



Carson/Mt. Hope News

February 2017



Over the past few weeks, I have become a listener. It's not my natural tendency, as I normally like to engage people in conversation and get a good back and forth going. Let me tell you what has changed.

First, we are having twins! That will make any dad hush up and pay attention to what others have to say. And with the twins possibly making an early arrival, I need to soak up as much knowledge as possible. I was speechless as one doctor described the challenges that premature babies face. I didn't have many questions because I didn't even know what to ask. Plus, I wanted to hear him give his expert experience and not myself babble.

The second major change I have noticed, which has prompted me to listen, is the combustible atmosphere around social issues and the leadership of the United States. There are marches of all kinds. And then there are comments on social media about the same issues and marches. Some of those marchers and Facebook posts are thoughtful, but some of them are full of hatred and disregard for anyone that doesn't think like they do.

My response thus far has been to listen and read. Remember, I am usually a talker. Scripture has reminded me, and all of us, to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. There is great pain in the world and it's time we listen to others when they are crying out. I think we might have something to learn from them instead of acting like we already know their experiences.

Remember the two blind men in Matthew 20 who refused to be quiet as Jesus was walking by? The crowd just wanted them to shut-up, but those two men had experiences and needs that weren't being heard so they yelled even louder. Jesus stopped and asked what they needed. He didn't tell them that they were wrong or assume they were like other people he had met. When he listened, he felt their pain and was able to heal them.

When we refuse to listen to others or assume they are wrong, we miss the point. It is time to listen to what "the other side" has to say. It is time to actually follow Jesus and get over the self-absorbed hatred that we spew. We live in a world where we think our voice on Facebook or Twitter is meaningful, prophetic, and as important as anyone else's. Truth is, our face-to-face love is more meaningful than a post, speaking the truth of scripture in a way that beckons all people to find hope in Christ is more prophetic than an angry outburst on social media, and our actions are more meaningful than our random thought that we post while sitting in a drive-thru.

We all want to feel listened to and we should be. That is why we need to be face-to-face with people, studying scripture. The church has something to offer that is hard to find in our society; actual community where we can work out our thoughts and feelings in person. Most importantly, the church has the grace of God to offer and that grace is most powerful when we are actually a part of each other's lives in the flesh. It's a place where everyone is welcome.

Okay, I will go back to listening for a bit. Sure, I will speak on Sundays as the Spirit leads. But as far as the issues, I need to listen a bit longer; first to the Holy Spirit and then to the pain in our world. When it is time to speak, let us do so with love and sitting across from the people we differ from. – Pastor Brody

UPDATE: Healthy Church Initiative

The Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) process is underway at Carson UMC. If you aren't sure what that means, it certainly isn't because we haven't talked about it! Maybe you've been busy or just not sure it interests you, but it isn't too late to be involved. This process will help shape our future as a church and how we do ministry in our community.

During the weekend of February 24-26, a group of people will be gathering at Carson UMC to get to know us and see how we can make steps to grow God's Kingdom. That is exciting news! They will gladly hear from members of the church; your dreams, your hopes, your ideas on how we can reach more people with God's love. Then they will give us some prescriptions that we can choose to adopt or ignore. It's up to us. The hope is that the prescriptions will get us all working toward a common goal and growing closer with God. We pray that we can continue to grow and reach more people with the love of God in Jesus Christ. If you have questions or want to make sure your voice is heard, be sure to keep your ears open during announcements and check with others involved in the process. – Pastor Brody



Carson / Mount Hope United Methodist Church



February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 2017</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Mar 2017</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">1</p> <p><i>Riverside Reading</i> 10:30AM</p> <p>UMYF 6:15PM</p> <p><i>Wednesday Night Worship</i> 6:30PM</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">2</p> <p><i>Mt. Hope Bible Study</i> 1:30PM</p> <p>Deberah Townsend Shannon Allen</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">3</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">4</p>
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<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">5</p> <p><i>Carson Sunday School to Oakland Manor</i> 9:30AM</p> <p><i>Workout Group</i> 3:30PM</p> <p>Paul Hart Quincy Stephens Tatem Bluml Zachary Duysen</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">6</p> <p><i>Bible Study</i> 10:00AM</p> <p>PPR Meeting 6:00PM</p> <p>Dana Killinger Eva Newill</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">7</p> <p>UMW - 9:30AM</p> <p>Marty Wyman</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">8</p> <p><i>Riverside Reading</i> 10:30AM</p> <p>UMYF 6:15PM</p> <p><i>Wednesday Night Worship</i> 6:30PM</p> <p>Emily Fox</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">9</p> <p><i>Mt. Hope Bible Study</i> 1:30PM</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">10</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">11</p> <p>Church Reserved</p> <p>Denise Magnuson Jack Duysen Leslie Amdor Lori Haack</p>																																																																																			
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">12</p> <p><i>Workout Group</i> 3:30PM</p> <p>Mt. Hope Mission Breakfast & Worship - 9:30AM</p> <p>Frank Olmstead Marlyn VonWehe Tucker Bluml M/M Brett Elliott</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">13</p> <p><i>Bible Study</i> 10:00AM</p> <p>Denise Kephart Kevin Magnussen</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">14</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">15</p> <p><i>Riverside Reading</i> 10:30AM</p> <p>UMYF 6:15PM</p> <p><i>Wednesday Night Worship</i> 6:30PM</p> <p><i>Carson Admin Board Meeting</i> 7:45PM</p> <p>Mike Killinger Rodney Wahle</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">16</p> <p><i>Mt. Hope Bible Study</i> 1:30PM</p> <p>Aleen Busse Anthony Beller Nick Amdor</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">17</p> <p>Kathleen Hendricks Rachel Richardson</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">18</p> <p>Nicholas Minssen Teri Price</p>																																																																																			
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<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">26</p> <p><i>Workout Group</i> 3:30PM</p> <p>Joyce Isaacson</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">27</p> <p><i>Bible Study</i> 10:00AM</p> <p>Jaxon Gordon Kay Russell</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">28</p> <p>Andrea Lorenz Ticia Bass</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>MT HOPE WORSHIP AND MISSION BREAKFAST</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 1.1em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th</i></p> <p style="font-size: 1.1em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">9:30AM</p> </div>  </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;"><i>FREE WILL DONATIONS TO GO TO CARE AND SHARE.</i></p>																																																																																						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">HCl Interviews</div>					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">HCl Interviews</div>																																																																																				