



# February 2022

## Inside this issue:

### Indoor Worship Resumes Sunday, February 6

#### What to expect:

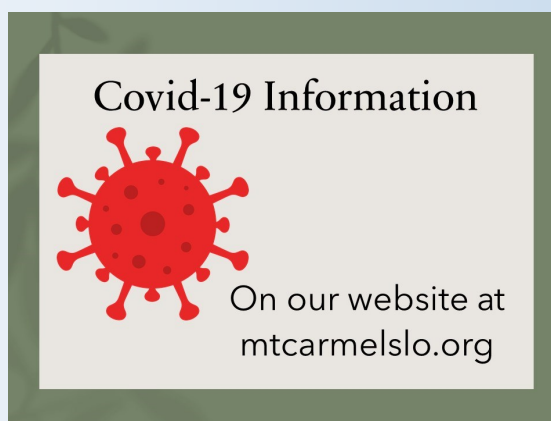
- \* Fill out a blue attendance card upon arrival with the first and last names of everyone in your family or group—even children
- \* Pick up a communion cup as you enter the sanctuary.
- \* Traditional and Contemporary music throughout the service
- \* Scripture lessons
- \* Children's time
- \* Communion led by Pr. Richard

Please remember to wear your mask whenever you're indoors, and to observe social distancing with those outside your immediate household. If you are not feeling well, please join us on Zoom.

In the everchanging landscape that is Covid-19, we are attempting to keep you up-to-date on the most recent developments and recommendations in our church and our communities. Please visit our website for information about what to do if you develop symptoms, and how Mt. Carmel is adjusting worship plans that allow us to continue meeting in person.

#### The latest news:

- [Link to order free in-home tests](#)
- A face covering mandate is in effect in California until February 15. Everyone 2-years and older must wear a facemask indoors, regardless of vaccination status.
- [SLO County Public Health Department](#)
- [Link to Mt. Carmel's latest update](#)
- Please check with your local pharmacy to find out if they have free N95 face masks



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**Sunday Worship  
at Mt. Carmel**  
Sunday Worship Service

9:30am—In person & Online

From a distance the earth is blue and green  
and the snow-capped mountains white.  
From a distance the ocean meets the stream  
and the eagle takes to flight.

The other day I heard the 1990' s song "From a Distance" on the internet that I remember singing years ago with a little girl at the church I served in Berkeley. As suggested in the verse above, the song plays with the image of the world seen from the perspective of space, where it appears as a peaceful planet floating green and blue among the stars. From a distance the borders separating countries and peoples are invisible and the essential unity of the earth as our common home is revealed.

From a distance there is harmony  
and it echoes through the land  
It's the voice of peace,  
it's the voice of hope,  
it's the voice of everyone.

Of course, we cannot turn on the TV, read the paper or go on the internet without being made aware of the overwhelming problems and divisions confronting our world. But seeing from a larger, broader perspective can help us perceive what is often obscured from our usual more limited view of things and ground our experience of the world in a greater reality.

God is watching us,  
God is watching us,  
God is watching us,  
from a distance.

According to the song, to see the world and our lives from this wider, larger view—from a distance—is to see the world as God sees it. And yet for all that might be said of understanding something more fully by having a larger view of things, I wonder if it is distance—or something else—that provides this deeper perspective. According to the gospels, viewing our world and the events of our lives from a larger, truer perspective does not mean seeing things from a distance. Instead, the Christian story tells of a God who does not remain distant or aloof, but who, in Christ, enters into the very midst of our world and its problems and pain. In Christ God knows and loves us not from a distance, but from up close.

To see with God's eyes, to see from the perspective of the gospel, is to see the world whole and without boundaries. It is to see beyond the conflicts and fears that divide us. And yet it is not to remain distant or uninvolved. To see the world as God sees it is to see with the eyes of compassion and concern. It is to feel the pain of those who suffer—whoever and wherever they may be—and so to reclaim our deep connection with one another.

From a distance, we are instruments  
marching in a common band,  
playing songs of peace,  
playing songs of hope,  
they're the songs of everyone.

Peace,  
Pastor Richard

## Worship at Mt. Carmel

Sundays at 9:30am  
Indoor worship, in person and online

~~~~~  
Wednesdays at 7:00pm  
Prayer at Night's Approaching

### INDOOR WORSHIP at MT. CARMEL Sundays at 9:30 AM

Join our in-person worship in the sanctuary. Masks and social distancing are required at all indoor activities.

*Reminder—if you are not feeling well, please join us on Zoom.*

- [Link to SUNDAY morning Zoom worship](#)

Sundays at 9:30 AM  
For telephone: +1 669 900 9128  
Meeting ID: 849 4786 1947  
Passcode: 591300

~~~~~

### PRAYER AT NIGHT'S APPROACHING Wednesdays at 7:00pm on Zoom

Join Pastor Richard Rollefson on Zoom for this quiet service each Wednesday evening.

[Link for Wednesday Evening Service](#)

For telephone: +1 669 900 9128  
Meeting ID: 867 5095 6162  
Passcode: 695333

Special thanks to our musicians and singers each week:  
Paul Woodring / Dave Becker / Joan Pedersen /  
Richard Rollefson / Matt Schultze / Ryan Reck / Phil  
Strauss / Talia Ortega / Janis Sexton

Links to all of our worship services, bible studies, and Zoom meetings can be found on our website at [www.mtcarmelslo.org](http://www.mtcarmelslo.org)

## Adult Forum

**Sundays at 11:00am**

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP FRIDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30 ON ZOOM

Join via Zoom  
Telephone: 669 900 6833  
Meeting ID: 829 8418 7961  
Passcode: 229122

### Men's Breakfast and Bible Study Saturday mornings at 8:30am on Zoom

Join via Zoom  
Telephone: 669 900 9128  
Meeting ID: 248 770 4658  
Passcode: 159759



# Children and Teens Ministry

Our Children and Teens ministry is in full swing with Sunday School and other seasonal activities. In case you missed it, here are a few highlights:

The CAT team held our first annual Trunk or Treat on October 30. Several families from Mt. Carmel showed up in costume, opened their car trunks, and dispensed candy to children of all ages and sizes. We had visitors from as far away as Paso Robles. Costumes included a pair of T-rexes, the Scooby Gang, a family from Jurassic Park, Spiderman, and various other creative and fun characters.



Our 2020 Confirmands finally were recognized and celebrated on October 31, 2021. Congratulations to Caleb, Allie, and Andrew.

Our annual Christmas program was held during worship on December 19 and featured several of the children as Mary, Joseph, angels, sheep, and shepherds. Thank you to all who organized and participated in the program.

In February several of our youth will attend the winter youth retreat. Please keep them and their group leaders in your prayers as they travel.

**High School Group:** Our high school group gathers on the first Sunday of each month from 5pm—6:30pm.

If you would like more information about our Children and Teens Ministries, please contact the CAT director—Deanna Schultze—at 805-305-8227, or [catdirectormtcarmel@gmail.com](mailto:catdirectormtcarmel@gmail.com).

# February Celebrations

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

02/09/1985 Debbie & Joel Petersen  
 02/15/1998 Eirk Brun & Heidi Brodmarkle-Brun  
 02/19/1978 Bill & Karen Almas  
 02/22/1986 Ken & Vicky Tway

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 01 Deanna Schultze   | 20 Bob Grosse     |
| 08 Dave Lonsway      | 23 Kathy Meyer    |
| 13 Dorothy Adams     | 23 MaryAnn Jakes  |
| 13 Desiree Dellinger | 25 Steven Harding |
| 15 Jeanne Miller     | 28 Steve Quist    |
| 15 Dave Becker       |                   |
| 17 John Cook         |                   |
| 19 Val Lund          |                   |

## PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY:

**February 6**—Sharon Haupt; Susan Hay; Carlyn, John & Lily Hinds

**February 13**—Jean Hohenstein; Monica, Caleb & Ariana Holman; Sheryl & Tony Huffaker

**February 20**—Bev Humphry; Ken & MaryAnn Jakes; Barbara Jauregui

**February 27**—Kay & Russ Jensen; Betty & Dale Johnson; John & Rebecca Keisler

**March 6**—Catherine Kessler-Amling & Dennis Amling; Chuck & Irene Kilstrom; Jackie & Steve Kinsey

### Mount Carmel Staff

|                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rev. Richard Rollefson | Interim Pastor                    |
| Paul Woodring          | Organist                          |
| Dave Becker            | Dir. Contemporary Music           |
| Tony Bloodworth        | Custodian                         |
| MaryAnn Jakes          | Parish Administrator              |
| Deanna Schultze        | Dir. Children and Teen Ministries |
| Lily Hinds             | Nursery Caregiver                 |

### Church Hours

9:00am—1:00pm Mon—Fri  
 Phone 805-544-2133

Email: [info@mtcarmelslo.org](mailto:info@mtcarmelslo.org) [www.mtcarmelslo.org](http://www.mtcarmelslo.org)

### Our pastoral staff is here for you

In time of crisis, please contact the church office or  
 Pastor Richard Rollefson 858-349-8862

### Mount Carmel Church Council

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| President        | Marshall Pihl    |
| Vice President   | Patti Frey       |
| Secretary        | Carol Harvey     |
| Treasurer        | Sherri Parkinson |
| Members-At-Large |                  |
| Jan Uder         | Jen DeClark      |
| Chuck Kilstrom   | Wayne Lippold    |
| Vicky Tway       |                  |

## Iglesia Santa Cruz....

Thank you for your continued support of Iglesia Santa Cruz. Your donations along with the weekly donations from Whole Foods, are a lifeline for many households in our sister congregation.

Special thanks this month to Brayden DeClark! Brayden held a food drive in his neighborhood for Iglesia Santa Cruz. Here's a picture of what he collected....



1st Sundays - Rice & Beans

2nd Sundays - Masa & Oil

3rd Sundays - Sugar & Salt

4th Sundays - Laundry/Dish Soap & Personal hygiene items (men & women)

5th Sundays - Socks and Undies (All ages/genders)

Donations of gift cards are easy to purchase and easy to transport. All gift cards are presented to Pastor Esteban Salazar at Iglesia Santa Cruz. Pastor Salazar distributes the cards to different families each month, as needed.

Thrivent grants are always a blessing. Your Thrivent dollars are generally used to purchase items from the list above. Please contact Steve Bennett if you would like more information about Thrivent grants.

[Click this link for more info about Iglesia Santa Cruz on their facebook page.](#)



### HUNGER HEROES

Mount Carmel continues to contribute to the SLO Food Bank, and the challenger continues to match every dollar. The need for funding at the Food Bank will likely be needed for at least a few more months.

You are all truly HUNGER HEROES!

[Link to Mt. Carmel matching funds page](#)

Thank you for all of your support of this very important ministry. Mount Carmel is truly blessed by your commitment. If you have not yet committed your support, even five dollars will provide thirty-five meals. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to make a difference to those standing in line to get their next meal from the Food Bank.

Peace and patience,

Marilyn Brown  
Food Bank Coordinator



The  
People's  
Kitchen  
of San Luis Obispo

### Schedule for February 4: **Hot Dish (serves 12+)**

Pat Forrest  
Dave Lonsway  
Kathy Meyer  
Ruth Rollefson  
Janis Sexton  
Kathy Towle  
Jan Uder

### **Salad (serves 12+)**

Walt & Judy Bremer  
Karen Colombo  
Ruth Rollefson

### **Canned Fruit**

Wende Dong  
Jennifer Bobell

### **3 Gallons Whole Milk**

Julie Martin



## The Tuesday Book Discussion Group ~~ only on Zoom

Tuesdays at 7:00pm  
Click here for the link



ASH WEDNESDAY



MARCH 2

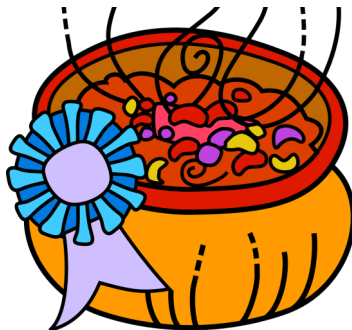
## Bicyclist Dinner Sunday, March 27

The bicycle riders are back this year! For those of you who don't know, Mt. Carmel hosts a dinner for several bike riders traveling down the coast. The riders pay for the dinner, and the congregation donates the ingredients for the meal. All proceeds benefit the Youth. Watch the Vistas and Summit in March for information about this fun annual event.



## Chili Cook-Off Saturday, April 2

Chili comes in all manner of styles—mild, spicy, white, traditional, vegetarian, and the list goes on. Get out your favorite recipe and prepare to dazzle the judges with your culinary prowess. More information coming soon about this delectable event.



Sponsored by the CAT Team.

## FREE TAX RETURN PREPARATION

The Volunteer Assistance Tax Program (VITA) offers free tax help to qualifying taxpayers with \$58,000 or less of gross income.

SATURDAYS ONLY  
JANUARY 29TH – MARCH 12TH

VITA centers located at

### SAN LUIS OBISPO

Orfalea College of Business  
(Cal Poly Building #03)  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### OCEANO

Lucia Mar School  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### SANTA MARIA

Allan Hancock College  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
\*Closed on February 19th

## IMPORTANT

- Bring all 2021 tax-related documents
- Social security cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number cards
- 2020 tax returns
- Picture I.D
- Bank account information

\*Masks required. Must bring proof of vaccination or proof of negative COVID test within 72 hours of visit. Only one representative from each family may come in building.

Tax returns prepared by IRS certified Cal Poly Accounting Seniors. IRS-certified professionals will review all tax returns.

Visit [www.myfreetaxes.org](http://www.myfreetaxes.org) to schedule an appointment



For more information:  
(805) 756-2667  
[www.cob.calpoly.edu/vita](http://www.cob.calpoly.edu/vita)

Sponsored by the IRS



CAL POLY

Dates and times are subject to change. Please contact the group leader or the church office if you have any questions.

### Calendar Snapshot

| Weekly   | Monthly   | Special Events                                 |
|--|---|--|
| Sundays @ 9:30am (S)<br>Sunday Morning Worship                   | 5:00pm 1st Sunday each month (B)<br>High School Group           | February 14<br>Valentine's Day                 |
| Sundays @ 11:00am (QH & SS)<br>Adult Forum & Kid's Sunday School | First Friday each month<br>People's Kitchen at Prado Day Center | February 21<br>President's Day (Office closed) |
| Mondays (2nd & 4th) @ 6:30pm (SS)<br>Ukulele Rehearsal           | 6:30pm 2nd Tuesday each month (Z)<br>Executive Team Meeting     | February 25-27<br>Winter Youth Retreat         |
| Tuesdays @ 5:30pm (S)<br>Praise Band Rehearsal                   | 6:30pm 3rd Thursday each month (Z)<br>Church Council Meeting    |  |
| Tuesdays @ 7:00pm (Z)<br>Book Discussion Group                   |   |  |
| Tuesdays @ 7:00pm (QH)<br>Narcotics Anonymous                    |   |  |
| Wednesdays @ 7:00pm (QH)<br>SLO Chamber Orchestra Rehearsal      |   |  |
| Wednesdays @ 7:00pm (Z)<br>Evening Prayer                        |   |  |
| Fridays @ 8:00am<br>Garden Club                                  |   |  |
| Fridays @ 9:30am (Z)<br>Women's Bible Study                      |   |  |
| Saturdays @ 8:00am (Z)<br>Men's Breakfast & Bible Study          |   |  |

**Room Codes: B=Brick Area; QH=Quist Hall; S=Sanctuary; SS=Sunday School Area; Z=Zoom**