

#THE CONTACT

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

September 2026

- Pastor Tim: New Sermon Series
- Youth: Who won the PIZZA Tour votes?
- Youth: Confirmation, Lock-In, and more!
- Adults: Find Your People
- Mission of the Month: Carmel Coat Closet
- Missions: Meal Packing Event: Sept. 27
- Missions: Flood Relief in many forms
- Kids: In Touch for 2nd through 5th graders
- Music: Meet Jared from Acclaim!
- Music: Next FIRST WED. Event is October 7
- Preschool: Teacher Picture & Dine to Donate Fundraiser
- Capital Campaign Update
- Building Trustees: Parking Lot Repairs
- Building Trustees: HVAC Update
- Endowment Fund: Security Cameras

 CARMEL
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

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

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



Changes Coming To Worship This Month?

If it's September, then it must be time for a new sermon series. Starting this month, we're going to finish off our study of *the Lord's Prayer* and delve into the core values of the Christian life. They just so happen to be the core values we have embraced here at Carmel United Methodist Church.

Your Church Council is diving into an abbreviated wording for our mission and purpose as a congregation. **God has called us to Get, Grow, and Give to others the grace of Jesus Christ.** I begin my journey to the Kingdom when I open myself up to God's grace. To follow Jesus is to be discipled—to grow in that grace—growing in wisdom and in love. And what good is all that grace if it just stays with me? It is in giving away God's grace to others that I demonstrate where my heart is invested.

It's important to understand that we are to become like Jesus in committed community—in other words, **We Don't Do Life Alone.** Being present in one another's lives is one of our important core values.

We're part of a congregation that understands that **Grateful Hearts Fuel Graceful Worship.** Worship flows from those who understand how blessed they have been and who feel compelled to give God the credit for those blessings. Our daily prayers are really just an extension of our Sunday morning worship.

For us, **Growth is Not Optional.** We are Wesleyan Christians which means coming to Christ in faith is not the end of the journey but rather the beginning of a life that is led and formed by the Spirit. Jesus uses the word *disciple*, but it can also be translated 'student' or 'apprentice.' Each of us is a work in progress.

We believe that **Found People Find People.** In other words, if you get it—if you really understand what it means to be forgiven, delivered from evil and sin, to embrace a life of endless possibility—then you can't help but share it with your family and friends.

Likewise **Blessed People Bless People.** Our generosity is generated by the knowledge that all good and perfect gifts come from above—that God has given us life, and breath, and everything. We give not only our financial gifts, but offer up those spiritual gifts that are uniquely bestowed upon each of us.

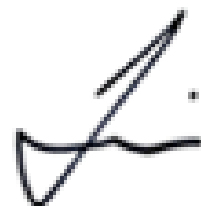
And finally, **Saved People Serve People.** It's a core value much like Blessed being a Blessing. When we get our minds and hearts around what Jesus did in becoming one of us, taking the form of servant, and giving up his life on the cross—we end up seeing Jesus in the people around. Look to the hungry, naked, sick, imprisoned, and marginalized and if you look at them through the eyes of Matthew 25:40—you will see the presence of Jesus in the need around you.

Back to the sermon series. It's entitled, **"We Love This Place!"** and I am looking for folks in and around Carmel UMC who'd be willing to sit for a brief interview (15 minutes) about the various ways in which the ministry of this church has touched your life or made your burdens lighter. There are so many stories, both big and small, of how you and I and the good folks who make up our congregation have seen and heard and received God's blessings through CUMC.

The series is going to begin the second week in September and I hope you'll make an extra special effort to be a part of it.



Pastor Tim



CHURCH UPDATES

New  **MEMBER CLASS**

Are you interested in becoming a member of our church?

You are invited to join us on
September 13 & 20
 at **9:00am**
 in the **Library**

New Member Sunday will be on
> September 27 <




Regular Season Worship Schedule
 (begins on August 23 with Sunday School by grade starting this same day)

9:00 a.m.: Traditional service
 10:30 a.m.: Traditional service
 10:45 a.m.: Contemporary service

LIVESTREAM TIMES: 9:00am Traditional; 10:45am Contemporary




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 08/31/2026)
\$ 896,762

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

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

Missions Budget (through 08/31/2026).

Total MISSIONS
Contribution Income \$ 143,526

Total MISSIONS
Grants from outside sources \$ 24,816

Joys & Concerns

With Sympathy to the family & friends of...

- **Richard Pedigo**, who passed away on **August 26**
- **Joan Roberts**, who passed away on **August 29**

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 SEPTEMBER 2026

- **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 10:15am 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 Chicken Salad Chick in Carmel on **September 8 at 6pm!** Contact: Kay Kayhapner@yahoo.com
- **FRIENDS IN FAITH BIBLE STUDY**—We meet next on September 9. Then, weekly on **Weds in the Conf. Room 3:30-5:00pm**). Contact Nancy Adams at nadams35@att.net
- **RUTH ANNA CIRCLE**—is meeting in the Gathering Place on Tuesday, **September 8 at 10AM**. Stay tuned for more information.
- **LYDIA CIRCLE** —will be meeting on Tuesday **September 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room / Library**. 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



And the Winner is **Puccini's** pizza pasta

The pizza tour provided more than a regular opportunity to break bread with cheese and sauce on it. What began as a whisper from the spirit on the drive to church became an opportunity for friendships that began at church to deepen and grow into something more.

Throughout the summer, students visited five locally owned pizza places and every student gave a score between 1 and 5, with five being the best pizza they'd ever had. The two top pizzas were on the menu at our kickoff in mid August, where the students cast the final vote, awarding Puccini's the top honors.

The book of Acts tells the story of how the early church did life together. Our students came for the pizza, and then the community wide games played, the staying at friends houses, and serving in the garden together. Students invited friends, a few parents came along, and we even found a pizza place attached to a dog park. Mostly, we saw what God can do when students invest in community. Thanks to all who are curious about which pizza place won. **The truth is... we all won.**



sign up at
carmelumc.org/youth

Higher Education Committee Update

The higher education committee is so grateful to those who have been able to support the annual scholarship we provide to our graduating seniors. If you haven't supported yet, but would still like to give a gift, you can do so by sending a check or going to the giving page of carmelumc.org/giving
MEMO Line: "Scholar Dollars"

This month the higher education committee will begin the work of gathering addresses for all college students connected to CUMC. In late November, we'll send care packages to students all across the country as a reminder that their church is praying for them, and that God can work through a six-pack of gluten free Oreos.

Thanks for continuing to support our students with your prayers and gifts.

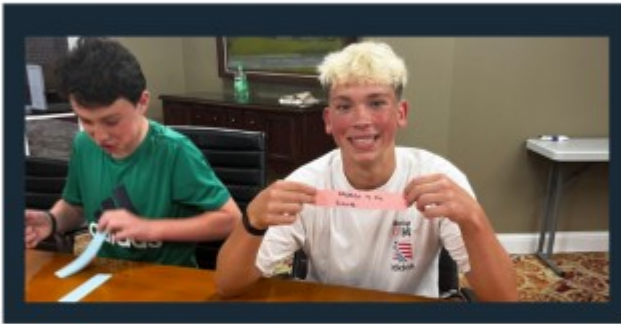
Click [here](#) to visit the [Youth Ministries Page!](#)

Sign up forms, and updated info on all events are available online.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Rick Belbutoski • youth@carmelumc.org

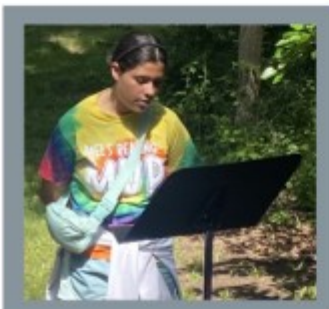
GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION



Confirmation for 6th Graders Kicks off in September

At Carmel UMC confirmation is an important part of our youth ministry and the life of our church. We'll be having our first confirmation meeting in the youth cafe (right off the hub) on September 13th during the 10:30 traditional service.

The youth theme for the year is "God's Love in Action," and the confirmation students will be living that out in the way they do confirmation this year. If you're attending church in person, you'll likely notice more students serving on Sunday mornings. As this confirmation class begins, please keep them in your prayers, and thank you for supporting our youth.



CARMEL UMC YOUTH 2026-27



CARMELUMC.ORG/YOUTH



Youth Head Back to Camp & Charleston, WV in Summer of 2027

Camp Adventure - 6/13-18

(middle School)

Epworth Forest Camp - 6/27-7/2 (high school)

Mission Trip to Charleston, WV - 7/11-16

(middle and high school)

Sign up at carmelumc.org/youth

DISCIPLESHIP

FIND YOUR PEOPLE.

Grow Your Faith.

Following Jesus was never meant to be a solo journey.

At CUMC, we believe some of the most meaningful growth happens in community - around a table, in a conversation, over coffee, while studying Scripture, serving others and simply showing up for one another.



THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE.

You don't have to know exactly what you're looking for. Start somewhere. Take a next step. See what God does.

Go Deeper in Scripture.

Maybe you're ready to spend a little more time with the Bible—to ask questions, learn something new, or see a familiar story in a different way. Our Bible studies and Sunday School groups offer space to explore Scripture and grow in faith together.

Find Community & Friendship.

Maybe what you're really looking for is people to do life with. Our small groups and fellowship groups gather around meals, conversation, shared interests, laughter, and the everyday moments that turn acquaintances into friends.

Walk Through Life Together.

Every season of life brings its own joys, questions, and challenges. Some of our groups are especially focused on creating a place where you can find encouragement, understanding, prayer, and people who know something about the season you're walking through.

Serve & Create Together.

Discipleship can look like more than sitting around a table with a Bible. Sometimes we grow by using our hands and our gifts—knitting a prayer shawl, quilting, tending a garden, serving others, or simply creating something meaningful together.



WE'D LOVE TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR NEXT STEP.

Contact Pastor Jessica Stevens | jstevens@carmelumc.org | 317.844.7275 Ext. 241

*There are many ways to connect this fall!
Find a group that fits your season and
schedule - and know that you are welcome.*



SMALL GROUPS & STUDIES



BIBLE STUDIES & SUNDAY SCHOOL

- **FOG (Followers of God) Sunday School**
Sundays 9:15-10:15AM Room 122
Led by Gayle Webb & Jayne Enlow
- **Empty Nesters Sunday School**
Sundays 10:15-11:00AM Library
Led by Katie Kessler
- **Tuesday Night Special**
Tuesdays 6:30PM Room 122
Led by Christine Keith & Wayne Lerner
- **Women's Bible Study**
Wednesdays 10:00-11:00AM Library
Led by Carol Getch
- **Friends in Faith**
Wednesdays 3:30-5:00PM Library
Led by Nancy Adams
- **Ironmen Men's Bible Study**
Fridays 7:30-8:30AM Library
Led by Dave Coleman
- **Super Seniors Bible Study**
1st & 3rd Fridays 1:30-3:00PM
Carmel Senior Living Led by Barbara Krueger
- **Grace & Grounds (Parents of 0-5 year olds)**
Sundays 9:15-10:00AM Rec Room
Led by Royce & Sarah Woodley



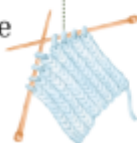
SMALL GROUPS & FELLOWSHIP

- **Lunch Ladies (Mom's Group)**
Thursdays 11:30-1:00PM
Confirmation Room
Led by Shaina Murphy
- **Ruth Anna Circle**
2nd Tuesdays 10:00AM Gathering Place
Led by Donna Skeens
- **Garden Group**
Thursdays 6:00-7:30PM Garden
Led by Stephanie Fairfield
- **ROMEOS**
(Retired Old Men Eating Out)
Wednesdays 9:30-10:30AM Room 122
Led by Bob Phillips & Ron Williams
- **Lydia Circle**
2nd Tuesdays 6:00PM Library
Led by Nancy Miller
- **Dinner Belles**
2nd Tuesdays 6:00PM
Led by Kay Hapner



SUPPORT, PRAYER & CREATIVITY

- **Grief Share**
Loss of a Spouse
Sept. 19, 2026
9AM-11AM Library
Led by Karen Halle
griefshare.org
- **Prayer Shawl Knitters**
Tuesdays 12:30-2:30PM
Gathering Place
Led by Katie Kessler
- **Quilters**
Fridays 9:30-12:00
Quilting Room
Led by Marie Harris



*Your next step might be small. Wherever you are on your journey,
we would love to have you join us.*

Carmel Coat Closet

A Year of Warmth, Hope and Community

What an incredible year it has been for CUMC Coat Closet ministry! Because of God's faithfulness and the generous hearts of our congregation and community, we have been able to provide warmth, dignity and hope to hundreds of individuals and families. Our mission begins at home. We seek to first support the missions of CUMC by providing winterwear to those served. By working alongside ministries such as Family Promise of Marion County, Family Promise of Hamilton County, Soups On at Roberts Park UMC and Henderson Settlement, we extend the reach of each ministry and help ensure that those being served have the warmth they need during the winter months. Together, these partnerships allowed us to place winterwear directly into the hands of individuals and families already being served through CUMC's mission ministries.

Many coats and other articles of winter clothing were shared, however the numbers represent one coat, one person, one ministry at a time. One of the greatest blessings was our growing partnership with local schools. Through these relationships, every child identified as needing a winter coat received one. In addition, we are now able to respond directly to requests from K-8 schools, where school staff identify students in need and submit requests on their behalf. These requests are filled and distributed directly to students ensuring that help reaches children quickly, discreetly, and with care.

Another exciting step forward was establishing a coat closet within the high school, creating an ongoing resource for students who may need winter clothing throughout the school year.

Members of the CUMC youth group assisted with shopping for coats, hats, gloves, hoodies, shoes and backpacks to stock the high school closet. Orchard Park Presbyterian Church partnered with us to provide underwear and socks.

Together, we removed barriers so students could stay warm and focus on learning.

While the coats are at the heart of what we do, the ministry has become about so much more. Our monthly workdays have provided wonderful opportunities to meet new people within our church, form friendships, share conversations and serve side by side. Sorting, organizing, packing and preparing may seem like small tasks, but together they make a tremendous difference.



We are happy to share that we are now accepting donations of gently used clean coats and other winter wear items. Articles may be dropped off in the Food Pantry Donation Closet. These donations help us continue meeting the growing needs within our community. Every item given extends the reach of this ministry and helps ensure that no one faces the cold alone.

As we look toward another year, we hope you'll join us. There is a place for everyone, and together, we can continue to share warmth, hope and God's love—one coat and one person at a time.

By - Michele Tuttle



Sign up here:



Next Coat Work Days

Friday 9/11

10:00 am -12noon

12noon -2:00 pm

Friday 9/25

10:00 am -12 noon

12noon-2:00pm



Sept 27th
2-5pm



Pack Meals.
Send Hope.
Help Venezuela

Bring your friends
and family, jobs
for all!

Dinner served
after

Sign Up Here:



Thank you to
Independence
Village

for continuing to help us
weave our plarn mats for
Soup's On!

If anyone would like to
join us Thursday Sept 10th
and Sept 24th from 10:30-
11:30 we will weave again.

We have 6 completed
mats and need at
least 4 more!

The plarn looms are mobile if
you have a group interested
in working on the mats as a
project please reach out to
missions@carmelumc.org to
schedule.



Are you interested in supporting the Hamilton County Food Bank? The Harvest Fundraising dinner is Sunday Sept 27th 6-8pm
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-harvest-dinner>



September 24, 2026 at 6pm
 502 East Event Centre, 502 E Carmel Drive, Carmel, IN

Would you like to join CUMC in supporting Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis at a dinner and auction right here in Carmel? Please email missions@carmelumc.org



Come join our garden group this month, many different jobs to help with.



Food Pantry Most Needed Items



Pack the Food Pantry Donation Closet again and again! Canned goods, mac & cheese, hygiene items, pasta sauce and noodles, crackers and snack items are always welcome and appreciated by Food Pantry guests. Keep your donations coming! And **THANK YOU!!**



Our hearts and prayers are with those affected by the floods . There are many different ways to help those affected:

- Volunteer to get trained for free with the United Methodist Emergency Response Team on Sept 12
- Volunteer to join local teams working through Serve Village helping at houses.
- Donate to the UMC flood relief fund - <https://noblesvillefirst.com/neighbor/>
- Bring donation items of bedding and clothing to Good Samaritan Network 12933 Parkside Drive, Fishers, IN
- Sept 24th and Oct 29th we will serve the Riverwood Community a warm meal, contact Faye Thomas or missions for more information.

ERT training



Volunteer for a mucking team or donate at servevillage.org

September 2026

Childcare All Sundays

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

Sunday School - Preschool 3s through 5th Grade

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.*

Open Play*

Preschool Families can enjoy the playground after pickup from 1:00pm-1:45pm on Wednesdays starting September 23. Responsible Adult must stay & play. *weather permitting

InTouch

Back to School night for 2nd - 5th graders. 7:00pm-8:30pm, Friday September 18, FLC. Invite friends & come have some fun!



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

2026

BIBLE SUNDAY

IN PRAYER AND CELEBRATION
FOR OUR BIBLE RECIPIENTS

Oliver Nichols

Scottie Nichols

Annabelle Watkins

Alison Sloane Hinnard

Lunch Ladies Bible Study THURSDAYS

11:30AM

BRING YOUR
LUNCH

CHILDCARE
AVAILABLE

ROOM LL12



In Touch - with God, Church, & Friends



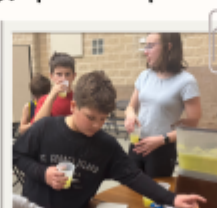
Carnival Night '25



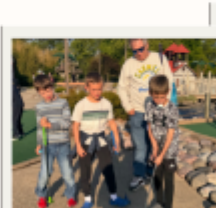
Christmas Party '25



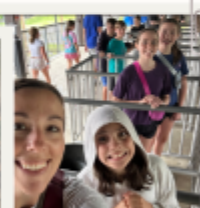
Bowling '26



Easter Party '26



Mini Golf '26



Kings Island '26

ACCLAIM! MEMBER PROFILE

From First Notes to a Life in Music: Meet Jared Slothower

Music has been part of Jared Slothower's life for nearly as long as he can remember.

Growing up in Rockford, Illinois, Jared took piano lessons alongside his three older siblings. One of his earliest musical memories came at age five, when he heard his sister learning “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.” Convinced he could play it too, Jared sat down at the piano and began enthusiastically striking the keys. What sounded random at first revealed something important to his mother: Jared could carry the tune.

By age seven, he had joined his first choir—and singing has remained an important part of his life ever since. His musical experiences have taken him on choir tours to Toronto, Hawaii, Brazil, and South Africa.

That early enthusiasm eventually developed into a professional calling. Jared studied music education and vocal performance at a community college in Illinois and at the University of Cincinnati before completing his degree at Ball State University.

Today, Jared works professionally as both a singer and pianist. He teaches voice lessons, and accompanies performers at Franklin Community and Lawrence North high schools, in addition to maintaining a private studio. Jared has been married for 7 years and lives in Butler Tarkington with his 2 dogs and cat.



Jared also records regularly at Aire Born Studios in Zionsville for sacred music publishers including Beckenhorst Press. A recent professional highlight was performing with composers Craig Courtney and Dan Forrest as part of the Beckenhorst Singers at Second Presbyterian Church.

Since the fall of 2025, Jared has shared his gifts with our congregation through Acclaim! and as bass section leader of the Chancel Choir. His musicianship, versatility, and commitment have made him a valued part of our Traditional Music Ministry.

Music continues to run throughout Jared's family. His sister is an elementary music teacher, while his fraternal twin siblings both possess perfect pitch—a fitting continuation of the musical family that helped inspire Jared's own lifelong journey in music.





FIRST WEDNESDAYS • FRIENDS & FAMILY

First Wednesdays Returns in Grand Style with International Pianist Teresa Walters

First Wednesdays Friends & Family returns on Wednesday, October 7, with an exceptional evening of music featuring internationally acclaimed pianist Teresa Walters.

The evening will begin with a meal at 5:30 p.m. in the Gathering Place, followed by Walters' performance at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. RSVPs are not required, but everyone is encouraged to use the [RSVP link](#) to let us know you are coming so we can plan accordingly for the meal.

An International Steinway Artist, Walters has been described by The New York Times as "The International First Lady of Piano." Her distinguished career has taken her to six continents and some of the world's most celebrated concert venues, including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, Wigmore Hall in London, Salle Cortot in Paris, and Moscow's Great Hall.

Walters is especially recognized for her interpretation of the music of 19th-century composer and pianist Franz Liszt. Her performances have taken her to Liszt's birthplace in Austria, the Liszt Academy of Music, and Beijing's Forbidden City Concert Hall.

Fluent in English, French, and German, Walters believes music is the ultimate universal language. Her engaging "Keynote Comments" offer audiences insight into the music before she performs, creating a deeper and more meaningful concert experience.



For Walters, music is also a form of ministry. The Book of Psalms is among her favorite literature, reflecting the connection she finds between music, faith, and the human spirit.

A Midwesterner by birth, Walters earned her doctorate from the Peabody Conservatory before making her home in New York City. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she also created her Lakehouse Video Series, combining her love of music with her passion for wildlife and animal welfare.

RSVP Here

Join us October 7 as First Wednesdays begins a new season with an inspiring evening of fellowship, artistry, and extraordinary music.

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Stephanie Holl, Preschool Director • sholl@carmelumc.org

Preschool is Back in Session!!

Preschool is back in session! This year, we're thrilled to welcome **170 preschoolers and 30 staff members!** We are so excited for a year filled with opportunities to **play, learn, grow, and make wonderful memories together.**

Here's to an amazing school year!



Dine to Donate

Tuesday, September 8th
4 PM - 8 PM

Come join Carmel United Methodist Preschool for food and fun and 20% of the night's sales will be donated accordingly.



WESTFIELD AT GREYHOUND PASS

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Stephanie Holl

Preschool Director

sholl@carmelumc.org

317-844-1958



Paula Foster

Assistant Director
of Preschool

pfoster@carmelumc.org

317-844-1958



Capital Campaign Update

“Arigato.... Tak..... Merci.....
Hvala.... Danke..... Gracias “

In any language, the REACH Team would like to say “Thank You !” for your continued strong support for the Renovate & Elevate Capital Campaign. (In Japanese, Danish, French, Slovenian, German and Spanish for those who are curious).

We are pleased to announce that we’ve now received **63%** of the \$2.5 million planned giving for the campaign ! Typically a congregation would be at the 45-50% level at this point. It’s a true testament to the dedication and commitment you have in supporting the future of Carmel United Methodist Church and it’s many ministries, as well as a desire to get our facilities in shape so we can do even more !

I am anxious to get through these various upgrades and enhancements to our facilities. However, I need to remind myself that these things take time, particularly if we want them completed economically and with a long term solution in mind. I am grateful for the efforts our Staff and Trustees take to manage this major undertaking. And your “ ahead of schedule” giving definitely helps speed up the process as vendor commitments and timing can be made



more confidently knowing the funds will be available.

To slightly paraphrase our Campaign Vision, together we are building a brighter future for our families, friends, visitors and community by having facilities where we can connect with God, grow in faith and serve the community for generations to come.

So....”Grazie.... Etcharisto.... Kiltos.... Asante.... Shukran“ (Italian, Greek, Finnish, Swahili and Arabic) to everyone who continues to support Renovate & Elevate with your prayers, involvement and financial support.

THANK YOU !

Reach Team

Renovate and Elevate Campaign



Parking Lot Repairs Planned This Fall

Your Trustees are moving forward with plans to improve our parking lot before Advent and the Christkindlmarkt, when cold temperatures stop paving for the winter. This is one of many projects funded through our *Renovate & Elevate* Capital Campaign.

The work would be done in four phases. Large machines would grind off the top inches of deteriorating pavement on our main driving paths along the Family Life Center gym and Gathering Place. Paving crews would replace it with layers of new base and surface asphalt.

Our entire parking lot would then be resealed with liquid asphalt and restriped with fresh paint. Between the larger, deep patches and the resealing, the goal is to minimize the need to chase previous year's patches and get on a schedule of proactive, preventive maintenance by resealing every few years.

The work is expected to occur over 3-4 fair weather days. We hope to complete the work Oct. 9-17 when Preschool is out for Fall Break.

Our parking lot section near our children's classrooms, which was redone a couple of years ago to address drainage, performed quite well during the historic rains in August. Understandably, the White River flooding that damaged area roads and filled the Martin Marietta quarry may affect crew and material availability for our project.

We're also exploring ways to protect our investment and deter non-church traffic from cutting through our lot at high speeds. This may involve closing our north gates more often, when Preschool and Sunday worship are not in session.



HVAC Update: Design Plans Reach Halfway Point

Anyone who sits in a chilly Sanctuary during a late spring/early fall cold snap or braves the basement heat during Vacation Bible School knows that keeping our physical building comfortable is an essential part of hospitality.

Over the years, your Trustees and building staff have faithfully patched our aging Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems. Many of our current comfort challenges stem from systems that have served past their lifespan:

Our primary boiler dates back to the 1960s, requiring manual technician visits and frequent repairs. Broken valves leave rooms like 121-122 unevenly heated.

Broken AC compressors means that Classroom 124–125 depends on a window unit, and admin offices that share a wall can be too hot in one and too cold in the other.

In July, our partners Advanced Engineering Consultants (AEC) reached 50 percent completion with HVAC design plans, and it changed our approach for the *Renovate & Elevate* Capital Campaign. Your Trustees learned that the most cost- and energy-efficient solution is not a one-for-one replacement of broken and outdated systems, but reimagining parts of our building that did not have systems replaced recently, such as our children's classrooms.

Two new types of systems would be installed. All-in-one gas furnace and AC compressor units are best for single-purpose spaces like the FLC Gym (which is scheduled for installation this Fall) and our Sanctuary.

Highly efficient, all-electric AC and heat pump systems will serve the northwest and south wings of our building, which have smaller rooms with mixed and intermittent uses. It intelligently routes heat

and cooling to individual “cassettes” that can be controlled independently when a room occupied or not.

Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems (DOAS) will supplement these cassettes by providing conditioned fresh air, which not only is required by building codes but also reduces musty basement odors and the spread of airborne illnesses.

This provides comfort to our entire building, including the basement, which was not part of the Campaign plan.

New systems will be installed outdoors and in existing mechanical rooms and ceilings. This prevents usable square footage from becoming mechanical spaces, and allows working systems to remain in place until it's time to switch over.

Another benefit of Capital Campaign upgrades (HVAC systems and the projection screens and worship lights in our Sanctuary) is the replacement of outdated electrical panels from 1965 and 1980.

There are still many hurdles to successfully clear before this becomes a reality, and the most important in the short term is to manage costs. The industry is facing a shrinking pool of HVAC installers and manufacturers, along with other inflationary pressures.

The project is scheduled to go out for contractor bids this fall, and forward momentum hinges on finding a qualified contractor that can complete the work for the right price. Stay tuned for updates!

PLANNED GIVING

Chuck Schalliol • charles.schalliol@gmail.com

CUMC Endowment Fund



*Remember the Past,
Help Build the Future*



Those who make gifts to the Endowment Fund of **≥ \$500** are offered an engraved leaf on the **Endowment Tree** in honor or memory of a loved one. The tree is located in the hallway north of the Narthex in the church.



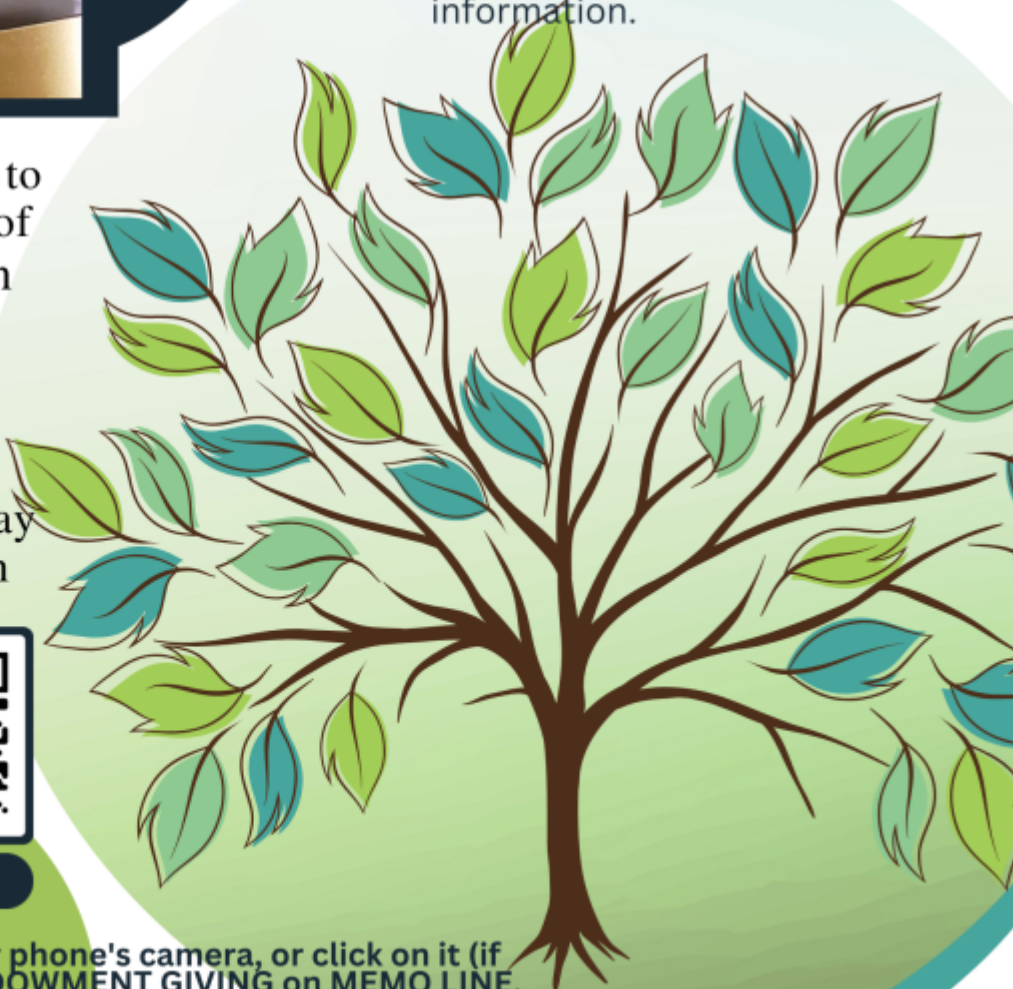
Giving

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera, or click on it (if reading this online) & put **ENDOWMENT GIVING** on MEMO LINE.

For more information about the CUMC 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 booklet at the Welcome Center for more information.



Read more about how our Endowment Fund benefits the church on the next page.

Scan or click the QR code above to read more about the Endowment Fund and how it works.

ENDOWMENT FUND SECURITY CAMERAS



Being a church in the heart of Carmel has many advantages, but it also comes with some disadvantages. For example, until recently, Uber drivers and others were parking in the church parking lot and remaining in their vehicles. This was an obvious concern to parents whose children were attending preschool, Vacation Bible School, church camps or any of the other numerous other activities for children and teens.

A related concern for parents, teachers and staff was that individuals were wandering aimlessly around church property, and a few even took the opportunity to catch up on their sleep under one of our trees. Some attempted to enter the building. This was of great concern when children were playing outside.

A third problem was the church property was becoming a hangout for teens. A few of them committed minor acts of vandalism which had the potential of being a greater problem. Others climbed on the roof and walked around, and some climbed to the top of the bell tower. These activities posed a risk of serious injury to the teens and possible liability to the church. Damage to the roof was inevitable if the church did not take action.

Fortunately, these problems and similar problems have been largely eliminated by a grant from the Endowment Fund which enabled the church to purchase hi-tech security cameras. These cameras are high resolution and some have an impressive zoom capability which enables the staff, for the first time, to get a clear picture of the church's entire property as well as improving the staff's ability to monitor activities inside the building.

As a result our staff with the occasional assistance of the Carmel Police has firmly but politely let people know that they cannot be on church property if they are not there for a church related purpose. Apparently, the word has spread because the number of incidents has substantially decreased,

The security cameras plus other security measures, many of which were funded by grants from the Endowment Fund, have given parents, teachers and staff confidence that with continued vigilance our facilities are as safe and secure as possible.





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

SEPTEMBER 2026

CHECK INSIDE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

LOOK INSIDE

for more information about all the happenings at CUMC!

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MEAL PACKING EVENT

Sunday, September 27

This event is for everyone! Bring a neighbor, family, friends, schoolmates, and help us pack meals for families in Venezuela. Sign up to pack, & stay for a meal following.

Register at carmelumc.org/missions