

THE CONTACT

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH // JANUARY 2025



January 2025

- Missions: Sierra Leone Missions
- Music Ministry: The Next 'First Wednesday' Program on Feb. 5
- Kids: Open Gym for families
- Youth: WinterBlast & Youth Group

Carmel United Methodist Church
621 S. Rangeline Rd.
Carmel, IN 46032

Phone: 317-844-7275
Email: Caremail@carmelumc.org
www.carmelumc.org



Start the Year Off with the Gospel that Starts Off the New Testament

Have you ever thought about reading the Bible from start to finish only to get lost somewhere around Numbers or Deuteronomy? Why not start with the first book of the New Testament, the Gospel of Matthew? Our Carmel UMC pastors are going to take the congregation through the entire gospel of Matthew, chapter by chapter, starting on January 19.

This is an action-packed book of scripture that has most of our favorite stories, the most insightful teachings, and the most wonderous miracles. There is a reason why our Christian scriptures begin with Matthew. He speaks to our daily lives today as much as he did to those who first heard Matthew's presentation of Jesus the Messiah.



Matthew focuses on the humanity of Jesus—a meek and humble son of a carpenter. At the same time, this gospel highlights the connection between Jesus and the very best God's people have to offer: great teachers like Moses, strong deliverers like Joshua, wise rulers like David. And Jesus is so much more than any of those heroes of the faith.

If you ever longed to hear the full gospel—the birth, life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—then this is your chance. How do I become more like Jesus in my daily walk? How can the wisdom of this gift from God help me be a better husband, wife, Mother, father and friend? Come and hear. Just be ready to go and tell. You won't be able to do one without the other!

Pastor Tim

Handwritten signature of Pastor Tim.

CHURCH UPDATES

WE ARE HIRING

JOB POSITION :

FULL CHARGE BOOKKEEPER

We are seeking a Full Charge Bookkeeper to oversee the day to day financial operations of the church, including receipts, disbursements, banking and financial reporting. This position works closely with the Church Administrator and the church finance committee.

FULL JOB DESCRIPTION HERE:
carmelumc.org/employment

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317-844-7275



With Sympathy to the friends & families of...

- Patsy Taggart who passed away December 15, 2024
- Gail Eastburn who passed away December 17, 2024
- Patricia Shafer who passed away December 27, 2024
- Patty Price who passed away December 30, 2024

P.O.N.S. — Project Outdoor Nativity Scene



We had several people order the Nativity Sets that were a part of this seasonal project that has a mission to make the nativity a part of our outdoor decorations for Christmastime every year. These were nice, durable, weatherproof pieces that could sit nicely in any part of a yard. Here is **Jayne Enlow** with her nativity, and **Caroline Pyle**'s nativity in front of her house too. If you like to drive around looking at decorations, you probably noticed a good number of these popping up everywhere!

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.



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.



CARMEL WINTER GAMES 2025

Carmel UMC will be competing in the Carmel Winter Games! Mark your Calendar for January 25, 12p-4pm
Location: The Ice at Carter Green
Spectators welcome.

Want to join the team?

Talk to Shaina Murphy!
Teams can be 4-12 persons
& it's so much fun!

Our hope is to win but also to support the local non profits here in Carmel - including Food Pantries like the CUMC Food Pantry.
Check out this video from 2023!

**Too cold & wet to play outside? Need to get out of the house?
OPEN GYM!**

Children's Ministry will be opening the gym for parents and kids on Tuesdays in January from 3:30pm-5:00pm.

Half the gym will be designated for basketball & the other half will be set up for our younger preschool friends. And you can always run laps around the gym!

Please note: this is not a drop off event - parents will need to stay. If this was a pool - there will be no lifeguard on duty. Thanks!



WINTER GAMES in CARMEL:
January 25, Noon-4pm
at the Ice at Carter Green.

Team Carmel UMC - we are competing to support of local food pantries in Carmel! We would love to have YOU on our team!

Contact Shaina to sign up!
smurphy@carmelumc.org



Mom's Bible Study

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

**New Study
JAN 16**

Gospel of Matthew

We'll start with an overview of the basics of the Bible (first 2 weeks) and then we'll start at the beginning of Matthew and work our way through the Gospel.

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

January 2025

Tuesdays 3:30-5pm
OPEN GYM!

Thursdays 11:30am-12:30pm
Moms' Bible Study

Friday Jan 17
InTouch - Old Time Games

Sunday Jan 19
NO Sunday School

Saturday Jan 25
Carmel Winter Games



Open Gym

for parents and kids!
Tuesdays in January
from 3:30-5:00pm

Open Basketball on one half, preschool siblings/friends on the other half, and running or walking laps!

Parent, or responsible adult, is required to attend.
Contact Shaina, smurphy@carmelumc.org

 CARMEL CHURCH



JUNE 8-11, 2025

NEEDS!

Artificial Xmas Trees - with no lights or not working lights - we'll donate or trash after VBS based on condition.

VOLUNTEERS! Talk to Shaina.



VBS

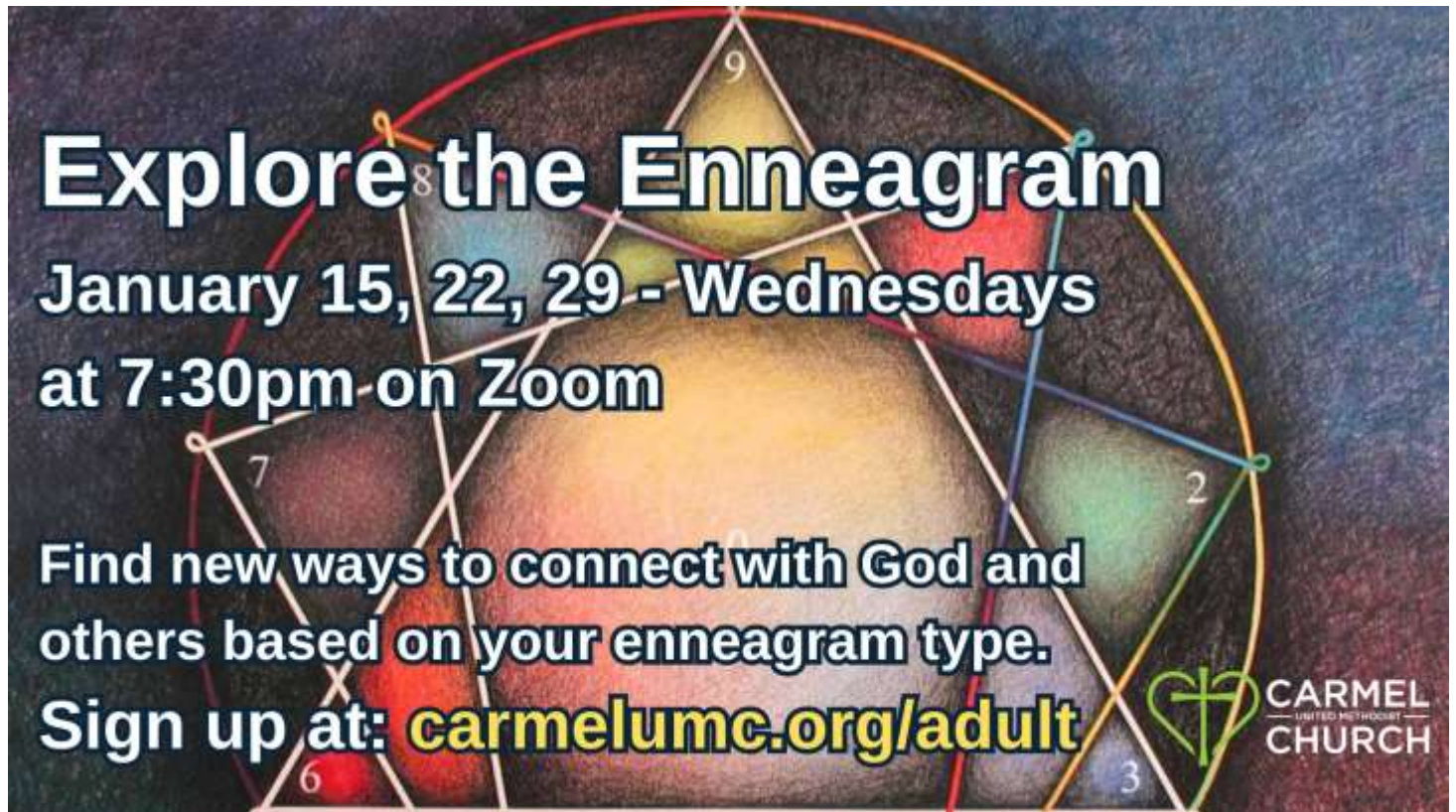
JUNE 8-11, 2025

DONATE YOUR ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES!!!

Got OLD artificial trees?
Consider donating them to CUMC Children's Ministry to use for Vacation Bible School in June. Tell everyone!

Bring them to CUMC, or contact Shaina for more info:
smurphy@carmelumc.org



The image features a colorful Enneagram diagram with nine points and connecting lines. Overlaid on the diagram is white and yellow text. The text reads: "Explore the Enneagram", "January 15, 22, 29 - Wednesdays", "at 7:30pm on Zoom", "Find new ways to connect with God and others based on your enneagram type.", and "Sign up at: carmelumc.org/adult". In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for Carmel Church, United Methodist Church, featuring a green heart with a cross inside.

Explore the Enneagram
January 15, 22, 29 - Wednesdays
at 7:30pm on Zoom

Find new ways to connect with God and others based on your enneagram type.
Sign up at: carmelumc.org/adult

CARMEL CHURCH
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

As we begin the New Year and take time to reflect on who we are and who we belong to, we can use tools like Myers-Briggs or other personality tests to better understand ourselves. One tool that incorporates our spiritual side is the Enneagram. It is believed that the Enneagram emerged from desert mothers and fathers as a way to better understand our faith in relation to ourselves, God and one another.

Beginning Wednesday, January 15 at 7:30pm on Zoom, David Bell, a certified Enneagram coach will guide us through a three-week course exploring our Centers of Intelligence, the Enneagram and Expectations in our relationships, and the Instincts exploring our spiritual practices and how we connect with God based on our Enneagram type.

If you struggled in your prayer life or wondered how best you connect with God then this series might be for you! If you are already fulfilled in your spiritual practices, this series might encourage you to try something new.

If you are interested please fill out this form (<https://carmelumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/498/responses/new>) and take the RHETI test - a code will be sent to you when you RSVP to the class!

Fill out the form at the link above, and we will send you the link to take the Enneagram test.

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Jessica Stevens • 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



Friends in Faith
Every Wednesday
from 3:30pm to 5pm

STUDYING: The book of Acts, with a Right Now Media study that focuses on 6 themes that permeate the book.

at church in the conference room.

CONTACT: NANCY ADAMS
nadams35@att.net

Jan. 15, 22, 29, & Feb. 5, 12, 19



Prayer Shawl Circle
EVERY TUESDAY

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

CONTACT:
Katie Kessler
gmacovi@aol.com
CARMEL CHURCH



CARMEL CHURCH

Women's Bible Study
Every Wednesday
10am-11am
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

Join us this January!

WEATHER policy:

- IF Carmel Clay Schools close:**
 - the church CLOSSES.
 - the preschool CLOSSES.
 - the food pantry CLOSSES.
- IF Carmel Clay Schools delay:**
 - the church stays OPEN.
 - the preschool begins at 10:30am.
 - the food pantry stays OPEN.
- IF there is Bad Weather on SUNDAYS:**
 - Worship Services as usual.
 - Only CLOSED if there is a TRAVEL WARNING



LYDIA CIRCLE is meeting at 6:30pm in the conference room on Tuesday Jan.14

We are going to be making crafty items. Join us!

CARMEL CHURCH



Ruth Anna Circle

Meeting **TUESDAY** January 14 10:00am

Gathering Place

Donna Skeens leading.
Meet the new staff members.

CARMEL CHURCH



Dinner Belles

are NOT meeting in January. Stay tuned for February. ♥

CONTACT Kay Hapner - kayhapner@yahoo.com

CARMEL CHURCH

SPECIAL PROJECT: SIERRA LEONE

Help support Sierra Leone young ladies by helping to purchase washable and reusable feminine hygiene undergarments.

Did you know that most girls do not attend school while on their monthly cycles as feminine supplies are not easily accessible to them? Scan the QR Code to order garments from our AMAZON WISHLIST link and ship directly to the church.

And/or, you can designate part of your Sunday offerings in January to “ThinX” and we’ll take care of the rest.

WISHLIST LINK: (or click the QR code here.—>)

<https://qrco.de/bffoVb>

Pastor Jessica has a goal to fill an entire suitcase with these garments to take along to Sierra Leone, so we’ll need to purchase these for delivery to CUMC by the end of January.

Let’s help her reach that goal! ♥



Click this image!



SHOP ONLINE & SHIP TO THE FOOD PANTRY --- EASY!



Helping to Empower our Friends in Sierra Leone to Empower Themselves

By Karen Gould



Listening, observing, supporting, encouraging...the essence of our mission relationship with the Sierra Leone United Methodist Conference (SLUMC). Every preschool should have a proper toilet facility instead of buckets. Thanks to our congregation, the **Goderich UMC Preschool** has a beautiful new restroom.



Twenty students are learning vocational and entrepreneurial skills while earning their secondary education at the **Taiama Enterprise Academy (TEA)**, a boarding school fully sponsored by Hoosier United Methodists through Operation Classroom. A graduate of TEA recently shared, "I was a nobody without a promising future before coming to TEA, and now I am a somebody."



The chapel at the SLUMC Seminary, high on a hill, now has steps for worshippers to use instead of climbing paths through boulders.



The Betty Carew Training Center in Freetown offers training for women in sewing and recently added catering training to its offerings.



CUMC is making a difference in Sierra Leone, one of the poorest countries in the world. We can provide hope, opportunities, resources, and our love to our neighbors across the sea. Our gifts, our joining a mission journey, and our prayers share our fellowship in Christ though the mission support CUMC provides to Sierra Leone.



The Angel Tree After-Christmas Update

On Saturday, December 7, 2024, Carmel UMC was the Hamilton County distribution site for the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. This year we assisted in helping 207 Hamilton County families make Christmas for their young ones a little brighter by distributing a total of **403 bags** filled with gifts specifically purchased for each individual child. Parents were able to select additional items on tables set up in the hallway that were filled with books, games and stocking stuffers.



Many thanks go out to all our Carmel UMC members who purchased gifts as well as those who volunteered to set up for the event on Friday and assist families through the giveaway on Saturday. There were many smiles, laughter and few tears of gratitude shared between guests and volunteers. It was a really good day!



Much appreciation to **Ken and Elaine Keltner** for their generous donation to the Angel Tree program **in honor and memory of the late Lyle Mannweiler**, husband to Deborah Daniels for his lifelong passion for cycling.

This heartfelt gesture made it possible to purchase **8 bicycles with helmets** for Angel Tree children who might otherwise go without during the holiday season. Many thanks to the Keltner family! ♥



FIRST WEDNESDAYS MUSIC PROGRAM RESUMES FEB. 5

Happy New Year from CUMC's Traditional Music Ministry! We hope you feel renewed in your faith following a month of inspiring Christmas hymns and music, including the Cantata and Christmas Eve services. If your resolutions include praising God and serving at CUMC, singing in our Chancel Choir is one of the best ways to do so!

We gather in the sanctuary at 6 p.m. each Wednesday to preview the hymns for Sunday and sing through several weeks of upcoming anthems. The Chancel Choir arrives at 8:15 a.m. on Sundays to rehearse before the 9 a.m. traditional worship service, and then excuses themselves early in the 10:30 a.m. service. It's a fun, supportive group who are challenging their voices to glorify God for our congregation and community.

A highlight of the Traditional Music Ministry in 2024 was a new outreach program. We welcomed our community to enjoy food or dessert and special music. Between our first "First Wednesdays" gathering, the Christmas Hymn Sing and concerts by organist **Matt Gerhard** and harpist **Wendy Muston**, we had a total of 238 attendees!

Our First Wednesdays gatherings with food and special music are taking some much-needed "vocal rest" for January and will resume on **Wednesday, Feb. 5**. Below is a peek at what we have planned for our Spring season. Look for more information and registration links so we can order enough food for everyone!

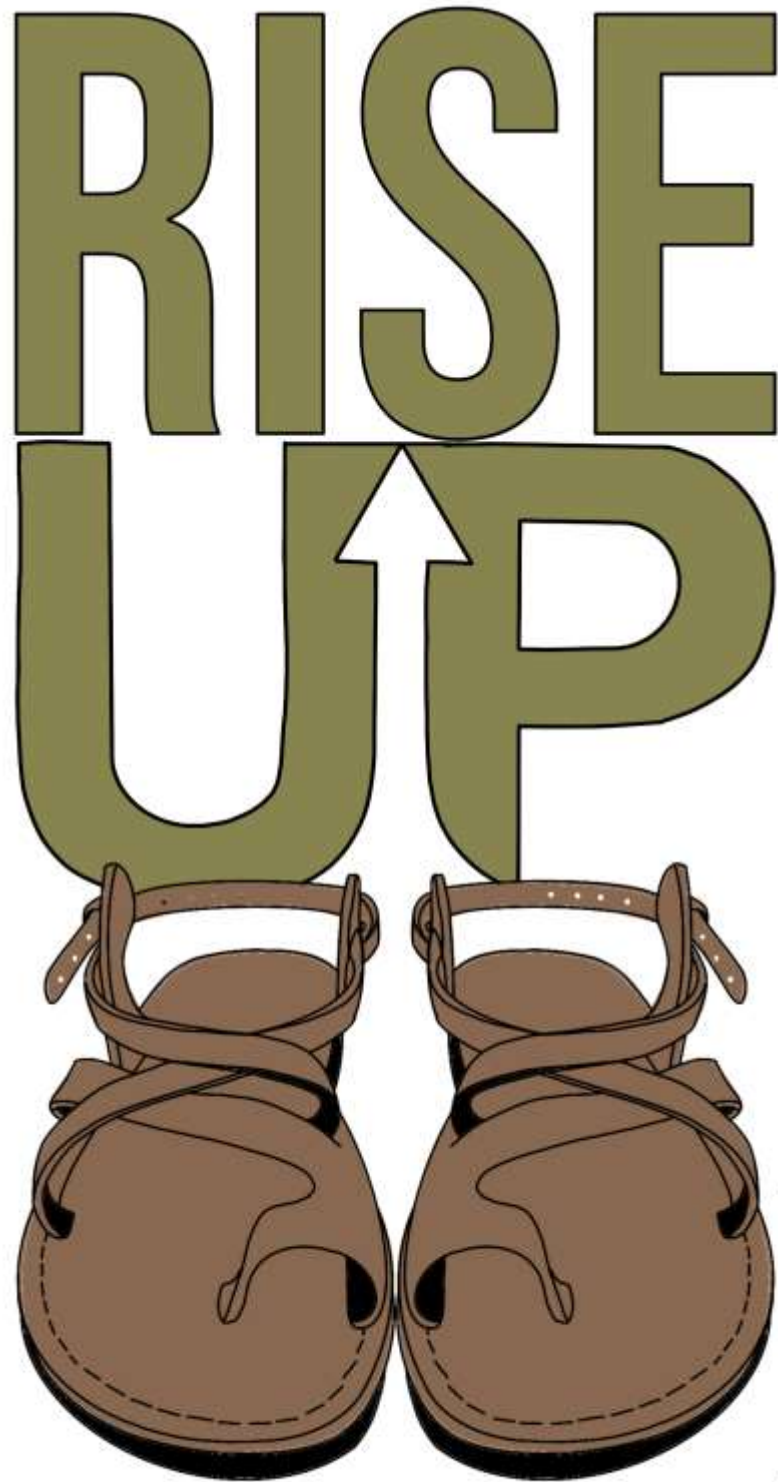
- **Feb. 5: First Wednesday Night Friends and Family** in the **Gathering Place** with food and singing
- ◆ **Mar. 12: Cathy Morris and her Electric Violin** in the **Youth Hub** (basement) children are invited as we'll be serving pizza, popcorn and snow cones afterwards!
- ◆ **Apr. 2: First Wednesday Night Friends and Family** in the **Gathering Place** with food and singing
- ◆ **May 7: Traditional Music Ministry end-of-year celebration** with Prime Rib Dinner from MCL (\$20)
- ◆ **May 28: Handbell ensemble Circle City Ringers** in the Sanctuary, followed by desserts provided by United Women in Faith



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



The 6:30pm candlelight service (left) and the 8pm candlelight service (right) as seen from the choir's view on **Christmas Eve 2024**. ♥



Trust the call.
Face the challenge.
Walk in freedom.

SIGN UP TODAY!



If you are viewing this in email, just click the QR code to go to the signup form.

January
18th - 20th
2025

WINTER  BLAST

BIBLES & BREAKFAST

SUNDAY MORNING

10AM

IN THE HUB



SUPER BOWL

Party

FEB. 9TH

4PM - 8PM

Youth Group

HIGH SCHOOL:

JANUARY 18-20

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

JANUARY 18-20

JANUARY 26

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR IS ALMOST HERE!!

Be sure to check out our website, www.carmelumc.org/preschool, for information about our class offerings and registration process! If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour, please contact our office at **317-844-**

1958 or email Stephanie Holl at sholl@carmelumc.org! **Returning CUMC Preschool families and CUMC church members** receive PRIORITY REGISTRATION starting **Monday January 13!** So don't delay!

Email sholl@carmelumc.org RIGHT away to get a Google FORM link that you will use to register early.

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 JANUARY Teacher Spotlight

This month we highlight **Mrs. Nichols in 3B and Mrs. Podgorny in 4D!**



Mrs. Nichols has been teaching at CUMC Preschool for 15 years! She grew up in Chicago and graduated from Western Michigan University! She and her husband, Dave, live in Westfield with their daughter (Emma) and son (Cameron) and sweet pup, Pepper!



This is **Mrs. Podgorny's** 12th year teaching at CUMC Preschool! She lives in Westfield with her husband, Paul, and 3 sons, Landon, Nolan, and Preston! Landon is a freshman at IU, Nolan a senior and Preston a freshman both at Westfield High School. She enjoys time with her family (including her fur kids), reading, watching movies, and biking!

We are so very lucky to have Mrs. Nichols and Mrs. Podgorny as long time dedicated teachers in our preschool program and cannot thank them enough for their service to our ministry!



Why Consider Making Gifts of Appreciated Securities to CUMC?

A popular way to make charitable gifts is to donate securities such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds that have increased in value and been held for more than one year. With a gift of securities, one can make a major impact on the operations and missions of CUMC while realizing important benefits for yourself.

When you donate appreciated securities that have been held for over one year, you can reduce or even eliminate federal capital gains taxes on the transfer. You may also be entitled to a federal income tax charitable deduction based on the fair market value of the securities at the time of the transfer.

The benefits of making a gift of appreciated securities include:

- Avoiding paying capital gains tax on the sale of appreciated stock or other securities.
- Receiving a charitable income tax deduction
- Furthering the mission of CUMC
- To give thanks to God for blessings bestowed.

How to Make a Gift of Securities to CUMC

Contact Kate Roberts at Baird & Co. or your financial advisor to transfer shares through:

Kate Roberts
Senior Client Specialist, Robert W. Baird & Co.
Email: kroberts@rwbaird.com
Direct Line: 317-464-4634

Please contact CUMC to confirm the receipt of your gift. You can specify your gift to the Endowment Fund as for either (a) the areas of Greatest Needs (undesignated) or (b) to one or more of the 12 existing designated funds. **We encourage you to consult with your legal, tax and/or financial advisors regarding your particular situation and circumstances.**

"For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given to You." 1 Chronicles 29:14, NASB

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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CHURCH

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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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MAKE A GIFT OF APPRECIATED SECURITIES

THE CONTACT JANUARY 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOOK INSIDE

for more information about all the happenings at CUMC!

MISSION FOCUS: Sierra Leone Missions

ADULT: Explore the Enneagram

PRESCHOOL: Registrations Begins Jan.13

MUSIC: First Wednesdays Schedule

YOUTH: WinterBlast & Breakfasts on Sunday