

# #THE CONTACT

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH // AUGUST 2022



Children's Ministry: Kids' Camps July 2022 at CUMC

Camp themes included Arts & Crafts, Splish Splash (fun with water), Outdoor Adventure, and Sweet Treats, just to name a few!

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RECKLESS SERIES

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FISH

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BAGS OF HOPE

### DISCIPLESHIP

PRODIGAL GOD STUDY

### PRESCHOOL

BACK TO SCHOOL

Carmel United Methodist Church  
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Carmel, IN 46032

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Email: [Caremail@carmelumc.org](mailto:Caremail@carmelumc.org)  
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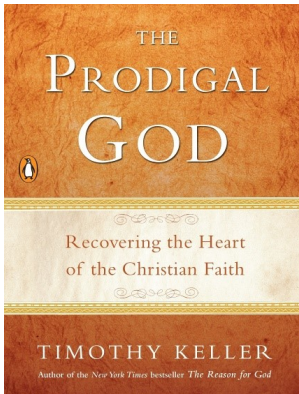
## Plan On Being A Little **RECKLESS** This August!

You're going to notice some changes starting with August 14. We will be kicking off the new school year with one worship service at 10:30am, followed with a meal from *Jugs Catering*. There will be time to chat, play games, and listen to music together as a congregation.

August 14 is also the kick off for a very important worship series: *Reckless: A Journey Into the Extravagant Heart of God*. No, that's too long to put on a bulletin cover. We'll call it **Reckless**. God's love for us is surprising but what does it mean to call it reckless?

We will spend five weeks on three parables Jesus shared as recorded by Luke in the 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter of his gospel. Though we often call the final parable of the chapter *The Prodigal Son*, Timothy Keller points out that it makes more sense to talk about our *Prodigal God*. The word prodigal doesn't mean wayward. It means 'recklessly extravagant,' as in spending lavishly. The one who is the most extravagant in the story of the two sons is the Father, who is, of course, a stand in for God.

I originally entitled the series: *Why You Are the Way You Are and How To Do Something About It*, but again that was too long. The response of the younger son, the older son, and the storyteller are very different from one another. In fact, along with one unmentioned person in the parable, they describe three different ways to find meaning and purpose in life. Almost all of us fall into one category or another. For a short story, the *Parable of the Waiting Father* has a lot to say and packs a big punch.



Pastor Timothy Keller has written a short but powerful book entitled, *The Prodigal God* and we are going to offer a variety of small groups at a variety of times to study, reflect, and discuss it. As far as I'm concerned, it's going to be a church-wide study. We will have copies of the book available at a reduced cost, and I hope all of you will take the time to read it along with your sisters and brothers in Christ.

Some of you know that this is my favorite chapter in scripture. I've read, studied and prayed over these words of Jesus for many years, and I keep finding new insights to guide and direct my life and relationships. I am really looking forward to sharing those insights with you from the pulpit starting on August 14. I think this would be one of the best set of worship experiences to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join you for. And I hope you do just that.

The following Sunday, August 21, we will begin our new fall worship schedule. Find the time or the service that best suits your needs and plan on coming to all five sermons. I believe you will find yourself richly blessed if you do.

Pastor Tim





# CHURCH UPDATE

Praise & Celebration for...

Baptism of Penelope McCartney, parents Frank and Dee McCartney, on July 17, 2022.

With Sympathy to the families of...

Gary McDermid, who passed away July 23, 2022.

Stacey Peters Colombe who passed away July 29, 2022.

Joyce Rajski who passed away July 2022.



## Connect with CUMC E-Prayer Chain

The CUMC E-prayer chain continues to be a valuable ministry, over 2 decades in practice. Prayer requests are shared for concerns about members of CUMC, as well as friends and relatives that live near and far. Nearly 200 email addresses currently subscribe to the CUMC prayer chain. If you would like to be a prayer warrior for CUMC, please [CLICK HERE](#) for a simple form, adding you as a recipient for prayer requests.

**Send Prayers to Ed King, [edking722@gmail.com](mailto:edking722@gmail.com)**

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead.

We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Contact Us Today

**GRIEF SHARE**

## Grief Support Group

**Thursdays 2:00pm - 4:00pm**

**August 25 - November 17**

**Carmel United Methodist Church**

**621 S. Rangeline Rd, Carmel IN**

**Contact Jan Lefton**

**[janlefton@gmail.com](mailto:janlefton@gmail.com)**

**Register at [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org)**



# CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

Jessica Stevens • [jstevens@carmelumc.org](mailto:jstevens@carmelumc.org)



On the Fourth of July we lived out our motto of being “The Heart of Carmel!” Throughout the morning we opened up our building to parade goers to cool off, grab a drink and use the restrooms. Over 400 people were greeted by friendly faces while they

used our facilities. The youth raised almost \$2000 while directing people in our parking lot. In the evening, there were at least one thousand people on our lawn to watch the fireworks while we played music over the bell tower. The following Sunday we had over ten new families attend worship with us.

Join us!  
**SUNDAY**  
**AUGUST 14, 2022**

10:30AM

All Church Worship

11:30AM

Food, Games & Live Music



As we look ahead, our next event will be our Fall Kickoff. Following the worship service, we will have a church-wide picnic on the front lawn with lunch provided by Jugs Catering and desserts from CUMC United Women in Faith. The Children and Youth Ministries will have games set up and our own Mina Keohane will be performing with Teresa Reynolds and the Slicktones! Be sure to invite your neighbors and friends to this great annual event!



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Rev. Aj Mildenberg • [kids@carmelumc.org](mailto:kids@carmelumc.org)



## 9am Traditional Worship

(no Sunday School but childcare is available)

## 10am Children's Choir/Kick Choir Rehearsal

## 10:30am Traditional Worship

(Children will be escorted to Sunday School from worship at 10:45 a.m.)

## 10:45am Children's Sunday School

## 10:45am Contemporary Worship

(Children in this service will begin at Sunday School and return to the worship service to be with their parents at 11:30 a.m.)

We want to make sure our children are included in both traditional and contemporary worship services. We also want to make sure that children from both services have the option of Sunday School. We will continue to offer a children's message in the two traditional services—so nothing will change appreciably for families with children. In contemporary worship, the children will go to Sunday School before worship begins but will be brought back to worship with 15 minutes left. It's our intention to use a variety of kid-friendly options for the closing time of that service such as a children's message, a child-directed application of the morning's theme, or a worship song that the kids can join in with percussion instruments.



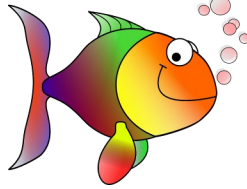
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles:** Each year during September, we begin by having a short class about the Bible for our third graders and their parents. However, some folks are not a part of the Church until their kids are 3rd or 4th graders. If you are in that category, please consider joining us for the Bible class on **September 11 at the 9am** Traditional or 10:45am Contemporary worship. Then we will present the Bibles to the kids during the 10:30am Traditional or 10:45am Contemporary worship.

Please let Pastor Aj know you will be participating so there are enough Bibles and educational materials: [amildenberg@carmelumc.org](mailto:amildenberg@carmelumc.org)



The 2022-23 Children's Ministry theme is FISH, Faithful In Serving Him. Loving others and serving them is such an important part of a child's character development. In scripture, there are many examples of fish, we can learn and grow together from them. As you see the fish around the Church building, consider praying for your child and all our children to learn to have a missions heart. Be on the look out for opportunities for your family to serve together.

# Faithful In Serving Him



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Rev. Aj Mildenberg • [kids@carmelumc.org](mailto:kids@carmelumc.org)

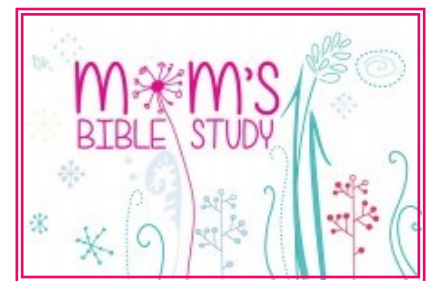


Please pick up a Back to School Eve packet that has activities, prayers and a devotion for you and your family can do before school starts. Included is a backpack tag and lunch notes for you to put into your child's lunch box. Start the school year out right with your whole family focused on God!



**MOMS BIBLE STUDY** Want to know more about the Bible? Want to get to know other Moms from Church? Starting September 8 from 9:15-10:30am join other moms for the Mom's Bible Study. This group meets for a short time each week and there is no homework. Childcare is available and free! This fall the group will be studying *The Prodigal God*. Pastor Timothy Keller uses the story of the prodigal son to shine a light on the central, beautiful message of Jesus: the gospel of grace, hope and salvation. Keller argues that the parable of the prodigal son, while Jesus' best-known parable, is also his least understood.

Email Rev. Aj Mildenberg, Minister of Families and Children for more information: [amildenberg@carmelumc.org](mailto:amildenberg@carmelumc.org)



Scan the QR code for quick links to CUMC Children's Ministry webpage, Facebook, and Instagram pages!





# YOUTH MINISTRY

Rev. Matt Sherrill • youth@carmelumc.org



**BREAKFAST & BIBLE  
2022**

## Youth Kickoff August 21 6-8PM Food, Fun, and Games

We are so pumped to get ALL  
6-12th grade students back together for our  
fall kickoff! We are ready for another amazing  
year of Being With, Becoming Like, and Doing  
What Jesus Did!

**BEGINS AUGUST 28**

→ **Middle School Encounter** ←  
**Every 2nd and 4th Sunday  
6-8pm in the HUB**

→ **High School ReConnect** ←  
**Every 1st and 3rd Sunday  
6-8pm in the HUB**



*Several CUMC youth and leaders met for hikes to prepare and practice for the CUMC Youth Wilderness Trail adventure of hiking part of the Appalachian Trail July 19- July 24.*



*High school and middle school youth and leaders took canoes down the White River for a fun day of sun and splashing around with friends.*

# NEW

### Confirmation Experience 2022-2023

**What:** Due to taking last year off, we need to get students caught up who didn't attend last year. Since two years ago confirmation was on Zoom, we will be opening these courses up to all 6-8th grade students. Below you will see a new format we are going to try. We are asking everyone to commit to 4 week courses and attend every class. For some people Sunday morning works better and for others Wednesday evening works better. If you happen to miss a Sunday, you can make it up at that Wednesday class. Our hope is to add more courses and options each year, in addition to keeping the core classes for new students to start out their confirmation journey. We also hope to have offerings for high school students and even adults someday in the future.

**Who:** Current 6-8th grade Students

**When:** 2 Options, Same Course

Sundays 10:45-11:30am Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm

**Beginning:** Sunday, August 21st and Wednesday August 24th

#### IMPORTANT DATES TO SAVE:

**Parent Orientation Meeting • Sunday August 7 • 10-10:30am in the HUB!**  
**Confirmation Sunday, April 16 2023**

#### Fall Course 1: Identity and Call

Sunday (10:45am-11:30am): 8/21, 8/28, 9/4, 9/11

Wednesday (5:30pm-6:15pm): 8/24, 8/31, 9/7, 9/14

#### Fall Course 2: Trinity

Sunday (10:45am-11:30am): 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13

Wednesday (5:30pm-6:15pm): 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16

#### Spring Course 1: Elective (TBD)

Sunday (10:45am-11:30am): 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12

Wednesday (5:30pm-6:15pm): 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15

#### \*February 22nd Ash Wednesday

#### Spring Course 2: Rescue

Sunday (10:45am-11:30am): 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26

Wednesday (5:30pm-6:15pm): 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29





Most children in foster care enter with nothing of their own. Bags of Hope provides foster children with their own monogrammed duffle bag filled with books, blankets, toys and a few items that will hopefully bring them joy.

### SAVE THE DATE

Carmel UMC will host an all church packing day for Bags of Hope on November 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be a great mission project to do as a family!

Bags of Hope will host a golf outing on September 10<sup>th</sup> to benefit foster youth throughout Indiana. For more info or to register:

[CLICK HERE](#)

317-840-7124

bagsofhope.in@gmail.com

Krysti Widau, Founder



### BLANKET Instructions

An infant/toddler blanket requires 1 ¼ yards

A child/teen blanket requires 1 ½ yards

Fleece fabric recommended. No sewing required!

Complete instructions are available in the church office.





With inflation and the increase in grocery costs we are seeing a rise in the number of guests we serve each month. Please consider bringing in toilet paper (4 packs are preferred), kid's cereal, feminine hygiene products or brown paper sacks for the Food Pantry to distribute. Also, if you are interested in volunteering please let us know! We have several openings in the Food Pantry on Saturday mornings and shopping to be done at Meijer during the week. If interested please reach out to Jessica Stevens at [jstevens@carmelumc.org](mailto:jstevens@carmelumc.org)

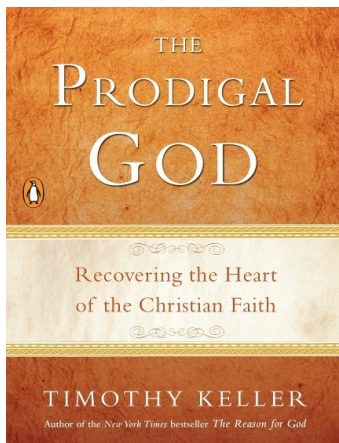


# DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Rev. Matt Sherrill • [msherrill@carmelumc.org](mailto:msherrill@carmelumc.org)

Cathy McCallister • [cmccallister@carmelumc.org](mailto:cmccallister@carmelumc.org)

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Fall Kickoff is upon us! Pastor Tim will be preaching a series based on the book *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller. We are doing a church-wide study for 5-6 weeks to go along with the sermon series. We have purchased some books and are already placing another order - we're up to about 100 people who are taking part in this study! The Kickoff is Sunday, August 14 at 10:30am (one service) followed by a free lunch and live music on the lawn. See the list of Small Groups who are involved in the church-wide study to find one that works for you.

Don't see one? Let's start one! May we suggest a Sunday morning group (i.e. Sunday School)? Contact Matt Sherrill at [msherrill@carmelumc.org](mailto:msherrill@carmelumc.org) or Cathy McCallister at [cmccallister@carmelumc.org](mailto:cmccallister@carmelumc.org).



The Emmaus Walk expands participants' spiritual lives, deepens their faith and discipleship, and rekindles – or perhaps ignites for the first time – their gifts as Christian leaders for their churches and communities. Persons whose spiritual lives are renewed and strengthened through the Walk are called and empowered to be the hands and feet of Christ.

The Men's and Women's Walks for 2022 will be at the Indiana Conference and Training Center, Fortville, IN.

**Women's Walk:** September 29 - October 2, 2022

Lay Director: Margie Nichols [margiedellnichols@gmail.com](mailto:margiedellnichols@gmail.com)

**Men's Walk:** October 6-9, 2022.

Lay Director: Bob Sabo [babykins5@comcast.net](mailto:babykins5@comcast.net)

Please consider attending the walk and registering before August 29, 2022.

For more information on the Walks, please contact Margie or Bob or go to [www.indyemmaus.org](http://www.indyemmaus.org)

## Open Groups For *The Prodigal God* Study & More

### Followers of God • Sundays 9am • Room 122

Contact: Art & Jane Enlow, [jayneenlow@att.net](mailto:jayneenlow@att.net)

FOG is a welcoming and inclusive adult Sunday School Class of all ages. The class watches and discusses various video studies. The format is informal and there is no homework. Guests, visitors and new members are welcome to share in study and Christian fellowship and share in a monthly pitch in breakfast.

### WEDNESDAY Group - 7pm

Contact: Jessica Stevens,  
[jstevens@carmelumc.org](mailto:jstevens@carmelumc.org)

This group is a hands on study of Timothy Keller's book *The Prodigal God*. Come prepared to work with Carmel UMC mission ministries, explore our community, and talk openly about how we see the parable of the Prodigal Son in the world around us.

### Empty Nesters • Sundays 10:15-11:00 • Room 121

Contact: Katie Kessler, [gmacovi@aol.com](mailto:gmacovi@aol.com)

The Empty Nesters class meets each Sunday from 10:15 until 11:00. Different members volunteer to take turns leading the discussion of a book of the Bible or topic of interest.

### Mom's Bible Study Thursdays 9:15am Confirmation Room (LL13) Begins Sep 8

Contact: Pastor Aj  
[amildenberg@carmelumc.org](mailto:amildenberg@carmelumc.org)

### Friends in Faith • Wednesday 3-5pm • Library/Conference Room

Contact: Barbara Krueger, [bkrueger@carmelumc.org](mailto:bkrueger@carmelumc.org)

This diverse group of women has been meeting for a long time. Study courses range from Bible studies to RightNow Media studies. Some members will lead occasional studies giving the group some variety.

### Pastor's Study • *The Prodigal God* • Wednesdays 10:30am Begins Aug 17 for 6wks

Contact: Cathy McCallister [cmccallister@carmelumc.org](mailto:cmccallister@carmelumc.org) or Shaina Murphy  
[smurphy@carmelumc.org](mailto:smurphy@carmelumc.org)

### Mid Week Pop Up • Wednesdays 6-7:30pm • Room TBD • Aug 17 - Sep 21 • Childcare available

Contact: Shaina Murphy [smurphy@carmelumc.org](mailto:smurphy@carmelumc.org)

This study is open to everyone. We will use Rightnow Media for this 6-week study on *The Prodigal God*. This group will 'pop-up' throughout the year with special studies during advent, lent, and as needed or wanted.



# PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Tiffany Lehman • tlehman@carmelumc.org

Stephanie Holl • sholl@carmelumc.org



— preschool —

621 S. Rangeline Rd • 317-844-1958

[carmelumc.org/preschool](http://carmelumc.org/preschool)

**Please keep our  
teachers and  
students in your  
prayers as they  
begin a new school  
year together!**



**Monday August 22 • 5:30-7pm**

Parent Orientation

**Tuesday August 23 • 9-10:30am**

Students Meet Teachers

**Wednesday August 24 • 9am-1pm**

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

2022-2023

## Preschool Teachers & Staff

Mirjana Bukarica

Peggy Wucher

Stefani Gretencord

Amanda Wochomurka

Carrie Franzo

Susan Strobel

Amy Johnston

Amy Talbott

Darci Kamp

Brooke Stevning

Courtney Ghormley

Lucy Halsmer

Jill Everhart

Beth Nichols

Karen Alessandrini

Stephanie Ertel

Katie Fairman

Laken Pottorff

Angie McMahon

Mary Phillips

Amy Pommer

Amanda Powers

Laura Janeczko

Jennifer Evancic

Holli Podgorny

Dalia Wasila

Stephanie Ross

Paula Foster

Stephanie Holl

Tiffany Lehman

## Have you Noticed the Updates to the CUMC Water Fountains?

There has been a growing number of requests from CUMC staff, preschool teachers, and church members to have the ability to fill their personal water bottles at our water fountains. The request was approved by the Trustees and the Governing Council to retrofit the water fountains in three locations (Door 3, near the gym and second floor classrooms) by adding a bottle filler to the existing water fountains. This is another example of CUMC going Green by encouraging more refillable bottle usage.



**“Going GREEN”** Bottled water is 2000x more expensive than tap. Plastic bottle production requires three times the amount of water that it contains! A ticker on the bottle filling station keeps track of the disposable water bottles CUMC is not using!

The Endowment Committee approved the use of the Rushlight Greatest Needs fund to pay for the expense to retrofit the three water fountains, an expense well worth supporting.

The **Rushlight Greatest Needs** fund is an unrestricted/undesignated account in the Endowment Fund to be used for areas of significant need. We are thankful for all the families who have provided support to the Endowment Fund and especially God for the blessings and riches He has bestowed upon our church!



*For more information about the Endowment Fund or if you would like to make a gift or participate in “Planned Giving” to the Fund through your will, trust, estate, life insurance, IRA, or other bequest, email: [giving@carmelumc.org](mailto:giving@carmelumc.org) or pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center for more information.*



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[www.carmelumc.org](http://www.carmelumc.org)

At Carmel UMC we are connecting with God and others, growing in faith and love through Biblical learning, and serving our community and world as followers of Jesus Christ.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# CONTACT

## AUGUST 2022

### UPCOMING EVENTS

# FALL KICK OFF

## SUNDAY AUGUST 14, 2022

10:30AM

All Church Worship

11:30AM

Food, Games & Live Music

