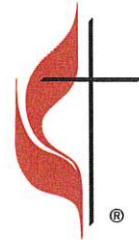




December 2025



## Carlisle United Methodist Church

405 School Street

Carlisle, IA 50047

Office 515-989-3552

office@carlisleiaumc.org

Pastor Mike 515-229-6809

pastor@carlisleiaumc.org

Are you ready?

### **1 John 4:9-10**

*This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. 10 This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.*

When two people play catch, one person throws the ball, and the other person catches it. If the person that is catching the ball isn't paying attention...well there have been many broken bones, and bloody noses because the person catching just was not ready to receive.

God loved humankind so much He sent love down to us in the form of small newborn child. People of that time were not ready to receive this gift, and they missed out on something so incredible we really cannot fully understand the totality of God's love for us. But, if we are being fair, they didn't realize that was the time that God would send the gift.

Today, we all know the gift is arriving, but will we be ready to receive it? Will we be too busy to fully embrace what has been given to us? Will we be distracted by the world only to realize in January that another year has passed by without fully receiving the gift?

Here is the gift...God loves you without condition, without limitation, without end.

Merry Christmas!

God sent the most precious gift imaginable to us, let's be ready to catch the gift when it comes!

Peace to All,

*Mike*

# FINANCE CORNER

*This information reflects General Account only through September.*

YTD Actual Giving	YTD Budgeted Giving
\$178,905	\$192,500

Giving for the year is behind budget. Additionally, we have had a number of unexpected expenses that were not reflected in the budget. This has us operating at a significant loss for the year. We need your help to close this gap.

You recently received a letter outlining our challenging position for next year and ways you can give. We hope you will consider a supplemental year-end gift as well as continued generosity through 2026. We appreciate our congregation and the many ways you give – through time, prayers and funds.

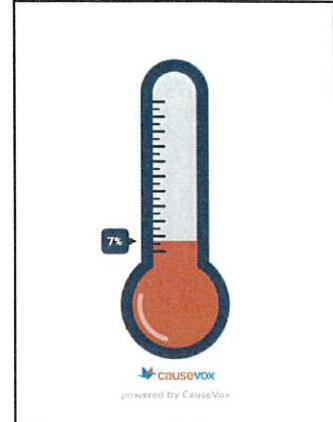
## Key Finance Meeting Takeaways

- General Account balances rose slightly as we received ABC's \$7500 payment. ABC balances dropped accordingly.
- We will not share the 2026 budget at Charge Conference as more work is needed to make it viable.

This is the 3rd HVAC (for different areas) we have purchased in 18 months!

Our goal is \$10,600. We have received \$800 putting us at 7% of goal. Thank you for your support!

Our church is our second home - we all want it to have the care and upkeep it should. As we have had several unexpected expenses this year, we thought we would ask for your help. The Home Sweet Home Campaign will be for specific needs or items. The first item we would like help with is the HVAC for the basement.



## DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS



WORSHIP LEADERS	December
12/7	Matt Cope
12/14	Youth
12/21	Deb Smalley
12/28	Julia Batten

SCREENS	December
12/7	Vincent Mezger
12/14	Josh Sytsma
12/21	Ronda Frost
12/24 @ 7 PM	Deb Smalley
12/24 @ 11 PM	Clint Smalley
12/28	Lori Candee

DECEMBER HOSPITALITY
<b>Ryan &amp; Candi Furnal</b>
Tim & Shana Osterhauers
Andy & Abby Green
Terry & Keri Osterhaus
David & Jeanne Sigmund
Wes & Michelle Tish

Thank you so much for helping. It means a great deal to those that come down after church and take time to visit with one another. Should you have any questions, please feel free to visit with Nancy Jennings or De Streeter as the Women in Faith are in charge of this list.

## DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

### Continued:



December Greeters	
12/7	Marsha Mezger
12/14	Youth
12/21	Karen Crowley
12/28	Lori Candee

### Children's Message

*Those Sharing a Special time  
during Worship with our  
children*

December Communion 12/7
Heather Fogle
Payton Fogle
Stephanie Sinclair
Addie Sinclair

Dec. 7: Karla Voboril  
Dec. 14: Youth  
Dec. 21: Marsha Mezger  
Dec. 28: Marne Sievers  
Jan. 4: Amy & Lacey Beller  
Jan. 11: Youth  
Jan. 18: Sue Mooers  
Jan. 25: Marilyn Goodhue

*Thank you to all volunteers!*

# Wildcat ABC News

December 2025

A Caring Ministry of the Carlisle United Methodist Church

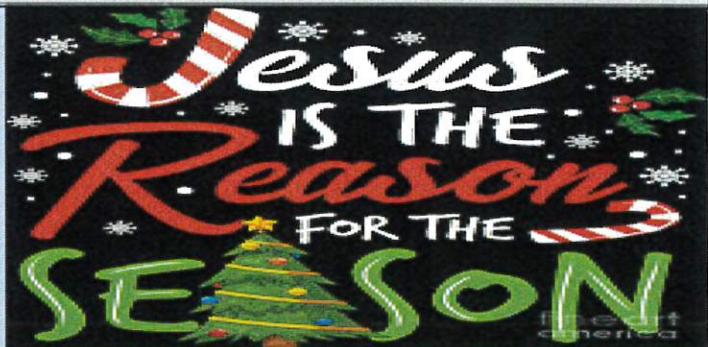
## It's almost winter time!

Winter break is just around the corner, and it's a long one this year. Winter break goes from December 22 through January 2nd, with school resuming on January 5th. We will be open our regular business hours during break, except for December 24th: closed at 3 p.m., December 25th: CLOSED, and January 1st: CLOSED. We want to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas!



## We're Hiring!

Are you at least 16 or older? Do you like working with kids? Do we have the place for you! Come join our Wildcat ABC team! We have assistant and lead teacher positions available. Come on in to grab an application from one of our office administrators!



## Merry Christmas

With the Christmas season fast approaching, we are getting the church into the holiday spirit. Before you know it, the church will transform into a beautiful display of God's light, making it a cozy Christmas!

## Reminders

1. With colder weather approaching, please make sure your child has appropriate winter attire (jackets, hat, gloves, etc.). Our morning walks to school can be mighty chilly.
2. Make sure to frequently check your child's cubby and hook. Any unclaimed items (bags, coats, hats, water bottles, etc.) left at the end of the week will be put in our lost and found.
3. Our Lost and Found is located in the tote under the coat rack in the entryway.

## Wildcat ABC Contact Information

Director: Mandi Shaffer

Email: [wildcatabcdirector@carlisleiaumc.org](mailto:wildcatabcdirector@carlisleiaumc.org)

On-Site Supervisors: Crystal Kruse & Danicka Lathrop

Phone: 515-989-3972



# United Women in Faith

Co-Presidents Nancy Jennings & De Streeter  
Secretary Mary Conner Treasurer Robin Merrifield

Our Mission is to seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development. Creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

## Who we are:

ALL women and friends are invited to be part of CUMC UWF! Please join us!

## What we do:

We do Bible Study, work on mission projects, provide support to the church, have fun, and lift each other up.

## Want more info?

Contact one of our officers listed above.

**Meetings** are held throughout the year—

Our next meeting will be on  
March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

Please join us in the Grace Room! (116)

## Monthly Hospitality

We love our treats and fellowship after church each Sunday. We have a Hospitality Team each month who provide and serve after worship. It's a great time to get to know fellow CUMC members! If you would like to be a part of a monthly Hospitality Team, please contact the office or Nancy.



*Make sure to  
keep your  
eyes open for  
what's  
coming soon!*



## Ruth Circle:

Come have a warm drink with some conversation to warm your heart. Ruth Circle will be meeting at Smokey Row on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.



# MISSIONS

*Working Together to Share God's Love*

Our CUMC Missions Team coordinates ways for our entire congregation to spread God's love to our community and our world.



*God was on the Move During Indiana Flooding and St. Louis Tornadoes.*

*Midwest Mission sent two truckloads of essential supplies after the Missouri UMC Conference reached out for help. The first shipment included 144 Cleaning Kits and 144 Hygiene kits. The second delivered 216 Cleaning Kits, 216 Hygiene Kits, and 200 Menstrual Hygiene Kits.*

## Recent Missions:

*"Christmas in July" CCA met to start the plans for our Community Christmas and Thanksgiving for families in the P.E.A.C.H area that might need some support during the holidays. More info to come later.*



**"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."**

**2 Corinthians 9:8**

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Thank you for showing God's love through your gift of personal dignity supplies! These simple things are often taken for granted but make a world of difference to those in need.*

*In His Service,  
Midwest Mission Family*



*Thank you to everyone who donated to the personal dignity kits! Let's continue to share God's love.*

**What's Next?**  
Fall - In Gather Kits  
Winter - Coats & Winter Gear  
Watch more ways to share God's Love!

**On Going Local Food Pantry Mission**  
Cereal, snacks for lunches, peanut butter and jelly.  
There is also a need for shampoo and conditioner.

Mat Weaving every Wednesday, 9-10 am in the Family Life Center. All are welcome to help us turn plastic bags into sleeping mats & protection from the weather!

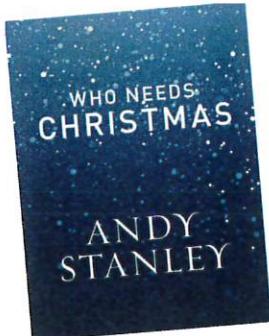


# Women of Grace

Carlisle United Methodist Church

The Women of Grace meet each Wednesday morning at 10:00 in the Grace Room - because we all need Grace!

If you are looking for women with whom you can share your Faith, share laughter, receive support and learn from great pastors like Max Lucado, Andy Stanley and Rick Warren via DVD studies, join us on Wednesdays!



The Women of Grace began WHO NEEDS CHRISTMAS, a DVD study with Andy Stanley. It began November 19<sup>th</sup> and will continue through December.

Please join us at 10:00 AM on Wednesday mornings in the Grace Room. Because...we all need GRACE!

*Please join us next Wednesday!*

For more information, contact Char Cooper 515-556-2789

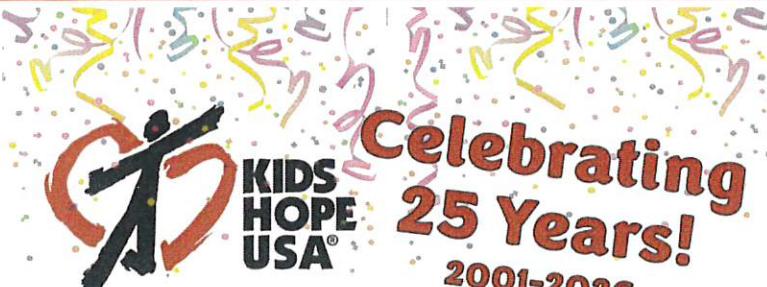




A ministry of Carlisle United Methodist Church since 2001  
Leadership Team

Sue Mooers & Karla Voboril - Special Events Coordinators  
Deb Smalley - Summer Events Coordinator Mary Conner - Communication Coordinator  
DeStreeter - Prayer Partner Coordinator □ Pastor Mike Fillmore □ Lori Candee - Director

DECEMBER  
2025



Carlisle United Methodist Church  
Carlisle Community School

We are celebrating our 1st 25 years throughout the 25-26 school year!

## PARTY TIME!

We love extra time together at parties after school year, our theme is GROWTH - all year we'll talk about how we continue to grow in so many ways. At our 1st party this year, we had snacks, a story and acted out growing like a plant, planted succulents in pots we decorated for our teachers, played games, had fun, & everyone got their new KHUSA shirts!



Please join us as we celebrate all year long! Expect a big National Mentoring Month Celebration in January. Just think of all the lives that have been touched throughout the years thanks to all our amazing volunteers and supportive congregation. □

National Mentoring Month celebration on Sunday, January 25, 2025!

Mark your calendar!

For more information, contact KIDS HOPE USA Director, Lori Candee  
515-210-8221 [kidshopeusadirector@carlisleiaumc.org](mailto:kidshopeusadirector@carlisleiaumc.org)

There's a Kid who would love to have a friend like you! Can you spare 1 hour a week?



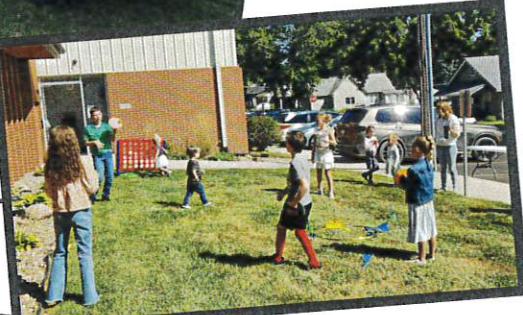
## Faith + Friends ❤ Fun

within our church and beyond. There are events for different age groups, families, and everyone throughout the year. Watch for our next event!

Faith, Friends & Fun creates ways for the congregation and the community to live out their faith in fun ways! They host events to encourage building community

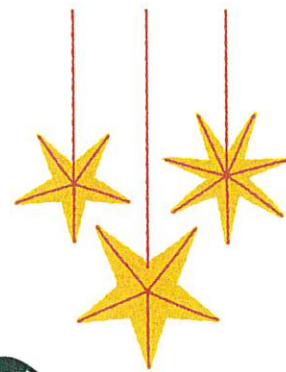
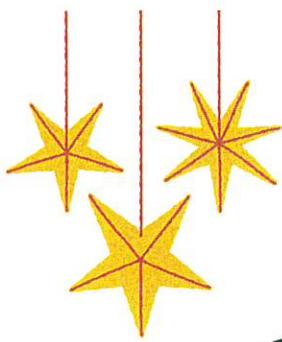


## Carlisle Care Days



## Kick off Block Party!

PLEASE JOIN  
US FOR OUR



# Christmas Extravaganza!

This is a community event, and ALL  
are welcome to attend!

**Sunday, December 14th**

Christmas Program: 10:00 AM  
(In the Sanctuary)

**\*\*Soup Lunch: 11:00 AM - 11:30 PM**

*(Free will donation to ASP)*

**\*\*Fun Crafts and Activities: 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM**

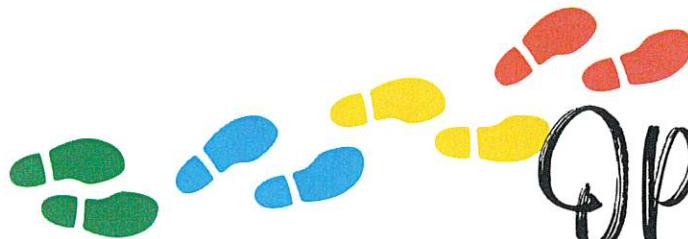
**\*\*Santa Visit & Pictures: 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM**

**\*\*Programs that will be held in FLC**

ASP Silent Auction Baskets will be  
available before church until 1:00 PM

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) is a crew of 49  
youth and adults who are raising money to fund  
their trip to Virginia over Spring Break 2026 to make  
homes warmer, safer and drier.





# Open Walk Time

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9AM - 11AM

## Rules and Regulations:



- The Family Life Center will be open for walkers when kids are in school.  
NO school means NO walking.
- The Family Life Center is connected to Carlisle United Methodist Church.  
Please enter through the Family Life Center Doors.

- You must complete & sign a form.
- You must sign in and out each time you come.
- You must stay in the designated walking area.
- Please bring clean shoes to wear.
- We will have coffee available at a designated table. You may also bring your own drink.

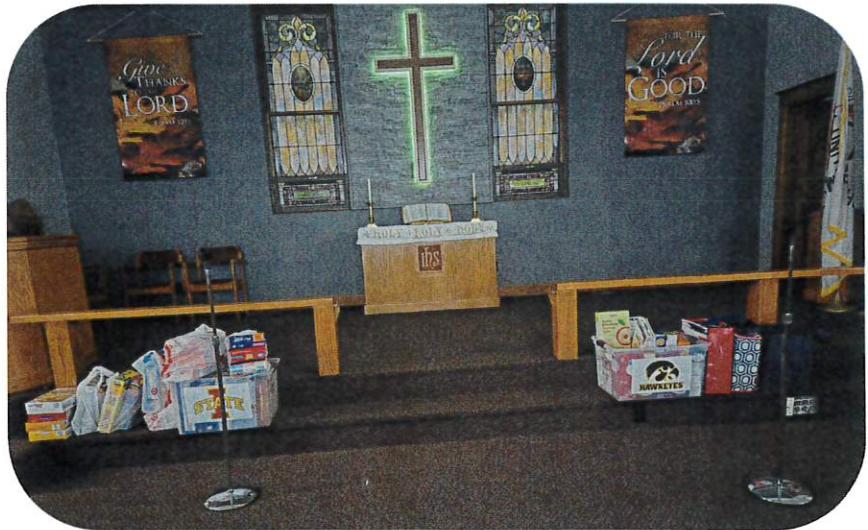


Carlisle United Methodist Church

405 School St.

Wow! We've had a such a great turnout  
for donations the past couple of weeks!

Thank you all!

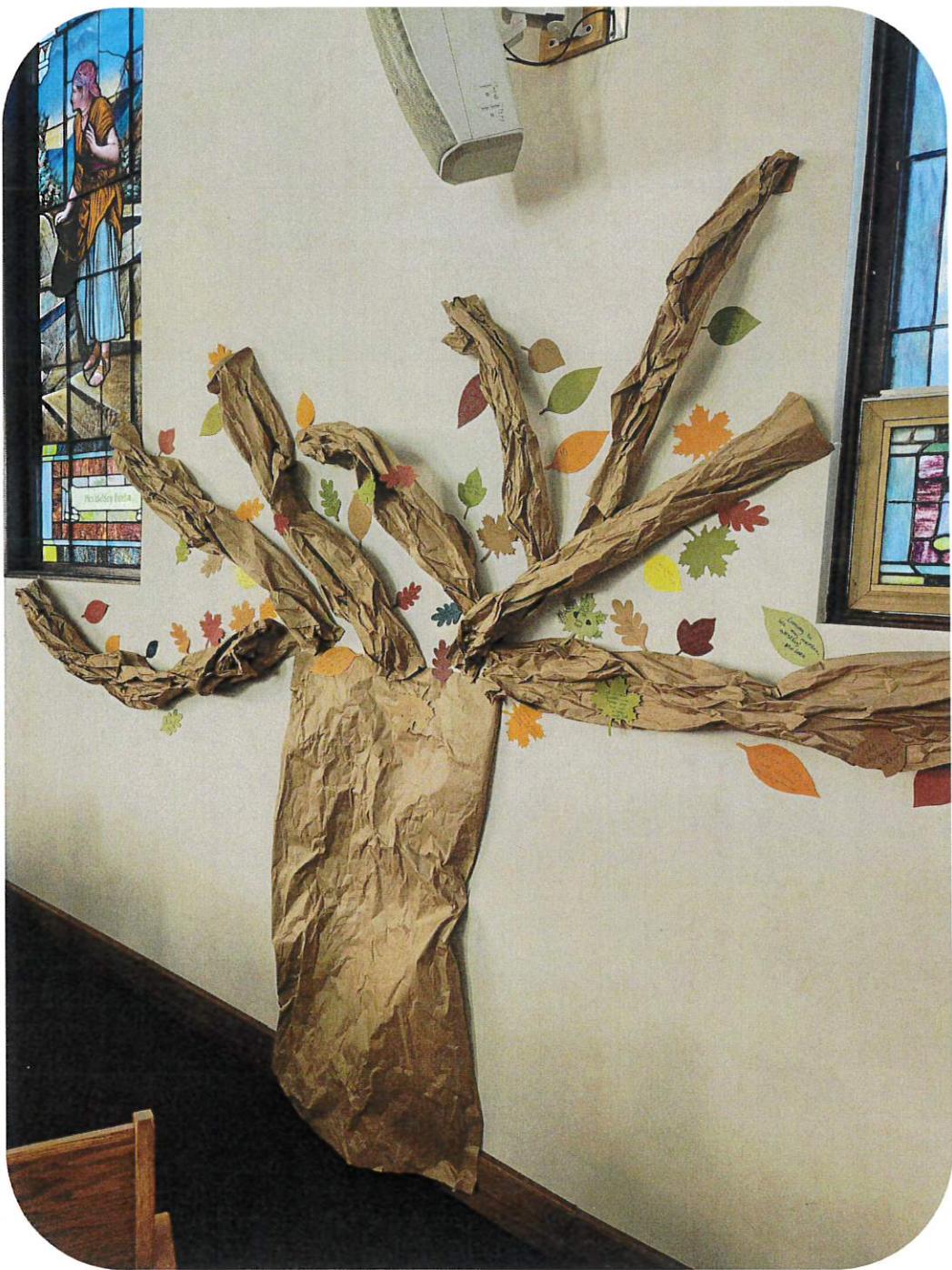


**Carlisle Care Day** was held on  
Sunday, November 9th. 11 volunteers raked  
leaves and/or cleaned gutters at  
7 homes in the community.

***Thanks to this great bunch of volunteers!***



So many seeds were planted this fall.  
Keep nurturing them!





# Ways to Give



**Cash, Check or QR Code  
linked to Church Center**



**Automatic Withdrawal  
from bank - ACH forms  
available**



**Mail to Carlisle UMC 405  
School Street  
Carlisle, IA 50047**



**Give in the offering  
plates as you enter the  
seating area.**

## Welcome to Sunday Worship!

As you enter the main sanctuary door, feel free to grab a cup of coffee from our new Coffee Bar!

Thanks to Bruce & Elaine Kerr for allowing us to use their antique organ and to Tim Crowley for making adjustments to make it beautifully useful!

We hope you will enjoy a cup of coffee as you worship with us. As weather gets colder, you may find makings for tea and hot chocolate, too!



This is the place to be on...

**WEDNESDAY**

Everyone is welcome! Bring friends!

### Morning:

6:00 - 7:00 AM--Sunrise Bible Study

9:00 - 10:00 AM--Mat Weaving

10:00 - 11:00 AM--Women of Grace  
Bible Study

### Evening:

5:45 - 6:00 PM--Children's Choir up to  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade

6:00 - 6:15 PM--Light Meal for EVERYONE

6:15 - 7:00 PM--ROCK for Preschool - 6<sup>th</sup> grade

7:00 - 8:00 PM--Youth Group for 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> & HS

Contact the church office for more info.

## November Administrative Council highlights

\*Christmas Eve services will be at 7 and 11. An offering for the food pantry will be taken at the 7:00 service.

\*2025 apportionments will be paid in full in the next few weeks.

\*Wildcat ABC has over 120 kids but they could use more adult help.

\*National Mentoring Month will be celebrated in January (25 years!). Counselors are looking for 2 KHUSA mentors.

\*ROCK and youth group are going well.

\*Fall activities were well-attended. Christmas Extravaganza is coming in December.



Welcome

We are thrilled to introduce Ariel Wahlers as our new Administrative Assistant. Ariel is a great addition to the office.

She will be in the office 9-Noon, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. She will also be checking mail and phones on Tuesday and Thursday. You may reach her through the Church phone and email address.



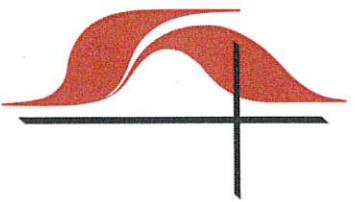
## Why use Church Center?

**Directory** - if folks opt in to the directory, you will have our church directory in your pocket! Photos, address & phone numbers at your finger tips.

**Giving** - Set up your giving to come from wherever you choose. You can make one time gifts or recurring donations. You can even choose the fund (for example ASP, Operation Backpack, Building Addition, etc.). You can even see your giving history.

**Calendar** - Ever wonder if something is happening at church? You will be able to see the Church calendar at your fingertips.

**Groups** - Belong to a committee or small group? Groups is an easy way to communicate. Committee chairs will love it!



Carlisle United Methodist Church  
405 School Street  
Carlisle, IA 50047

Return Service Requested

