

New Beginnings Make New Endings

I recently saw a quote that I just love, "No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending" (Maria Robinson).

Each new year I make a list of personal and professional goals which are new beginnings hopefully making new endings...endings of growth and improvement. I pray about what the Lord wants to do in my life and how I can work with Him to grow in that area. Honestly, that list can be very, very long. But if I were to write a statement that summarizes all of them, it would be that I want more than anything, to be the kind of person who lives to be devoted to Christ with all my heart.

I feel that this is supported in Scripture:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here."
2 Corinthians 5:17

In Howard Baker's book, *The One Thing*, he shows three Bible heroes who inspire us to live focused on one thing:

- David: In the midst of his painful and frightening desert trials over about ten years in which he was horribly mistreated and nearly killed he prayed, "One thing I ask, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life... My heart says of you, 'Seek his face!'" (Psalm 27:4, 8).
- Mary: She set aside her kitchen work to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to him and she received his affirmation: "There are many things that can be worried about, but only one thing is needed – it is the best thing – and Mary has chosen it!" (Luke 10:41-42, my paraphrase).
- Paul: He counted his many accomplishments and blessings as dung compared to the "surpassing greatness of knowing Christ" (Philippians 3:8, KJV). He expressed his life ambition, "One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

I also believe that the *one thing* is called Discipleship. I certainly hope that each year of my life reflects growing discipleship and this is also my desire for Carmel UMC each year.

- How do we grow to be devoted to Christ as our *One Thing*?
- How do we make real changes to how we live our daily lives as an expression of love for God?
- How do we overcome worry or anger?
- How do we learn to rejoice in trials?
- How do we pray without ceasing?
- How do we love difficult people?

The way to make a real character change – to learn, grow, or heal in any area – is by intentional effort. Many of us meet with personal and professional coaches but why wouldn't we look to Jesus as our Coach and "work out" with him. "Train yourself to be godly" Paul advises us (1 Timothy 4:7).

As the Carmel UMC Pastoral team plans ministries for CUMC in 2018, we are prioritizing all that we will be doing to live out the Carmel UMC vision statement so that all are "Connecting, Growing, and Serving as disciples of Jesus Christ". ***This one thing is called discipleship.***

I hope that throughout 2018 you'll open your heart and mind in search of God's direction for the one thing He desires and designs for you to grow in your discipleship.

Blessings,

Pastor Patti



Nobody can go back and start a new beginning,
but anyone can start today and make a new ending.

At CUMC 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.

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If you don't have a username, email Rachel Ferry: rferry@carmelumc.org and an account activation will be issued.

Leadership at CUMC:

Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Patti Napier

Director of Contemporary Worship and
Directory of Young Adult Ministry:

Scott McDermid

Director of Music Ministry:

David Morton, Ed.S.

Minister of Children & Families:

Rev. Aj Mildenberg

Minister of Youth:

Kevin Andrews

Minister of Adult Discipleship:

Chris Thornsberry

Minister of Local Outreach:

Mike Podgorski

Minister of Shepherding & New Members:

Barbara Krueger

Minister of Visitation:

Jim Shirey

Retired Pastor in Residence:

Jack King

Preschool Director:

Tiffany Lehman

Office Staff

Church Administrator:

Kevin Sweeney

Office Manager:

Pat Morrison

Financial Secretary:

Elizabeth Shiverdecker

Communications & Media Specialist:

Rachel Ferry

Membership Secretary:

Karen McTaggart

Preschool Administrative Coordinator:

Nicole Todd

Children's Ministry Assistant:

Amy Severson

Music Associate:

Ray Lahrman

KICK Kid's Choir Director:

Jennifer Gafron

KICK Kid's Choir Accompanist:

Kyle Johnson

To email any staff: first initial, last name
@carmelumc.org (i.e. pnapier@carmelumc.org)



IN THIS ISSUE:

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Church Governing Council

The Church Governing Council meets each month. If you have any questions regarding these meetings please contact Pat Morrison.



Faith Promise 2018

January 14, 21 and 28 are this year's Faith Promise Sundays. What is Faith Promise, you ask? Great question!

Faith Promise is a special time out of the year where our attention is turned toward the missions of the church and a time to encourage everyone to prayerfully consider an additional donation of time, money, or both that can be made to support those missions.

The theme this year is "Witnesses" taken from Acts 1:8 where Jesus commands his disciples to take the good news locally, nationally and globally. We will spend the three weeks of Faith Promise highlighting how the church is already doing this and how you can consider supporting these missions more.

We are excited to announce that on Sunday, Jan. 21 we will host Wendy Deichmann, former President of the United Theological Seminary who continues to teach there. Wendy will be sharing with us, about the work of the United Methodist Church in Africa. Sunday services will be combined in the Sanctuary on that day so that we can all learn together from Wendy.

Throughout Faith Promise there will be opportunities to learn more about the many missions of Carmel UMC and how you can get involved. You will be able to visit an information table in the Gathering Place before and after services each Sunday morning.

You may have heard that there is going to be some work done to the Mission House soon, and this is true. We are currently looking into replacing some of the flooring in the house as well as several smaller improvements that will improve the experience of our guests and help our volunteers. Be on the lookout for more updates coming soon.

We had a lot going on in the world of missions in December and we wanted to thank our MANY volunteers who helped with Angel Tree (organizers, shoppers, delivery team) as well as the many generous donations we received to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund last month which allowed us to help many families in need.





CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE

Congratulations....

Births....

- Josephine Jean Howerton was born December 2, 2017 to Andrew & Jenny Howerton. Proud grandmother is Patti Napier.
- Harlow Mae Evancic was born December 13, 2017 to Tyler & Morgan Evancic. Proud grandparents are Ken & Jennifer Evancic.

Baptism...

- Kevin James Widau was baptized December 10, 2017. Kevin is the son of Ryan & Krystal Widau.
- Lillyana Theriot was baptized December 17, 2017. Lillyana is the daughter of Amanda & Sean Theriot. Sean was baptized at this time also.

With Sympathy To...

- The family of Paul Kamiak & family, on the death of his wife, Jean Kamiak who passed away December 17, 2017.

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE IN ACTION!

Did you know that the Higher Education Committee meets twice a year to send care packages to our college students, just in time for semester finals?! This semester we sent out 38 packages and had prayer for our college students!

If you'd like to get involved in this effort, [contact](#) Pastor Scott McDermid!



Providing transportation to and from the Barrington and Carmel Senior Living on Sunday mornings. This ministry is currently in need of additional drivers.

This can be a weekly or monthly commitment.
Please contact Jim Shirey for more information.
jshirey@carmelumc.org



God Sightings are everyday moments when in a specific moment, God can be felt or seen in action. This month's God Sightings all happened within the Missions of Carmel UMC and were provided by Mike Podgorski.

"Our Fletcher Place visit on 12/22/17 enabled us to link up with 2 men that are battling alcohol issues and one requested a special " 12 step recovery Bible". Upon hearing this the other man (who had never heard of that specific Bible) requested one as well. These Bibles will be delivered to both men on Friday, December 29th when we go back down again to serve at Fletcher Place. These gentlemen are trying to help themselves. Please pray for them."

:There was a woman we encountered a couple of months ago that left a dangerous environment and moved herself into an apartment with nothing - no bed, no food, no furniture and no television. We were able to help her by providing these things assure her that she mattered. She was very fearful around others but has since been able to make some friends in her apartment building. Praise be to the Lord."

"Our church was able to reach out to a single mom with 3 boys who had car issues with their only car which prevented her from getting out to food pantries, to medical appointments, and to the pharmacy. We were able to get repairs done and restore their car for them. Praise be the Lord."



ANGEL TREE MINISTRIES - THANK YOU!

We just finished another Angel Tree season and our delivery folks went to 94 households and provided gifts of toys, games and clothing to 188 children. There was also a special case where we were able to obtain a Christmas tree complete with lights and ornaments to a single Mom who had never in her life had a Christmas tree. It was very special and her 2 boys were very excited. Praise God.

I want to personally thank Mark Brown and all of those who volunteered for Angel Tree this year by making calls, those who did the sort/inventory and those who delivered as well as the many who provided the gifts. It was another good year- thank you all !!

~ Mike Podgorski
Minister of Local Outreach



CONNECT WITH US



SMCDERMID@CARMELUMC.ORG



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ESCAPE ROOM: College students, come join us over Christmas Break for a fun event in Indy. We are going to hit an Escape Room and then have pizza together...and it's only \$20! Friday, Jan 5 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Meet at the church and we'll drive together. Register online: carmelumc.org/events



Camping & Paintball

Friday-Saturday, April 13-14

In Noblesville near Hauge & St Rd 37



December was our first full month of our new Young Adult Grow Groups and it is going great. We have three groups that are currently meeting on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but still have room to grow. If you are a young adult, or if you know a young adult, who might be interested in joining a group or starting a new one we would love to help get you connected. Contact Scott McDermid at smcdermid316@gmail.com

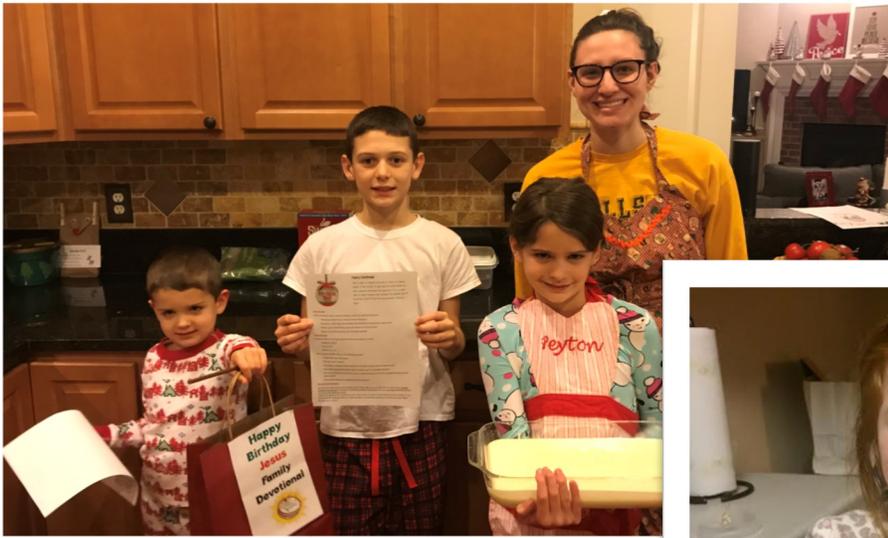
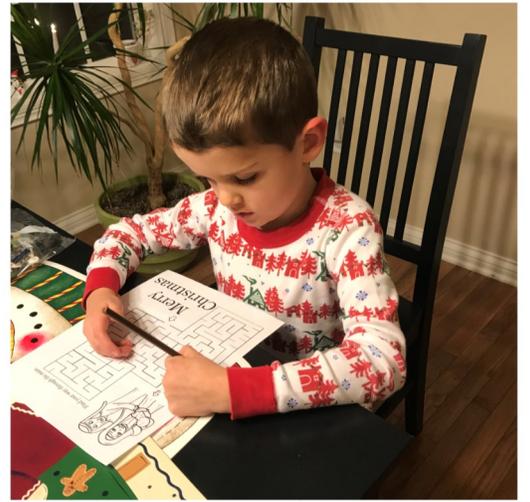
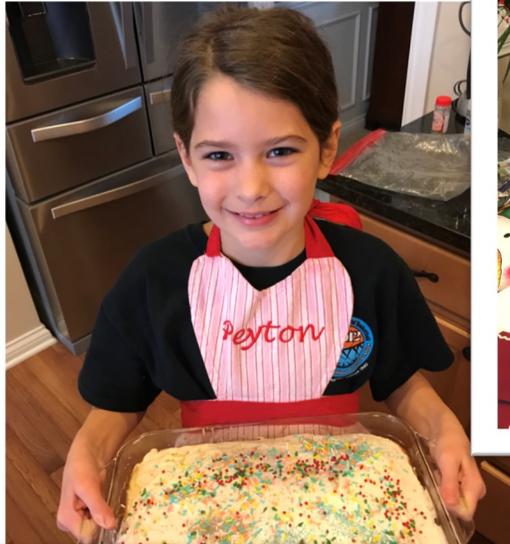


We plan to field a Co-Ed team for the Northside Softball League that plays at Northview Church

August-October 2018

Happy Birthday Jesus!!

Pastor Aj received several emails celebrating the Advent Activity bags she provided to Children and Families that included a BIRTHDAY CAKE MIX to help celebrate the birth of Jesus!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



WINTER IS COMING!

Will you survive the long winter break while staying in town? Do not fear, CUMC camps has you covered with exciting NEW camps!

Camp Dates: Jan 2-5th

Time: 9am-1pm

Snack: included

Lunch: please bring your own peanut free lunch

Fee: \$75 (\$4.75/hr)

Sample day

9-9:15-arrival and pray

9:15-10:30- camp activities

10:30-11:00-pray, snack and gym time

11:00-12:30-camp activities and short gym break

12:30-1pm-pray, lunch and release

Winter Wonderland-3 – 4 years old by Sept 1st

Let your little ones have fun frolicking indoors while learning about this frosty season. God made every snowflake different, just like us! Find out that different can be beautiful. Songs, crafts, stories, imaginative play and gym time.

Dr. Seuss- 4 -6 year olds by Sept 1st

Explore the world of Dr. Seuss. Wacky science, crazy crafts, silly stories, games galore, and more! Find out how Dr. Seuss teaches us lessons from the Bible in an extraordinary way. "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store."-The Grinch. This camp is just what the Dr. ordered after the long break!

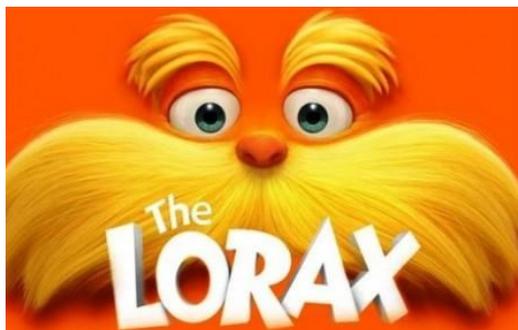
STEAM-Minute to win it- 6- 9 years old by Sept 1st

This is not a sit and create STEAM camp! Relay race across the room to build a structure OR try to make a mini catapult to use on the opposing team. Try your hand painting a mural, with your writing hand tied behind your back! Anything is possible when you use the talents that God gave you.

Games Galore!- 7-11 by Sept 1st

Let's get together and play a round of the actively silly "Diary of a Wimpy Kid 10 second challenge" or "Gestures". Checkers anyone? Ok, it wouldn't be "Games Galore" without our favorite Gym time games. Dodgeball, kickball, tag, angry birds and much more. This camp will probably provide the most activity these campers have had all break!

[Click here to Register](#)



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!

The Lorax, Dr. Seuss!

January 4th 6:00-8:15pm

popcorn, snacks, and movie on the big screen in the Youth Hub



FAMILY MISSION DAY: We are going to wipe down the doors, light switches, pews and other areas in the Church to rid the building of germs. We do not like those pesky germs that give others colds and flu, so to help our congregation stay



healthy- we are going to clean! All ages are welcome! Surprisingly, kids love to clean for someone else! A snack will be provided too.

January 20, 2018 anytime between 12:30 and 2pm



KICK Kids Choir - 10- 10:30am in the basement room LL16 (next to the Rec Room) Kids kindergarten through 5th grade. Learn and sing music from Choir teacher Jennifer Gafron. Kyle Johnson, also a music teacher, is the accompanist. For more information: email jgafron@carmelumc.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

January 7th: Back Regular Sunday School schedule!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK IN EVERY SUNDAY!



THIS YEAR

I will make a genuine and dedicated effort to



New Year Resolution?
Ask Pastor Aj for scripture memorization tags for your kids! We have Preschool and Elementary tags. Reward is a Dairy Queen blizzard with Pastor Aj if they memorize all 9 scriptures!



CARMEL UMC YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



INTERSECT - EVERY SUNDAY

INTERSECT is meant to be a place where you can belong, learn about Jesus, and bring your friends. We always include high energy games and a fun craft or hands on mission activity, a meal, time to hang out with friends, and worship.

INTERSECT SCHEDULE

- 5:00-5:30 PM Meal
- 5:30-6:30 PM Games/Activities/Parent Bible Study
- 6:30-7:30 PM Worship
- 7:30-8:00 PM Small Group Conversation



#WBLAST18 Registration is OPEN! It'll be a weekend of thrills for 3 days and 2 nights, Jan. 13-15, at Gull Lake Retreat Center in Michigan. Awesome events like Airband, bowling, rock climbing, dodgeball & awesome worship. Come for fun and to be spiritually challenged to trust God more!



**Friday January 19 at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary: Milliken University
Concert**

**February 18 at 7:00 PM in the Sanctary: Piano Recital for Doctoral
Candidate Tiantian Rogahn**

Dave Ramsey's

Financial *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Come learn how to be FREE from your financial burdens through decisions that are based on your faith and help you build a strong foundation for the future. The last class paid off over \$11,000 in in debt in just 9 weeks, saved over \$20,000, cut up 11 credit cards, 2 families began giving substantially more to the church and 1 person began giving for the first time! Class starts Jan. 25th at 6:30pm.

REGISTER HERE

Carmel UMC Preschool



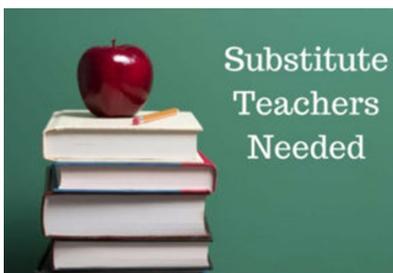
Preschool Registration Carnival!

January 22, 2018
5:30pm to 7:00 pm

Register for the 2018-2019 school
year!

Bring the family and enjoy games,
music, hotdogs, and popcorn.

Please plan on coming with your
registration form filled out.
(Cash and checks will be accepted- no credit cards)



Substitute
Teachers
Needed

We are always looking for loving, caring individuals who are excited to work with the most joyful and adorable preschoolers around! Our substitute teachers help to assist the teacher and provide a safe environment for our

students. Substitutes work from 9:00-1:00 as they are needed and available.

Please contact Tiffany or Nicole at the preschool office if you are excited to be added to our list! 317-844-1958 or via email: tlehman@carmelumc.org



**[CLICK HERE FOR MORE
INFO ABOUT THE
PRESCHOOL!](#)**

317-844-1958
Tiffany Lehman, Director
tlehman@carmelumc.org

Carmel United Methodist Preschool offers classes for students who are 18 months through 6 years of age. Classes run from 9:00-1:00 on various days of the week. Our children enjoy learning and growing in God's faithfulness through the guidance and love of their teachers. Please visit our website or contact the director for more information or to set up a tour.

kids coats



WE NEED A NEW STORAGE LOCATION IN 2018! Will you help us?

Did you know that Hamilton County Kids Coats is a **YEAR-ROUND mission?** With 5 November distributions county-wide and giving away coats until the end of winter, the work of keeping Hamilton County families warm doesn't stop when the weather gets warm. We store coats & winter wear, racks, hangers, and sort donations year round at donated warehouse space in Carmel. Kids Coats Warehouse Team volunteers come every Monday of the year to sort and organize the donations.

The current space is generously donated to us by Pedcor because of relationships made possible by CUMC. **But this warehouse space will be gone next year; WE NEED YOUR HELP!!** Kids Coats needs a donation of at least 3,000 sq. ft. located in Hamilton County. The space must have a garage door or loading dock that allows us to accept 24ft. box trucks in order to load coat racks, hangers, pallets of coats, and deliveries from our partner organizations. **BE AN ADVOCATE OF KIDS COATS! If you see an empty space, write down the number or call/text/email Linda Withrow (317) 324-8818 linda@kidscoats.org** Call or email Linda if you are INTERESTED in joining the committee to help solve this problem.



Hunger
is
NOT
an
option.

CARMEL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



MORE Volunteers are needed for the Food Pantry! The pantry is in need of regular volunteers to work during open pantry hours, to assist visitors. Additional volunteer opportunities are available for various tasks at the pantry, like stocking shelves and organizing (this would be a great family activity).

If interested, please contact Lisa Williams to arrange a time to volunteer via email: mrs.lisapwilliams@yahoo.com or call: 317-507-7410

Did you know that
Carmel UMC has a new
MOBILE APP?

Download the **free app** from
your App Store – stay up-to-
date on events, sermons, and
even catch the live feed if you
can't make it on Sunday!



the **PA** **HWAY**

The Pathway is the Carmel UMC “online community” to help you Connect, Grow, and Serve. This digital tool is a place where members of the church can seek needs, both spiritual and serving, within the church. The Pathway is a place where someone can look for, find, and sign-up for Grow Groups or a special event, or maybe email a fellow Carmel UMC member. The Pathway was rolled out to members of Carmel UMC, in the Spring of 2016, but we realize you may not have a username to access this awesome tool.

If you'd like a username, please email: help@carmelumc.org

If you're currently a group leader and need additional training, please contact Rachel Ferry.



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At Carmel UMC we are connecting with God and others, growing in faith and love through Biblical learning, and serving our community and world as followers of Jesus Christ.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CONTACT

JANUARY 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ *WINTERBLAST*
- ◆ *Young Adult Escape Room*
- ◆ *Kid's Winter Camps*

