THE CONTACT

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH // **NOVEMBER 2026**



Carmel United Methodist Church
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PASTOR'S DESK

Tim Burchill • tburchill@carmelumc.org





Reversing Heart Disease this Month

You know how I'm always nudging you to invite family and friends to worship? Well, we've got a new sermon series that might be perfect excuse to do just that. It's titled, ***Reversing Heart Disease*** and it's about the four biggest threats to our health and happiness. **Guilt, Anger, Greed**, and **Jealousy** are the modern—and shorter equivalent of the seven deadly sins. We're going to spend the month fleshing what is at the heart of each emotion and how the power of God and the wisdom of God's word can help us harness these emotions in our daily lives.

First off, let me make clear we are stealing many of the ideas in this series from Pastor Andy Stanley's book, *Enemies of the Heart*. One of the keys to effective preaching is to know who to borrow from and how to make their best insights your own. I do recommend the book, if this is a subject that can make an impact on your walk with Christ.

One of the questions we will return to again and again is this: What's happening in my heart, what is it doing to my relationships, and what would it look like to let God's grace change it?

In fact, Stanley's central insight is that relationship problems often have roots deeper than the immediate conflict. Beneath our behavior are unresolved emotional and spiritual debts—what we believe we owe others, what we believe others owe us, and what we believe life or God owes us. He identifies guilt, anger, greed, and jealousy as four destructive forces that can take hold of the heart.

Each of these four emotions creates a different kind of perceived debt. Each requires a different response. Our approach will be practical: don't merely recognize the feeling; practice the behavior that helps interrupt its hold on you.

This is over simplifying things but you can think of it this way:

- **Unhealthy Guilt** stems from a sense that "I owe you." I've done something wrong and I need to make up for it.
- **Unhealthy Anger** generally has its roots in a belief that "You owe me." You have hurt or disrespected me and you owe me an apology—you need to make amends.
- **Unhealthy Greed** kind of says, "I owe me," or the company owes me, or the government owes me, or this store owes me and therefore I should get what's coming to me—the more the better.
- **And finally, Unhealthy Jealousy** is built on the assumption that "God owes me." I deserve a more attractive appearance, the promotion at work, a more supportive family, a more substantial internet following, etc.

If you notice, I started each of the above sentences by putting "unhealthy" before each emotion. We will not be arguing that you have to remove each of these completely from your life. In fact, these emotions have their proper place depending upon the circumstances of our lives. "Guilt can alert us to wrongdoing. Anger can alert us to injustice. Wanting security isn't automatically greed, and admiring someone else's gifts isn't necessarily jealousy." It is only when these emotions threaten our spiritual health, it is only when they get in the way of our relationship with God and those we love, that we have to diagnose and remove them.

I hope that you'll drag a family member, neighbor, friend, or coworker with you to listen to time tested insights into how to avoid an emotional heart attack. After all there is no vitamin or medicine that can treat the dis-ease that is going on in our hearts and souls. Thank God, we have the Great Physician who is ready, willing, and able to bring peace and contentment into our daily lives.

Pastor Tim



CHURCH UPDATES







CLICK this image to submit an ONLINE PLEDGE for your 2027 giving. ———>



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 10/26/2026)
$ 1,020,140

Budgeted total contributions for 2026
$ 1,417,000

Total budgeted expenses for 2026
$ 1,627,700

Missions Budget (through 10/26/2026).

Total MISSIONS Contribution Income $ 174,899

Total MISSIONS Grants from outside sources $ 24,816

Joys & Concerns

With Sympathy to the family & friends of…

- **Jim Streeter**, who passed away on **Oct. 3**
- **John Selent**, who passed away on **Oct. 10**
- **Dennis Smith**, who passed away on **Oct. 22**

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 NOV. 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 Muldoon's in Carmel on Tuesday, **November 10 at 6pm**! Contact: Kay Hapner Kayhapner@yahoo.com

■ **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—**We meet weekly on **Wednesdays in the Conf. Room 10am-11am**). Contact Carol Getch at (317) 695-3880

■ **FRIENDS IN FAITH BIBLE STUDY—**We meet weekly on **Wednesdays 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, **November 10 at 10AM**. Come for food, fellowship, devotions and a wonderful program about **Soup's On**. Contact person is Katie Kessler gmacovi@aol.com

■ **LYDIA CIRCLE** —will be meeting on Thursday **November 5 at 6:00 p.m. to help with SERVE WEEK**. Join us in making school kits at the church! Contact Gayle Webb (gayle.beyers.webb@gmail.com) or Nancy Miller (nancymiller99@hotmail.com) to find out more.

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

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

WinterBlast: Not Just a Winter Retreat

"If we hit our goal to bring 54 students to WinterBlast this year, we'll have to figure out how to celebrate," I told a student. "When we hit our goal," I was quickly corrected.

Last year WinterBlast grew in participation for the first time in seven years. We celebrated hitting our goal last December by having the student who'd invited the most people smash a pie in my face. A year later, our youth are excited to invite more friends into the youth ministries biggest tradition.

WinterBlast is technically a winter retreat, but that's not all it is. It's part of the cultural foundation of the youth ministry at CUMC. Students in our youth group talk about Winterblast all year long. Worship, messages, fun, food, and more become a bonding experience that bonds them together.

If you're looking for a conversation starter with a youth between now and Christmas, ask them "Are you excited about Winterblast?" More likely than not, you'll hear an enthusiastic yes, and a big smile on their face.



WinterBlast Registration Opens Nov. 8th



Youth are accepting donations of $10 gift cards to provide gifts to teens at United Methodist Children's home in Lebanon. Some of their favorite places are Culver's, Wendy's, and Chic-fil-a. Please bring the gift card to youth group or drop it by the office.

Thank you!



Parking with a Purpose this Christmas Season

As the Carmel Christkindlmarkt returns this holiday season, Carmel UMC Youth will once again turn our church parking lot into an opportunity to put God's Love in Action!

Beginning November 21, the Christkindlmarkt will welcome visitors from across Central Indiana to enjoy one of Carmel's favorite Christmas traditions. On select Fridays and Saturdays through December 19, our youth will be helping visitors park at Carmel UMC and inviting them to make a freewill donation in support of our Youth Ministry.

Every donation helps our students participate in WinterBlast, our annual January retreat where middle and high school students build meaningful friendships, grow in faith, and experience Christian community together.

Students will have opportunities to sign up for parking lot shifts, serving alongside adult volunteers. Beyond raising funds, this is a chance for our young people to practice hospitality, welcome neighbors to our church, and take an active role in supporting their own ministry experiences.

You can help make this fundraiser a success! Whether you're visiting the Christkindlmarkt with family, meeting friends for an evening downtown, or simply looking for a way to encourage our youth, we invite you to choose Carmel UMC's parking lot and consider making a donation. The Christkindlmarkt remains open through December 24, although our youth parking fundraiser concludes December 19.

Thank you for supporting our students and helping make transformative experiences like WinterBlast possible. Together, we're turning something as simple as parking a car into an opportunity to invest in the next generation of the Church!

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION

CHARLESTON
WEST VIRGINIA
MISSION TRIP
2027

sign up at carmelumc.org/youth

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Stephanie Holl, Preschool Director • sholl@carmelumc.org



Music With

MS. CINDY



Cindy Schwein is a former elementary music teacher and professional musician, who began teaching preschool music after Covid. Her Bachelor of Music is from DePauw University, and her Masters work has been done at Butler and Anderson Universities. She loves to sing, and plays several instruments - piano flute, piccolo, and ukulele.
She also teaches private piano lessons.

Ms. Cindy lives with her fiance Gary and her Aussiedoodle Maggie in Noblesville. She has 3 grown children-- Cory, Caitlin, and Jenny-- and 9 grandchildren, all of whom live in Carmel and Noblesville.. Her hobbies include playing piano and flute, reading, doing cross- stitch, walking Maggie, and attending all her grandchildren's sports games.

FUN FACT: Ms. Cindy's daughters attended CUMC Preschool in the 1990's, and 3 of her grandchildren have graduated from CUMC Preschool! She is super happy to follow in their footsteps by serving as the preschool's music teacher!











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



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



November 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. Check-in for Sunday School at the Welcome Desk.

Open Gym - Preschool & Elementary Kids

Families can play inside for open gym. Wednesdays November 11 & 18, 3:30pm-5:00pm. Responsible Adult must stay & play.

KINDNESS CAMP

Friday November 6, 9am - 2pm. Elementary Kids (K-5) Registration required.

InTouch

BINGO! Night for 2nd - 5th graders. 7:00pm-8:30pm, Friday November 20, in the Family Life Center. Invite friends & come have some fun! See your Sunday School Teacher for more details.

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





InTouch Laser Tag Night (October 2026)

MISSIONS: MISSION OF THE MONTH

Jenny LeVora • missions@carmelumc.org

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

ANGEL TREE

Bringing Christmas Joy: Support the Salvation Army Angel Tree at CUMC

Every child deserves to experience the magic and joy of Christmas morning. Carmel United Methodist Church has a rich tradition of sharing Christ's love by supporting local families during the holiday season, and this year is no exception!

Through the Salvation Army Angel Tree program, volunteers are matched with specific children (ages infant to 12) in Hamilton County. Each Angel Tag provides personalized details so you can shop for thoughtful gifts tailored directly to a child's specific needs and wishes. When families pick up their gifts, they also have the opportunity to choose supplementary items—including books, games, clothing, and stocking stuffers—to ensure a full and joyful holiday



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What's New for 2026: In 2025, the Salvation Army of Central Indiana provided Christmas gifts for over 6,000 children across our region. This year, the Hamilton County giveaway is consolidating at the Salvation Army Castleton Headquarters. While our **75 adopted Angels** will be distributed from the Castleton facility instead of our Family Life Center (FLC), rest assured that our gifts will directly bless Hamilton County families. Additionally, CUMC will share stocking stuffer items with our own Food Pantry families throughout December to ensure local, hands-on support continues right here at home. A list of items for Food Pantry families will be available at the Welcome Desk after Nov 15th.

Key Dates & Collection Details:

- **Pick Up an Angel Tag:** Available in the Gathering Place between Sunday services on **November 1st and November 8th**, or anytime by emailing **missions@carmelumc.org**.
- **Return Gifts:** Please bring unwrapped presents with your tag to the Gathering Place or Main Office by **Sunday, November 15th** so our team can transport them to Castleton.

If you have any questions, please contact **Beth Lotti, Margaret Kettle, or Jenny LeVora**.

Thank you for your incredible generosity, commitment, and heart for these children. Your gift-giving truly makes a lasting difference in the lives of our neighbors!



CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOOD PANTRY

We can't thank you all enough for showing up all October to prepare Serve Week events, especially our CCS student coat giveaway through Carmel Coat Closet and preparations for the Bags of Hope Wrap and Fill Event. Your time, prayers, and donations have been incredibly helpful!

MIDWEST MISSION

Bags of Hope INDIANA

Carmel COAT CLOSET
AT CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We look forward to seeing you at our SERVE Week activities, Nov 1st - Nov 8th, so we can share our abundant life and God's generous love.

Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis

SOUP'S ON
ROBERTS PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

UMCOR
Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

HAND

SERVE. LOVE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE
CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2026

FamilyPromise FP of Hamilton County

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home
Hope Has A Home in Lebanon, IN.

THE SALVATION ARMY
ANGEL TREE













United Women in Faith December Meeting/Christmas Party

The United Women in Faith of Carmel United Methodist Church will meet in the Gathering Place Thursday, December 3rd at 6:00 P. M., for our annual Christmas event. This year's Christmas Party will be a bit different. Our theme this year is "Wrapped in Love--A Baby Shower for Jesus". We want to do something special for the Midwest Mission organization, so we ask those attending to bring a special gift for baby Jesus from the list below. These gifts will then be given to Midwest Mission.

United Women in Faith

- Cloth diapers
- Sleepers
- Onesies
- Undershirts
- Infant Washcloths (no adult)
- Diaper pins with plastic closure
- Receiving Blankets 28" x 28" to 32" x 32" (no fleece or thermal)
- All items must be 0-6 months

If you want to hand-make any of these layette items for Midwest Mission, patterns for diapers, sweaters, jackets, gowns, and blankets can be found at midwestmission.org.

Our special guest speaker for the evening will be Mr. Pat Baumer. Pat is an Ambassador and former board member for Midwest Mission and lives in Noblesville.

We will be playing baby shower games.
Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

UWF will sell tickets in the office between services on November 8, 15, and 22. Tickets will be $10 this year.

There will be a short meeting to induct new UWF officers for 2027.

Please plan to join us for this special evening.

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Jessica Stevens • jstevens@carmelumc.org










ABUNDANT: Women's Evening on October 25 was a wonderful retreat into a world of faith and love. Thank you to all who attended, and those who made it happen!








David Morton • dmorton@carmelumc.org

FIRST WEDNESDAYS • FRIENDS & FAMILY

This Wednesday!
An Evening of Flute & Harp with Angelus Duo

Don't miss our **First Wednesday Friends & Family** gathering this **Wednesday, Nov. 4**!



We are thrilled to welcome the exceptional talents of the Angelus Duo for an evening of world-class music and warm fellowship.

Our evening begins with a **community dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Gathering Place**, followed by the **concert performance in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m.**

Sisters who collaborated during childhood long before launching their distinguished professional careers, the duo brings a lifetime of shared artistic chemistry to the stage:

- **Melanie Mashner** serves as Principal Harpist for both the Carmel Symphony Orchestra and the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra, in addition to teaching privately.
- **Melissa Mashner**, based in Ann Arbor, MI, serves on the music faculty at Adrian College and is a Past-President of the Southeast Michigan Flute Association.

Performing across the Midwest and northeastern U.S., they collaborate with nationally recognized composers to premiere and showcase new works. The concert will bridge **timeless classical repertoire and lively modern compositions**, paired with personal commentary that makes every piece engaging and accessible to listeners of all ages.

If you haven't RSVPed ahead of the concert taking place this week, come anyway! Bring your family and invite a friend, as walk-ins are always welcome! Admission is completely free, so join us this Wednesday evening!

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP • CHRISTMAS CANTATA

At Last Noël Cantata Arrives Sunday, Dec. 6

Mark your calendars for one of the most anticipated highlights of our church year!

On **Sunday, Dec. 6**, CUMC will present ***At Last Noël: A Cantata of Hope, Peace & Joy*** during both the **9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. traditional worship services in the Sanctuary**.

Plan to attend, and invite your family, friends and neighbors to experience this inspiring morning of worship and celebration together.

At Last Noël weaves together stirring **choral music, thoughtful narration and evocative video elements** to share the timeless story of Christ's birth. **Accompanied Sanctuary Brass, our Chancel Choir and Acclaim!** will sing powerful and beloved musical selections including O Holy Night; O Come, O Come, Emmanuel; Silent Night; and The First Noel.

As an extra celebration, the **10:30 a.m. service will conclude with a presentation of the *Hallelujah Chorus***, a CUMC tradition that never fails to lift hearts.

Guiding us through the narrative of the morning will be two familiar and beloved voices from our ministry team, **Pastor Jessica Stevens** and Director of Youth Ministry **Rick Belbutoski**.

The cantata will feature our **dazzling heritage costume collection**, created under the vision and guidance of Broadway costume **designer Barry Doss**. This past summer, dozens of church volunteers gathered to cut, stitch and embellish each piece. Their shared dedication will shine brightly on stage, bringing visual splendor and depth to the Christmas story.

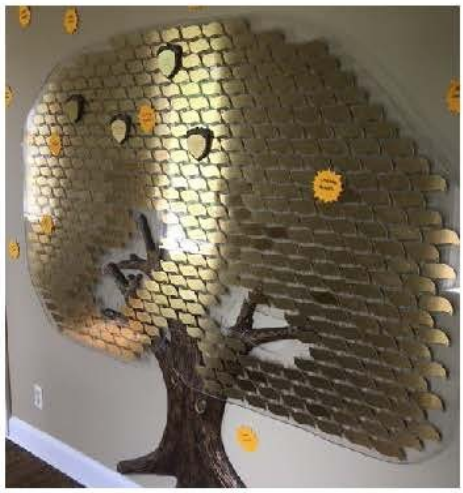


Come celebrate the season with our Traditional Music Ministry and our church community. We can't wait to share *At Last Noël* with you!

Thanksgiving - A Time for Gratitude

Dear CUMC Family,

During this season of Thanksgiving, the Endowment Committee wants to extend its gratitude for the generosity shown by our CUMC members through their support of the Endowment Fund. In the last **10 years** (2017) the fund has received over $300,000 in gifts and we are pleased to report that the balance of the Fund is currently $1.214 M including annual fees and distributions. Our distributions these last 10 years have been in excess of $475,000 and have been used for many purposes such as church updates/repairs, missions and other ministries while steadily growing the Fund from approximately $685,000.



Endowment Fund Gift Tree

We are so thankful for partners who wish to help provide for the future of our church's mission and care of its facilities from current and Planned Gifts. Of the gifts that the Endowment Fund receives, only the investment income is distributed. In other words, you can be assured that your gift will continue to bear fruit and be a lasting contribution to the church. **Your gifts work forever!**

With constant changes in our world – it is the flexibility and long-range support provided by planned gifts from estates to an Endowment Fund that allow churches like ours to adapt and continue their ministries and spread the Gospel into the future.

Please consider joining us this year in changing lives and ministries with a gift now to the Endowment Fund and see how your gift will work for others **or** a *"Planned Gift"* to be received in the future.

"This service that you perform is not only supplying needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." ***2 Corinthians 9:12 NIV***

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.

Al Moss • bullwinkleawm@hotmail.com

Renovate & Elevate Campaign Communication

RENOVATE & ELEVATE – RENOVATING OUR SPACES, ELEVATING OUR FUTURE

We're excited to announce, giving has reached 63% of the funds committed to the Renovate & Elevate, Capital Campaign. Thank you to all for your commitment to **your Church Home!**

Yay!... Reconstruction of the **parking lot** is now happening. The parking lot repairs include major reconstruction of "soft" areas and resurfacing of more areas, also adding final crack sealing, re-coating and new striping. Not only will this benefit church members but will reflect positively on CUMC to our community and visitors. As the heart of Carmel, CUMC increasingly allows the use of our parking lot as an outreach to the City and Carmel adjacent businesses. Additionally, we provide parking that supports our Food Pantry and garden missions. This parking lot reconstruction was included in the Renovate and Elevate Capital Campaign, thank you for your continued support!



Yay! .... The **FLC Heating & AC replacement** is happening. The concrete pad for the new heating and AC unit outside has been completed. The Heating / AC unit has been ordered and should be delivered and installed very soon. As you certainly are aware, The Jack King Family Life Center (FLC) is not only home to the Contemporary service on Sundays but is the work area for many CUMC missions including Carmel Coat Closet, PLARN Loom weaving, Bags of Hope Wrap & Fill, Serve Week, and the MEAL PACK event, just to name a few. Thank you, for your patience and your continued support of the Renovate & Elevate Campaign, as we replace the failed and failing HVAC system in the Family Life Center. This, too, is part of the Renovate & Elevate Capital Campaign!

Yay!... The new **kitchen upright freezer** has been delivered. The **2 new cooking ranges** for the kitchen have been ordered and may indeed be installed by the time you receive this article. The kitchen, as you cook again, will support our many church activities and missions. Thank you for your continued support of the Renovate & Elevate Capital Campaign!

Renovate & Elevate Campaign
Reach Team

Completed To Date:

- **THE REC ROOM AND BATHROOM RENOVATION IN THE LOWER LEVEL** (which included, waterproofing, windows replaced, HVAC, and new flooring, room lighting and hallway lighting).
  Because of your support of the Capital Campaign - We now have another great usable space not only for the pre-school, but also for current and future programing. *Such as, the new Sunday morning **"Grace & Grounds"** , a young family group to meet, enjoy and support each other
- **THE CONTEMPORARY SERVICE, LIGHTING RENOVATION AND SOUND.**
  Because of your support of the Capital Campaign, we enjoy a enhanced musical and visual worship experience.
- **THE ATRIUM SKYLIGHT REPLACEMENT.**
  Because of your support of the Capital Campaign, we have a dry and brighter Gathering Place.
- **THE PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM COOLING.**
  Because of your support of the Capital Campaign, you support the preschool ministry of CUMC.
- **THE SANCTUARY ATTIC BOARDWALK AND INSULATION.**
  Because of your support of the Capital Campaign, we are better able to safely maintain our sanctuary, and improve heating and cooling efficiency.

Coming Soon:

High on the Renovate & Elevate list is **MODERNIZATION OF THE SANCTUARY.** We look forward to enhance our music and visual Sunday services with video screens, acoustics, and a general freshening up of decorating and painting. Your continued support of the Renovate & Elevate Campaign will benefit our church home, our mission and impact for visitors to our church.

CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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

NOVEMBER 2026

CHECK INSIDE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

LOOK INSIDE

for more information about all the happenings at CUMC!

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