

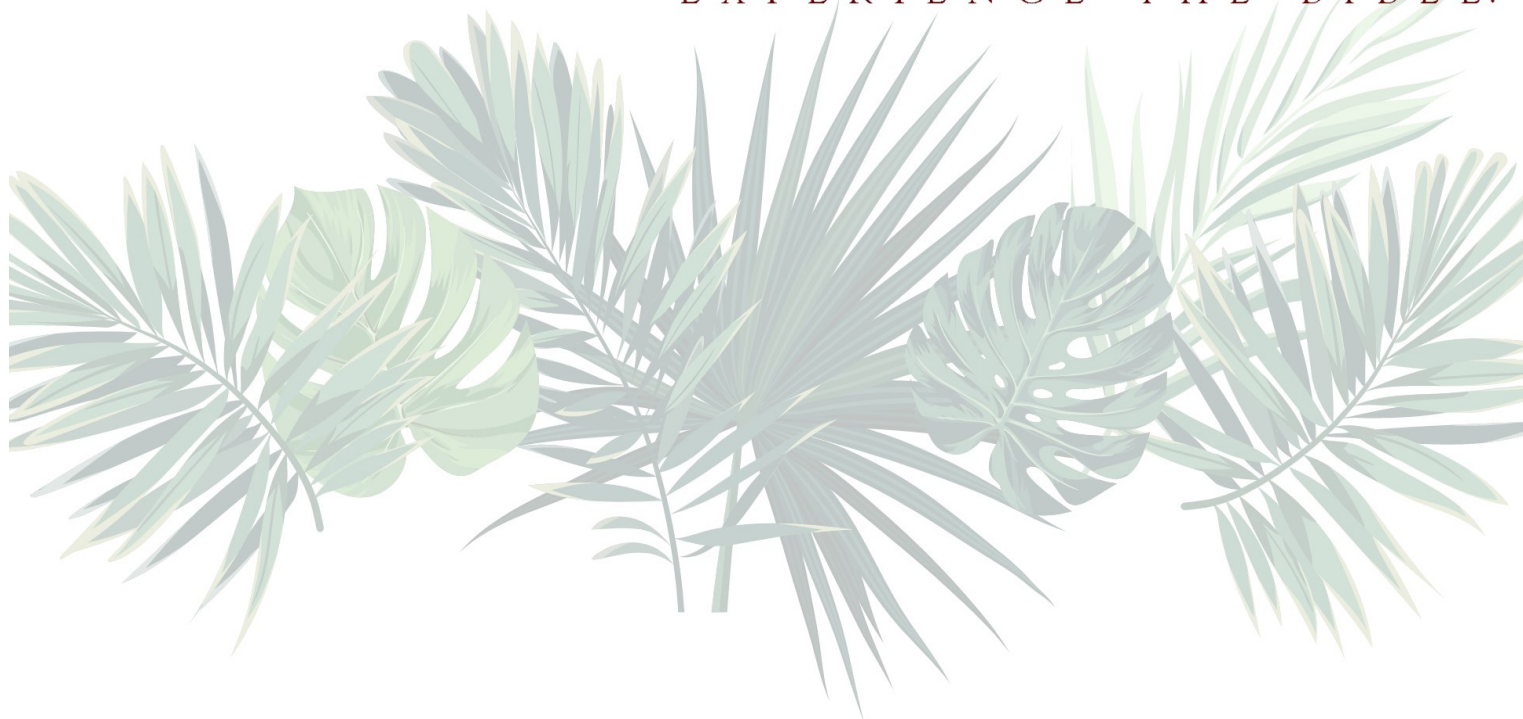
# #THE CONTACT

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH // MARCH 2023



## THE STORY

READ THE STORY.  
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.



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

Phone: 317-844-7275  
Email: [Caremail@carmelumc.org](mailto:Caremail@carmelumc.org)  
[www.carmelumc.org](http://www.carmelumc.org)



## Summer Will Be Here Before You Know It

Summer may still feel like a long way off, but we take it on faith that it will get here. With all of those vacations, lake cottage weekends, family reunions, and mission/camp trips, attendance at CUMC typically dips slightly—just enough that it is a better use of our resources to change our Sunday morning worship schedule. Beginning on Memorial Day Weekend, we will move to 2 worship services, until going back to our current schedule on August 20.

After much prayerful thought, our worship team has decided that God's purpose is best served by offering traditional worship at 10:30 am and contemporary worship at 10:45 am. What? you say. I'm used to worshipping at 9:00! We know that, but we also know that your faith and commitment will prompt you to adjust your schedule for those 11 weeks.

This adjusted summer worship schedule allows us to do several things:

**First**, we are able to offer Sunday School to children whose parents go to either worship service, as Sunday School will remain as it is now, from 10:45 – 11:30.

**Second**, Adult Sunday classes will easily be able to continue, with just a flip-flop of class first and worship second.

**Third**, it allows our fellowship time to continue as it does now and gives us those rare moments when the entire worshipping congregation can gather all together.

**And fourth**, this schedule contains a "fairness" element, as our 10:30 worshippers had to adjust their schedules the last few summers by coming in at 9:00.

Is this going to be something that you, or everybody, likes? Probably not, and we completely understand that. We truly appreciate your willingness to put God's purpose above your personal preferences in order to best achieve our mission here at CUMC. Maybe it will be a bust; maybe it will be the best thing we've ever done; but either way, you can trust that we are giving this our best shot.

It may help to know we've got two creative and engaging sermon series planned over the summer. The first is: **What Parents Really Mean When They Say What They Say**. This is a second installment of a summer series we did when I first got here about the truth behind the strange advice from Moms and Dads like: Always Wear Clean Underwear, Money Doesn't Grow On Trees, and Lay Down With Dogs Get Up with Fleas. The second series will lay out **The Five Prayers God Always Says Yes To**. Especially in difficult circumstances it's hard to know how and what to pray. Your preaching staff will be sharing prayers that God will always hear and respond to and when to pray them. I hope you make every effort to come each week (or if you have to, watch them online.)

Pastor Tim



# CHURCH UPDATE

## With Sympathy to the families of...

- **Eloise Bowers** who passed away **February 1, 2023**
- **Kevin Keltner** who passed away **February 10, 2023**  
(son of Ken and Elaine Keltner)
- **Sheri Knowles** who passed away **February 18, 2023**

## In Celebration...

- **Oliver Grayson Todd** was born **February 15, 2023**  
to Justin & Lauren Todd. Proud Grandparents Brad & Nicole Todd & Great Uncle Doug Disque.

Don't forget to move  
your clocks ahead **ONE**  
hour on **Sat. March 11**  
as you go to bed.



## COMMUNION: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW



Many folks here at CUMC have been asking when we'll return to doing communion "the old way." What we most likely mean by this question is wondering if we can drop the Covid protocol of using individual pre-packaged elements and resume intinction, where we each dip a piece of bread in a common chalice of juice. This has always been a part of worship where we truly are family, breaking bread together.

The short answer is, 'yes' and 'no!' Assuming no public health catastrophes in the next month, we're scheduled to change what we do for communion beginning April 2. People will return to going to the front to receive communion from volunteers, but it will be served slightly differently. The volunteers will hand each of us a chunk of bread (real bread!) from a basket using tongs, and another volunteer will hand us an individual glass of juice. We can also stay down front and kneel in prayer at the rail, something that many of us have always found particularly meaningful.

Whew, sigh of relief, it will be nice! BUT there is a catch: in order to make this change, we need you to step forward to volunteer as a communion server. It's an incredibly easy but very powerful way to follow Jesus and create an intentional sense of family within our faith community. **We need a minimum of 4 servers at each worship service**, and you'll get all the instruction that you need. Please contact Sue Burchill ([sburchill@carmelumc.org](mailto:sburchill@carmelumc.org)) or Terri Hinnard ([thinnard@gmail.com](mailto:thinnard@gmail.com)) about your availability or any questions you have.

## NUMBERS FOR

### JANUARY 2023

#### ATTENDANCE

Average Weekly in person: **360**  
(not including New Year's Day)

Average Weekly Online: **92**

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

**Received: \$180,253**

Budgeted: \$117,100

#### FOOD PANTRY

Families served: **343**

Individuals served: **1462**

## We Are Looking for A Few Good People

### HIRING:

- ◆ **Part-time Executive Assistant** for Pastor Tim. This position will also have some receptionist responsibilities as well. If you or someone you know is interested, contact the church office, (317)844-7275 or [smurphy@carmelumc.org](mailto:smurphy@carmelumc.org).
- ◆ **Vocalists (soprano/alto) for our music ministry group ACCLAIM!** Contact David Morton, [dmorton@carmelumc.org](mailto:dmorton@carmelumc.org), if you or someone you know is interested.
- ◆ **Childcare Room** - Sundays and some mornings/evenings. You can bring your own child. Contact Lisa Wallace, [childcare@carmelumc.org](mailto:childcare@carmelumc.org),
- ◆ See Children's Ministry page on page 6 for a summer paid internship post.

### VOLUNTEERS:

We are seeking a few **computer savvy persons** to assist with the visuals on occasional Sundays during worship services. Will you help? Will train. Contact Sue Burchill: [sburchill@carmelumc.org](mailto:sburchill@carmelumc.org)

**Communion Servers:** Contact Sue Burchill ([sburchill@carmelumc.org](mailto:sburchill@carmelumc.org)) or Terri Hinnard ([thinnard@gmail.com](mailto:thinnard@gmail.com)) about your availability or any questions you have.



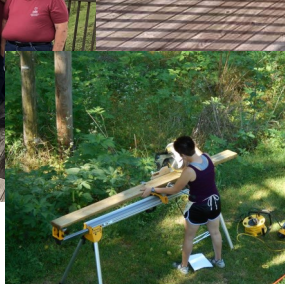
### HENDERSON SETTLEMENT

Next Trip: June 4-10, 2023

CUMC has been sending teams to Henderson Settlement in Southeastern Kentucky since 2001. These trips are open to any adult or teen interested in light construction, painting, cleaning, and learning how God works through each of us to help those in need.

The trip offers the opportunity to learn basic life skills while building on our relationship with God and other Christians. Working, eating, sleeping, praying, and playing side-by-side creates a bond that lasts forever. This will be the 21st year of our Family Henderson Mission Trip. All skill levels are welcome, there is truly something for everyone. And our more experienced team members love to teach for those wanting to learn a new skill. All that is required is a heart open to serving God and others.

If you are interested in finding out more about this trip you may contact Sarah Wilcox at [swilcox@carmelumc.org](mailto:swilcox@carmelumc.org) or Christine Keith at [clewis613@yahoo.com](mailto:clewis613@yahoo.com)



### LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

Loose change/coin offering in March will go to the Henderson Settlement Mission. Loose change is anything that jingles, you **MUST** specifically mark a check or cash bills for the "LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING" or this particular mission.



# LOOKING BACK: JANUARY 2023 SIERRA LEONE MISSION TRIP

## MISSIONS MINISTRY

Jessica Stevens • [jstevens@carmelumc.org](mailto:jstevens@carmelumc.org)

As many of you know, we had a team from Carmel United Methodist Church go with Operation Classroom to Sierra Leone in late-January thru early-February. Sierra Leone is roughly the size of Indiana which makes it a great country to partner with. It takes roughly the same amount of time to get to different cities and villages, the people are very friendly, and the United Methodist Church has a strong presence.

Upon our arrival we were greeted at the airport by our church member Josie Koker! He spent two months installing solar panels with students at the Taiama Enterprise Academy and was taking the plane we arrived on back to Paris on his way to the United States. It was a fantastic greeting after twenty-four hours of travel.

Our first full day in Sierra Leone was spent with Pastor Daisy at the newly named Carmel Preschool Goderich. We were able to participate in the naming ceremony where the children sang songs, prayed out loud, and gave presentations about their wonderful community. Be sure to



check out the handmade plaques on the walls in my office and the preschool office! It was just the beginning of a partnership between our preschools and I am very excited to see where it goes in the coming years.

After the ceremony we toured the seminary where Pastor Daisy will teach when she returns in August. It is set on the mountaintop in Freetown because Bishop Yambasu wanted the students to have a mountaintop experience while furthering their studies with God. It was breathtaking.

The preschool partnerships and the presence of Pastor Daisy with us are the most recent developments in a longstanding relationship with Sierra Leone. For the past thirty years, our church has sent teams to Sierra Leone to strengthen and deepen our relationships with the United Methodist church and the people there. On this most recent trip, we visited Kissy Hospital in Freetown where our own Rick Chandler helped to set up the pharmacy. We visited Mercy hospital in Bo and met with their only doctor, Dr. Stevens (no relation but I was very excited)! Dr. Stevens, was orphaned by the war in the early 2000s, he finished growing up in an orphanage, and almost all of his school supplies came from Operation Classroom. He told us of the love he felt from afar when he received his new supplies each year. Many hands in this church participated in picking out and packaging his school supplies before they were placed on a container ship and sent to Sierra Leone.



We also had the opportunity to visit the Betty Carew Center, run by our own Betty Carew. We met with women overcoming impossible circumstances. The Center has a guidance counselor to help them process tragic circumstances, they are taught to sew (several of the machines were purchased by our Ruth Anna Circle), and the women learn to support themselves. We



purchased beautiful placemats and aprons from them and their handiwork is impeccable.

While we were there, our team spent most of our time in the village of Taiama visiting with students, sitting in on classes, ensuring a safe and welcoming campus, and cheering the students on at their soccer games. Operation Classroom partnered with the United Methodist Church in Sierra Leone to open The Taiama Enterprise Academy (TEA) four years ago. Due to the war, the average age in Sierra Leone is 19 years old and unemployment for twenty and thirty year olds is high. TEA gives students who have been away from school for a while the opportunity to get their education and ultimately a job that can provide for their families.

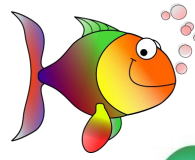
TEA is a trade school and teaches agriculture, construction, and automotive skills. It costs \$850 per student per year for room, board, supplies and teacher salaries. Upon graduation, the students can submit a well thought out business plan or enter the university and receive \$250 toward their next endeavor. This work is important. It is slow work but it changes the trajectory of students and their families for generations to come.

Our trip to Sierra Leone focused on the people; cheering them on as they rebuild their communities, and offering a listening ear as they seek to lift up their country. Are you interested in seeing it for yourself? We hope to have a team go in January 2024 and would love to have you with us! Reach out to Jessica Stevens [jstevens@carmelumc.org](mailto:jstevens@carmelumc.org) for more information.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Rev. Aj Mildenberg • [kids@carmelumc.org](mailto:kids@carmelumc.org)



## EASTER EGG TIME!

Please consider donating some individually wrapped candy or taking empty Easter eggs home and fill them by April 1



## March 2023

### Summer Paid Intern Position:

Children's Ministry has a position available for a college student who is interested in ministry for a 20-hour-per-week paid internship for this summer. We



are looking for an Intern who will show God's love to the children of our church and provide participation & leadership in programming to help families & people from our community know more about Christ. Our goals as a church & church staff are to

help the person in this internship position to have practical, hands-on experience in Children & Family ministry and to encourage this person in his/her faith & service in God's kingdom. For more information or to request an application, please email Pastor Aj by March 15 at [amildenberg@carmelumc.org](mailto:amildenberg@carmelumc.org)

## 2023 SUMMER CAMPS

### REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

<https://carmelumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/378/responses/new>

#### Looking for something fun for your kids to do this summer?

Carmel UMC is offering 3 weeks of different day camps in July! At Carmel United Church- Kids Summer Day Camp Program- we believe that children are one of the greatest gifts of life and believe that each child is special. Our summer day camp provides an action packed, fun-filled summer for your camper with a wide variety of age appropriate activities and experiences for Preschoolers (3 years by 6/1/23) to Kindergarten and 1st-4th grades (current grades). Our all-inclusive camp program provides your camper with quality programming at a great rate. Our camp day begins at 9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm. Campers may stay the 12pm-1pm hour for a small additional fee (\$25). Each week is planned based on a central theme. Campers will travel with a small group with kids their same age to each of the different activities.

#### Summer Camp weeks this year are:

(M-F 9am-4pm; \$195 full day all week, includes morning camp-lunch bunch-and afternoon camp.)

- Monday July 10 - Friday July 14

- Monday July 17 - Friday July 21

- Monday July 24 - Friday July 28

Camps: Dino Discovery, Let's Get Crafty!, Lego Construction Camp, American Ninja Warrior, Next On Stage Theater Camp, Amazing Animals, Outdoor Adventure, Disney Junior, Holiday Hoopla, Astonishing Astronauts, Dr. Seuss, Master Chef Junior Camp, Splish Splash, and a CIT helper position for those who have aged out of camp, but still want to join the fun while helping.



## LENT DEVOTIONALS

are available for families at the welcome desk or see Pastor Aj. Family devotionals for parents and children are also available online for you to print out too! Go to the Children's Ministry website to find the link, or [CLICK HERE!](#)



Led by Pastor Aj. We welcome all, and no Biblical knowledge is needed to join.

Email Rev. Aj Mildenberg, Minister of Families and Children for more info: [amildenberg@carmelumc.org](mailto:amildenberg@carmelumc.org)

Click the graphic to shop the [LaBraid fundraiser to support our CUMC Preschool](#). ANYONE can order.

Links are also on our website and Facebook.



Click to Register





# Gearing up for...



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



### June 18-22, 2023 6pm-8:30pm

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JUNE 18-22

*6pm-8:30pm—Shine Jesus' Light!*

We will be launching kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun.

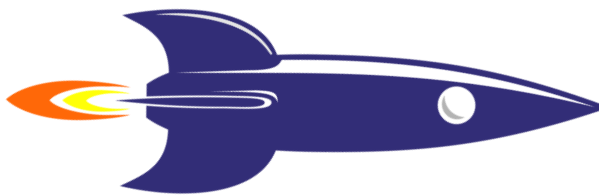
## VBS registration NOW OPEN!

Participants: <https://carmelumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/384/responses/new>

Volunteers: <https://carmelumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/385/responses/new>

And check out our Amazon wish list!

AMAZON WISHLIST: <https://a.co/iFv0mFi>



## COMMUNION TEACHING



Sunday, March 12, 2023

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

In the Library/Conference room

For families to learn more about communion so that your children can partake with full understanding. This is a parent and child event, only 1 hour.

Please [let Pastor Aj know](#) that you plan on attending so that she may have enough communion elements for all.

## Save these items for VBS

Keep an eye out for great deals on these Stellar VBS decorations

- **Christmas Lights:** Any and all colors!
- **Metallic Ribbon, Garland & Tinsel.**
- **Boxes:** We use boxes to build everything!
- **Wrapping Paper Tubes.**
- **Fake Snow** - cans of spray or fluff
- **Metallic Wrapping Paper**
- **Popcorn & Christmas Goodie Tins**
- **Metal Cans**—(please no sharp edges)
- **Baking Sheets**—old ones
- **Bottle Caps**—great for making buttons

## CALLING PAINTERS AND ROCKET MAKERS!

We need people who can paint these fun characters (Bible Buddies) and make some rockets for VBS. Contact Stephanie Zircher at [stephzircher@gmail.com](mailto:stephzircher@gmail.com) or Pastor Aj at [amildenberg@carmelumc.org](mailto:amildenberg@carmelumc.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**EVERY Thursday**—Mom's Bible Study LL12

**1 Mar**—Wed.— VBS Registration begins

**12 Mar**—Sun—Communion Class

**22 Apr**— VBS Work Day—Everyone welcome!

**18-22 June**— VBS WEEK!

(Theme: Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light)

Events are added all the time. Check the [CHILDREN's MINISTRY](#) website for more updated information about all the cool events happening for kids! [Click here](#) or scan this QR code with your phone camera.



CHILDRENS

## SHOUT OUT to our Confirmation Mentors!

Mathias Arboleda, Tristan Emery, Aubrey Frohardt, Samantha Smith, and Nolan Zircher!



I just want to take a moment and say a huge thank you to each of these five HS Students who gave up their time to help mentor our confirmation students!

These students were an incredible help every week leading games, leading small groups, hanging out with students, getting to know them, teaching them about God, and helping them feel welcome and included! We could not have done this without their help! These students are leading the way and I'm so thankful that we have such great mentors for these younger disciples to look up to!

Thank you Mathias, Tristan, Aubrey, Samantha, and Nolan!

**You rock!** - Matt and Tricia



## Confirmation Experience 104 - RESCUE

Beginning March 5th we will have our final confirmation course for this school year. The course is called RESCUE and we will learn about our need for salvation and how God offers that to everyone freely through God's Son Jesus!

We are so proud of each of these students and the ways they are growing in their faith! Confirmation courses are open to any 6-8th grade student and each year we offer different courses for people to continue to grow in their faith journey. If you want more information contact Matt at [msherrill@carmelumc.org](mailto:msherrill@carmelumc.org)

## CONFIRMATION COMMISSIONING SERVICE!

Sunday, April 30! 5:00pm in the Sanctuary

We are inviting everyone to join us Sunday, April 30 at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary to celebrate the Confirmation Commissioning service of our confirmands! This is a wonderful time of celebration for these young disciples and their families. We hope you can join us!



## 2023 WILDERNESS TRAIL BACKPACKING ADVENTURE:

July 19-24, 2023

Registration is OPEN!  
Limited Space Available!

[Click to Register](#)

This is an incredible week-long adventure where we spend time hiking and camping in the mountains of

Virginia, building lifelong friends and memories, and growing closer to God. Even if you have never carried a backpack, if you have any interest in being out- side and having an incredible time, let me tell you that you can do this! All skill levels will have a blast! For more information on the trail visit [wtrail.com](http://wtrail.com) or email Matt Sherrill. Visit our Youth Ministry Page for the registration or [Click HERE](#)



## YOUTH MINISTRY

Rev. Matt Sherrill • [youth@carmelumc.org](mailto:youth@carmelumc.org)



### MISSION TRIP TO NASHVILLE

RSVP NOW! (June 12-17.2023)

**What:** Spend a week in Nashville serving, growing closer to God and each other and having a blast! This is a trip you won't ever forget and very well could change your life! We would love to invite you to be a part of this with us.

**Who:** All 6-12th grade students.  
Limited spots available!

**Cost: EARLY BIRD RATE!** \$345 if you Register and Pay in Full BY MARCH 26th! \$370 after March 26th (includes lodging, transportation, meals, project supplies, t-shirt, free day activities, highlight video and poster)

[Visit our Youth Ministry Page for the registration or Click HERE](#)

[Click to Register](#)



[Click Here to Apply](#)

# DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Rev. Matt Sherrill • [msherrill@carmelumc.org](mailto:msherrill@carmelumc.org)

## Grief Share: Starts March 9th

We all experience grief at different times and stages. Whether you have something you are currently grieving and/or need a safe space to sit with others in their grieving, this ministry is for you. Please share it with anyone you know who would benefit from this time together!



## Mid-Week Weds. Study

Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:15pm until 7:30pm. This casual Bible study is led by Shaina Murphy. Childcare can be available, contact Shaina Murphy for more details. [smurphy@carmelumc.org](mailto:smurphy@carmelumc.org). This group plans to do a DAILY DEVOTIONAL style of study for THE STORY. Join us!

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead.

We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Contact Us Today

Thursdays 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
March 9, 2023 - June 1, 2023  
Carmel United Methodist Church  
621 S. Rangeline Road  
[janlefton@gmail.com](mailto:janlefton@gmail.com)



## WANT TO GET CONNECTED?

We are always looking for new ways to get people connected, so if there isn't anything that fits for you, please reach out to us so we can help get you plugged in or help start something NEW! CONTACT Rev. Matt Sherrill [msherrill@carmelumc.org](mailto:msherrill@carmelumc.org)

**GRIEF SHARE 13 Week Seminar (Mar-Apr-May 2023)**  
Please go to [www.GriefShare.org](http://www.GriefShare.org) for more info, and to register.

Questions? Contact Jan Lefton at [janlefton@gmail.com](mailto:janlefton@gmail.com)



# DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

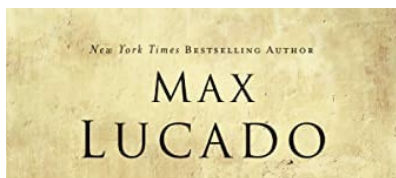
Rev. Matt Sherrill • [msherrill@carmelumc.org](mailto:msherrill@carmelumc.org)



## ADULT

### Click or Scan

this QR code to visit the [ADULT MINISTRIES website at carmelumc.org](http://ADULT MINISTRIES website at carmelumc.org). Sign up forms and updated info is also available.



## Women's Bible Study on Genesis

Jane Reiman is leading a study open to all women on the Book of Genesis! They are using a book by Max Lucado to gain greater insights. The class is on Wednesday from 10am-11am in the Conference Room! **Contact Jane at 317-564-8102**

## The STORY: Bible Studies for LENT

We are excited to dive into this amazing study together as a church and look at the New Testament. This study will look at the entire New Testament in about 6 weeks. If you are interested in being a part of a group and/or leading a group, reach out to Rev. Matt Sherrill [msherrill@carmelumc.org](mailto:msherrill@carmelumc.org)

### Current classes meeting:

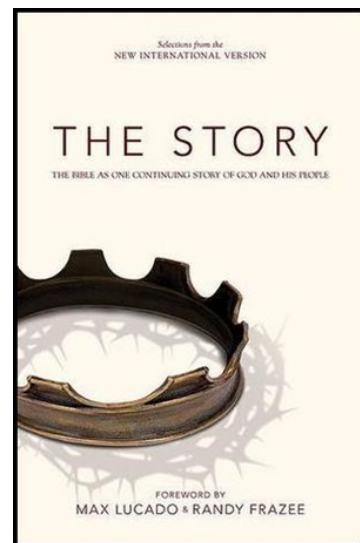
**Sundays** 9-10am in Room 122  
F.O.G. SS Class

**Tuesdays** 8:00pm  
ONLINE with Pastor Jessica Stevens

**Wednesdays** 1:00pm at Carmel UMC  
with Pastor Tim

**Wednesdays** 6:15pm at Carmel UMC  
with Shaina & Curtis Murphy

**Online Option-** Work at your own pace with weekly questions to ponder with Pastor Matt



PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE - Tuesdays at 12:30pm-2:30pm at [Carmel United Methodist Church](http://Carmel United Methodist Church) in the Gathering Space — The Prayer Shawl Circle meets each Tuesday to knit, or crochet, prayer shawls in various patterns. Each person brings their own supplies, which is the only cost involved. Everyone is invited to join us.



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E-mail: [caremail@carmelumc.org](mailto:caremail@carmelumc.org)  
[www.carmelumc.org](http://www.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

# CONTACT

**MARCH 2023**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### LOOK INSIDE

for more information about all the happenings at CUMC!

**Gearing up for VBS!**

**Summer Sign-Ups are OPEN!**

**Preschool: LaBraid Fundraiser!**

Support CUMC Preschool by purchasing LaBraid ready-to-bake breads and pastries. Link on pg.6 and on our website and FB!

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