in your prayers. Mailing addresses are listed if you would like to send a note or card.

Ken Dowden, Myrna's son, is in the ER with low oxygen rates

Beatie Cummings, 334 S. Cherry St., Apt. 107, Westfield, IN 46074

Mary Rudy, on the passing of A.B. Rudy, 1630 Marborough Ln, Indianapolis, IN 46260

Judy Gest, 720 East Auman Drive, Carmel, IN 46032

Marilyn Huckleberry, 12130 Old Meridian St. Rm. 220, Carmel, IN 46032, phone number (317) 564-3809

Elnora Osler, 751 Hawthorne Dr. Carmel, IN 46033

Joan Bubna, 519 Oak Drive Carmel, IN 46032

Martha Ellis

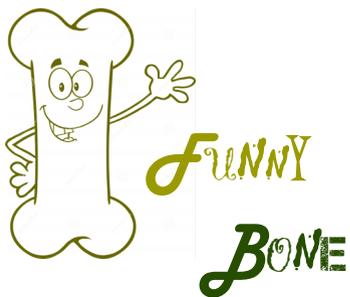


Keep in Touch

A phone call, card or visit can mean so much!

Ginny Luzader (317) 219-5675 12950 Talblick St Apt. 144B, Fishers, IN 46037

Elnora Osler (317) 844-4282 751 Hawthorne Dr., Carmel, IN 46033



Signs on Church Billboards:

- ◆ "Be a candle if you cannot be a lighthouse."
- ◆ "Forbidden fruit creates lots of jams!"
- ◆ "Laughter is contagious...start an epidemic!"
- ◆ "I can keep a secret...but the ones I tell it to can't!"
- ◆ "Parking for church patrons only -- violators will be baptized!"