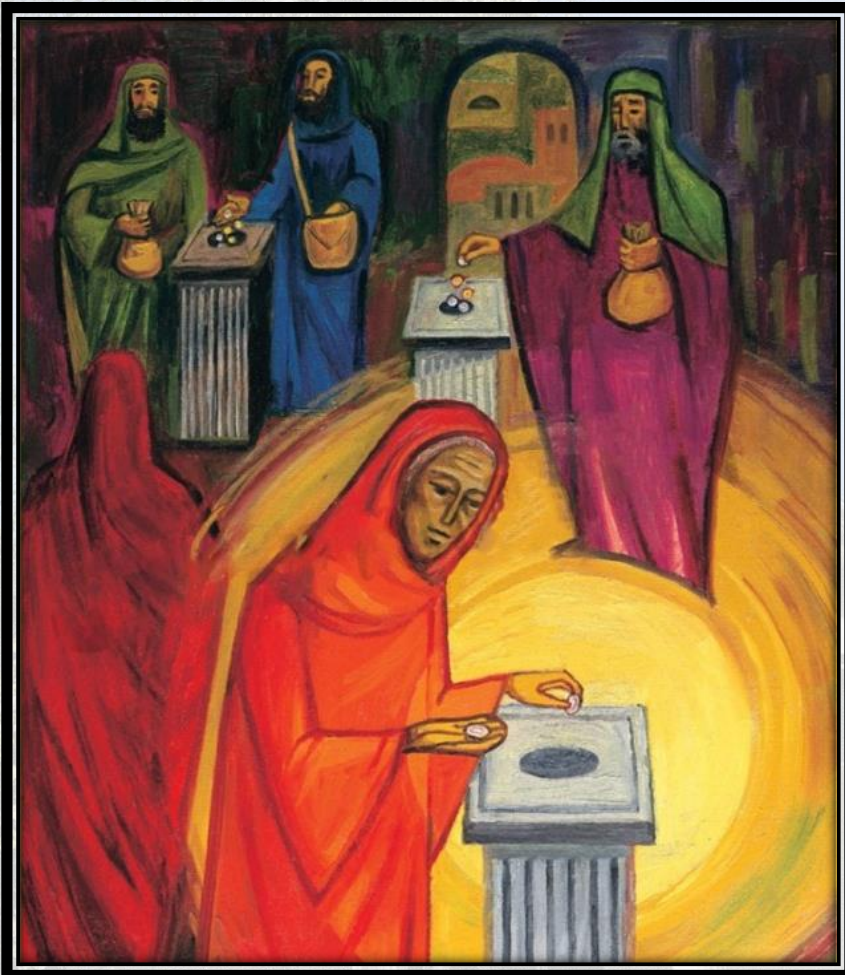


The Mount Carmel Congregational Church

A United Church of Christ



The Widow's Mite, Benedictine Nuns of Turvey Abbey (2019)

Stewardship Sunday
November 10th, 2024

Prelude

“Centered Song Title”
Arr. Person who arranged piece

Performer

Greeting and Announcements

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Call to Worship

One: When I think of God’s presence in the world, we are grateful:

All: Grateful for the presence of hope; grateful for the gift of life.

One: When we think of God’s presence in my life, we am humbled:

All: Humbled by the gift of grace; humbled by the invitation to begin again.

One: When we think of God’s presence in this community, we am glad:

All: Glad to be belong to these people worshipping God in this place.

One: Thank you all; thank you, God.

***Hymn** “Glorious Things of You Are Spoken” NCH #307

Prayer of Invocation

(In Unison)

Loving God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives: the fear that stifles us, the prejudice that blinds us, the ignorance that hobbles us, the doubt that plagues us. Help us, we pray, that we will find courage in unlikely place, see the world with new and gracious eyes, move to those places where love is needed, and trust that you are with us. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

First Reading: Mark 12: 38-44 Eric Grantz

As he was teaching, he said, “Watch out for the legal experts. They like to walk around in long robes. They want to be greeted with honor in the markets. They long for places of honor in the synagogues and at banquets.

They are the ones who cheat widows out of their homes, and to show off they say long prayers. They will be judged most harshly.” Jesus sat across from the collection box for the temple treasury and observed how the crowd gave their money. Many rich people were throwing in lots of money. One poor widow came forward and put in two small copper coins worth a penny. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than everyone who’s been putting money in the treasury. All of them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had, even what she needed to live on.”

Sermon

Hymn “Take My Life, God, Let It Be” NCH #448
 [Please remain seated for this hymn.]

The Joys and Concerns of the Parish Family

Please remember the following persons in your prayers: Maria Coffin; Carol Fitzsimons; Marilynn Bronson; Karl Paulette; Amos Hewitt; Rhonda Pruzinsky; Gilbert Spencer; and the family and friends of Victor Hallberg.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

(In Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

Special Offering: Stewardship Sunday

You may place your pledge card, along with any other monetary donations, into the offering plate. We thank you for your commitment to the mission of our Church.

Offertory

“Centered Song Title”
Arr. Person who arranged piece

Performer

*The Doxology

(In Unison)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that Love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit—One. Amen.***

*Prayer of Dedication

(In Unison)

Loving God, along with our weekly offering, today we have also made our promises for the year ahead, looking to see the ways you would share your love through us. As we offer all that we are to you, we pray you will deepen our compassion and generosity. Amen.

*Hymn

“This Is My Song”

NCH #591

Benediction

Postlude

“Centered Song Title”
Arr. Person who arranged piece

Performer

xx

*As a community of faith, gathered in Christ's love,
we strive to support one another in hearing the Word,
living the Word, and sharing the Word.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you still want to a bag to purchase food for our Thanksgiving drive, please see Debbie after church. Completed food bags can be dropped off in the nursery, not the stage, by Sunday, November 24th. Monetary donations are always appreciated. Thank you.

The Annual Budget Meeting of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church will be held in the sanctuary immediately following the church service on Sunday, December 8th, 2024. Copies of the budget will be available for pickup in the Narthex on Sunday, December 1st.

Please join us after our Budget Meeting on Sunday, December 8th for our annual Christmas Brunch! This year, we have a sign-up sheet with specific options that you can volunteer for, which will be located on the bulletin board in the Parish House entryway starting November 12th. For more information, please contact the office!

We are still searching for our next Church Clerk! If you are detail-oriented and passionate about supporting our church community, we highly encourage you to contact Tom Duffy or our office.

Keep your Ark Banks floating! Please don't forget to keep bringing in your ark banks. If you have not picked up a bank yet, they can be found in the narthex or in the entrance to the parish hall.

We are always looking for Ushering and Coffee Hour Volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Aren in the office, or use the sign-up sheet now located near the main entrance to the Parish House.

Donations for the Food Bank are always needed if you are able to contribute. Non-perishable items such as canned beef stew, hearty soups, canned fish, peanut butter, mac and cheese packages, and oatmeal would be greatly appreciated.



Imagine Together: Vitality

Nicodemus, initially criticized by Jesus, gradually evolves into a vibrant follower. His narrative highlights the importance of spiritual curiosity in maintaining vitality, addressing the tendency for stagnation and fear of change. How could a commitment to curiosity be transformative for us?

The COVID pandemic forced churches to explore new ways of ministry. However, in this post-pandemic moment, many return to familiar patterns of the past. Have we lost our ability to experiment?

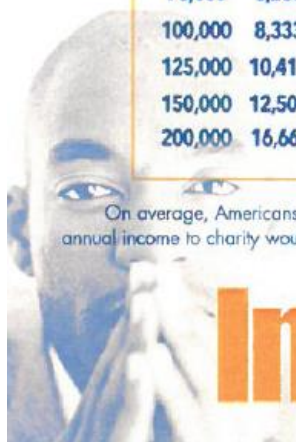
The story of Nicodemus serves as a model for gradual transformation, contrasting with more dramatic biblical conversions. As Rev. Dr. S. Chapin Garner notes, "Curiosity led Nicodemus from darkness to light, from ignorance to understanding, from stagnation to vitality. If we want

to not only imagine but experience vitality, all we need to do is steward our natural God-given curiosity. Accept invitations. Explore new places. Get to know different people. And when the spirit within us is piqued... trust that prompting is from the Lord, and get excited to not only imagine, but experience, where we will be led!"

Embracing curiosity can be the key to experiencing and maintaining vitality. How can we steward curiosity in our congregation?

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667



On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

Imagine
Together

SUNDAY WORSHIP: A LOOK AHEAD

Please join us every Sunday at 10am for our worship services!

November 17th, 2024

Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1: 2-20
1 Samuel 2: 1-10
Hebrews 10: 11-14, (15-18), 19-25
Mark 13: 1-8

November 24th, 2024: Reign of Christ

Twenty-Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: 2 Samuel 23: 1-7
Psalm 132: 1-12 (13-18)
Revelations 1: 4b-8
John 18: 33-37

December 1st, 2024: First Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Scripture: Jeremiah 33: 14-16
Psalm 25: 1-10
1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13
Luke 21: 25-36

December 8th, 2024: Second Sunday of Advent

Annual Meeting and Christmas Brunch

Scripture: Baruch 5: 1-9
Luke 1: 68-79
Philippians 1: 3-11
Luke 3: 1-6



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF FOOD ITEMS NEEDED TO FILL A COMPLETE THANKSGIVING BASKET.

- CRANBERRY SAUCE (1 Can)
- DESSERT (Brownie/Cake Mix & Frosting)
- GRAVY (1 Can or Jar)
- MUFFIN or ROLL MIX (1 Box)
- POTATOES (1 Box Instant)
- STUFFING (1 Bag or Box)
- VEGETABLES (2 14.5oz Size Cans)
- YAMS (1 Large 40oz Can)

Monetary Donations for turkeys may be placed in the offertory plate in a marked envelope, dropped off at the office or given to Debbie Wooley.

**ALL FOOD ITEMS OR MONETARY DONATIONS
MUST BE RECEIVED BY: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24th!**

YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP FEED MANY FAMILIES IN
OUR COMMUNITY!

November 10th, 2024



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aanderson545@gmail.com