

#THE CONTACT

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH // NOVEMBER 2024



November 2024

- Serve Week: November 6-10
- Missions: Angel Tree
- Music Ministry: Harp Concert & FIRST Wednesdays Meals
- Kids: In-Touch & Christmas

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Thanks and Other Such Words

I recently came across a book of lists. One of the categories inside was a list of words that were difficult to say out loud. The list included the following:

- Specificity
- Ignominious
- Library
- Defibrillator
- Worcestershire
- Pulchritude
- Asterisk

Looking over the list, I'd have to agree. I often leave out the first 'r' in library and I don't think I have a clue how to pronounce 'pulchritude' let alone have any idea what it means (*physical beauty, evidently*). Due to my own issues, I'd add 'Cinnamon' and 'Aluminum' to the list. For the life of me, I can't get either one of those past my tongue and onto my lips.

There is another word that we might add to the list—Thanks. To be fair, I hear folks use it all the time. I hear it when someone holds open the door, picks up something you've dropped, or passes the potatoes across the dinner table. Yet I stand by my position—we don't express our thanks nearly enough.

We rarely go out of our way to thank the people who make our lives easier and better. We rarely stop to thank our children's teacher for her/his dedication to our child's growth and learning. I can't think of the last time I put a note on my mailbox, expressing my appreciation for the mail-carrier who walks our neighborhood in the heat of summer and the cold of winter. I try to thank the nurses and staff who assist our hospitalized church members, knowing that it can be a demanding as well as life-saving calling. But I have to admit, it's hit or miss for me.

I get all kinds of wonderful feedback from leading worship, but I couldn't do what I do without our audio-visual volunteers, our dedicated choir and praise team, or our musicians and directors, worship leaders, our worship coordinator, and ushers. I may get the glory (and sometimes the blame), but I am just one part of a team of committed followers of Jesus who make worship possible.

My guess is that all of us have to work a little harder to make sure we thank those to whom our thanks is due.

There are two things that take place in November that give the whole month its distinctive flavor. One is Black Friday—the scramble to get the best price on Christmas gifts. The second is Thanksgiving. I'd like to think the later is a bit more important than the former. I'd love to see us all take the entire month to track down the women and men who have blessed us and to make sure they know how much they are appreciated. There's plenty of biblical precedent for it:

Ephesians 1:16-17: "I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers".

Philippians 1:3-6: "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God".

1 Thessalonians 1:2: "We always thank God for you and pray for you constantly".

Let us emulate the great apostle Paul and make a concerted effort to both pray for and give thanks to those people who continue to make such a difference in our lives and in the lives of those we care about.

Now the list of words that are hard to say out loud also included one more item...the word 'sorry.' The author quotes Sir Elton John, "Sorry seems to be the hardest word." Of course that's a word for a different time, a different Contact article, sometime down the road.

Pastor Tim

CHURCH UPDATES

OPERATIONS GIVING:

These numbers reflect the amounts received vs. budgeted for the OPERATIONS of the church.

FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

Budgeted Giving: **\$89,102.83**

Actual Giving: **\$85,788.99 (-3,313.84)**

With Sympathy to the family of...

○ Marian Pethe who passed away October 22, 2024



Make a pledge & help us plan for 2025

Why is it important to pledge? Because the budget is built on what we can depend on for each month in 2025. Plans for the upcoming year are based on what we can expect incoming versus what must go out. Electricity bills, maintenance fees for the lawn, parking lot, repairs, supplies, resources, etc. are all on that list of outgoing expenses.

Pray about your pledge and make the best estimate of what you can contribute next year; weekly, monthly, or yearly. Our church has a long history of people who have poured their resources into making this church what it is today...a place to call home. Let's continue that legacy for our families, for our children, and for the future of this church.



The 2025 pledge cards were mailed a few weeks ago, and there are cards at church (in the pews, at the welcome desk). You can also choose to make this pledge online by clicking this link right now:

Online Pledge Card

carmelumc.org/giving



CUMC E-Prayer Chain

If you would like to receive the list of prayer needs, and be a prayer warrior for CUMC, please [CLICK HERE](#) for a simple form, adding you to the list of **PRAYING PEOPLE**. If you have a prayer request for the team to pray for, send it in email to Ed King, edking722@gmail.com. When sending, let Ed know if you want it shared publicly, otherwise he will assume it is for the prayer list only.

WORSHIP VISUAL ARTS

Are you someone who loves to create visual displays? We'd love to have another person bring their talents to our worship décor and visual arts. You'll get to work alongside Kim Barrett and bring your own ideas too! If you're interested, talk to Kim or Sue Burchill at sburchill@carmelumc.org.



GRADES 4&5 in touch

with God, Church, Each Other

Dave Coleman and Ken Evancie have been teaching Sunday School for over 20 years! To further engage their Sunday School class they offer a once a month Friday night fun night called "*In Touch*". The kids are learning to stay *in touch* with God, with their church, and with each other. Ken & Dave have spent the last 19 years dedicated to reaching kids outside the Sunday School classroom with *In Touch*. They engage them with fun activities, devotion, prayer and snacks. The students are encouraged to bring friends, and many of them do.

In September they had their back to school night and there were 18 kids, and I would guess about half were not from CUMC. Our CUMC students brought friends, neighbors, and cousins to hang out on a Friday night at church.

October was a little tricky with different schools on Fall Break, but kids showed up for Carnival night. They threw darts at balloons, tried for a hole-in-one putt, and competed for the fastest time in bobbing for apples.

While Ken (25 years) and Dave (23 years) have spent two decades serving in Children's Ministry, I am just getting started. And I am humbled by the dedication and successes of the Children's Ministry at CUMC. This ministry is not possible without the dedication of this congregation willing to serve. One person doesn't teach 4 Sunday School classes, One person doesn't make VBS happen, and One person won't make this ministry the best it can be. I hope that you will talk to me about participating in Children's Ministry. We have a need for Sunday School teachers, VBS leaders, and much more!

Peace & Blessings,
Shaina Murphy



In Touch
Bingo Night
November 15
7-8:30pm

Mom's Bible Study

Thursdays 11:30am-12:30pm
Confirmation Room LL12

New
Study
Nov. 7

Its All Under Control

6 week study to letting go of the things you can't control, finding the strength to hang on tighter to those you can and finally learning how to tell the difference.

Being together in faith, conversation, and prayers. We'll study first and socialize after. Encouraging each other and sharing the best (and worst) of being Mom. Moms & Women of all ages are welcome!

Childcare available.
Optional: Bring your lunch!

CARMEL
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

this month

Friday Nov 8

Missions Kindness
Camp for Kids

Thursday Nov 28

Happy Thanksgiving
Thankful for YOU!

Twas the Night
Children's Christmas Program
December 15 | 10:45am Worship

ATTENTION! Preschool through 5th graders are encouraged to participate. Information will go out to parents soon! There will be no Sunday School so all kids are invited to dress up, sing, and celebrate Jesus' birth!

**CUMC Kids
Need
YOU!**

GOOD
THINGS
AHEAD

VBS 2025

June 8-11

Yes it's early, yes it's 4 days
(Sun-Wed) - More Details to
come in 2025 - Volunteers will
be NEEDED & ESSENTIAL!

Kids at CUMC need **YOU** to lead Sunday
School for **Kindergarten/First Grade!**

The activity and/or craft for each lesson is
prepared ahead of time for you! Volunteer
every week or once a month! Want to be a

Substitute teacher for Sunday School?

Contact Shaina, smurphy@carmelumc.org

At **Paint & Pray** on Oct. 24,
we made little ghosts with
snowmen on the back to
display in the Fall and in
the Winter time. We had
popcorn and the kids had
a great time playing with
friends.

'Unidos en Fe' Visits the Ark Encounter

We wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your support during our recent trip to the Ark Encounter with the **Unidos en Fe** group. Your prayers and assistance made a significant impact, helping to create a memorable experience for everyone involved.

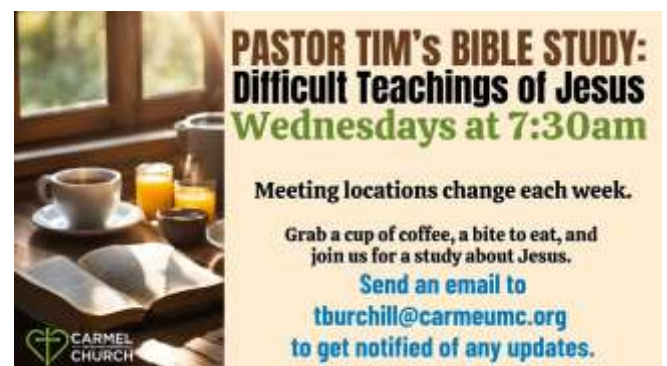
Exploring the Ark and its exhibits not only allowed our group to understand on how Noah might have cared for all animals and how God could have prepared him for this monumental task, but most importantly, provided valuable insights for our group about God's true purpose for human life, faith, and the eternal love He offers.

The joy and enthusiasm shared during our time there were deeply cherished by the Unidos en Fe families and beyond, fostering hope and excitement for our weekly Tuesday night meetings at the church.

Thank you once again for your invaluable support and for helping us create such wonderful memories. We look forward to more adventures together in the future!

Warm regards,

Guillermo & Mary Yanez



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Rev. Jessica Stevens • jstevens@carmelumc.org

Opportunities to Connect, Grow and Serve are right around the corner. Find a group, and join us!

Updated: October 2024

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS (in order by DAY of the week)
If you see a group that interests you, send an email to the person listed for that group. If you have questions, or cannot find a group, contact Jessica Stevens jstevens@carmelumc.org to find a way to get connected.

FOLLOWERS OF GOD - Sundays at 9:00-10:00am at Carmel UMC in Room 122. The Followers of God (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.
CONTACT Gayle Webb - gayle.beyers.webb@gmail.com

EMPTY NESTERS - Sundays at 10:15-11:00am at Carmel UMC in the conference room—The Empty Nesters class meets each Sunday from 10:15 until 11:00am. Different members volunteer to take turns leading the discussion of a book of the Bible or topic of interest.
CONTACT Katie Kessler - gmacovi@aol.com

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - Wednesdays 10:00-11:00am at Carmel UMC in the Conference Room/Library. This group of ladies meets weekly to read about and discuss aspects of the Bible and our faith. All ladies are welcome. No cost is involved.
CONTACT Carol Getch - caroljgetch@gmail.com

FRIENDS IN FAITH - Wednesdays 3:30pm to 5:00pm at Carmel UMC in the conference room. —This diverse group has been meeting for a long time. Study courses range from Bible studies to RightNow Media studies. They would love for you to join them! Some members will lead occasional studies giving the group some variety.
CONTACT Nancy Adams - nadams35@att.net

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - 3rd Friday at 7:00am at the Starbucks on 116th. This group of 30-40 year old men meet monthly to study the Bible.
CONTACT Matt Collins - macollins317@gmail.com

THE BARRINGTON BIBLE STUDY - 1st & 3rd Monday at 1:00pm at The Barrington—1335 S Guilford Rd, Carmel, IN.
CONTACT Jessica Stevens - jstevens@carmelumc.org

INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE OF CARMEL BIBLE STUDY - 1st and 3rd Friday at 1:15 pm at Independence Village-13390 North Meridian Street, Carmel, IN.
CONTACT Barbara Krueger bkrueger@carmelumc.org



Are you looking for a way to join in, but don't know where to start? Send me an email, and I will be glad to help you join a group, or form a new one!

- Pastor Jessica Stevens

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS (in order by DAY of the week)

RUTH ANNA CIRCLE - 2nd Tuesday at 10am, at Carmel UMC in the Gathering Place —Our time together is planned to promote the ideals of United Women in Faith (UWF) - developing Christian friendships, deepening our faith and being in mission. There is no cost to join, but all are given the opportunity to contribute to our various missions. Refreshments are served. We welcome ladies of all ages to join us.
CONTACT Katie Kessler - gmacovi@aol.com

PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE - Tuesdays at 12:30pm-2:30pm at Carmel UMC in the Gathering Place — The Prayer Shawl Circle meets each Tuesday to knit, or crochet, prayer shawls in various patterns. Each person brings their own supplies, which is the only cost involved. Everyone is invited to join us.
CONTACT Katie Kessler - gmacovi@aol.com

DINNER BELLES - 2nd Tuesday at 6pm at various local restaurants - Dinner Belles is a United Women in Faith circle that meets every month at a local restaurant for good food and great fellowship. All women are welcome.
CONTACT Kay Hapner - kayhapner@yahoo.com

LYDIA CIRCLE - 2nd Tuesday 6:30-8:00pm, at Carmel UMC in the Conference Room— Lydia Circle is a fellowship/missions group of the United Women in Faith. Our group was formerly the Christian Business and Professional Women's group for a few years and have gradually been growing back our group. We focus our time on helping others and our members bring forth missions and ideas where we can provide help.
CONTACT Nancy Miller - nancymiller99@hotmail.com or
Gayle Webb gayle.beyers.webb@gmail.com

ROMEOs - Wednesday at 9:30am at Carmel UMC in Room 122. This is a group of "Retired Old Men Eating Out". This group is primarily for fellowship. All men are welcome.
CONTACT Bob Phillips at rdphillips13@gmail.com

GARDEN GROUP - Meets every Thursday 6-7:30pm at the Food Pantry Gardens (in the Food Pantry in bad weather). Open to all! Join others of all skill and experience levels as we help grow produce for the Food Pantry and fellowship in God's amazing creation.
CONTACT: Stephanie Fairfield: sjfairfield@comcast.net

QUILTERS - Fridays 9:30am-12pm, at Carmel UMC in room LL 23. Our Quilting Circle is currently hand-quilting a quilt. We also have some members who tie quilts that we make for charity. We welcome anyone who wants to quilt or tie, or anyone who wants to learn.
CONTACT Marie Harris at mdrharris@aol.com





The time is here for our BIG Serve Week!

We are starting off **EACH NIGHT** at 5:30pm with a moment of prayer in the sanctuary with **EVERYONE**.

Our hospitality volunteers will be there greeting and directing volunteers each night.

We start off on **Wednesday** with volunteers packing school supplies for Midwest Missions, and packing snacks for Soup's On (for Sunday).

Thursday we will have some shoppers go and find treasures for some of our Angel Tree cards, and we will have some volunteers go to senior living places and play some games.

Friday is the Kids Kindness Camp, and set-up around the church for Kids Coats Giveaway and for the Bags of Hope Wrap & Fill in the FLC.

The Kids Coats Carmel Giveaway is on **Saturday** November 9, and the Bags of Hope Wrap & Fill event is on **Saturday** in the FLC.

On **Sunday**, a group of volunteers will go down to Robert's Park UMC to serve a meal to our neighbors in Indy.

And, one last act of serving for serve week is the people who will drive items to locations for Bags of Hope on **Monday** of the following week.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up, and if you are wanting to help, check out the sign-up page at carmelumc.org/serveweek to see where you can plug in.

There are several jobs still available.

SIGN UP HERE:

carmelumc.org/serveweek



Feeding Our Neighbors

CUMC Food Pantry is partnering with the Carmel Meijer store again through December to tackle food insecurity in Hamilton County. Pick up a \$10 donation card at the Gathering Place desk or in the Meijer store and add your treasures to this effort.

ANY purchase of this card (by scanning it and paying \$10 per scan) by any person at the Carmel Meijer store will benefit the CUMC Food Pantry through December 28.

[Click here for more information.](https://carmelumc.org/missions)

(This information is available on our website at carmelumc.org/missions)



Mission: Salvation Army Angel Tree

The Hamilton County Salvation Army Angel Tree program aims to support 400 children by connecting volunteers with the opportunity to shop for personalized Christmas gifts for children less fortunate in our county.

This year's giveaway, led by Beth Lotti and Margaret Kettle will be on Saturday, December 7 and we are seeking CUMC volunteers to adopt 200 of these 400 children as well as help out on our giveaway day by assisting families through the gift pick-up process. Many of these children are from the very same families that we already serve at our food pantry as well as receiving coats at the Kids Coats giveaway on November 9. Each volunteer will have the opportunity to select a specific child to sponsor, ensuring that the gifts purchased will directly benefit that child. In addition to these personalized gifts, families will be able to select supplementary items such as books, games, clothes and stocking stuffers during the gift pick-up, further enhancing their holiday experience.

Parents have already begun to register for the Angel Tree program. As part of their registration, they pick categories of gifts for their children like: football, soccer, Paw Patrol, or Barbie. These gift ideas will go on Angel Tags that you can select from. Each tag is for one child and will have their first name, age and gender on it. Shoppers should expect to spend approximately \$100 per child on one small gift, one large gift, and some stocking stuffers. Last year, several small groups adopted a child or two



to minimize the cost per person. Angel Tags will be available in November on our Missions Giving Tree located in the Gathering Place. Watch for the date in our weekly worship bulletin as well as the Midweek Connect email.

We want to THANK YOU for sharing the joy of Christmas with those in need in our community. Questions? Feel free to contact Beth (brlotti52@gmail.com) or Margaret (mkettle@indy.rr.com)

Beth Lotti



Margaret Kettle





First Wednesdays: Friends and Family Nights!

After the fantastic turnout at our September Wednesday Night Friends and Family event, we're thrilled to continue this tradition! We invite you to join us on the first Wednesday of every month beginning **Dec. 4 from 6:00 to 6:30 P.M.** for an evening of great company, delicious food, and beautiful music—all for free! We will be singing Christmas carols.

What to Expect: Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy a warm, welcoming atmosphere where you can relax, share a meal, and connect with others in the community. The night kicks off with a free dinner, so come hungry!

Love to Sing? If you've ever thought about joining the choir or simply enjoy music, this is the perfect no pressure opportunity. After you enjoy the meal, everyone will participate in a Christmas Carol Sing. You'll experience firsthand the joy and harmony that singing in a group can bring. Choir members will be on hand to answer any questions, and you can even join in a song or two if you feel inspired!

Whether you're a seasoned singer, just curious, or just want to listen, this event offers a laid-back way to see what choir life is all about. Who knows—you may decide to join the choir by the end of the night!

Why You Should Come:

- **Free Food:** A delicious meal awaits, and there's no cost to attend!
- **Free Music:** Enjoy a sneak peek into our choir rehearsals, and soak in the beautiful sounds of choral music.
- **Community Connection:** Meet new people, catch up with friends, and enjoy fellowship in a welcoming environment.

So mark your calendars and join us at **Carmel United Methodist Church (CUMC)** every **FIRST Wednesday of each month at 6:00 P.M.** for a heartwarming evening of food, music, and friendship. We can't wait to see you there!

Dave Morton,
Director of Music Ministry

CLICK HERE to RSVP
for the Dec. 4 FIRST WEDNESDAY

If your group is interested in partnering with us for a music event, contact DMorton@carmelumc.org



Click [here](#) to visit the [Youth Ministries Page](#)! Sign up forms, and updated info on all events are available online.

CONFIRM 102

November 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

EXODUS

November 20th & December 4th

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

November 10th
November 24th



HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

November 3rd
November 17th



November 2024

YOUTH MINISTRY

Ryan Remington • youth@carmelumc.org



PIVOT



CUMC Preschool NOVEMBER Teacher Spotlight

This month we are highlighting 2 very special teachers in our 4C Class! **Mrs. Evancic** and **Mrs. Wasila**! This is the duo's 2nd year teaching together and OH WHAT FUN they are having in 4C!



This is **Mrs. Evancic's** 23rd year of teaching here at CUMC Preschool. Mrs. Evancic brings a fun and groovy vibe to the classroom! Her love for teaching and her students is evident every day and we are beyond blessed to have her not only as a CUMC employee but as a CUMC member as well. She and her husband Ken have been married for 36 years and have 3 amazing children, 4 beautiful grandchildren, 4 of the sweetest grandpups you will ever meet and 1 grandcat!



Mrs. Wasila has been a teacher at CUMC for 3 years now! The most recent activity that she brought to the classroom was teaching her students about her Egyptian culture. She made a tasty Egyptian snack for the kids to enjoy at home, had fun games planned and even brought in special items and artifacts from home! Mrs. Wasila and her husband, Sam, live here in Carmel with their 2 daughters, Heaven and Gabby!



CUMC Preschool is ready for FALL! Take a walk down the preschool hallways and check out our fabulous bulletin board artwork! Our students are so talented, you will certainly be impressed!



Greek Tony's Pizza DINE TO DONATE night

Greek Tony's Pizza and Sub Shop has offered to host a DINE TO DONATE night to support our Preschool! Please consider ordering from Greek Tony's on **Tuesday, November 19** and Greek Tony's will give back a portion of the proceeds to our school! We are so grateful to Greek Tony's and to the CUMC congregation! Just by participating in our DINE TO DONATE events, you help our students receive enrichment activities, books, playground improvements, and so much more!

THANK YOU from all of us in the preschool!



Thanksgiving - A Time for Gratitude

Dear CUMC Family,

During this season of Thanksgiving, the Endowment Committee wants to extend its gratitude for the generosity shown by our CUMC members through their support of the Endowment Fund. In the last 8 years (2017) the fund has received almost \$250,000 in gifts and we are pleased to report that the balance of the Fund is now consistently averaging over \$1 million even after annual fees and distributions. Our distributions these last 8 years has been \$350,000 and have been used for many purposes such as church updates/repairs, missions and other ministries while steadily growing the Fund from approximately \$685,000.



Endowment Fund Gift Tree

We are so thankful for partners who wish to help provide for the future of our church's mission and care of its facilities from current and Planned Gifts. Of the gifts that the Endowment Fund receives, only the investment income is distributed. In other words, you can be assured that your gift will continue to bear fruit and be a lasting contribution to the church. Your gifts work forever!

With constant changes in our world – it is the flexibility and long-range support provided by planned gifts from estates to an Endowment Fund that allow churches like ours to adapt and continue their ministries and spread the Gospel into the future.

Please consider joining us this year in changing lives and ministries with a gift now to the Endowment Fund and see how your gift will work for others or a "Planned Gift" to be received in the future.

"This service that you perform is not only supplying needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." 2 Corinthians 9:12 NIV

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: plannedgiving@carmelumc.org or pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center for more information.





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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



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GRATITUDE

THE CONTACT NOVEMBER 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOOK INSIDE

for more information about all the happenings at CUMC!

MISSION FOCUS: Angel Tree

PLANNED GIVING: Gratitude

CHILDREN: Upcoming Events!

MUSIC: FIRST WEDNESDAYS!!

MUSIC: Harp Concert & Pie-A-Palooza

SERVE WEEK is November 6-10, 2024