

Carmel United Methodist Church  
621 South Rangeline Road  
Carmel, IN 46032

May 8, 2025

## Renovate & Elevate

Dear Carmel Church family:

Imagine a church where every visitor feels the warmth of Christ's embrace, where joyful worship is seen and heard clearly, where all God's children gather in spaces that are bright and comfortable year-round. Where you're delighted to invite family, friends, and neighbors for worship, baptisms, preschool and weddings.

Over the past four years, Our church has invested \$830,000 in building projects, with some years nearing a quarter million dollars. But we've had some uncomfortable moments recently:

This past winter, we got a taste one Sunday morning of what happens when the boiler isn't boiling. We also had a day or two when our preschool classrooms were colder than they needed to be.



In summer, the cooling struggles to keep up with Vacation Bible School and condensation drips from the air ducts during Contemporary worship.

During heavy rains, we've been fighting flooding in our elevator pit, Mission House and Rec Room where Preschool holds Winter recess.



Cracked and boarded windows do not give a good impression to anyone who visits our North Wing basement.

Rising labor and materials costs for emergency service calls continue to strain our church budget. This year, we are dipping into our reserves to fund needed building projects.

To remain a beacon for Christ in the heart of Carmel, we must *Renovate & Elevate* the physical heart of our ministry. It's why we're launching this Capital Campaign, but it's about much more than our building—it's about building a brighter future together for our community. By protecting and renewing our church home, we'll strengthen our ability to connect, grow and serve for generations to come.

Your friends in Christ,

Carla

Carla Bennett  
Co-Chair

Don

Don Bennett  
Co-Chair

Martha

Martha Zetzel  
Co-Chair

Steve

Steve Zetzel  
Co-Chair





# *Elevate*

## Our Future

We've witnessed the incredible results of past campaigns for our Gathering Place, Youth Hub and Family Life Center. The *Renovate & Elevate* Campaign will build on that success, measured not only by physical improvements, but in new disciples for Jesus Christ and the transformation of our community and our world.

### EMPOWERED MINISTRIES



By lowering repair and utility costs, we'll unlock valuable resources for new and innovative worship, outreach and missions. With fewer limitations, we'll share the good news of Jesus with more of our neighbors in relevant and impactful ways.

### A LEGACY OF FAITH



Just as past generations built our spiritual home, it's our turn to renew and modernize our older spaces while preserving history and traditions. Our church will be a launchpad for vibrant, Christ-inspired worship, discipleship and missions for all who follow our footsteps.

### A HAVEN OF HOSPITALITY



A bright, updated campus will invite families, guests and future generations to experience the joy of worship, community and service. Our warm welcome will be evident in every corner of our church home.

### SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DISCIPLESHIP



This Campaign will help us grow in faith as a community. As we seek God's guidance, reflect on scripture and open our hearts to His plan, we'll deepen our discipleship and strengthen our connection with one another.

### SAFEGUARDING OUR SACRED SPACES



Our church will be a comfortable place that is warm in the winter, cool in the summer and dry year-round, minimizing damage from the outside elements.

### CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION



By installing energy-efficient upgrades like smart thermostats and insulation, we are being good stewards of the one world we share, while freeing up funds for ministry.



# Honor Our *Past*†

## OUR CHURCH

Carmel United Methodist Church excels in worship, missions, ministries, fellowship, discipleship and programs for all ages.

Thanks to past generations, our church has grown from an old blacksmith shop in 1848, to our Sanctuary opening in 1957, to celebrating 175 years with our current 57,000 square-foot space in 2023. We enjoy the blessings of past sacrifices with a beautiful, paid-off church in the heart of Carmel!

Although our church faces challenges, we're thriving. Since the pandemic, Sunday attendance has grown from an average of 309 in 2022 to 360 in 2024. We've welcomed 85 new members in this time, including young families with children.

Thanks to your support, our church finances are strong, but the budget stays tight to prioritize ministries and missions. While the number of stewardship pledges has dipped slightly, total giving continues to rise. We ended 2024 with a \$42,000 surplus, no debt and healthy reserves. Plus, we gave our staff a 3 percent raise after smaller increases in previous years.

## OUR SOLUTION

While past efforts expanded specific areas of our building, this Campaign improves our entire church for today and tomorrow. It builds on years of careful planning and investment by our Trustees and staff.

If we fix urgent and important problems now, it will save money by lowering bills and avoiding higher prices. LED lighting, smart thermostats and new HVAC systems have saved our church \$42,000 in annual utility costs.

Our biggest investment of the Campaign is protecting our church from the elements. We'll speed up roof, window, heating and cooling replacements where they're most needed. We'll continue to pursue matching grants and utility rebates to stretch Campaign funds further.

We'll also refresh older spaces like the Sanctuary, Chapel and basement Rec Room, while honoring our church history and traditions. But every part of our building will benefit, including the Family Life Center, Preschool/Sunday School classrooms, Youth Hub and exterior.



# *Invest*<sup>+</sup>

## In the Present

### **Sanctuary & Narthex: \$250,000**

- Replace cooling unit and install smart thermostat
- Install attic boardwalk & insulation
- Refresh carpet, tile and paint
- Replace projectors for video screens
- Study and improve acoustics
- Replace speakers and lighting

### **Sunday School & Preschool: \$240,000**

- Replace 2nd floor cooling & air handlers
- Install fresh air ventilation system
- Replace heating & cooling in classrooms

### **Preschool Rec Room & Basement: \$75,000**

- Replace cracked and boarded windows
- Prevent flooding during heavy rains
- Replace Rec Room flooring

### **Other Main Level: \$35,000**

- Replace HVAC for Room 121-122
- Install thermostat controls for staff offices
- Refresh Gathering Place furniture & carpet

### **Chapel: \$85,000**

- Remove heaters below windows
- Install smart air conditioning/heat pump
- Refresh carpet, paint, window treatments

### **Family Life Center/Gym: \$115,000**

- Replace cooling and air handler units
- Install smart WiFi thermostat controls
- Replace refrigerator & freezer in kitchen
- Improve stage & side lighting for worship

### **Exterior and Parking Lot: \$225,000**

- Replace South Wing roof, skylight, gutter and ventilation
- Paint and repair steeple and cupola
- Seal and restripe parking lot
- Repair brick at Narthex Door 1 and nearby lawn wall
- Repair brick and cinder block walls for new heating/cooling units
- Replace East Wing shingled & flat roof

### **Youth Hub & Adjacent Hallway: \$130,000**

- Replace cooling and air handler units

### **Whole Building Heating: \$95,000**

- Replace primary boiler & safety work

### **Building Emergency Fund: \$350,000**

- Invest funds and use when needed for unanticipated and emergency building projects

**TOTAL: \$1.6 million**

# Renovate

## Our Spaces

Campaign gifts will be directed to a dedicated account for these projects, with the Finance Committee ensuring that funds are used responsibly and transparently.

Your Trustees and facilities staff aim to progress through the prioritized projects on the right, starting as soon as possible to help avoid rising costs. We'll adjust the list as needed for urgent priorities and unexpected issues. Feedback from the congregation and others will guide any changes. Project schedules may shift for better weather, contractor availability or material supply.

Heating and cooling projects are expected to span multiple years while some projects, like replacing the flat and shingled East Wing roofs, are later in the five-year window.

We'll minimize disruptions, especially during Sunday mornings and Preschool, and provide regular updates.



### Year One

- South Wing roof & skylight replacement
- Preschool classrooms AC/heat pump
- Family Life Center cooling & air handler
- Sanctuary attic boardwalk & insulation
- Sanctuary smart thermostat & controls



### Year Two

- Whole-building boiler replacement
- Preschool second floor fresh air system
- Sanctuary acoustic improvements
- Steeple painting and repair
- Gathering Place furniture
- Parking lot seal and restripe
- Room 121-122 Smart AC/heat pump
- Preschool Rec Room waterproofing, floor and smart AC/heat pump
- Basement window replacement
- Staff office thermostat controls



### Year Three

- Family Life Center worship lighting
- Gym hallway cooling and air handler
- Second floor cooling & air handler
- Chapel heating and cooling replacement
- Chapel carpet, paint, window treatments
- Room 124-125 smart AC/heat pump
- Youth Hub cooling and air handler



### Later Years

- Youth hallway cooling and air handler
- Sanctuary cooling unit replacement
- East Wing shingled & flat roofs



### Ongoing

- Exterior brick and cinder block repair



# Bless *Future* Generations

We've set an ambitious yet attainable goal of **\$1.6 million** in three-year Campaign commitments, in addition to our regular stewardship and missions giving.

All church attendees, Preschool families and others who benefit from our facility will be invited to pray, reflect and give as God leads them. This Campaign isn't about equal giving – it's about uniting as one church, each making a personal sacrifice to build a legacy bigger than ourselves.

When we give according to our ability, God multiplies our efforts in amazing ways! Together, let's *Renovate & Elevate* our church – to honor the past, invest in the present and bless future generations.

**God, what  
do You  
want to do  
through me?**



### May 11: Gratitude Sunday

We will be invited to consider our gratitude to God as we reflect on the ways that God has impacted our lives for the better through our church community.

### May 18: Ministry Sunday

We will celebrate the life-changing ministries of our church and the inspiring stories of how God has blessed individuals and families through these ministries.

#### MAY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### June 8: Commitment Sunday

Commitment cards will be returned during worship as we offer the response God has led us to make.

### June 22: Announcement Sunday

We will celebrate the faithfulness of God and the collective generosity of our church family as we announce the grand total of three-year commitments.

#### JUNE

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	13	11	12	13	14
15	16	20	18	19	20	21
22	23	27	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

### June 29 & July 6: First Fruit Offerings

All will be invited to make a first-portion gift to go towards their commitment. This is the official start of the giving period.

#### JULY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



## WATCH OUR VIDEO

Walk with Pastor Tim through our church and hear his vision for our Campaign

Scan this  
code with  
your phone  
to visit our  
website



## SUNDAY, JUNE 8

### ALL CHURCH CELEBRATION

**Come join us! No cost to anyone!**

Sunday, June 8  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Family Life Center Gym

Questions? See Ellen Rhoades or Faye Thomas



Half pit BBQ chicken, pit-tatoes, rolls,  
green beans, cookies & drinks



621 South Rangeline Road  
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317-844-7275

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

Address Service  
Requested

## Visit our Webpage

Get more information including:



- Pastor Tim's video
- Celebration RSVP
- Ongoing updates

[CarmelUMC.org/CapitalCampaign](http://CarmelUMC.org/CapitalCampaign)

# *Renovate & Elevate*

Renovating Our Spaces, Elevating Our Future

**Honor** our past  
**Invest** in the present  
**Bless** future generations

