

#THE CONTACT

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

August 2025

- Mission of the Month: Robert's Park - Soup's On!
- Backpack Blessing is Sunday, August 3
- Kickoff Sunday is August 10 - ONE worship service 10:30am
- Soup's On: DINE to DONATE at City BBQ is Wed. August 20
- CUMC Preschool starts on Wed. August 20
- Kids Bible Sunday is August 24
- Youth Group Sunday Eves - Middle School & High School
- Fall YOUTH Lock-In is August 30-31
- Food Pantry Update
- Small Group Dinners
- And so much more.....



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 Ron Williams

I love the church, God's church! The church is responsible for Jeannine and I meeting on a blind date 65 years ago and our marriage, our family and our lives have been blessed mightily having been life long



Methodists. We love Carmel United Methodist Church for its outstanding preaching and teaching; the contemporary and traditional music programs; the commitment to missions in such meaningful and diverse ways helping those outside the walls of the church; the fellowship of other believers gives us an occasional glimpse of what God has in store for us in heaven; the 50 plus years of teaching little ones about Jesus in our wonderful preschool program and the commitment to having full time staff to lead our family and children's ministry and the growing youth ministry. But wait there is more!

We are grateful for having come to the understanding and appreciation of what a blessing it is to have had members before us not only build and pay for our beautiful church



building and campus but blessed us by the heritage of the many legacy programs and ministries they established that still exist today.



Finally we are grateful and excited for those who like us have been praying the prayer asking God; "Lord, what would you have me do?" Our prayers have been answered in a way that exceeded our expectations as one hundred and forty-five families made a three year pledge of \$2.3 million to the Renovate/Elevate capital campaign. This frees us up from taking dollars from ministry and operations budgets to bring our facilities up to the level needed going forward. We are thankful for the women and men; laity and staff, who led this very effective campaign.

Now that leaves just one more ask, and that is this: Can we be bold and increase our willingness to witness to others we interact with in our neighborhoods, work places and schools to help them "come and see" and to want to be a part of a church where they can easily connect, grow and serve as the hands and feet of our Lord, Jesus the Christ?

Ask a friend, or a neighbor to join us for our kickoff on August 10. One service, one message, one meal, and one family!



May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts as we go forward in ministry together,

Ron Williams

CHURCH UPDATES

Starting on August 17
Our Regular School Season Worship Times

9am & 10:30am
Traditional Service

10:45am
Contemporary Service

 **CARMEL CHURCH**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2025 Summer Worship Schedule
(May 25-August 3, 2025)

10:30am - Traditional
10:45am - Contemporary

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL at 10:45am

 **CARMEL CHURCH**

Join us for...
Summer Online Worship
Livestream

TRAD: 10:30am & CONTEMP: 10:45am
Through the entire summer 'ex: June 8

carmelumc.org/sermons

Joys & Concerns

With Sympathy to the family & friends of...

- Maureen Harlan who passed away on **June 29, 2025**
- Nancy Laatz who passed away on **July 2, 2025**
- Terry Knee* who passed away on **July 22, 2025**
* Kay Hapner's Brother

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, so you will receive prayer concerns.

If you have a prayer request for the chain to pray for, send it in email to Ed King, edking722@gmail.com. These prayer concerns are for the email-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 about the concern, and we must have permission from the immediate family in order to mention it during worship.

SCHERMER
- PECANS -

The Carmel UMC
United Women in Faith (UWF)
will be taking orders for
PECANS
for \$15 a bag
in September
They will be delivered in November

Find your favorite UWF
member during coffee hour and
support the missions of the
UWF at CUMC by ordering
delicious and nutritious pecans.

 **CARMEL CHURCH**  **United Women in Faith**



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


CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

 **CARMEL CHURCH**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
621 S. Rangeline Rd.
Carmel, IN 46032
317-844-7275

Music News



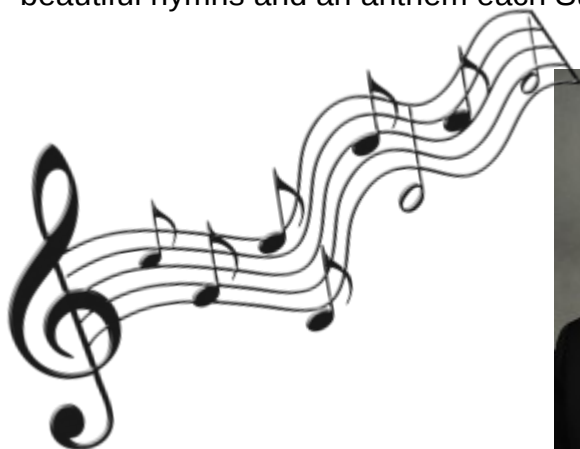
CHANCEL CHOIR SEASON RESUMES THIS MONTH

If you've ever thought about joining the Chancel Choir, August is the best time to do so! Our first rehearsal back from summer break is at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6 in the Sanctuary choir loft. We'll be preparing for our first performance on Kick-Off Sunday, Aug. 10.

Rehearsals will continue most Wednesdays through May at 6 p.m. in the choir loft. In addition to singing through Sunday's hymns and several weeks of anthems, rehearsal is like a small group with a time to share joys, concerns and prayer requests at the conclusion. Get to know our fun, welcoming group!

Did you know that you can sing in the Chancel Choir and attend 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship, if you appreciate both music styles? Choir members attend the full 9 a.m. service and typically excuse themselves early in the 10:30 a.m. service, after the anthem.

Please share your appreciation with our dedicated group of volunteer Choir members who bring us beautiful hymns and an anthem each Sunday!



PRAISE BAND AND KARAOKE FOR FIRST WEDNESDAY FRIENDS & FAMILY ON SEPT. 3

Each month, we invite the church community for a music-focused special event.

Looking ahead to Wednesday, Sept. 3, we will be recognizing our Youth Ministry and our new Youth Director, Rick Belbutoski, for our first Friends & Family Event of the fall season. It starts at 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center gym with pizza, popcorn, cookies and live music from our very own Praise Band.

All are invited to the after-party, which begins around 6:30 with karaoke provided by JJ Sound, a favorite karaoke DJ in the Carmel and Fishers area. The lyrics will be projected on both big screens so that everyone can sing along! Sign up to reserve your seats and select your karaoke song in advance! (The button below will take you to the RSVP, or you can find the link at carmelumc.org/events).



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

First Fruits Results & Projects Underway

By Becky Moss

The Renovate and Elevate Reach Team is happy to report contributions currently received from capital campaign pledges, also known as our First Fruits, have reached approximately 30%. With commitments totaling over \$2,300,000, we not only look forward to completing many much-needed projects, but we can already see progress underway!

Replacement of the **skylight in the Gathering Place** begins **July 27** along with renovation of the lower-level recreation room. The **recreation room** is scheduled to be completed by **October 18** and will be used by our preschool as well as other CUMC groups. These First Fruits allow us to get started now on several projects simultaneously!

We will continue to update the display board to indicate any additional gifts received. Additionally, the Reach Team will provide project updates and completion information.

Personal sacrifices allow us to build a legacy bigger than ourselves and it is exciting to see God's hand at work here at CUMC!



Visit this link to make a Capital Campaign contribution. You can make a contribution to the Capital Campaign whether or not you filled out a commitment card. ♥



carmelumc.org/capitalcampaign

Our capital campaign website has links to all the information we have shared.



PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Stephanie Holl, Preschool Director • sholl@carmelumc.org

August 2025

Preschool will be back in session soon! We are so excited to usher in a new school year with **170 preschoolers** and **30 staff members**! It is going to be an **ADVENTURE!!** Be sure to check out our calendar for important dates so you don't miss out on the FUN!



Student Calendar 2025-2026

August 18th - Parent Orientation (6-7pm)

August 19th - Classroom Visits (9-10:30am)

August 20th - First Day of School

September 1st - Labor Day - No School

October 6-10th - Fall Break - No School

November 4th - Election Day - No School

November 26-28th - Thanksgiving Break - No School

December 22-January 2nd - Winter Break No School

January 5th - Preschool Back in Session

January 12th - 2026/27 Priority Registration Begins

January 19th - MLK Holiday - No School

January 20th - 2026/27 New Family Registration Begins

February 5th - 4's/ALT K Parent Conferences

February 16th - Presidents Day- No School

April 6-10th - Spring Break - No School

May 11th - 4's/ALT K Graduation

May 13th - Last Day Of School



Stephanie Holl

Preschool Director

sholl@carmelumc.org

317-844-1958



Paula Foster

Assistant Director
of Preschool

pfoster@carmelumc.org

317-844-1958



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



REGISTRATION FOR 2025-26

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.

Small Group Dinners

As a church family, we can sometimes feel disconnected from those we worship with each week. We want to be more like the body of Christ that we read about in Acts, a church that breaks bread together and truly knows one another. This fall, we are launching dinner groups as a church-wide effort to get together and live as Pentecost people.

We will host our annual Kickoff worship service on Sunday, August 10th at 10:30am and have a meal together afterwards. We will come together to pack 1,000 hygiene kits for UMCOR that day, play games, and have fellowship. From this meal we will have small group dinners in peoples' homes and around town.

I encourage you to make an effort to participate, either as a host or a guest, and get to know the amazing people you worship with here at Carmel UMC! Our community with one another is vital for developing and deepening our faith. Together, we can transform our world and participate in bringing about God's kingdom right here in Carmel.



Click the image to RSVP.

We need LEADERS

to help ORGANIZE and FACILITATE the UMCOR HYGIENE BAGS packing event on August 10 at our KICKOFF LUNCH.



Email Missions: missions@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](#)



RUTH ANNA CIRCLE will hold our next meeting on **Tuesday, September 9** at 10:00am in the gathering space. We will welcome our youth director, Rick Belbutoski, as our speaker. Come join us as we seek to grow in faith, develop strong, supportive friendships, and engage in missions. Contact Katie Kessler for more information. 317-607-9307 gmacovi@aol.com



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

at church in the conference room.

STUDYING: "The Gospel of Luke"

Sept. 3 This is our first meeting this Fall. Join us!

CONTACT: NANCY ADAMS
nadams35@aol.com



GARDEN GROUP The Garden Group is meeting on Thursdays from 6pm to 7:30pm throughout the summer. Contact Stephanie Fairfield at sjfairfield@comcast.net

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

**BEGINS
AUG 17**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

**10:45A-
11:30A**

**RM
117**

AGES 3, 4 & PRE-K

Potty trained & 3 years old by Sept 1, 2025

Teachers: Becca Frohardt & Volunteer

**RM
LL11**

GRADES 2 & 3

Teachers: Matt Jones & Brooke Weisner

GRADES K & 1

**RM
115**

Teachers: Katie Pilson & Volunteer

GRADES 4 & 5

**RM
LL13**

Teachers: Dave Coleman & Ken Evancic

**RM
111**

CHILDCARE ALL WORSHIP SERVICES

Infants & toddlers

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

BIBLE SUNDAY

INFO

SUNDAY AUGUST 24

Parent & student Bible Class
9:30-10:15a | Confirmation Room - LL 12

Bibles Presented in Worship
10:30am or 10:45am service

FOR 2ND AND 3RD GRADERS

And 4th graders that
missed last year!

Q&A

QUESTIONS?

Contact Shaina Murphy
Email: smurphy@carmelumc.org
Call: 317-844-7275, ext 224

MISSIONS KINDNESS CAMP

Kids in grades K-5
are welcome to join us for a
Missions Kindness Camp
as a part of Serve Week at CUMC



FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7

9am-12pm

Registration opens
Thursday October 1

**Adult Volunteers
needed too!**

Contact Shaina Murphy
smurphy@carmelumc.org

save the dates Children's Ministry

Backpack
Blessing
Aug 3, 2025

Children's Christmas
Pageant
Dec 14, 2025

VBS June 2026
Monday 8 -
Thursday 11

Missions
Kindness Camp
Nov 7, 2025

Easter Egg Hunt
for Missions
April 5, 2026

Missions
Adventure Camp
June 22-25, 2026

SAVE THE DATE FOR CUMC YOUTH

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Group Kickoff Aug. 10th for 6th - 12th Grade

Enjoy Lawn Game Olympics, food fun and surprises from 6-8 pm at CUMC.

Confirmation Call Out Meeting for Parents of 6th Graders Aug. 17th

Parents of students who are 6th grade gather in the hub at noon for food and a conversation about the confirmation class kicking off Sept. 7th

High school Mission Trip Call Out Aug. 24th

Parents of high school students will gather in the hub at noon for a conversation on the 2026 Mission trip July 11 - 19th.

Fall Lock In Aug 30-31st

Middle and High Schoolers join in the fun with a Trip to Adrenaline Action Park Saturday, a lock in Saturday Night and a chance to Serve at Circle City Relief on Sunday.

Big Dates in 2026

Winterblast - Jan. 16-18
Middle School Camp from - June 14-19
High School Mission Trip - July 11 - 17

 **Contact Rick**
317-517-5968

 **More Information**
carmelumc.org/youth



AUG. 10TH
6-8 PM @ CUMC

YOUTH GROUP
FALL KICKOFF



A NOTE FROM *Rick*



What a summer it's been! We've doubled participation in summer youth group in the last couple months. Youth have been showing up diving into big themes like "Listening for God," "Holy Hospitality," and "Prayer in Action."

When a youth walks into the church they're greeted at the front door, with a question that has to do with the theme. Within minutes the group is playing a game connected to our theme, and then we share a meal together. And that's where I need to continue to say thank you to the congregation. My understanding is that meals for the youth have rarely been provided the last couple of years, but what we've seen this summer is that little things like providing meals and setting aside intentional time to get to know youth and their families matter. These meals have been provided by volunteers, and there will be more opportunities to share hospitality with our youth in the fall.

Youth Group is kicking off on Aug. 10 just like the rest of the church. We'll be at CUMC from 6-8 pm, and youth group will return to Sunday nights following the kickoff. Once youth group returns to Sunday nights, High School and Middle School Students will be invited every week. I know this is a change, but it's one that's designed to keep the calendar simple for busy parents who want their youth to benefit from being a part of the awesome ways God is moving through our ministry.

Please join me in prayer for the youth this fall, that God show up and show off in the ways that only he can, and check out the list of important dates coming up for our the Youth Ministry.

Rick

rbelbutoski@carmelumc.org

Mid-Year Summary for the Food Pantry

By Cindy Muse (foodpantry@carmelumc.org)

The half-year mark has passed.... time for a Food Pantry update!

Surprisingly, the **number of guests** visiting the food pantry has decreased this year by 6%. We are serving an average of 352 guests per month. Including family members, we are feeding over 1400 Hamilton County residents monthly.

We have received over \$100,000 in **donations and grants** through June. **Expenses** total close to \$92,000. We are positioned well to deal with increasing food prices, as well as the likelihood of guests increasing as federal programs become more restrictive.

Over 120 CUMC members and non-members have **volunteered** at the Food Pantry this year. Volunteers assist guests as they shop through the pantry, purchase food for the pantry, and “rescue” food from partners such as Panera Bread and Neiman’s Harvest Market every week.

Moments of joy and success abound.....

A volunteer reports that we provide a space for folks to just get away from things they are struggling with. In June, a guest came in and she was teary-eyed. She poured out her struggles financially and emotionally--has an adult special needs son. The next week, the guest stopped by just to drop off paper and plastic bags and she had a big smile when she saw us. The volunteer is convinced we provide a respite while also providing food.

Another volunteer reports that a couple of Saturdays ago, he was talking with one of our regular guests. She was telling him how much she appreciates our Food Pantry. The woman works two jobs making \$10/hour and \$12/hour, and the food that she receives each month helps her get by. She also told the volunteer how much she appreciates being able to select her food and how kind everyone is. She went on to tell him that our Food Pantry is helping so many people she knows get by and that it is a true blessing.

Never doubt that your generosity and spirit-filled hearts make a difference to many who are in need.

The Food Pantry Board thanks you!

Ways that you can help:

- [SIGN UP to volunteer at the pantry](#)
- [Or SIGN UP for other jobs at the pantry](#)
- Donate items from our [WEEKLY WANTS list](#) that is **published on the web, on FB, and in the weekly bulletins**. Other items are also always welcome. Please only donate refrigerated or frozen items directly to a volunteer who can put it away.
- [CLICK HERE to donate money to the food pantry:](#) This money is used to purchase commonly used items like milk, eggs, butter, meats, etc. (select FOOD PANTRY from the pulldown menu as you fill out the form.
- [AMAZON WISH LIST](#)—Click here to order items from our Amazon list that ship directly to the church.
- **Donate the produce, herbs, fruits from your own garden.** There are special garden bins on the front porch of the food pantry house to put your goodies.

All of these links can be found on our website on the Missions page: carmelumc.org/missions

SOUP'S ON!

MISSIONS MINISTRY

Missions • missions@carmelumc.org

Soup's On! at CUMC

By Natalie Oehler

After spending last month in a sermon series about community, what better way to put that into practice than to help serve a hot meal to the poor and homeless of Indianapolis. CUMC has had a long-standing relationship with Soup's On. Soup's On is located downtown Indy right off the bustling street of Mass Ave at Robert's Park UMC. You may have walked past the bench with homeless Jesus statue while going to an event, or dinner on Mass Ave. That is Roberts Park UMC. This year we will be serving on **Sunday September 14 and Sunday November 9.**

How You Can Get Involved

You don't need special training to make a difference. All you need is a willing heart. Here are a few ways you can be part of our Soup's On efforts:

- Dine in, or carry out, all day at City BBQ on Wednesday **August 20** and TELL THEM you are there for **CUMC Soup's On Mission**. Proceeds will support SOUP's ON!
- [Sign up to go serve](#) on Sunday from 9:30a-2p on **September 14** and or **November 9**
- Help make sack lunches and care bags on Saturday from 9:30-11a **September 13** and or **November 8.**
- Donate items [on the Amazon Wish list](#)
- Make cookies or brownies for the meal on Sunday.
- Donate other items on the list on the right —> or make a monetary contribution.
- Pray. For the team serving and the guests receiving

This is an easy mission for individuals or families to get involved with. Families with small children can help make sandwiches on Saturday and put together care bags. Sunday volunteers we ask be older than 12 and have an adult volunteer with them. Or if you cannot make it in person to help those days you can pick up a few items on the wish list when out doing your weekly shopping.



Items Needed to be Donated Before each of the event dates:

- Apple Sauce cups
- Liquid IV packets
- Gatorade
- Individual bags of chips
- Cosmic Brownies
- Sandwich baggies
- Water Bottles
- Napkins
- Beef jerky
- Toothbrushes
- Individual toothpaste
- Bug Spray
- Chapstick
- Hand warmers
- Thick winter gloves
- Self wipes
- Deodorant
- Shaving razors
- Sandwich bread
- Large Jars of Jelly
- Large Jars of Peanut butter

Please sign up to help on the sign up genius here:

<https://bit.ly/soups-on-cumc>

All donations can be left in the donation closet at the food pantry & please mark them **"FOR SOUP'S ON"**

If you have questions or would like to be added to the distribution email list, please email Natalie Oehler at nataliejoehler@gmail.com

HVAC Engineer Assesses Heating and Cooling Needs

The Trustees have received a final high-level assessment report from its Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) engineer. It was funded through a Lilly Endowment Center for Congregations matching grant, which was awarded earlier this year.

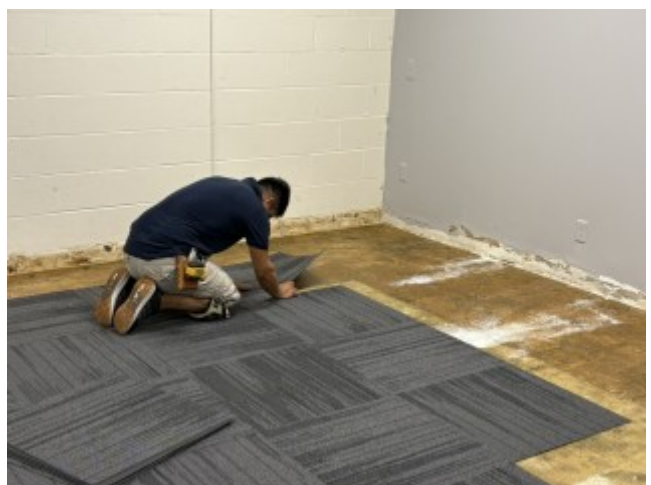
The report underscores the needs identified in the *Renovate & Elevate* Capital Campaign. Of the 40 systems assessed, 28 are past their expected life. The cost to fully replace these systems is estimated at \$1-1.2 million.

But there is good news in the report, too. There are opportunities to consolidate air handlers that share mechanical rooms, reduce the number of pumps that circulate hot water from the boiler, and have both be variable volume so they can run more efficiently.

We are already in the process of replacing a Trane air conditioning unit that serves our second floor, which failed in June and could not be repaired. Along with the ducted AC/heat pump that's part of the Rec Room renovation, we're also looking at opportunities to add more conditioned fresh air into our ventilation systems.

The next steps are to address priority comfort and inconvenience issues with our Sanctuary, Family Life Center, administrative offices and whole-building heat. It will start with an HVAC engineer selecting the correct equipment and designing construction plans for bid. This includes replacing the 1967 boiler in our basement, installing new thermostats and controls for our larger systems, and insulating ducts in the FLC to prevent condensation during the summer.

CUMC Board of Trustees



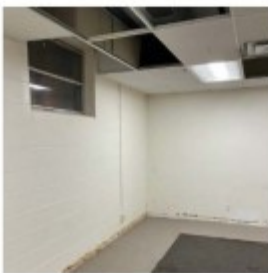


Carpeting Installed in “New” Sunday School Classroom LL-11

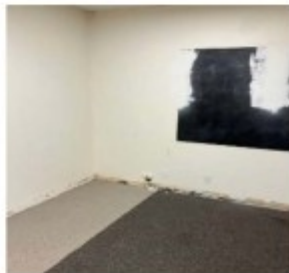
CUMC is blessed with a large incoming class of 2nd graders (8–9-year-olds) beginning in August. The problem is that there is not an available classroom large enough to accommodate 20 kids. It is particularly important to find a suitable room as this is the year the children receive Bibles! Their lessons are less play based and more learning to use their Bibles, memorizing scripture and using age-appropriate games to learn. In this case, room environment matters!

Shaina Murphy, Director of Children's Ministries, has found a room on the lower level (LL-11) that would be large enough for a Sunday School class of 20. It was previously used as storage and is not yet suitable for being used as a classroom. It will need appropriately sized chairs and tables for 2nd/3rd graders which Shaina has identified, and the painting needed will be done by volunteers with appropriate paint that we already own. But... the carpeting needs to be replaced. (It's now two different carpet pieces and colors laid together.) In addition, this room is “out of the scope” of the *Renovate and Elevate Capital Campaign*, but it is an immediate need. Quotes for carpeting to match the new carpeting in other parts of the lower level were requested. With some negotiation, a discounted price for new carpeting and installation is \$1,800.

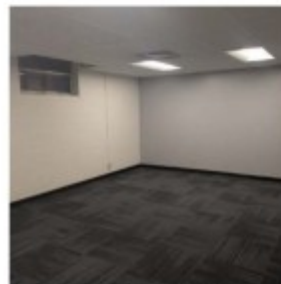
Children's Ministries has requested that the Endowment Committee consider supporting this need. The Endowment Committee approved the use of the **Rushlight Greatest Needs Endowment Fund** to pay for the carpeting expense. The Rushlight Greatest Needs fund is an unrestricted account in the Endowment Fund to be used for areas of significant need. CUMC extends their heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to the Rushlight Greatest Needs Fund.



Room LL-11 Before



Room LL-11 Before



Room LL-11 After



Room LL-11 After

But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” Mathew 19:14 ESV

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

Renovate & Elevate

Renovating Our Spaces, Elevating Our Future

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THE CONTACT AUGUST 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOOK INSIDE

for more information about all the happenings at CUMC!



Everyone is invited, tell your friends, tell your neighbors! There is NO Sunday School on August 10, but YOUTH GROUP starts that night, and Sunday School starts the following Sunday on August 17.