



THE MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 2025

Volume LXV Number 7

What a Weekend! Church Family Campout

by Gannon Grace

If you missed this year's church family campout at Scotts

Flat Lake near Nevada City ... well, I would highly suggest attending next year. This is because from the moment

our tent went up (not without a little help from **Anne, Na-**

thaniel, and Donovan Parker, thank you), the weekend



Several CPC families enjoyed a weekend campout at Scotts Flat Lake in June, including campfire "banana boats."

was full of laughter, connection, and God's beautiful creation all around us.



The Grace family had a blast,

(Continued on page 3)

Paving the Way to Welcome All

by Karen Orlando & Allison Cagley, Capital Campaign Co-Chairs

For months now, we've provided ex-

tensive information about the parking lot

renovation. While it may seem like every-

thing has been said, it's important to ex-



press our deep gratitude for the unwa-

vering commitment of our CPC staff. **Ka-**

ren Gray, Julie Ueltzen, Paul Shultz, and Michael Lombrano consistently go above and beyond. Please take a moment to say thank you when you see them.

We deeply appre-
(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue:

Session Spotlight 2

Why I Came to CPC and Stayed 4

Alternate Parking Plans 5

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering 6

Scuttlebutt 7

Opiate Overdose Prevention Program 9

Library Corner 10

Our Mission 11

Our CPC Staff 11

Sundays @ CPC 12

Session Spotlight

by Mary MacDonald, Clerk of Session

During their regular meeting on June 24, your Session:

- Approved appointing currently serving elders as commissioners to Presbytery meetings for 2025-2026.
- Received the May 2025 financial report.

General Fund

Income, May	\$56,882.96
Income, YTD	\$368,487.29
Expense, May	\$68,475.46
Expense, YTD	\$377,697.94

21st Century Fund

Income, May	\$21,794.14
Income, YTD	\$73,128.05

- Approved vacation for Pastor Keith DeVries for July 8-20 (12 days).

Session did not meet in July, instead gathering for a Grill Fest hosted by **Pastor Keith and Jenny DeVries**.



MISSION BELL DEADLINE

10th of each month
for the following
month's issue



Submit articles to
Karen Gray at
karen@carmichaelpres.org
or mail/drop off a hard
copy in the church office.

... Paving the Way ...

(Continued from page 1)

ciate our pastors. Despite their busy schedules, they found time to meet with over 50 individuals and families to discuss the parking lot. Their dedication is truly remarkable. Thank you, **Keith and Ivan**.

The parking lot renovations would still be a dream if not for the years of hard work put in by **Tim Farley, Len Tozier, Bill Dunn, Ray Collison, Bob Bergsten, Hal Millering, and Rebecca Parker**. Please ex-

tend thanks to these dedicated individuals.

To our congregation and family at Carmichael Presbyterian: you were asked to pledge to a complete overhaul of the parking lot, including solar panels – a project estimated at slightly over two million dollars. It's a significant request, espe-

cially during uncertain times. Yet, thanks to your gracious devotion and support, we have received 82 pledges to-



taling over \$802,000. Combined with the existing parking lot fund, the new total now stands at \$1,571,000. Amazing! We thank you and we praise God.

We are not finished yet. We encourage those still considering a pledge to spend time in prayer to discern how you might contribute. It's not too late to help make this project a success. Stay tuned for updates on start dates and parking options as we approach groundbreaking.

Thank you for your belief and support of "Paving the Way to Welcome All."

... All Church Campout...

(Continued from page 1)

that is for sure. Here are some of my favorite highlights.

1) **Games galore** - games you've heard of and games you haven't (all were a blast, once comprehended). Friends could also bring any games they wanted to share.

2) **Hiking**- we explored the vast campsites we had and went on different trails with the dogs.

3) **Dogs aplenty** - There were two in CPC's group but others on leashes around other campsites. Gracie and Bailey almost became BFFs (maybe on the next trip!).

4) **Paddle boarding and swimming** in the crystal-clear waters of Scotts Flat Lake. It was a little chilly this time, but some seemed to enjoy it!

5) **Singing around the campfire**- we enjoyed singing together around the fire to new and old songs.

6) **S'mores by the fire** -yes, the marshmallows *were*

perfectly golden... most of the time - and some tried a new delicious treat called a

sparkled conversations and laughs. Whether you've never been camping before or

you're an avid camper, this is your invitation to come. Our family only camps occasionally and it was our first time with the group, but we had a great time. Everyone brought their



CPC's annual family campout included water play, hikes, games, food, and fellowship.

own food except a communal meal was shared on Sunday morning. It was a great time to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature, whether you come alone, with family or a friend. Just remember to bring anything you can't live without in the middle of the woods for a few days ... especially your love for the Lord.

Banana Boat!

7) **Sunday morning pancake breakfast** included piles of sausage and fruit.

8) **Breaking bread together**, sharing meals that turned strangers into friends and friends into church family.

Campfires were warm and

Why I Came to CPC and Stayed

by Cathy Wride

A few years ago I decided to look for a church that was more aligned with my spiritual and political beliefs; a church that was more inclusive of all people regardless of race and/or sexual orientation and a church that embraced the rights of all people – legal, illegal, male or female. I had been searching for a few months and tried two other churches that I liked, that coincidentally were Presbyterian too. However, one day I

was reading in the *Carmichael Times* that CPC was voted Best Church in

Carmichael. It so happened that it was five minutes away from me. I drove past Carmichael Presbyterian quite often on my errands around town and often wondered about it.

So, after reading the reviews in the *Carmichael Times*, I decided to visit. Upon entering the church for my first time, I felt like I was stepping back in time. The church felt a little old-fashioned to me – rather like the church I had grown up in. It was unlike the big churches that I was used to with contemporary music

as opposed to the traditional hymns being sung here. In spite of this I decided to have an open mind and give it a try.

I enjoyed the messages from the pastors and the time spent with children before they went to their respective classes.



Upon visiting with people during coffee hour, I felt welcomed and loved in a way that I hadn't felt in awhile. Not to say that the other churches weren't welcoming but I felt something different here. I learned about all of the other activities and ministries that were taking place at CPC. One would never know looking from the outside that there was so much going on here! Once I became a regular attendee I learned about the Food Closet, homeless outreach, and cooperation with

HART to provide showers for homeless people. I learned about the Robertson House providing transitional housing for homeless men. I thought, "This church really walks the talk."

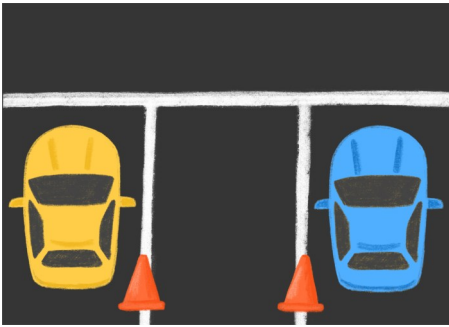
I learned more about the Food Closet and decided to volunteer. I love the service that we provide and enjoy working with all of the other volunteers, including **Barbara Farley**, who is part of the leadership team.

Everyone is so friendly and happy to be helping in one way or another. I've always wished that grocery stores would donate food to a worthy cause before it spoiled and here it was happening from Walmart, Grocery Outlet, sometimes Trader Joe's and even Sacramento Food Bank when they have extra.

As I continued attending, I started getting to know people little by little, in Bible study, at coffee hour in the DeVries Gathering Place and at the Wednesday night dinners. I felt at home and enjoyed conversations with both new and long-time members. I enjoyed helping out at the Harvest Festival with food prep and Trunk
(Continued on page 5)

Alternate Parking Planning Begins

by Rebecca Parker



I agreed to identify parking options for CPC community members during the upcoming renovation. For many years, CPC has had an informal agreement with businesses in the buildings to the east of the campus for Sunday parking. To update that agreement and to ensure access to parking behind Carmichael Library, I'm working with Carmichael Improvement District staff to identify the County agencies responsible for those locations. Similar planning is underway for the Food Closet. I started working on these plans in early July and will provide updates via the *Parish Notes*. If you have specific concerns, don't hesitate to contact me at raparker52@gmail.com.

Lunch at the Library



Youth 18 and under are invited for a free lunch at

the Carmichael Library Tuesday through Friday from 12:00 -1:00 p.m. through August 8. No registration is required, but lunches must be eaten at the library. For more information, go to <https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Meals-at-the-Library>.

... Why I Came to CPC ...

(Continued from page 4)

or Treat activities for the kids. I was also happy to discover that there was a Stephen Ministry where I could go to pray with others about what was on my mind.

On one of my first Sundays, Music Director **Keith Atwater** was presenting a talk on Buddhism followed by a talk on the Catholic Orthodox Church and the differences between these beliefs and Protestantism. I found it fascinating to learn about other philosophies and sects of Christianity—yet another example of openness to learning about others who believe differently from us.

I attended CPC for about a year and then decided I wanted to become a member, so I attended classes and joined in November 2024. I was then asked to join the team as a Deacon or Elder. I chose to become a Deacon to get my feet wet, so to speak! I'm looking forward to helping out on the Care and Share team and any other way I can be of service.

Oh wait – there's more! I can't wait for the Women's Retreat coming up September 12-14 at the Zephyr Point Conference Center in Lake Tahoe. If you've never been you should check it out. It's

beautiful and nourishing for our body and soul! See you there!

I thought I'd end with saying that I'd like to interview other members/attendees as to why they came to CPC and stayed! It would be fun for me and others in the church to get to know you and hear your stories. If you are interested in being interviewed for the *Mission Bell*, contact me at cath-ylw@jps.net. I'll look forward to talking with you and you just might see me approaching you at coffee hour to ask about your history here. Good -bye for now!

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

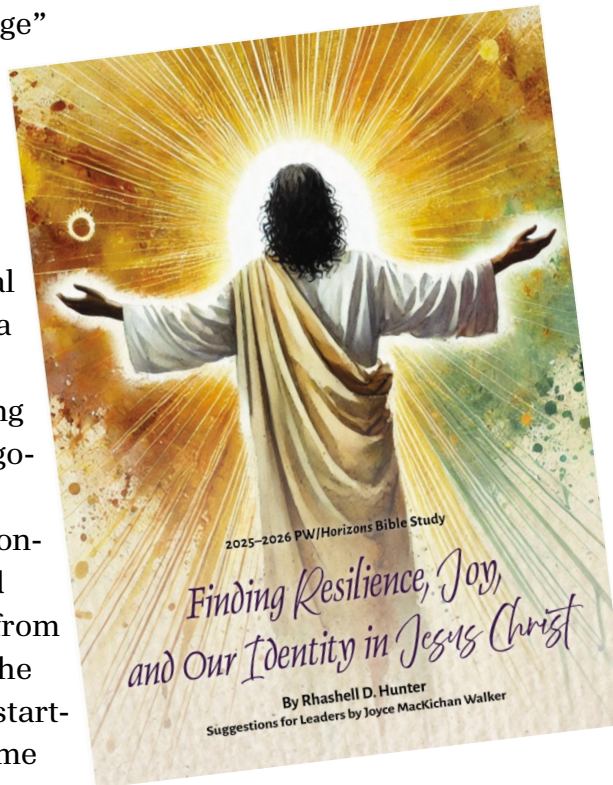
by Lisa Benadom

Presbyterian Women (PW) will hold its Fall Kick-Off event on Thursday, September 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the DeVries Gathering Place.

CHANGE is on the horizon for PW. If the word “change” causes you angst, you are in good company. Breathe! PW at CPC remains fully committed to Bible study, mission, and fellowship. Our traditional circle format is changing a bit for 2025-2026. There will no longer be a morning circle as Naomi Circle is going on hiatus. However, Mary Martha Circle will continue meeting on the third Thursday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the DeVries Gathering Place starting in October. We welcome our Naomi sisters in Christ to join us, and we welcome anyone else interested in attending. Please contact **Lisa Benadom** at lbenadom@comcast.net OR **Kathy Daigle** at kathy777@gmail.com if you would like more information. If you are interested in a new circle that would meet at a non-school day/workday time, please contact **Rae-Nani Stokes** at rae-nani@hotmail.com.

Dorcas Circle, our World

Service Sewing Circle, remains alive and well. For more information regarding this opportunity, contact **Carolyn McGregor** at [sa-brina53@earthlink.net](mailto:sabrina53@earthlink.net).



Our Bible study this year will be *Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity in Jesus Christ*. In the nine lessons of the study we will explore: 1. Resilience modeled by several Biblical characters, Gospel and epistle writers, and in the words of Jesus; 2. Christian joy and how to find it in a chaotic world. We will learn that joy can occur even while we are amid difficult circumstances; 3. Identity: our core identity is not found in our titles, our positions, our spous-

es, our partners, or our possessions. For Christians, our identity is found in Jesus Christ. We will seek to rediscover our identity. At our Fall Event in September, Pastor Keith will lead us in Lesson 1: “Mary Magdalene, the Tower.” We will examine how our faith is strengthened by learning more about Mary Magdalene, a towering witness to the resurrection.

Does this Bible study intrigue you? Well, here is another opportunity to participate. Starting in October, Lessons 2 through 9 will be examined during a pastor-led study via Zoom. These meetings will take place on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. ALL are welcome to join the Bible study. Contact **Karen Gray** in the church office to be added to the Zoom meeting list. To purchase the study guide, contact **Terry Sakuda** at terry.sakuda@yahoo.com. The cost is \$16.

PW has a long-standing history at CPC. Yes, we are changing, but we enthusiastically embrace what God has in store for us. “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” -Ecclesiastes 3:1

Scuttlebutt

News from CPC's Marinerships

Holy Scow

Play ball! That's what a small group of Holy Scow crew



*Top: Holy Scow members (back row) **Jim and Suzan Wurz**, **Terry Summers** (peeking out) and **Len Tozier** and (front row) **Dan and Linda Franke**, guest **Fanica Trice**, and **Darlene Little** enjoyed a summer River Cats game.*

*Right: **Terry Summers** and **Len Tozier** obviously enjoyed the evening and might have been celebrating Len's beach ball prowess.*

we had lots of fun watching the game and sharing in some of the antics that go on between innings. **Len Tozier** was instrumental in helping our half of the stadium get a beach ball to the middle of the stands to win the contest.



members and one guest heard on a very warm summer night at Sutter Health Park. We started out in the sun, but as the evening progressed we enjoyed a lovely summer evening in the shade as we cheered on the River Cats. They put on quite a show, leading the Oklahoma City comets all the way through the 8th inning. Unfortunately, **Suzan and Jim Wurz** had to leave before the 9th inning and apparently took the good vibes with them. At the top of the 9th the Comets made a comeback that the River Cats couldn't overcome and won the game 9 - 7.

Aside from the final score

Sadly, his masterful handling of said beach ball wasn't caught on camera. Our evening ended with the traditional Friday night fireworks before we parted company until the next time we get together.

Mothership

In June, the Mothership crew took on our first official cargo project—hosting the Wednesday night dinner while the regular team took a well-deserved summer break. With spaghetti on the menu

and fellowship at the heart of it, 39 guests gathered in McMullen Hall to enjoy a tasty meal and good company. Special thanks to the teens in our group, who stepped up in a big way to help set up, serve, and support the evening with their capable hands and a real heart for helping.

We also delivered on our contribution to the Planting Seeds of Faith Auction with a memorable Waffle Fest. Guests were treated to a four-course brunch featuring an imaginative lineup of sweet and savory waffles, all paired with made-to-order Italian soda mocktails. Conversation was lively, and even a bit competitive, during the breakfast themed trivia in which the winner was delighted to receive a mini waffle



Mothership started their busy summer hosting a Wednesday Dinner.

maker as the prize. Start to finish, it was great food, great company, and a great way to

(Continued on page 8)

... Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 7)
support the Children's and



Scandella's son, Glenn Merker, grilled hot dogs and others brought appetizers, salads, baked beans, watermelon, pies, and cake to round out a super outdoor potluck. **Diane Instness** and **Bette Johnson** lavishly decorated the tables with flowers,



Mothership also hosted a Waffle Brunch to support the Planting Seeds of Faith auction and enjoyed a well-deserved movie night.

were dressed likewise.

Afterwards, **Doris Beckert** and Margo passed out song sheets and led the group in a sing along of well known patriotic numbers and camp songs.

By then it was dusk and time for sparklers. Glenn was proclaimed as the Fireworks Master and lit the wands. The evening ended with the proverbial BANG from all the other neighborhood rockets and red glare.

Companionship

On July 5 the Companionship met at the home of **Barbara and Tim Farley** for another traditional and fun celebration of our country's independence. After relaxing in the sun and shade with water, iced tea,

Youth Ministry that helps our young ones grow in faith.

After a month filled with planning, prepping, and serving meals—both at church and in our own homes—it was a welcome treat to unwind together with a night out at the movies. Shared laughter, snacks, and screen time was just what we needed to recharge.

Skipjacks

Twelve shipmates celebrated the Fourth of July in **Carolee Roach's** backyard with a cookout. She also invited us to a "pool party," but the only use of water was as a beautiful visual background.

As for the food, **Margo**

bows, bears, and flags all in red, white, and blue. Diners



Skipjacks (back row) Doris Beckert, Carolyn Biggers, Carolee Roach, Glenda Perrou, and Tony Perrou and (front) Bette Johnson, Diane Instness, Margo Scandella, Terry Sakuda, and Pattie Shaw celebrated the 4th of July with a potluck, singalong, and sparklers. (Not pictured: guests Marsha Cook and Glenn Merker)

margaritas, and lemonade, we moved into the family room where we had our business meeting followed by a very challenging but fun game of July 4 trivia. Ques-

(Continued on page 9)

... Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 8)

tions like: Who was the first signer of the Declaration of Independence? Can you name any presidents who were born on July 4? Or any who died on the 4th of July? What color were the first fireworks? The Companionship champions were **Bonnie and Burt Logan** and **Nancy and Dave Studer**. All these tough questions made us ready for



Companionship members celebrated Independence Day with a barbecue and July 4th trivia.

dinner. But first Tim treated us

to a video recording of King George singing in the musical

Hamilton. Very funny! Next we went outside to festively decorated tables and a lovely breeze. Dinner included delicious BBQed hot dogs by Master Chef Tim Farley with Superior Supervision by **Hal Miller-ing**, macaroni salad and fresh fruit provided by Barbara Farley and **Sharleen Millering**, and for dessert: ice cream or root beer floats and Sharleen's Aloha Paradise Bar cookies ... yum! We all had a wonderful time eating and drinking and visiting and eating and drinking and visiting ... a delightful evening was had by all!

Our next meeting will be playing Mexican Train. If you'd like to visit our ship, please contact our Lookout, **Sharlene St. Clair**.

Opiate Overdose Prevention Program

by Rebecca Parker

Between October and June, I attended training on behalf of CPC to learn about the biological process of addiction, the role of opiates, how to reduce harm from opiates, addiction treatment, and recovery with the goal of reducing opiate overdose deaths. This ecumenical effort was supported by The Clinton Foundation in collaboration with the California Department of Health Services



and Sacramento County Substance Abuse Services. Representatives from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and Religious Science denominations met monthly to share our faith's history of, and openness to discussing addiction and overdose prevention. This was the 13th year the Clinton Foundation has sponsored these trainings and the first one in Sacramento.

I'm now part of a county-wide network of faith leaders

tasked to increase our church members' understanding of addiction, reduce stigma (e.g., addiction is not a moral failing), address concerns, find treatment resources, and celebrate recovery. Ultimately, we are focused on preventing deaths from opiate overuse by providing harm reduction materials: fentanyl test strips (to determine whether drugs purchased on the street are laced with fentanyl), and Narcan (a nose spray that rapidly stops

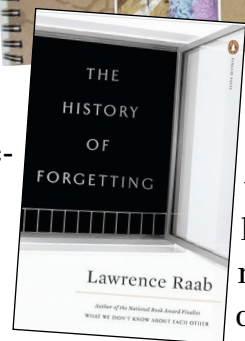
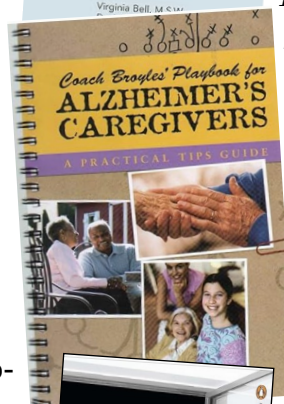
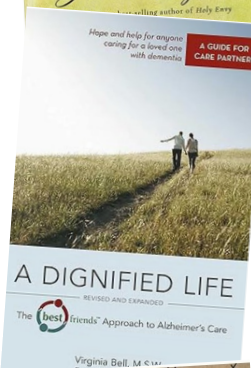
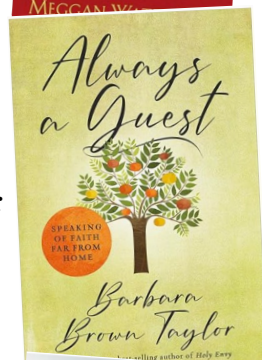
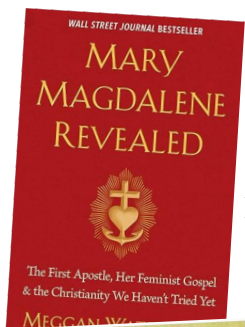
(Continued on page 10)

Library Corner Recent Additions

by Doris Beckert

In support of the upcoming PW Bible Study *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*, I purchased two books from the suggested resource list.

- Watterson, Megan. *Mary Magdalene Revealed: The First Apostle, Her Feminist Gospel & the Christianity We Haven't Tried Yet.* (229.8) The very first lesson is all about Mary Magdalene, so this should be good supplemental reading.
- Brown Taylor, Barbara. *Always a Guest: Speaking of Faith Far from Home.* (252.03) Brown is a theologian and one of the world's twelve most effective preachers. This is a collection of 31 of her sermons



preached at host churches. She uses everyday language and many apt examples to make her points. It is very readable.

Several donations have been added in recent months.

- "It Shouldn't Be That Hard" (614) is an article published in *Popular Mechanics* about **David & Lisa Benadom's** difficult experience in trying to donate the organs of David's brother, Brian, who passed away earlier this year. Look for the red binder.

Emily Moulton donated books on Alzheimer's:

- *A Dignified Life: the Best Friends Approach to Alzheimer's Care*, (616.898), and
- *Coach Broyles' Playbook for Alzheimer's Caregivers* (616.898).
- She also gave a book of poetry, *The History of Forgetting*, by Lawrence Raab (811)

These books and many more are available for you to check out! The church library is open on Sunday mornings and during church office hours.

... Opiate Program ...

(Continued from page 9)

an otherwise fatal opiate overdose).

Participants developed plans for sharing what they'd learned about addiction and recovery and in return received \$2,000 grants. I worked with Rev. Jason Bense, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer; and Rabbi Nancy Wechsler, Congregation Beth Shalom to sponsor a Recovery Market on Sunday, May 18, at Congregation Beth Shalom. Recovery Markets provide an opportunity for artisans in recovery to reestablish connections to sell their artistic creations. Markets have a very upbeat atmosphere as friends reconnect and share their successes in recovery. Items for sale include BBQ spices, wood-worked items, crocheted items, tie-dyed clothing, and jewelry.

CPC will host the next Recovery Market on Saturday, August 30, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The main Market will be in McMillen Hall. Classes or meetings will be held in classrooms or the parlor. It's a family friendly event that I hope will attract many people in the CPC community.

Our CPC Staff

The Rev. Keith L. DeVries

The Rev. Ivan N. Herman

Keith Atwater, Music Director

Michael Lombrano,
Children's & Youth Ministry
Director

Paul & Mary Camozzi,
Childcare Providers

Karen Gray,
Executive Assistant

Julie Ueltzen,
Church Secretary

Paul Shultz,
Financial Administrator

Ron Morris,
Maintenance Manager

Christian Bolen, Custodian

John Busath,
Food Closet Warehouse
Manager

Heidi Van Regenmorter,
Organist

Rikki Pratt,
Mission Bells Director

Gabe Bisho, Pianist

Will Condrey, Drummer

Merlyn Van Regenmorter,
Bassist

Noor Bitar, Michael Gray,

Bruce MacLean,

Steve Parker, Kiyo Romais,

Avonlee Janik, and

David Stoffel,

Audio/Video Technicians

Our Mission

Responding to God's love through
Jesus Christ, we:

- Welcome all
- Nurture relationships
- Grow in faith together
- Connect with and serve our community and the world



Contact Us



by phone:

916-486-9081

Extensions:

Keith DeVries	203	Julie Ueltzen	200
Ivan Herman	202	Michael Lombrano	207
Paul Shultz	205	Ron Morris	206
Karen Gray	201	Keith Atwater	208

via e-mail:

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Karen Gray	karen@carmichaelpres.org
Paul Shultz	paul@carmichaelpres.org
Ron Morris	ron@carmichaelpres.org
Keith Atwater	music@carmichaelpres.org

The church office is open Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.





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TIME VALUE MAIL

Sundays @ CPC

In-Person & Live Stream Worship 10:00 a.m.

A blend of traditional and contemporary music styles bring new life to the Word. Worship in the Sanctuary or join online. Go to youtube.com/@carmichaelpres or search for “carmichaelpres” on the YouTube app or your Smart TV.



Summer Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

All children are welcome and encouraged to attend worship. Following the Time for Young People, kids age 4-5th grade are dismissed to Summer Sunday School, where they can enjoy a quick lesson, a fun activity, and time to play.

Nursery care for infants through age 3 is available throughout the morning.



Coffee Fellowship & Youth Bible Study 11:00 a.m.

Visit and enjoy a cup of coffee and a cookie while you browse the Art Exhibit in the DeVries Gathering Place or chat with friends old and new following worship.

Youth in 6th through 12th grade are encouraged to come to the Upper Rooms (youth rooms) for Bible study.

