



February 2026

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

1 Corinthians 13:13

Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.

Celebrating Love in All Its Forms As Valentine's Day approaches, our thoughts often turn to romantic gestures, heartfelt cards, and expressions of affection. While the holiday is commonly associated with romantic love, the Bible teaches us that love is far more multifaceted and profound. In 1 Corinthians 13:13, we are reminded, "Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love." Let's explore the four distinct biblical expressions of love and consider how each can enrich our relationships and communities during this season.

Eros: Romantic/Passionate Love

Eros is the passionate love that exists within romantic relationships, especially between a husband and wife. While the term itself is not directly mentioned in the New Testament, its spirit is present in the biblical vision for marriage—a deep, devoted, and joyful partnership. This Valentine's Day, celebrate eros by nurturing your marriage or romantic relationship with intentionality and affection.

Philia/Phileo: Brotherly/Friendship Love

Philia, or friendship love, represents deep bonds of affection and camaraderie. The friendship between David and Jonathan is a beautiful biblical example of philia—a love that is rooted in mutual respect, loyalty, and equality. This Valentine's Day, cherish the friends who walk beside you, celebrate with you, and support you through life's ups and downs.

Storge: Familial/Natural Love Stories the natural affection shared between family members, such as parents and children or siblings. It is marked by a deep emotional connection, familiarity, and enduring support. Valentine's Day offers an opportunity to reflect on the importance of family, express gratitude, and strengthen these foundational relationships.

Agape: Unconditional/Sacrificial Love A gape is the highest form of love, embodying God's unconditional, selfless, and sacrificial love for humanity (John 3:16). Unlike fleeting emotions, agape is a deliberate choice—an action-oriented commitment to the well-being of others. This Valentine's Day, we can aspire to show agape by offering kindness, forgiveness, and generosity, even when it is difficult.

Whether you are single, married, part of a close-knit family, or surrounded by cherished friends, Valentine's Day is a time to honor every dimension of love. By embracing agape, philia, storge, and eros, we can reflect God's love more fully in our lives and share His light with those around us.

Peace to All,

Mike

**Our high school seniors may contact
Marilyn Goodhue or the office for a
scholarship application. They will be
due April 1st**



***The IT Security Team met on January 8th
and will now meet quarterly to review
systems, user access, and equipment
needs. These reviews help ensure
volunteers and employees have the
appropriate access to do their work
securely and effectively.
The next meeting will be April 9.***

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS



WORSHIP LEADERS	February
2/1	Jake Sinclair
2/8	Youth
2/15	Marne Sievers
2/22	Matt Cope

SCREENS	February
2/1	Clint Smalley
2/8	Tim Crowley
2/15	Vincent Mezger
2/22	Josh Sytsma

FEBRUARY HOSPITALITY
De Streeter
Howard & Marilyn Goodhue
Austin & Kassie Keeney
Payton Keeney
Lori Beltzer
Brian & Vicky Keeney

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.

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

Continued:



February Greeters	
2/1	Nancy Jennings
2/8	Youth
2/15	Marsha Mezger
2/22	Denny & Kristi Woodruff

Communion Helpers 2/1	
Matt Cope	
Katie Cope	
Darren Sievers	
Marne Sievers	

Children's Message

Those Sharing a Special time during Worship with our children

Feb. 1 - Kathryn Sinclair

Feb. 8 - Youth

Feb. 15 - Tim Crowley

Feb. 22 - Peggy Fogle

Mar. 1 - Katie Cope

Mar. 8 - Youth

Mar. 15 - Ronda Frost

Mar. 22 - Darren Sievers

Mar. 29 - Stacy & Haley

Goodhue

Thank you to all volunteers!

FINANCE CORNER

This information reflects General Account through December 31, 2025.

YTD Actual Giving	YTD Budgeted Giving
\$260,669	\$231,000

THANK YOU for a fabulous December! Giving was up significantly. We asked for your help and prayed to God, and God answered through you. Despite having a number of unexpected expenses in 2025, we were able to finish with a positive budget and strong balance – thanks to all of you!

We hope you will continue your generosity through 2026 as we are budgeting for another strong year. We appreciate our congregation and the many ways you give – through time, prayers and funds.

Please watch for a 2025 Financial Summary coming soon.

January Key Finance Meeting Takeaways

- General Account balance was up significantly due to a very strong December.
- An updated Memorial Policy was reviewed and approved. This will be shared with Administrative Council, and the approved version will be shared with the congregation in the Newsletter.
- The Payment Request Process was reviewed and approved. This will be presented to Administrative Council, and the approved payment process will be shared with the congregation in the Newsletter.
- The 2026 budget was discussed. With updated expenses and income expectations, our deficit is about \$10,000- assuming Pastor share for the entire year. With current strong bank balances, this budget was approved by Finance Committee and will be presented to Administrative Council.



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

Our goal is \$10,600. We have received \$1853 putting us at 17% of goal. Thank you for your support!

GOAL: \$10,600



Memorial Policy

2025

- A memorial is a contribution one makes in memory of a person who has died. To give in another's memory is to express the respect and love that continues beyond death. Carlisle United Methodist Church encourages memorial giving as a part of one's Christian Stewardship. The Memorial Committee seeks to assist persons in giving memorials by providing information and suggestions.
- All Memorials: After several months, a letter will be sent to to the family specifying the memorial funds we have received. It will outline categories of use for the family to select from.
- Memorial donations - total is under \$500 and family did not respond to letter or specify a request: we will not reach out to family but will find an appropriate way to honor them.
- Memorial donations - total is \$500 or more and family did not respond to letter or specify a request - church will reach out to ask what area they would like funds directed toward (broad areas).
- If memorial funds have not found a use in the specified requested area within two years, the family will be notified one last time that the funds will be combined with other funds and used in a way to honor the individual.
- Memorial funds will not be used for day-to-day expenses, unless specifically requested by the family.
- If memorial is given through the estate and is (substantial), we will use it as specified or set up an account to follow their wishes, if at all possible.

Carlisle United Methodist Church (CUMC)

Payment Request Process

1/2026

Finance Committee Approval Requirements

The Finance Committee creates a budget each year which is approved by the Administrative Council. A copy of that budget is available from the Finance Chair or the Treasurer if there is a question on what has been budgeted. In 2023, the Administrative Council adopted the following procedure related to how different items must be approved for payment by the Treasurer.

If an item was not budgeted, it needs to be sent to Finance Committee for approval. If it is budgeted and below \$500, it does not need pre-approval. If it is over \$500, it does need pre-authorization of Finance Committee. If these items come in for approval when there is not a Finance Committee meeting in the near future, an email message will be sent for approval.

If an item is needed for approval, contact FinanceChair@carlisleiaumc.org and copy Treasurer@carlisleiaumc.org with questions or requests.

Note: this approval process does not apply to Kids Hope USA or the ASP youth mission program. Those programs have separate bank accounts.

Charges at Fareway or Sampson Harward (Carlisle True Value)

The church does have accounts at both Fareway and the hardware store for convenience.

Everyone needs to ensure they are following the process so that we can continue to offer this flexibility.

Church members MUST sign the receipt at the place of business in a fashion that the Treasurer can read who charged the item. Church members MUST submit the receipt with a Payment Request Form for General Account charges to the Office Secretary as soon as possible. This is to ensure that the appropriate budget category is charged.

Payment Request Forms for General Account, KHUSA, ASP, Building Addition, Memorial

All payment requests (whether budgeted or not budgeted) must be accompanied by a Payment Request Form signed by either the chair of the appropriate committee, a program administrator or the Church Secretary (if the Secretary ordered the products). Forms are available in the church office or via email from Office@carlisleiaumc.org. Do not email forms directly to Treasurer@carlisleiaumc.org.

Form Submission Process

Forms must indicate the bank account that the payment should come from as well as the accounting code (codes are listed on the form for the General Fund) or a description for the program accounts. Forms will be returned if they do not have the code. If you are unsure of a code, email Treasurer@carlisleiaumc.org for clarification.

All forms must be completed and submitted along with receipts to the Church Secretary either in hardcopy to the office or via Office@carlisleiaumc.org. Please allow up to two weeks for a payment to be made, as the Treasurer ~~generally writes checks~~ two times per month. If a church member paid with their own funds and a check is issued to them, payment will be placed in the Treasurer box in the entry way rather than mailed.



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!



Our WHY CHRISTMAS study with Andy Stanley ended
with a celebration together including a great brunch.
Looking forward to our next study together!

The Women of Grace have begun their new DVD series with Max
Lucado, "JESUS" THE GOD WHO KNOWS YOUR NAME. Please join us
on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Grace Room because we
all need Grace!

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 in the Grace Room to find
out how He knows your name. Remember to show Grace...
because we all need Grace!

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

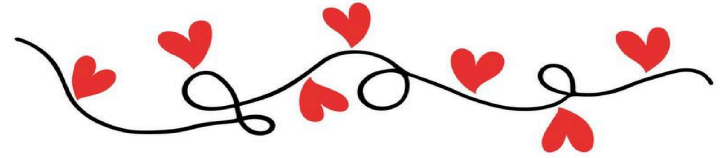
Wildcat ABC News

February 2026

A Caring Ministry of the Carlisle United Methodist Church

Spring Break!

Spring break is fast approaching, and we're gearing up for a fun one! We're leveling up our skills to create some cool decorations and parties to power up our spring break fun. Be on the lookout for all the fun to come!



Spring Break

LOADING



Important Days to Remember

February 20th- NO SCHOOL (Teacher PD)

March 11th & 12th- School Conferences dismissed at 1:30

March 13th- NO SCHOOL

March 16th-20th- Spring Break

Reminders

- Please have your child bring appropriate winter weather for those chill days.
- 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.
- Our Lost and Found is located in the tote under the coat rack in the entryway.



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!



Wildcat ABC Contact Information

Director: Mandi Shaffer

Email: wildcatabcdirector@carlisleiaumc.org

On-Site Supervisors: Danicka Lathrop & Crystal Kruse

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 20th 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 meet at Smokey Row Tuesday the 17th.

This is a time to gather and get to know one another, share stories and laugh!

Everyone is welcome—please join us!



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*



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!





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

Christmas Extravaganza!



Carlisle Care Days



Fall Family Fun Fest



Kick off Block Party!



A ministry of Carlisle United Methodist Church since 2001

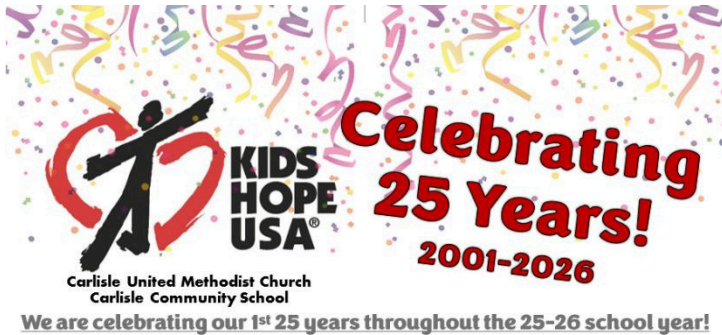
Leadership Team

Sue Mooers & KarlaVoboril – Special Events Coordinators

Deb Smalley – Summer Events Coordinator Mary Conner – Communication Coordinator

De Streeter – Prayer Partner Coordinator Pastor Mike Fillmore Lori Candee - Director

February 2026



January was National Mentoring Month

We celebrated our **First 25 Years** of partnership with Carlisle Community School District on January 25th! We have witnessed so many lives being changed over those years. We had many who have been touched by our ministry present to share.

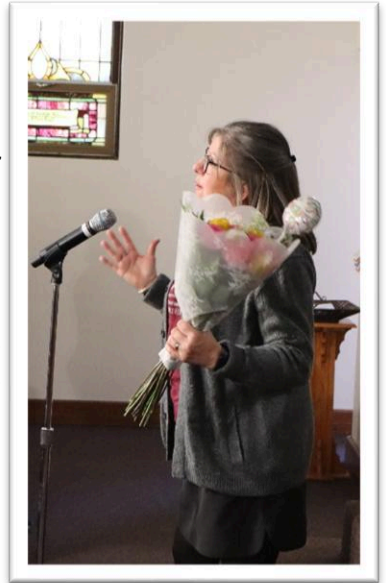
There was a slide show of our Kids sharing with all Kindergarten-5th Grade classrooms about what mentoring is and what it means to them.

Deb Smalley, a member of the 2000 Family Life Center Committee who was researching mentoring programs and Pastor Allen Wiese who found KHUSA on the internet shared how it all started at CUMC – Deb's story was read by Ms. Karla.

Mrs. Rhonda Ray represented the school. Kids and Mentors shared what KHUSA means to them. We were very excited to have the Kids Hope USA President, Karen Pearson join us to share about KHUSA on the national level.

After the celebration, we had a meal with a cake, games, prizes, and many old pictures to look through with old and new Kids, families, and volunteers.

We are so blessed and thankful for everyone who has made CUMC Kids Hope USA a success!



For more information, contact KIDS HOPE USA Director, LoriCandee

515-210-8221 kidshopeusadirector@carlisleiaumc.org

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

February 13 – KHUSA@varsity Basketball
February 26 – KHUSAParty after school

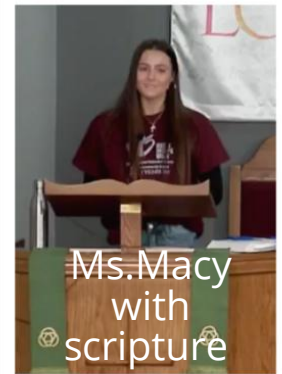
Celebrating our 1st 25 Years of CUMC Kids Hope USA



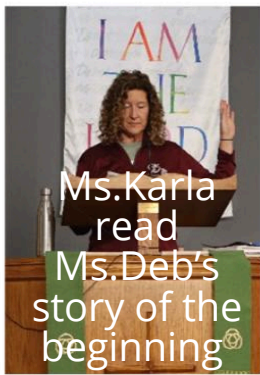
Our marvelous
Leadership Team



Pastor Mike &
Pastor Allen,
who found
KHUSA



Ms.Macy
with
scripture



Ms.Karla
read
Ms.Deb's
story of the
beginning



Mr.Allen & Dillon
started meeting in 2001
& reunited in 2018



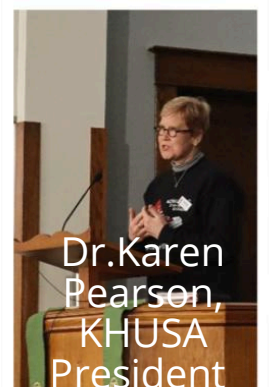
Mr.Eric & Roland
sang



Mrs.Ray talked
on behalf of the
school



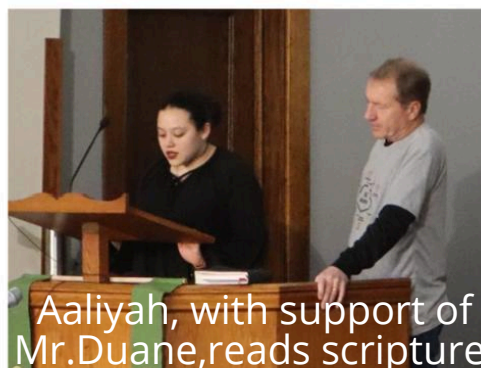
Mr.Eric & Roland, Adrianna &
Ms.Kathy, Darwin & Mr.Darren, and
mom Christina tell about KHUSA



Dr.Karen
Pearson,
KHUSA
President



Children's Time with
Ms.Marilyn



Aaliyah, with support of
Mr.Duane, reads scripture



Mr.Kent thanks
everyone for love &
support

***The first Nerf Battle, held on
January 25,
was a success!***

10 kids and 6 of their FOGs (Favorite Older Guy or Gal) had a blast maneuvering the Nerf battle course in the Family Life Center.

They could also do some target practice (or get off the battlefield) in other locations near the FLC by shooting helium-filled balloons, shooting balls off tubes, shooting into cups, shooting into a target, and shooting cups off a ladder.

Thank you to some generous church members for providing Nerf guns and bullets for this fun event!
Look for Nerf Battle 2 in winter of 2027!





Family Movie & Board Game Night!



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15th 2 - 4 PM

At Carlisle United Methodist Church -
Family Life Center

***Everyone is welcome
to attend!***

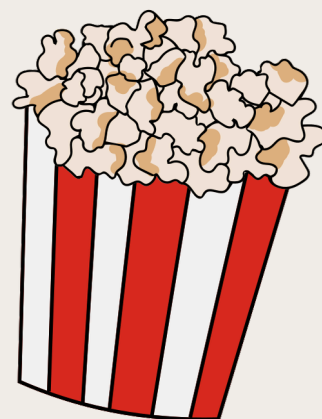
Children must be
accompanied by an adult



A family-friendly movie
will be shown, and
board games
will be available.

*Can't have a movie
without popcorn!* 😊
A popcorn bar will be
provided.

***Feel free to bring
pillows, blankets, lawn
chairs, etc. - anything to
enhance your movie
viewing experience!***





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.



See you there!

Carlisle United Methodist Church
405 School St.

Ways to Give



Cash, Check or QR Code
linked to Church Center



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



Automatic Withdrawal
from bank - ACH forms
available



Mail to Carlisle UMC
405 School Street
Carlisle, IA 50047

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!



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!



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Who will knock your socks off? 😊 Let's help Bidwell Riverside donate new socks! Guess the winner of the 2026 Super Bowl by donating a pair today. Will it be the Seahawks or the Patriots? Who are you rooting for?



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Return Service Requested

