

# THE CONTACT

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

## Our Christmas Creed

- **We believe** that God works extraordinary wonders in ordinary people. In humility and faith, Mary and Joseph responded to the call of God's angels.
- **We believe** that God chose the most unlikely witnesses--simple shepherds and foreign Magi—to share His good news of great joy.
- **We believe** in a babe whose birth changed the course of history—a babe whose life humbled the proud, toppled the mighty, and elevated those of low degree.
- **We believe** that in Jesus God took the risk of birth because he so loved the world and would go to any lengths to save his children.
- **We believe** that the Holy Spirit of Christmas continues to work through the heart to bring the power of hope, peace, joy, and love to all people.

## December 2024

- **Missions: CUMC Food Pantry**
- **Music Ministry: Cantata 12/8**
- **Music Ministry: First Wednesdays with carols & Food**
- **Kids: Christmas Program 12/15**



## The Best Kind of Gifts

Christmas has become a time of gift giving (and, of course, receiving). We spend quite a bit of time, energy, and money getting just the right gift for all the people who populate our Christmas list. When my children were little I would sometimes get a book of 'coupons.' These were little slips of paper on which they'd written various things they could do for me and Sue. Some I could redeem for a hug, another was an offer to empty the dishwasher or pick up their rooms after only being asked once. I found a few just this week while cleaning out a drawer. I think these might have come a mere 15 years ago. Here are the ones I evidently never cashed in from my daughter:

- ◆ Good for any chore needed!
- ◆ Good for a clean kitchen table for a week.
- ◆ Good for two Sundays without being pestered in service (Abby would sit with me for one of our worship services).
- ◆ Good for a meal at McDonald's without me complaining (as long as I don't have to eat anything.) The girl was not a McD's fan.

I am wondering now what the expiration date is on a few of these. She'll be home for Thanksgiving, and I'd love a cleared and clean kitchen throughout the holiday.

It just seems as if the best gifts are the gifts we give of ourselves: gifts that cost us something—the sacrifice of our time, the use of our talents, the personal nature of the gift's creation. The same was true that very first Christmas as well. Each of the major figures in the nativity story gave of

themselves extravagantly in order to welcome the Christ child. From Mary to the Magi, from Joseph to the Shepherds, they each risked a great deal in order to prepare the way for the Prince of Peace.

Our worship theme for this advent is The Five Gifts of Christmas and will look at the unique gifts given by Mary, Joseph, The Magi, and Shepherds. On Christmas Eve we'll consider the one who risked the most and gave the most—God himself. I hope you'll make every effort to reacquaint yourself with the depth and breadth of the Bible's witness to the coming of God into our world as the child of a humble carpenter and his betrothed.

In case you're wondering, we will be hosting a beautiful Christmas Cantata in both traditional services (9 and 10:30 a.m.) on December 8, with a children's pageant in contemporary worship on December 15 at 10:45. Our Christmas Eve worship schedule will start with a Family Service at 10:30 a.m., Contemporary worship at 5 p.m., and Traditional Lessons and Carols at 6:30 and 8 p.m.\* There is no better time to come home to your church and invite others to join you than the Advent/Christmas season. I pray that you do just that in a spirit of joyful anticipation and love.

Pastor Tim



\* See our Christmas calendar of events on page 15.

# 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: **\$119,520.45 (+30,417.62)**

**In Celebration of...**

- **Baptism of Tanner Adeline Preston on November 24** —proud parents are Drew & Jennifer Preston, and siblings are Walker & Hunter.

**With Sympathy to the family of...**

- **Lee (Percy) Adams** who passed away **November 12, 2024**



**Tim Paramore's** impact lives on through his championing efforts to further improve ADA access at our major three entrances. His memorial plaque is now located just inside door 4.



**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](mailto: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](mailto:sburchill@carmelumc.org).

The 5 Gifts of Christmas



**CARMEL CHURCH**  
UNITED METHODIST  
[carmelumc.org](http://carmelumc.org)  
 621 S. Rangeline Rd.

Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

**MORNING**

10:30 am - Children & Family (Sanctuary)

**EVENING**

5:00 pm - Contemporary (Family Life Center)

6:30 pm - Traditional Candlelight (Sanctuary)

8:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight (Sanctuary)





# *Twas the Night*

## Children's Christmas Program

December 15 | 10:45am Worship

ATTENTION! Preschool through 5th graders are encouraged to participate. There will be no Sunday School so all kids are invited to dress up, sing, and celebrate Jesus' birth! Contact Shaina, [smurphy@carmelumc.org](mailto:smurphy@carmelumc.org)



**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!**

**in touch**

*with God, Church, Each Other*

**InTouch Christmas Party**

**4th & 5th Graders**

**Friday December 13**

**7-8:30pm, FLC**

# GRADES 2 & 3

**Author: Ed King**



Ed King has been teaching 2nd /3rd grade Sunday School for 16 years at CUMC. Some of his first students at CUMC have now graduated from college! This year Matt Jones joins Ed as assistant teacher.

Students in this age group receive rigorous, structured teaching of the Bible and of our Christian faith. Each class begins with lighting a candle to remind us of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our class and in our lives. An empty cross next to the candle reminds us that Jesus died for our sins so that we may have eternal life. Next, a student leads the class in a prayer from our “prayer box.” Before a new lesson is started, we always review what we learned in the previous week’s lesson.

In this class, 3rd graders receive their new Bibles in September and both age groups are taught how to look up and read together selected scripture associated with the Bible lesson. A variety of games and activities are employed during the year to reinforce key learnings of the weekly Bible lesson, ranging from various word puzzles, Bible “Bingo”, the wild and crazy “Hot Potato” game, and situational analysis questions on how Biblical concepts can be applied to the “real world” of a 2nd /3rd grader.

We have continued the “Marble Jar” tradition first started when Mrs. Jane Danner taught 3rd grade class students for many years at CUMC. Students add marbles to the jar each Sunday when they remember to bring their Bibles to class, correctly answer questions about the current lessons or “Bible Trivia”, and memorize/recite selected scripture such as The 10 Commandments, 23rd Psalm, John 3:16, etc. Students are promised an end of the year “cupcake party” if they fill up the marble jar, and they always succeed! Our goal is to always have a meaningful and fun learning experience.

Thank you Ed & Matt!  
-Shaina

# Advent Storytime



You may have an advent calendar at home - surprises of chocolate, trinkets and toys. It's a fun way to count the days til Christmas morning. My gift to you this Christmas is a collection of stories about Christmas - stories that relate to the celebration of Advent - HOPE, LOVE, JOY, PEACE. I hope your count down to Christmas fills your heart with the gifts that don't fade, break or get lost - God's love through Christ Jesus.

For a SPECIAL Advent activity,  
ASK at the welcome desk!

*this month*

Dec 15 - Twas the Night 10:45am

Dec 24 - Family Service 10:30am

Dec 15 & 29 No Sunday School



# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

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

## Hymn Sing

Thursday, December 12  
11:00am

We will sing Christmas hymns in the Sanctuary and have lunch afterwards in the Gathering Place.

CARMEL CHURCH

## LYDIA CIRCLE

is meeting at 6:30pm  
in the conference room  
on Tuesday Dec 10

We are going to make Christmas Cards. Join us!

CARMEL CHURCH

## Prayer Shawl Circle

EVERY TUESDAY

In the Gathering Place.  
12:30pm-2:30pm

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

CARMEL CHURCH

## Ruth Anna Circle

Meeting  
TUESDAY  
December 10  
11:00am

Gathering Place  
Christmas Party (pitch-in lunch)

CARMEL CHURCH

## Moms' Bible Study

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

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 CHURCH

## Dinner Belles

are NOT meeting in December.  
See you next month!

CONTACT Kay Hapner -  
[kayhapner@yahoo.com](mailto:kayhapner@yahoo.com)

CARMEL CHURCH

## Women's Bible Study

Every Wednesday  
10am-11am  
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

Join us!

CARMEL CHURCH



**CARMEL CHURCH**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

# Salvation Army Angel Tree EVENT

## Saturday Dec. 7, 2024

**CLICK HERE to volunteer!**

Angel Tree

THE SALVATION ARMY

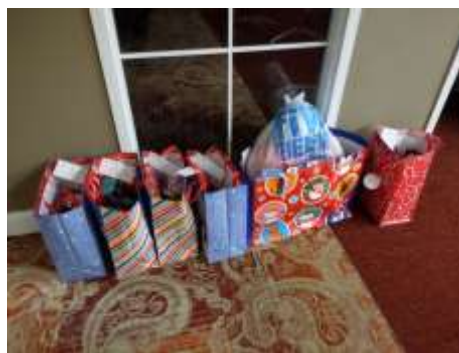
DOING THE MOST GOOD

## Angel Tree Event

December 7, 2024

[Click here](#), or on the image to SIGN UP for the event.

We are still collecting gift wrap, gift bags up until the day of the event to help parents wrap the gifts for their children.



**meijer**

**give**

together, we can help end hunger in our community.

ONLY at the CARMEL Meijer... SCAN THIS CARD and the CUMC FOOD PANTRY will get the donations from 09/29/24 through 12/28/24

CARMEL CHURCH

## Feeding Our Neighbors

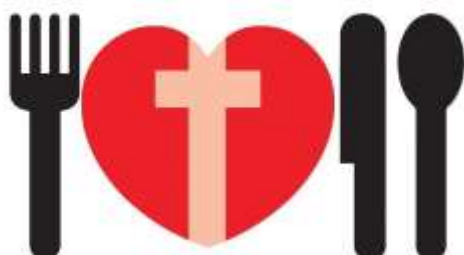
CUMC Food Pantry is partnering with the Carmel Meijer store again through December to tackle food insecurity in Hamilton County. Pick up a \$10 donation card at the Gathering Place desk or in the Meijer store and add your treasures to this effort.

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.](#)

(This information is available on our website at [carmelumc.org/missions](http://carmelumc.org/missions))

CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



FOOD PANTRY



**CUMC FOOD PANTRY**

# Mission of the Month: CUMC Food Pantry



Wow....it has been an exciting and challenging time at the Food Pantry these past few months. Lots of renovations with a new ramp to protect our volunteers and a new donation closet thanks to the Romeo group. The Food Pantry basement has been cleaned out, mold removed, and a French drain installed. We have some new stronger shelving inside the pantry thanks to the Boy Scouts. We've added a couple of new shelves with additional offerings.

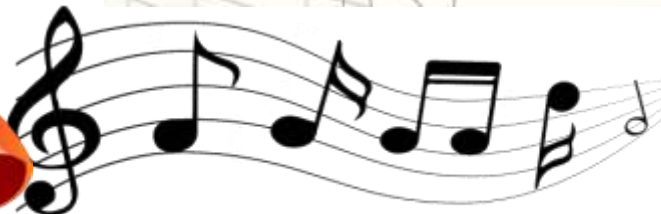
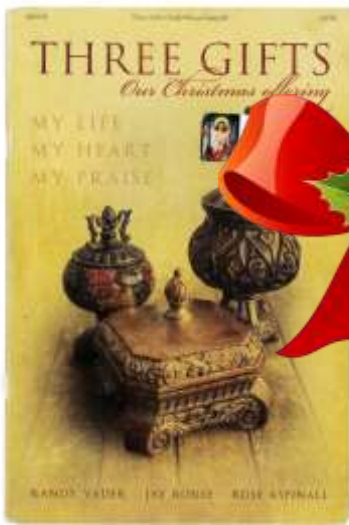
All that hasn't stopped almost 400 guests from shopping at the pantry, serving 1500 – 1600 food insecure neighbors each month!

In this season of Thanksgiving, we are especially thankful for our many volunteers who purchase the food stuffs, stock the shelves, and serve our guests. In any given week, we have over 40 volunteers who show their love of Christ by helping their neighbors.

We are also thankful for our many partners . . . Fresh Market, Niemann Harvest Market, Panera and Einstein Bagels that donate surplus food . . . Orchard Park Presbyterian Church which donates eggs for almost every guest and other food stuffs . . . CUMC Preschool who just visited the pantry and stocked the shelves with their donations . . . community gardens including our very own food pantry garden which continue to donate homegrown produce even this late in the season . . . Cherry Tree Girl Scout Troop that made special birthday kits for guests....Boy Scout Troop 733 that picked up a food donation for Zonta International and stocked the shelves . . . and so many others.

The CUMC Food Pantry is supported by the Hamilton County community in so many ways. Our hearts overflow as we extend our hands to those in need.





If your group is interested in partnering with us for a music event, contact



The Cantata this year will be during both of the traditional services at 9am & 10:30am on Sunday December 8, and the program is from this book called **“THREE GIFTS: Our Christmas Offering.”**

Join our rehearsal on Saturday Dec. 7 from 9am to 11am. We would love to have your voice in the choir!



## CUMC Members, Mission Groups and Funds Join Together to Improve and Update the Mission House

Are you aware of the considerable number of changes to the Mission House this year? These improvements are critical to the missions and programs it supports (e.g., Food Pantry). Additionally, the Mission House needs constant upkeep to remain viable. In the past five years, the Food Pantry has served over 82,500 people (including repeats) with this year likely to be over 19,000 persons, - the largest year yet with more guests expected in the future.

The Mission House is a lifeline for everyone it serves, making its upkeep and ongoing improvements essential to ensuring it continues to inspire and transform lives. Here are the recent key improvements:

- Installation of Owens Corning Duration Roof and gutters
- Complete basement cleanout and reorganization for use by multiple missions
- New ramp inside the garage into the main floor providing stability and safety
- Basement waterproofing and French drains
- Removal and treatment for black mold in the basement
- New LED lighting in the garage and basement of the Mission House
- New Mission House area for garage receiving and a donation closet
- Installation of a new keypad for Mission House garage door and the creation of a volunteer door with a keypad.
- Painted the Mission House garage interior and front posts of the Mission House porch
- Purchased an additional refrigerator for "produce" used by the Food Pantry
- Updated electrical wiring to support new refrigerators and future expansion
- Installed shelving in the Food Pantry storage closet for paper and plastic bags
- Installation of stronger/sturdier shelves in the Food Pantry by an Eagle Scout
- Installation of new blinds for several of the Mission House windows
- Removal of the cracked patio and tree causing the problem
- New greenhouse installed

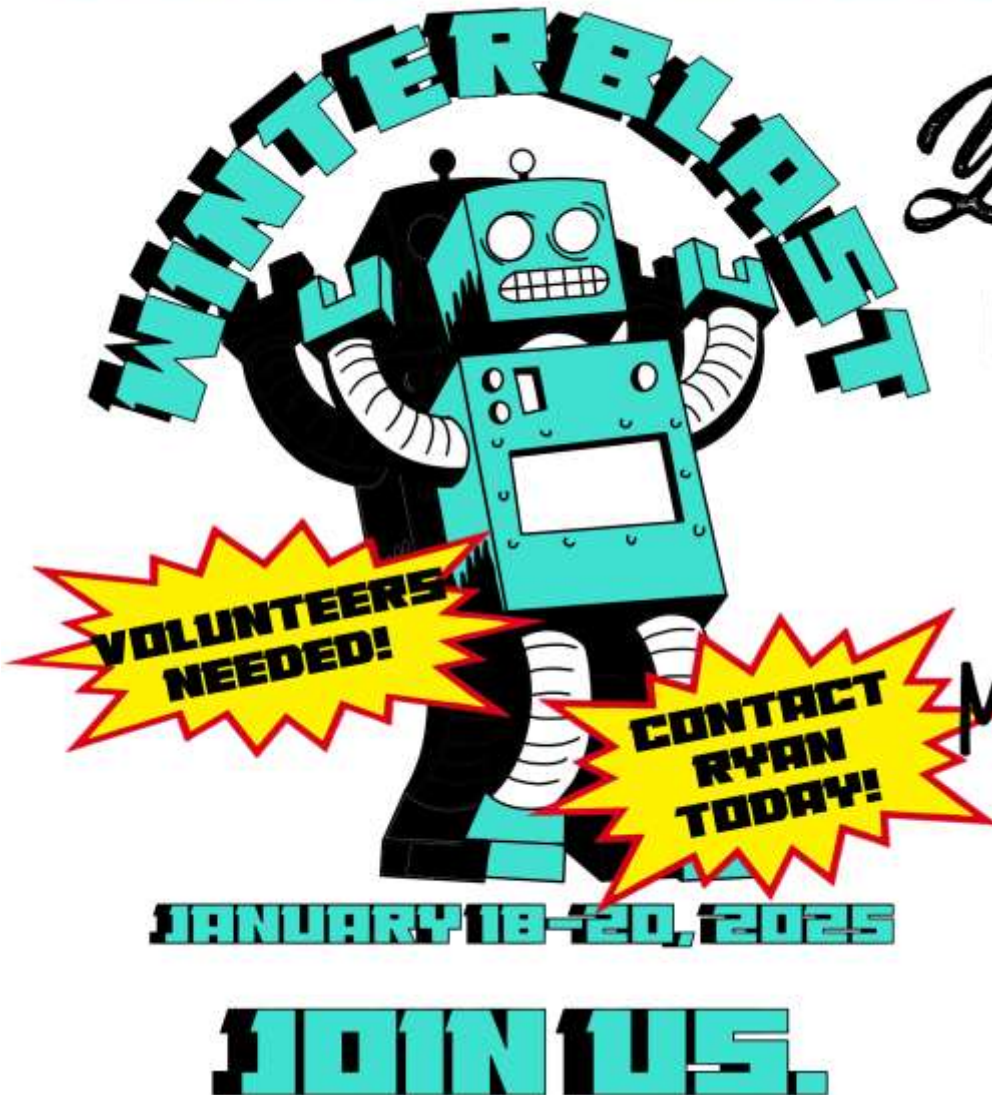


All these improvements could not have been done without the support of the following people: Cindy and David Muse, Dave Coleman, Carl Bruhn, Wayne Lerner, Stephanie Fairfield, Kyle Drew, Jeff Silvius, the Henderson team and many more. Funding came from Rushlight Greatest Needs Endowment Fund (\$8,800), Mission Fund (\$3,000), the ERC Fund (\$21,000) and several church building and Food Pantry accounts and gifts (>\$10,000). Thanks to all these individuals, groups and funds for their time, effort, financial support, and love.

*"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](mailto:plannedgiving@carmelumc.org) or pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center for more information.





*Youth Group*

HIGH SCHOOL:

DEC. 1ST

DEC. 15TH

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

DEC. 8TH

DEC. 15TH

December 2024

YOUTH MINISTRY

Ryan Remington • [youth@carmelumc.org](mailto:youth@carmelumc.org)

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**CHRISTMAS TREE  
& PORCH POT  
SALES ARE LIVE!**

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**  
TUESDAY - 5-8PM  
WEDNESDAY - 5-8PM  
FRIDAY - 5-8PM  
SATURDAY - 10-6PM  
SUNDAY - 12-6PM

(while supplies last!)

## REGISTRATION for the 2025-2026 School Year

The preschool is looking ahead to the 2025-26 school year! If you or someone you know is interested in enrollment information, **please see our website** under the "preschool tab". There you will find a list of class offerings, registration information, our parent handbook and student calendar! If you would like to schedule a tour, please contact the preschool office directly at **(317) 844-1958!**

### Interested in our preschool program?

Click the links below for more information about our preschool and enrollment for the 2025-26 year!

If you would like to schedule a tour,

please call us at **317-844-1958!**

[2025-2026 Class Offerings](#)

[2025-2026 Registration Information](#)

[2025-2026 Registration Forms](#)

[2025-2026 Parent Handbook](#)

[2025-2026 Student Calendar](#)

**CUMC Preschool DECEMBER Teacher Spotlight** This month we highlight 2 of our favorite "Super Supporters", Mrs. Ross and Mr. Wayne!



**Mrs. Ross** is our resident Music Teacher! She has been teaching music at CUMC for 4 years now and is responsible for one of the most adorable preschool Christmas programs you will ever see! She is originally from Pittsburgh, PA but now Mrs. Ross and her husband live in Carmel with their precious pup, Minnie! She also volunteers at CUMC with the handbell choir! Stephanie loves to play duets with her mom on the piano!



**Mr. Wayne** is a celebrity in the preschool hallways! Not only does he help us with our custodial needs, but he can fix just about anything, keeps our car line moving efficiently AND every single kiddo is always so excited to see him and yell "HEY MR. WAYNE"! His love and support for CUMC is evident each day he comes to work. He even hides a magnet man somewhere in the building for kids to find each week! We can always depend on Mr. Wayne to help us out in a pinch either in the office or classroom! I would say we are the luckiest bunch to have him on our team! Wayne is married to Christine, and is a dad to 6, grandfather to 3, great grandfather to 1 and a dog dad to Pepper Jean!



**CARMEL**  
UNITED METHODIST  
**CHURCH**

*carmelumc.org*  
621 S. Rangeline Rd.  
Carmel, IN 46032

# The 5 Gifts of Christmas



*(Print this and hang it on your fridge or share with a friend!)*

## December 2024 Calendar of Events

1 SUN: **ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES:** Traditional: 9am & 10:30am, Contemporary 10:45am

1 SUN: **CONGREGATIONAL CARE:** Delivering holiday cheer to our 'Golden Oldies'

1 SUN: **YOUTH GROUP: High School** meets 6pm-8pm

4 WED: **YOUTH LATE START MEET UP** at Indie Coffee Roasters - 8am

4 WED: **YOUTH: Exodus Bible Study** - 6pm Middle & High School in the Conference Room

4 WED: **FIRST WEDNESDAYS**—6pm: meal and music.

5 THU: **UWF CHRISTMAS DINNER** 6pm

8 SUN: **ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES:** Traditional: 9am & 10:30am, Contemporary 10:45am

8 SUN: **CHRISTMAS CANTATA:** Traditional: 9am & 10:30am

8 SUN: **YOUTH GROUP: Middle School** meets 6pm-8pm

10 TUE: **Ruth Anna Circle Christmas Party Pitch-In Lunch** at 11:00am

10 TUE: **Lydia Circle Christmas Card making** in the Conference Room at 6:30pm

12 THU: **Hymn Sing** in the Sanctuary with a light lunch afterwards - 11:00am

15 SUN: **ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES:** Traditional: 9am & 10:30am, Contemporary 10:45am **(NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)**

(Kids are encouraged to attend the Contemporary Worship for the Children's Christmas Program)

15 SUN: **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** Contemporary 10:45am

15 SUN: **YOUTH GROUP: Holiday PARTY - UGLY Sweater Contest** - 6pm-8pm

18 WED: **YOUTH: Exodus Bible Study** - 6pm Middle & High School in the Conference Room

22 SUN: **ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES:** Traditional: 9am & 10:30am, Contemporary 10:45am

### 24 TUE: **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES:**

**MORNING:** 10:30 am - **Family & Kids Service** in Sanctuary

**EVENING:** 5:00 pm - **Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship** in the Family Life Center

6:30 pm - **Traditional Christmas Eve Worship** in the Sanctuary

8:00 pm - **Traditional Christmas Eve Worship** in the Sanctuary

25 WED: **CHRISTMAS DAY** ♥ Merry Christmas! (church building is closed)

29 SUN: **WORSHIP: Only TWO services today** - 10:30am Traditional & 10:45am Contemporary **(NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)**

31 TUE: **New Year's Eve:** Happy New Year!!

### **YOUTH TREE & PORCH POT SALES**

**Tue. Wed. Fri. 5p-8p**

**Sat. 10a-6p**

**Sun. 12p-6p**

(while supplies last)





**CARMEL**  
UNITED METHODIST  
**CHURCH**

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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



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ALL THE THINGS IN ONE PLACE

# THE CONTACT DECEMBER 2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### LOOK INSIDE

for more information about all the happenings at CUMC!

**MISSION FOCUS: CUMC Food Pantry**

**PLANNED GIVING: Mission House**

**CHILDREN: Special Advent Calendar**

**MUSIC: Cantata & First Wednesdays!!**

**YOUTH: Tree Sales & Holiday Party!**