

#THE CONTACT

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH // AUGUST 2026

August 2026



- Fall Kickoff: August 16 - Worship & Meal - 10:45am
- Mission of the Month: Soup's On
- Missions: Food Pantry Mid-Year Report & Gardens Help
- Music Ministry: Costume Workshop Recap
- Preschool: Welcome Back - Upcoming Events
- Church News: Rangeline Road Closure
- Children's Ministry: Upcoming Events & Lakewood Photos
- Adult Ministry: Meaningful Prayer & Reading Scripture
- Youth: Events & Letter from Rick
- Building Trustees: Project Updates
- Capital Campaign: Campaign Update

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

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

CHURCH NEWS

KICKOFF SUNDAY: Coming Home to Worship Together

FALL KICK-OFF
WORSHIP & MEAL
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

10:45am

One Service & Lots of Fun!

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



Invite your friends, neighbors and family members to join us on **Sunday, Aug. 16**, for our annual Kickoff combined worship service, which begins at **10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary**. Whether you're here every week, visiting for the first time, or finding your way back, all are welcome!

As summer winds down and families return home, Kickoff Sunday brings our contemporary and traditional worship communities back together as one church family, united in Christ, for a morning of celebration, connection and praise. Children of all ages are invited to join us for the entire worship service, and childcare will be provided for our youngest attendees.

The Music: We'll be led a joyful mix of our music ministries including the Sanctuary Brass quartet, Contemporary Praise Band, Children's Choir, Chancel Choir and Acclaim!

The Message: Pastor Tim will explore what it means to live life to the fullest in a sermon focused on abundant living.



The Food: Speaking of abundance, plan to stick around after worship for a variety of fresh dishes in the Family Life Center including sandwiches, salads, hummus and a multitude of pies!



It's a great chance to reconnect with friends after the summer, meet new people and share food, laughter and conversation together. Let's fill our church with new and familiar faces and the joy of being together again!

We step back into normal rhythm of worship times the following **Sunday, Aug. 23**, with a **9:00 a.m. traditional service**, a **10:30 a.m. traditional service**, and a **10:45 a.m. contemporary service**. We can't wait for all God has in store for us this fall!



CHURCH UPDATES



Backpack Blessing
August 9
 during the children's moment
**ALL AGES ARE INVITED FORWARD
 TO RECEIVE BLESSINGS
 FOR A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR.**
*Babies, toddlers, elementary, middle,
 high school students, and teachers too!*



Prayer Shawl Circle
EVERY TUESDAY
 Knit or crochet
 In the Gathering Place.
12:30pm-2:30pm
 CONTACT:
 Katie Kessler
 gmacovi@aol.com



Quilting Circle CARMEL CHURCH
Fridays 9:30am-12pm
 at Carmel UMC in room LL 23.
 We welcome anyone who wants to quilt or tie,
 or anyone who wants to learn.
 CONTACT Marie Harris at mdrharris@aol.com

Finance Committee Report

Each month the finance committee will provide an update on contribution totals that have been received year-to-date. The information provided is current through the timing of the submission for The Contact.

Operating Budget.

Total Contribution Income (through 07/28/2026)
\$ 813,107

Budgeted total contributions for 2026
\$ 1,417,000

Total budgeted expenses for 2026
\$ 1,627,700

Missions Budget (through 07/28/2026).

Total MISSIONS
Contribution Income \$ 109,762

Total MISSIONS
Grants from outside sources \$ 24,816

Joys & Concerns

With Joy, we celebrate the Baptism of

- **Rose Luque Reifeis on July 19**
 Parents are Francisco Jesus Luque Rodriguez and Gretchen Reifeis

With Sympathy to the family & friends of...

- **Rose Ann Ernst** who passed away on July 7, 2026

PRAYER CONCERNS

- * CUMC E-PRAYER CHAIN: [CLICK HERE](#) to be added
- * PRAYER REQUESTS: Email to Ed King, edking722@gmail.com with details
- * PRAYER MENTIONS in WORSHIP: Email Sue Burchill, sburchill@carmelumc.org

GROUP Meetings for AUGUST

- **PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE:** knitting & crocheting. **Every Tuesday—12:30pm-2:30pm** in the Gathering Place at the sofas
 - **QUILTING CIRCLE—**Fridays 9:30am to 12pm in LL23, Contact Marie Harris at mdrharris@aol.com
 - **EMPTY NESTERS** —We meet on **Sunday mornings at 9:00am (10:15am after kickoff)** in the conference room and we always welcome new members! Contact Katie Kessler with any questions at gmacovi@aol.com
 - **DINNER BELLES**—are meeting at Tony's Pizza on 116th in Carmel on **August 11 at 6pm!** Contact: Kay Kayhapner@yahoo.com
 - **FRIENDS IN FAITH BIBLE STUDY**—We meet next in September (usually on **Weds in the Conf. Room 3:30-5:00pm**). Stay tuned for details! Contact Nancy Adams at nadams35@att.net
 - **RUTH ANNA CIRCLE**—is not meeting in August. We will meet after the summer break on **Tuesday, September 8 at 10AM**. Stay tuned for more information.
 - **LYDIA CIRCLE** —will be meeting on **Thursday August 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room**. We will be discussing the upcoming year. All women are invited! Contact Gayle Webb (gayle.beyers.webb@gmail.com) or Nancy Miller (nancymiller99@hotmail.com) to find out what we are doing next and to get on our email list.
- If you would like YOUR group to be included here, send an email to Jennifer Warf jwarf@carmelumc.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Rick Belbutoski • youth@carmelumc.org



**Mark your
Calendar for the
Youth Kickoff
August 16th from
6-8 pm**



**Join us in celebrating
the way God moved in
the lives of our high
schoolers who
participated in Mission
Puerto Rico.**

**The Carmel youth and their friends
are invited to join in the summer fun
of Carmel UMC youth pizza tour.**

We'll be visiting 5 locally owned
pizza spots throughout the summer,
to enjoy food and friends, but also
review the best slices in the area.

**We will conclude our tour at
Minya's in Westfield on Monday
Aug. 3rd at 6 pm. No RSVP required.**

Some food provided, bring cash
if you want your own order.



An Amazing Summer: God's Love in Action

As summer draws to a close, I find myself incredibly grateful for all that God has been doing through our youth ministry.

Over the past few months, our students have experienced a summer filled with adventure, service, and meaningful relationships. Our middle school students returned from Camp Adventure with new friendships, growing confidence, and stories of how they encountered God throughout the week. Just a few weeks later, our high school students traveled to Puerto Rico, where they partnered with a local church in Humacao, Puerto Rico to serve neighborhoods through Vacation Bible School, and repainting the home of a congregation member. The hospitality we received and the way God moved through differences in language, culture, and worship expression were a constant reminder of how God provides.

Closer to home, our Summer Pizza Tour has quickly become a favorite tradition. What began as a simple opportunity to share a meal together grew into something much more. Week after week, students invited friends, relationships deepened, and our core group became a community where young people truly know, celebrate, and encourage one another.

None of this would have been possible without the many adults who invested their time this summer. Parents, volunteers, and our Youth & Children's Ministry Intern, Jaleigh, each played an important role in creating welcoming spaces where students could experience Christ's love. Thank you for helping make this a summer our students won't soon forget.

As exciting as this summer has been, we're even more excited about what comes next.

This fall our ministry theme will be **God's Love in Action**. Throughout the year, we'll explore what it means not only to receive God's love, but to live it out—in our friendships, our schools, our homes, and our community. Our hope is that students leave each week with a deeper understanding that faith is more than something we believe; it's something we practice every day.

We hope youth will join us as we kick off a new ministry year on **Saturday, August 16, from 6:00–8:00 p.m.** Then, on **September 5–6**, we'll launch the year together with our annual Fall Lock-In, one of our favorite opportunities to welcome new students and build friendships that last throughout the year. More details will come soon.

Thank you for praying for our students, supporting our volunteers, and investing in the next generation. We truly believe God is at work in the lives of our young people, and we're excited to see how He continues to move in the year ahead.

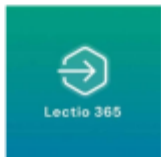
We can't wait to welcome everyone back this fall.

Rick Belbutoski
Director of Youth Ministry

Contact Rick:
rbelbutoski@carmelumc.org

Meaningful Prayer

Lectio 365



Pray As You Go



Oak



So often it feels as though we are living in one of the most fast paced times in the history of the world. That we no longer have time to linger, slow down, or time to share our lives with one another. But is this truly our reality? Many of our tasks that once took hours to complete can now be accomplished in a fraction of the time – hello online grocery shopping and overnight shipping from the internet. We can send a text or email instead of taking those extra minutes on the phone that help us establish trust and build relationships with our coworkers and neighbors. With the introduction of Artificial Intelligence, we can automate many of our mundane tasks and free up hours from our week.

So what are we to do with all of our extra time? Are we filling it with more projects? More scrolling on our phones? More tasks that keep up busy rather than those that give us meaning?

Ariana Huffington's latest essay in Noema Magazine contemplates questions such as these and weaves in the argument that once AI can handle many of the tasks we have long associated with intelligence, the scarce goods that are so valuable to us become presence, depth, empathy, and love. Goods that were once freely given but have become increasingly rare.

Fortunately for Christians, we have spiritual practices that we have embodied for millennia that teach us these skills. Prayer, meditation, reading scripture, covenantal community. Practices that ground us and deepen our relationship with God.

So the real questions are: How often are you talking with God? Is your spiritual life deep and meaningful or reduced to a laundry list of worries in your prayers?

John 17:17-19

Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them in truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

& Reading Scripture

Proverbs



Lord's Prayer



Psalms



If you are unsure of where to start, you are not alone! Fortunately, there are many options available to get us started. Over the years, I've tried the apps with the logos listed on the mirroring page and have found them helpful. Lectio 365 guides you through prayers at morning, midday, and evening and slowing prays through scripture. This slow reading brings the scripture alive in new ways. Pray As You Go is a Catholic prayer app that offers prayers that you can join in on. The Oak app is simply guided meditation to help us slow down enough to be able to listen to what God is saying to us.

If apps on your phone do not appeal to you, maybe try reading a Proverb a day. In just a month you will have read and prayed with a whole book of the Bible. Perhaps you need something familiar to pray with, try adding the Lord's Prayer when you pray out loud at meals or with groups. Maybe journaling is something that resonates with you, try reading and journaling with a Psalm a day. This will be a longer process so don't worry if you miss a day or a week, just pick up where you left off and keep going.



No matter where you start, with consistency, our paths in life will look a lot more like God's hope for the world rather than our own.

Oh! Have you used your prayer box that we gave out a few month ago at church? Have you written down moments of gratitude in the little notebook? Have you practiced the breath prayers? How does your coloring book look? Is it empty or so full of color that your prayers are jumping off the pages?

Psalm 145:17-18

The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

MUSIC MINISTRY

David Morton • dmorton@carmelumc.org

Thinking about Chancel Choir? Now's the Moment to join!

Have you watched the Chancel Choir sing on Sundays and wondered, "Could that be me?" Or maybe you sang in high school and haven't since? Do you just love music but aren't sure you're "good enough?" Here's a secret: you don't have to be. You just have to show up.

August is the perfect time to try us out! Our first rehearsal back from summer break is **6 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 5, in the Sanctuary choir loft**. It's a fresh start for everyone, not just returning members, you may not be the only new face.

What to expect

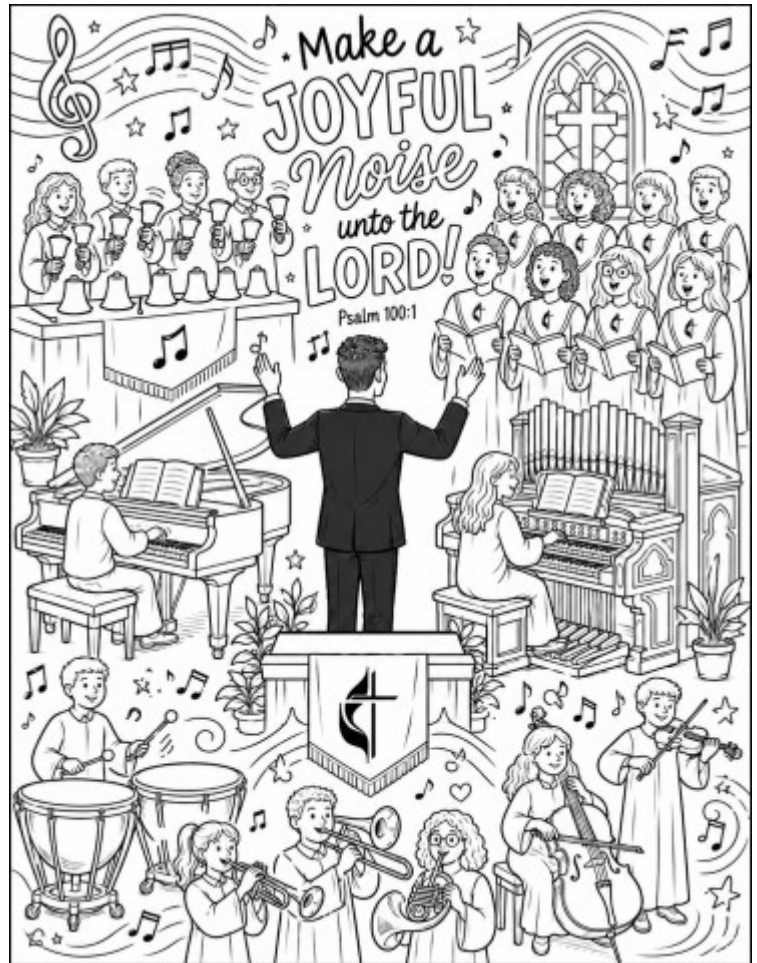
Rehearsals run most Wednesdays at 6 p.m. through May. We work through Sunday's hymns and learn the upcoming anthems each week, but it's not all business. At the end of every rehearsal, we pause to share joys, concerns, and prayer requests, the way a small group would.

Worried about the schedule?

You don't have to choose between the choir and the music you love on Sunday mornings. Choir members attend the full 9 a.m. service, then typically slip out early from the 10:30 a.m. service, right after the anthem. You can still make it to 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship if that's your preference!

No audition, No pressure

The best way to know if the Chancel Choir is for you is to sit in the loft and feel what it's like. Come Aug. 5 and give it a try! Worst case, you've made some new friends and sung some beautiful music along the way.



If singing isn't your thing, but you enjoy the hymns and anthems all year, take a moment to thank our volunteer choir members. Their weekly dedication is a gift to the whole congregation!

Questions? Reach out to David Morton at dmorton@carmelumc.org

Handbells are also looking to recruit new members!

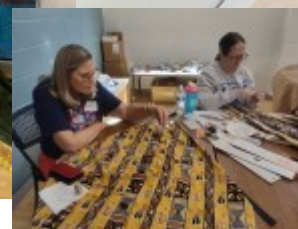




Christmas in July Workshops Bring Creativity, Fellowship, and Joy

What a wonderful two Saturdays we shared together during our **Christmas in July Costume Workshops**! Several volunteers from across our entire church gathered to help continue building the CUMC *Heritage Costume Collection* in preparation for this year's Christmas cantata, *At Last Noël*.

Under the guidance of Broadway costume designer **Barry Doss**, participants spent the days sewing, fitting, embellishing, organizing, and preparing costumes that will help bring the Christmas story to life this December. From experienced seamstresses to first-time volunteers, everyone found meaningful ways to contribute their unique gifts and talents.



Just as important as the work itself was the fellowship. Throughout the workshops, the room was filled with vibrant conversation, laughter, encouragement, and the joy of serving together. New friendships were formed, old friendships were strengthened, and volunteers enjoyed getting to know Barry while learning from his remarkable creativity and expertise.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who gave their time, talents, tools and enthusiasm to make these workshops such a success. Special thanks to Barry Doss for once again sharing his extraordinary gifts with our Traditional Music Ministry and inspiring us all through his generosity and artistry.

We can't wait for you to see the beautiful costumes on stage when *At Last Noël* is presented this December!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Shaina Murphy • smurphy@carmelumc.org

August 2026



August 2026

Childcare All Sundays

Childcare is available for Infants through Preschool aged children during all worship services. Room 111.

Backpack Blessing August 9

Students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks to worship for a blessing during the Children's Message.

Sunday School Begins August 23

Regular Sunday School is by age groups (Preschool, Grades K/1, 2/3 & 4/5). Classes meet from 10:45am-11:30am. Information and Check-in for Sunday School at the Welcome Desk.

Bible Sunday August 30

Bibles will be presented to 2nd and 3rd graders during worship. Parents and Students wishing to participate should contact Shaina Murphy, kids@carmelumc.org



CARMEL
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Children's Ministry

carmelumc.org/kids

Director of Children's Ministry

Shaina Murphy
kids@carmelumc.org

Childcare Coordinator

Lisa Wallace
childcare@carmelumc.org

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

**BEGINS
AUG 23**

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 & Erin Belbutoski

**RM
LL11**

GRADES 2 & 3

Teachers: Matt Jones & Brooke Weisner

GRADES K & 1

**RM
115**

Teachers: Katie Pilson & Robin Jackson

GRADES 4 & 5

**RM
LL13**

Teachers: Dave Coleman & Ken Evancic

**RM
111**

CHILDCARE
ALL WORSHIP SERVICES

Infants & toddlers

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

BIBLE SUNDAY

INFO

**FOR 2ND
AND 3RD
GRADERS**

And 4th graders that
missed last year!

SUNDAY AUGUST 30

Parent & student Bible Class

9:45a - 10:15a | Sunday School Room LL13

Bibles Presented in Worship

10:30am or 10:45am service

Q&A

QUESTIONS?

Contact Shaina Murphy

Email: kids@carmelumc.org

Call: 317-844-7275, ext 224

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Stephanie Holl, Preschool Director • sholl@carmelumc.org

2026
IMPORTANT DATES
CUMC Preschool

01 **PARENT ORIENTATION**
Parents Only!
⌚ 6:00–7:00pm **AUG 24**

02 **CLASS VISITS**
Parents and students!
⌚ 9:00–10:30am **AUG 25**

03 **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**
⌚ 9am–1pm **AUG 26**



Stephanie Holl
Preschool Director
sholl@carmelumc.org
317-844-1958



Paula Foster
Assistant Director
of Preschool
pfoster@carmelumc.org
317-844-1958

Northbound Rangeline Road Closure

Northbound Range Line Road is scheduled to close Monday, Aug. 3, between Kroger/ Executive Drive and 126th Street/City Center Drive. Expect southbound Range Line Road to remain open, with construction equipment entering and exiting the work zone.

The official detour follows Carmel Drive, 3rd Avenue SW and City Center Drive. Another way to access CUMC from the south is Keystone Parkway to the 126th Street exit. Handsfree use of a mapping app on your mobile phone will provide the best route with current traffic.

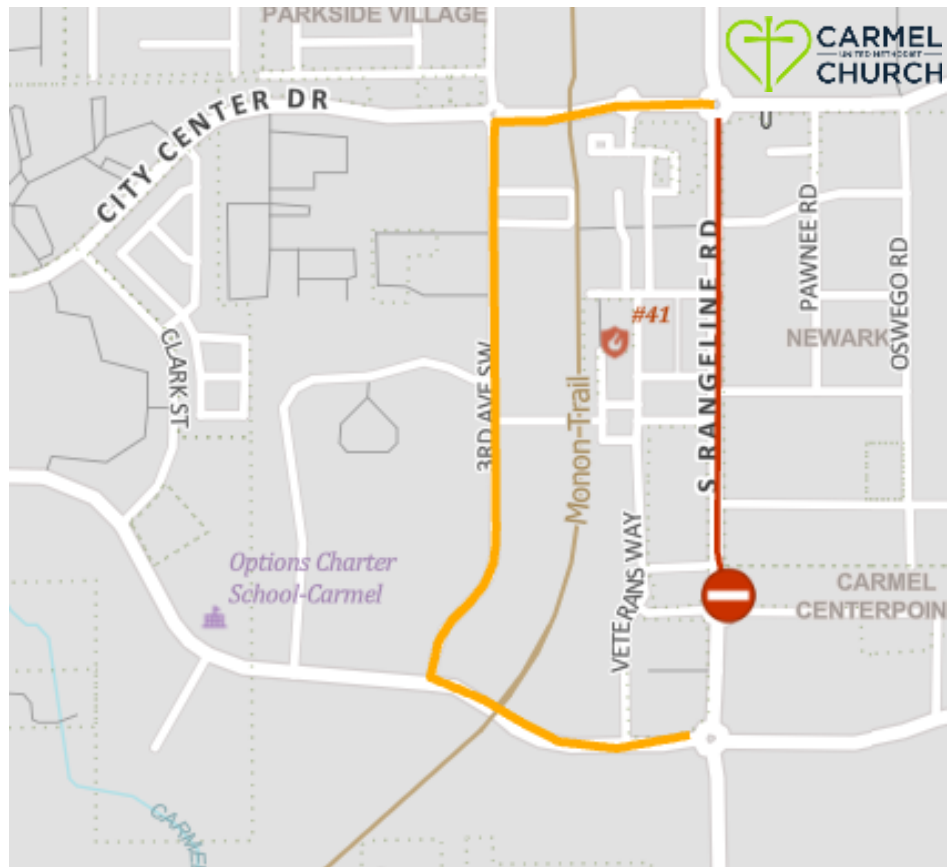
The City of Carmel is replacing the green bike lane and concrete sidewalk with a new 10-foot-wide asphalt trail for both pedestrians and

cyclists. It will be separated from traffic by in-ground rain gardens and 17 new parallel parking spaces.

The project began in April with removal of the raised planters.

The City has not announced an anticipated reopening date, but expect it later this year before the snow and low temperatures naturally slow down road work. If we have fair weather this fall, crews may push to reopen for Christkindlmarkt traffic.

Visit www.carmel.in.gov for updates.



MISSIONS: MISSION OF THE MONTH

Jenny LeVora • missions@carmelumc.org

August 2026-MISSION FOCUS
(Loose coins will go to):

SOUP'S ON

Soup's On!



SOUP'S ON

ROBERTS PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Soup's On is a food ministry that runs out of Roberts Park United Methodist Church in downtown Indianapolis. It serves a warm meal and hospitality every Sunday to anyone experiencing food insecurity or hunger. Our family loves volunteering at Soup's On! It's a great, meaningful volunteer opportunity that anyone can participate in, regardless of ability, mobility, or age.

The guests we serve, our fellow volunteers, and the organizers running Soup's On are a true joy. Now in its 27th year, Soup's On started with just one church member handing out sandwiches after Sunday services. Today, various congregations, groups and families volunteer to prepare and serve the warm meals. When CUMC serves, we also provide a sack lunch for guests to take away for further nutrition. Additionally, thanks to a matching grant in October of 2025, CUMC helped expand the ministry to serve a takeaway meal every Wednesday also.

If you haven't volunteered at Soup's On, what are you waiting for? I know the unknown can feel intimidating, so let me share what the experience is like. You can meet either at Carmel UMC or downtown at Roberts Park UMC, right off Mass Ave. Parking is easy and located right in the church lot!



Amazon wish list:



Once you arrive, you'll meet the team, unload food and donations, and help prepare for the day. Setup jobs are available for all skill levels, including rolling silverware, setting up chairs, cleaning tables, and prepping food.

When meal service begins at 12:00pm, there are roles for everyone: announcer, ticket receiver, a guest counter, food server, dishwasher, and more.

It can be hard to find a volunteer opportunity that works for the whole family, fits a busy schedule, and lets you serve as the hands and feet of Jesus while connecting directly with the community. If you're on the fence, give it a try - we'll have fun together, I promise!

Written by Stephanie Zircher

CUMC serves four times a year. Our remaining dates this year are Sunday Aug 30th and Sunday November 8th. If those dates don't fit your schedule, Soup's On welcomes family volunteers other weekends and on Wednesday evenings.

CLICK or scan the QR code below to sign up to SERVE or PREPARE items for serve day!:



Additional ways to support Soup's On:

- **To-Go meals & Supplies:** Help pick up bananas, assemble PB&J sandwiches, help residents at Independence Village assemble lunch bags.
- **Pantry Donations:** Donate essential dignity items to stock the Soup's On Pantry. See the Amazon list link on the facing page, in addition to any throw blankets, and good used condition backpacks.
- **Plarn Mats:** Help weave plastic yarn (plarn) mats to keep our neighbors without homes warm & insulated during this upcoming winter.

Ready to get involved or have questions?
Contact the missions team at
missions@carmelumc.org





Mid-Year Report 2026

An average of 1,279 Hamilton County residents were served monthly at the CUMC Food Pantry during the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2026. Each month, over 300 families/households visited the Food Pantry and shopped for food, including meat, dairy, fresh fruit, and fresh vegetables. The number of households visiting the pantry has decreased 15% from 2025. We do not know why but surmise part of the reason may be displacement of Grammercy (126th Street & Keystone) tenants to make way for new apartments and a road. Other Hamilton County food pantries report decreases as well.

Financial donations are trending less than last year. We received a \$15,000 grant from the Hamilton County Commissioners, which was less than half of the \$33,000 grant received in 2025. We continue to receive strong financial support from CUMC members, Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, community members, and Meijer.

In-kind donations remain steady. We are blessed to receive garden produce from many local gardens, as well as the CUMC garden. The USPS drive in early spring filled the shelves with many standard and unique food items. The amount of food we receive monthly from Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank continues to increase.

Expenses remain on par with last year. The expense decrease due to fewer guests visiting the pantry is offset by inflation and greater offerings to our guests. Guests now receive an additional meat and cereal, along with a “new” item – laundry detergent.

Your support is vital to ensuring our neighbors have enough to eat and are treated with dignity and respect.

With gratitude,
the CUMC Food Pantry Board.





Garden Group

Wednesday 7:00am-9am

Thursday 6pm - 7:30pm

Friday 8:00am-10am

Help is needed in the Food Pantry Gardens. If you would like to stop by during these times (posted above), there will be others there to help direct efforts. If you have questions, or would like to stop by and help during other times, email gardens@carmelumc.org to find out how you can help!

Support Bags of Hope:

While the July fundraiser was cancelled you can continue to support Bags of Hope by tying fleece blankets from the lobby or purchasing items from their Amazon wishlist.



Amazon wishlist here:



Carmel Coat Closet

It's Back to School time for Carmel Coat Closet, so as you clean those closets or find great shopping deals we appreciate any coat donations mostly needing Elementary through Adult sized coats. Please visit the missions page or the QR codes to the right for volunteer opportunities and our Amazon Wish list.

Volunteer here:



Midwest Missions

We continue to be a drop off location for new and used school supplies, medical equipment (crutches, walkers, wheelchairs), lawn tools, sewing machines and good used sports gear. We have collected over four large boxes of school supplies in July! Please share this mission with others as they are cleaning out old items this fall. Donations can be dropped in the 24hr closet and marked for **MIDWEST MISSIONS**.



Join us at the CUMC table for brunch and coffee on

Aug 29th

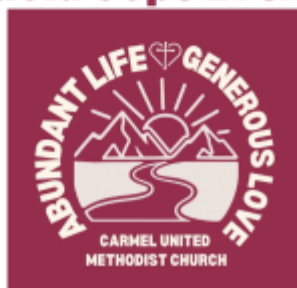
at Zionsville Middle School to help support Operation Classroom and learn more about their amazing work.

Email missions@carmelumc.org

Mark your Calendars:

Meal Packing for Venezuela Sept 27th

Please invite your friends and family of all ages to come pack meals in the FLC that will be sent to families in Venezuela. Volunteer shifts between 2:00-5:00 with a potluck meal to follow.



Sign Up here:



Project Updates

Many of us remember when the Jack King Family Life Center (FLC) was built, and when the remodeling gave us the Gathering Place. Since then, these spaces have hosted countless moments of worship, fellowship and fun.

All that use comes with wear, and our well-loved spaces are due for some care. Thank you for supporting the many funding sources – such as Capital Campaign, Greenburg Fund and Preschool Parent Reserves – that have made these needed repairs and refreshes possible!

FLC Gym Heating and Cooling

As we shared in last month's newsletter, a new heating and cooling system is now under contract to replace the broken furnace in the FLC gym. Installation is planned for this Fall.

Gathering Place Entrance

The bottom step at our most-used entrance, Door 3 into the Gathering Place, had begun flaking and rusting. It was replaced within one work week in July so it was ready for foot traffic that Sunday. We hope you hardly notice the new one!

Parking Lot Repairs

Outside the portico, you may have seen a traffic cone near the drain grate. The soil under the pavement is starting to wash out, so please avoid walking or driving over that spot for now. It's scheduled for repair this Fall with the planned patching, sealing and striping of our parking lot. Stay tuned to this page for more information.

Preschool Classrooms and Playground Refreshed

July and early August, the quiet weeks between summer camps and the start of Preschool, are the best time to work on our Christian education spaces.

Last month we mentioned new carpet and paint for our childcare and a hands-on Biblical learning classroom in the northwest corner of our basement. This July, we also completed a fresh coat of paint for the classrooms, hallway and stairwells serving our second floor. These are the same areas that got new carpet last summer.



Outside, our playground is getting some love, too! The jungle gym has been resurfaced and looks brand new, and we've patched and resurfaced the blacktop to give the kids a safer, smoother space to play. To top off the playground refresh, a fresh batch of mulch is coming this month!

Campaign Update from the REACH Team

On behalf of the REACH committee, we want to thank you for your continued support! As each Renovate and Elevate pledge becomes fulfilled, it brings us closer to our common goals.

Your church Trustees continue to work with HVAC consultants and review bids for a building heating and cooling system that will last for many years to come. The Trustees are evaluating potential system reliability, efficiency, and comfort. We anticipate the project will be ready for contractor bids by early October.

Other Renovate and Elevate projects are nearing completion. A new large freezer has been set up to replace a broken unit and new ovens with range cooktops are expected to be installed in the coming months. Additionally, our large CUMC parking lot needs to be repaired and resurfaced to minimize ongoing wear and tear. There are soft spots in the heavily traveled areas that are falling apart; you may have seen a sink hole near the main entrance. This hole and these soft spots will be milled and rebuilt. The entire parking lot will be crack filled, resealed and restriped. We are hoping to minimize future cost by taking care of the parking lot now. The project should happen by the end of the year.

As we Connect, Grow, and Serve, we are looking for expertise in finding and writing “Capital Grants” available to active churches. We were able to secure a grant for a \$25,000 match for a total \$50,000 for the heating and AC, engineering and consulting expenses. We believe and hope to find other grants that could help offset renovation costs. Please let us know if you or anyone you know is willing to help us with finding or writing grants.



As we have just completed our first year of campaign, some folks have asked for a reminder of what they had pledged and where they stand against those commitments. You can see your contributions to CUMC now by logging into the church database called [“Pathway”](#). There is a “my giving” tab on the left side of the menu screen. Please know that you can always call the church office about your contribution or other information. Contact treasurer Dale Hughes – dhughes@carmelumc.org or the office. The REACH team will be sending updates to everyone regarding their campaign pledges in November. The November letter will not include Operational or Missions giving that the church typically sends out in January.

Thank you again for your strong support of the Renovate and Elevate Campaign, it does lead to strengthening your church and our mission.

Reach Team

Renovate and Elevate Campaign



621 S. Range Line Road
Carmel, IN 46032

Phone: 317-844-7275
E-mail: caremail@carmelumc.org
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

THE CONTACT

AUGUST 2026

CHECK INSIDE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

LOOK INSIDE

for more information about all the happenings at CUMC!

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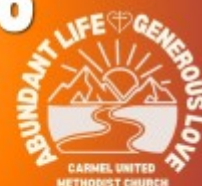


FALL KICK-OFF

WORSHIP & MEAL
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

10:45am

One Service & Lots of Fun!



carmelumc.org  **CARMEL CHURCH**
621 S. Rangeline Rd, Carmel, IN