

#THE CONTACT

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

July 2025

- Mission of the Month: Congregational Care
- Youth Wednesdays - Join us & bring a friend or two!
- Children's VBS & Camp Photos
- Youth Summer Kickoff & Mission Trip Photos
- Renovate & Elevate: First Fruits
- Henderson Report with Photos



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

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



A Note from Pastor Tim Burchill

Blessed People Bless People

By now you've heard that our ***Elevate and Renovate Capital Campaign*** was a near miraculous success. We had over 140 families make commitments to achieve ***a total of 2.3 million dollars!*** Your gratitude has translated into exciting generosity, and that generosity will allow us to do two things:

1. To add back in to our priorities other renovations and improvements that we could not fit into our \$1.6 million limit. There are a variety of needed improvements that would enhance our ministries. By raising money beyond our goal, we now have the opportunity to tackle even more.
2. Even though the campaign goes on over the next *three years*, it is our hope that we will be able to deal with maintenance and renovation issues considerably longer than that. Getting our facilities and grounds back up to snuff will take some time, and your gifts will give us all the time we need.

For those who haven't yet had a chance to join this vital movement of the spirit here at Carmel UMC, we'd love nothing more than to include your pledge or your gift alongside our own. You still have a chance to get in on the ground floor of something that will be talked about for years to come (at least *I'll* be talking about it.)

What exactly is the plan for the funds that exceed our goal? I'm proposing that we pull together the ministry leaders and staff and have them strategize with our trustees and finance committee. They will then advise the Governing Council on the most impactful ways to move forward. While it might feel like we're

awfully 'flush' right now, our DNA as a congregation is definitely on the frugal side when it comes to handling money. Your gifts are a precious resource that we take very seriously, and we will do our very best to use them in such a way that both our facilities AND our ministries will prosper and grow.

If I can take a moment of personal privilege, let me say how proud and pleased I am with the sacrifices and the joy behind your participation in this campaign. You didn't exactly surprise me, but you have reinforced my estimation of this congregation's health and vitality. Ever since we've arrived, Sue and I have been thankful that the Bishop brought us here to Carmel. You are a loving and faithful congregation, and I can't think of a better church in which to finish my many years of ministry. I look forward to what God will be doing in us and through us. With God, all things are possible. At Carmel United Methodist Church, it is always possible to find men and women ready to allow God to do what no one of us can do on our own.

Thank you and God bless you!

Pastor Tim

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Pastor Tim Burchill.



CHURCH UPDATES



Joys & Concerns

With Sympathy to the family & friends of...

- Charlotte Wible who passed away on June 20, 2025
- Cleon Prestholt who passed away on June 22, 2025
- Karen Gould who passed away on June 23, 2025
- Hugh Wolf who passed away on June 25, 2025
- Marilyn Buchholz who passed away on June 27, 2025



PRAYER CONCERNS

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**.

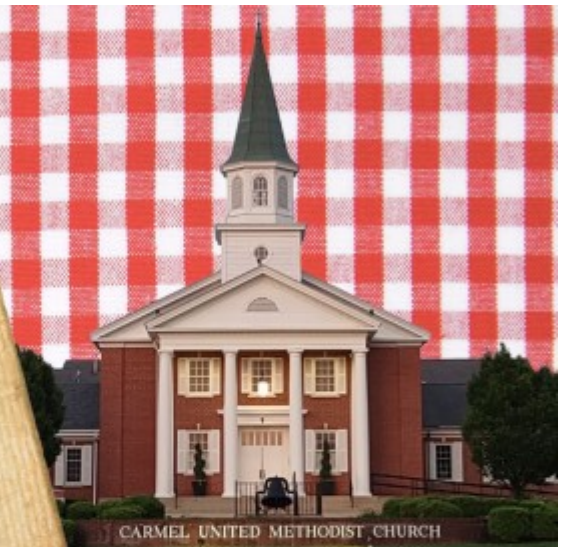
If you have a prayer request for the team to pray for, send it in email to Ed King, edking722@gmail.com. These prayer concern are for the e-list only. If it is a concern you would wish to have announced in worship, see NEXT info.

PRAYER MENTIONS in WORSHIP are separate. You must let Sue Burchill, sburchill@carmelumc.org, know the concern, and we must have permission from the immediate family in order to mention any prayer concerns during worship.

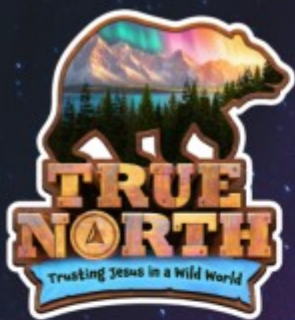
A logo with the text "SCHERMER PECANS" in a stylized, green, serif font, surrounded by decorative floral elements.

Get ready! Pecans are coming! Our UWF (United Women in Faith) will be selling pecans this fall !!
Further information coming soon!

Kickoff Sunday
August 10, 2025
ONE BLENDED WORSHIP SERVICE AT:
10:30am
Picnic meal after service
EVERYONE is INVITED!



A green heart-shaped logo with a white cross inside.
CARMEL
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
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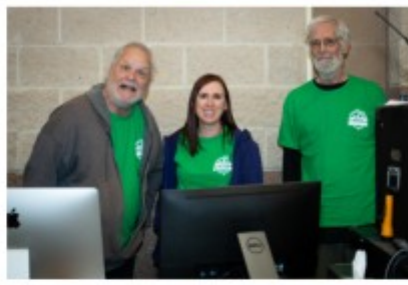
VBS

VERY BEST SUMMER



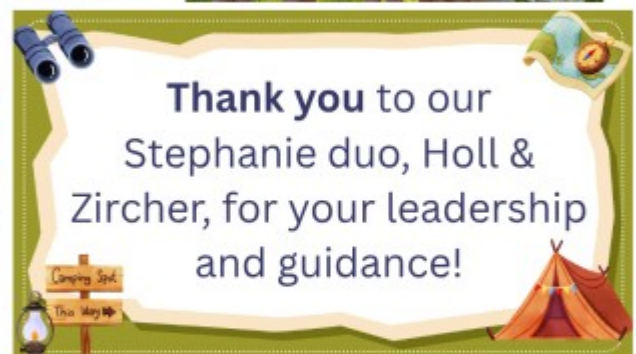
CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Shaina Murphy • smurphy@carmelumc.org



DEPARTURES →

**Thanks for a great
adventure in
TRUE NORTH!**

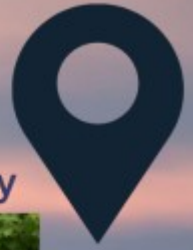


**Thank you to our
Stephanie duo, Holl &
Zircher, for your leadership
and guidance!**

Rainforest Falls
Coming June 2026

Summer Adventure & Mission Week

Transitioning From Children's Ministry To Youth Ministry



10 campers, 4 days - Adventure, Missions, Games and Biblical Lessons

*High Ropes Course Challenge & Waterpark fun in the sun

*Bags of Hope - toiletry bags

*Food Pantry - Meal Bags & Serving Guests during open hours

*Food Pantry Gardens - mulching, weeding, and more weeding

*Snacks, Games, and Bible Lessons

SUMMER

2025

Children's Ministry

CARMEL
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Summer Sunday School
Jun 15 - Aug 3, 10:45am-11:30am
Preschool Age 3+ and Elementary

Preschool Playground - OPEN**
Tuesdays 9:00am-10:30am
June 3 - July 29

Garden Group & Gaga Ball**
Thursdays 6:00pm-7:30pm
June 5 - July 31

Preschool Playground - OPEN**
Thursdays 6:00pm-7:30pm
June 5 - July 31

****Weather Permitting - Check Carmel UMC
social media for weather cancellations**

****this is not a drop-off event, responsible
adult will need to stay & supervise their kid/s**

Welcome to
**Summer
Sunday School**

June 15 - August 3
10:45am-11:30am





SEEKING Part Time Teaching Assistant

The Carmel UMC Preschool is seeking a Part Time Teaching Assistant. Interested candidates should email resumes to (sholl@carmelumc.org).

From all of us at CUMC Preschool,
we wish you a **VERY HAPPY SUMMER!!!**

REGISTRATION FOR 2025-26



Carmel UMC Preschool
We still have a few openings remaining in our
BUNNIES class
meets 2 days per week
(M/W or T/Th)
(18 mos. old by Sept. 1, 2025)
Contact Stephanie Holl at sholl@carmelumc.org
if you would like to enroll your child.
carmelumc.org/preschool



CARMEL
CHURCH

If you or someone you know is interested in joining our CUMC Preschool family, please contact us at **317-844-1958** or Stephanie Holl at sholl@carmelumc.org. Information about our class offerings and registration process is on our website:

carmelumc.org/preschool.



PRE SCHOOL
WE ARE HIRING!
● **PRESCHOOL PART-TIME TEACHING ASSISTANT**
Contact Stephanie Holl
at sholl@carmelumc.org
● **INFO HERE:**
carmelumc.org/employment



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Lebanon Children's Home Tour

By Jessica Stevens

For years our United Women in Faith have supported the United Methodist Lebanon Children's Home, a home for children in the foster care system just thirty-five minutes from our church. This home has evolved since its humble beginnings, over one hundred years ago, from an orphanage for all ages to a group home for teenagers.

On Tuesday, June 10, the Ruth Anna Circle took eighteen women to tour the facility. It was amazing. The campus has its own school tailored to meet the needs of the kids. State of the art group homes with twenty-four hour care. Counselors who specialize in trauma care are on site and work one on one with the children. They teach life skills and help launch the kids into adulthood once they age out of the foster system.

The Lebanon Children's Home has space for forty-two children and are most often at capacity. The teenagers have lived on average in thirteen foster homes after being removed from their own homes. Many have struggles with substance abuse. Eighty-five percent have experienced some kind of sexual abuse.

It was a humbling experience to learn so much from this UMC outreach and a joy to work together to serve those who need it most.



Pictured: Ruth Anna circle in the chapel at the Lebanon Children's Home.

From Ruth Anna Circle: We are grateful to **Pastor Jessica Stevens** and Youth Director **Rick Belbutoski** for coming with us and driving the 2 vans. Tom Fagan, Susan Bennett and Christy Huston took us around the campus to see the chapel, campus school, and one of the residence homes. We highly recommend visiting this facility and learning about the difference made in the lives of troubled teens.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 9 at 10:00am in the church's Gathering Place.

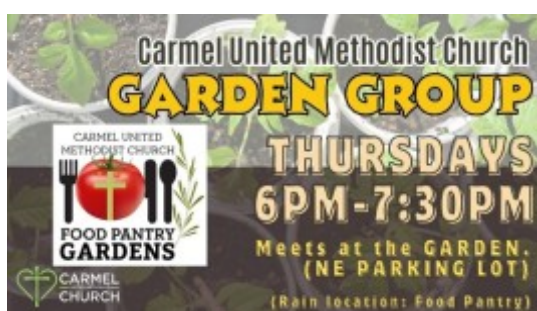


Are you looking for a way to join in, but don't know where to start? Send me an email, and I will be glad to help you join a group, or form a new one! - [Pastor Jessica Stevens](mailto:jstevens@carmelumc.org)



GARDEN GROUP

The Garden Group is meeting on Thursdays throughout the summer. We meet every week, and if the weather is bad, we meet inside the food pantry. Join us any time. ♥ If you have questions or want to help on another day of the week, contact Stephanie Fairfield at sjfairfield@comcast.net



The first question Pastor Jessica asked me in my first interview was "how do you feel about going on our mission trip to Charlotte in June?" I was enthusiastic about the mission trip, but there was no way for me to know that what we saw in Charlotte would inspire what we will build in our youth group.

In Charlotte, our team of twelve served a well connected web of agencies, dedicated to helping provide local residents with support. The non-profit organizations we volunteered with focused on providing housing, furniture, items for mothers living in poverty, and more. As we listened to each agency share about its mission, they spoke of their interconnectedness, how each agency provided information to each other so that each organization could meet the needs in their specialized area.

On the mission trip, at VBS, on Sunday mornings, I worked intentionally to connect and invite. It all led to our summer kickoff on June 18. More than 20 youth attended the murder mystery kickoff, and throughout the month of July, we'll continue to gather on **Wednesday nights** where we'll invest in friendships, worship God, and move towards a fall kickoff and Retreat where God will show up and show in the ways that only God can.

Please keep the youth ministry in your prayers, and if you are inclined to help provide dinner on Wednesday nights to support the relationships we're building with these youth, please contact Rick by email at rbelbutoski@carmelumc.org

Rick



A NOTE FROM
Rick

**4 More Summer Youth
Group Meetings in July**

Wednesdays from 6-8 pm

July 9, 16, 23, and 30

FALL 2025

Fall Kickoff - Aug. 10th

Youth Fall Lock in - Aug 30-31

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

Rick Belbutoski • youth@carmelumc.org



CROSS MISSIONS:
Mission Trip
in Charlotte, NC



SUMMER YOUTH GROUP KICK OFF On June 18, 2025



Report From 2025: Henderson Settlement Family Mission Trip

Seven members of CUMC recently completed an annual trip to Appalachia to Henderson Settlement. Our projects were replacing three decks.

Written by: **Bob Phillips**

Project #1

We were working for a 51 year old single lady who recently inherited a house from her father. The raised front stoop was deteriorated and since this was the main entrance needed to be totally replaced.

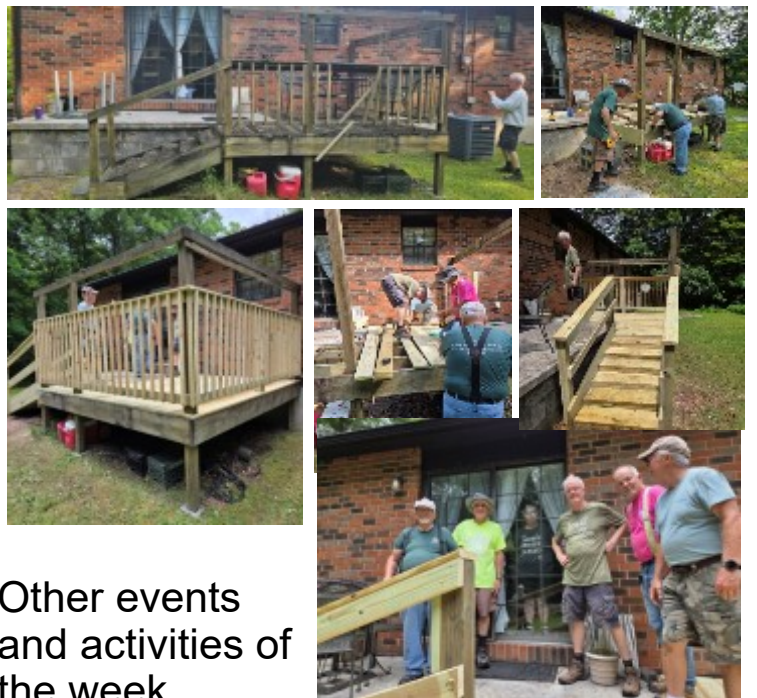


L to R: Chris Dobie, Jeff Silvius, Carl Lewis, Eric Ayers, Wayne Lerner, Bob Phillips, Al Moss



Project # 3

We were working for a 71 year old widow to replace her dilapidated rear deck, railing and stairs.



Project #2

We were working for a couple in their mid-60's. Their old deck need to be replaced with new composite material and the stairs rebuilt.



Other events
and activities of
the week...



The Henderson Trip will always be the first week of June, therefore **2026** will be **June 7-13**

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

MISSIONS MINISTRY

Carol Outland • missions@carmelumc.org

Loose coins will go to
Congregational Care,



Congregational Care at CUMC

By, Barbara Krueger

Recently I had the privilege of meeting with our Congregational Care Team. They are a group of people who wonderfully serve our CUMC family by offering support and care in truly meaningful ways. I thought sharing with you might provide an interesting and helpful insight into this ministry.

So, what is Congregational Care? First it is intentional, addresses diverse needs, involves participation by lay people and fosters a sense of belonging and connection among care givers and receivers. At CUMC it is a ministry focused on meeting the spiritual, emotional and practical needs of those who are active attenders as well as those who can no longer physically join us in worship.

In Galatians 6:2 we find the “why”, “Carry each other’s burdens.” Ephesians 2:10 adds, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works”. So, our marching orders come from God, and in doing so we fulfill the teachings of Christ.



If you would like to get involved in this ministry or are looking for more information on the ways our Congregational Care Team serves, you can reach Barbara at bkrueger@carmelumc.org or reach out to the church’s main office at 317-844-7275.

If you have an upcoming surgery or in-patient hospital or rehab stay and would like a member of our pastoral team to come visit and offer prayerful support, please contact the church’s main office at 317-844-7275. You can leave your name and phone number, and someone will return your call to get more details.

The following are just some of the ways we extend care to our CUMC family:

- Visitation by a pastoral team member prior to surgery as well as for those hospitalized.
- Individuals in rehab following hospitalization are visited.
- Calls to residents at a facility to offer personal visits, communion and prayer.
- A bible study occurs twice a month at a local senior living facility.
- Handmade Christmas gifts are delivered to individuals on our Golden Oldies list.
- Senior living facility residents participate in mission outreach activities.
- Birthday and seasonal cards are sent to our Golden Oldies throughout the year.
- Handmade cards are sent for special situations in our church family.
- Lap blankets are knitted and made available for individuals.

Your Board of Trustees are deeply thankful and appreciative to our church community for your commitments to the ***Renovate & Elevate*** Capital Campaign. We are overwhelmed by your generosity!

We have been working behind the scenes with church staff and our Finance Committee to be good stewards of the funds that you plan to entrust us, and to prepare for the future.

The Trustees expect to receive the first assessment this month from its Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) engineer, which is funded through a matching Lilly Center for Congregations grant. The report will inform next steps and decisions for high-priority heating and cooling needs, such as our Sanctuary and Family Life Center gym.

Meanwhile, work progresses on the roof project for our North Wing, over the administrative offices and our Gathering Place. The first phase of gutters and shingled roof occurred in May, and the next step is expected to begin in mid-to-late July. It will involve replacing the skylights that bring natural light into the Sanctuary and Gathering Place.

Stay tuned for future Contact newsletter articles on buildings and grounds projects, both for the Capital Campaign and summer projects for the Preschool.

CUMC Board of Trustees



REACHing into the Future

On Sunday June 29 we announced the results of the generous pledges made to the Renovate and Elevate Capital Campaign at Carmel UMC. It is truly inspiring to see how many people are committed to the future of our church and its ministries.

We are now moving into the 3 year fulfillment phase of the campaign as we put into action the dreams and visions for our future. The REACH Team has been tasked with keeping everyone advised on our progress while engaging the congregation as we continue to ask "God, What would you have me do?"

But what does **REACH** even mean? Is it to "reach" our campaign giving goal? Maybe to "reach" a higher level of spiritual growth? How about to "reach" the completion of the many facility improvement projects? The short answer is "YES" to all of these items. REACH is an acronym for the various activities the team will be performing, with the help of the other campaign teams, over the next 3 years.

REACH Key Activities.....

- * Report progress on Financial and Construction completions.
- * Encourage individual and church wide spiritual growth
- * Analyze how we are progressing
- * Celebrate our milestones
- * Highlight the impact of the campaign on the ministries of CUMC

You'll be hearing from us in various formats: announcements at church services, signage in the Gathering Place, occasional mailings, articles in the various publications, and some parties along the way too!

We look forward to being there with you as we move through this important time for our church and hope we'll all have a little fun too along the way.

Thank you for your tremendous response to the call for action in securing the future at Carmel United Methodist 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



Renovating Our Spaces, Elevating Our Future

THE CONTACT JULY 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

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REACHING INTO THE FUTURE

LOOK INSIDE

for more information about all the happenings at CUMC!