



THE MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2026

Volume LXVII Number 10

Run to Feed the Hungry at CPC is Back in 2026!

The Membership Division invites you to join and Out-reach Division invites you to join as we gather on Thanksgiving morning to run through Carmichael in support of the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. Once again, we will gather at church at 8:45 am to run/walk 3.1 miles through the Carmichael neighborhood



CPC's 2025 Run to Feed the Hungry group included two- and four-legged participants

us as we gather on Thanksgiving morning to run through Carmichael in support of the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. Once again, we will gather at church at 8:45 am to run/walk 3.1 miles through the Carmichael neighborhood

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Rooted Deep, Reaching Wide 2027 Stewardship Campaign Making Room

by Jami McCray

I had the privilege of serving on the welcoming team for CPC's recent Truth Matters workshop. I stood in front of the church-greeting attendees, many of whom were

not members of our congregation, and directing them to parking. I also had the unfortunate task of telling our unhoused neighbors that their weekly show-er would not be available that Saturday. Many had strong

reactions. A few simply shrugged and walked away with a little less energy in their stride.

That morning, CPC had to make a tough decision. We didn't have enough space to do everything, so we turned away a group we faithfully serve all year long. The good news is that showers resumed the following week.

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Pastor Keith Writes: Holy Generosity!

With a heart filled with gratitude, I want to say, “Thank You,” for your *“Holy Generosity!”* Over the past 25+ years that I have served as your pastor, I often marvel at your boundless generosity and ability to muster the resources to help others in need. You, the members and friends of CPC, exhibit it day in and day out, *“Holy—Generosity.”* Here is what I mean by that: “holy” referring to exhibiting behaviors of compassion, reconciliation, joy, and peace. To be holy is to be set apart for God’s activities and God’s purposes in service to the needy. “Generosity” is a sign of divine grace. A selfless response, and a willingness to share above and beyond what is expected, demonstrates the unselfishness of your actions.

Here are a few examples of what this looks like at CPC. CPC’s Food Closet began in 1973. Since then volunteers have served countless guests. Through several transformations and reorganizations along the way, the Food Closet is still going strong after 53 years. Even during the 2020 pandem-

ic, when the world shut down, and now with the parking lot renovations limiting our access to the campus, the doors to the Food Closet remain open and ready to serve our community—modeling *“Holy Generosity.”*

“I often marvel at your boundless generosity and ability to muster the resources to help others in need. You, the members and friends of CPC, exhibit day in and day out, *“Holy—Generosity.”*”

Back in 2011, as you had committed to funding both the operating budget of the church and our fourth capital campaign, CPC realized that the exterior of our sanctuary desperately needed painting. So, we approached you through our “Save the Adobe” campaign, asking if you would help us raise \$50,000. You committed to funding twice that amount, enabling us to not only paint the sanctuary and the chapel

but also to renovate both roofs. Again, I was amazed at your *“Holy Generosity.”*

In 2003 we launched the “Planting Seeds of Faith” luncheon and auction, with the goal of funding three primary activities for our children and youth; Vacation Bible School, Youth Mission Trips, and Summer Camp Scholarships. After 22 auctions and \$500,000+ raised, donors, bidders, and attendees have enthusiastically demonstrated nothing short of *“Holy Generosity.”*

I think it is safe to say that we have all had our fair share of financial challenges this year, as individuals, as families, and as a faith community. Navigating global and national economies has not been easy. First, I want to say “thank you” for your pledges of financial support and for your commitment to faithfully honoring those pledges. Secondly, I want to ask you to prayerfully consider an additional gift to CPC, as we try to meet our financial obligations and expenses.

With gratitude and thanksgiving for teaching me the meaning of *Holy Generosity*, I simply say, *“Thank You!”*

Pastor Keith

... Making Room ...

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That Saturday it was space, not money, that ran short. But the lesson reaches further beyond that one day. Everything we steward is finite: space, time, volunteers, staff, and dollars. When any of them runs short, choices must be made, and sometimes the people we serve receive a little less than they have in the past. Many of us are making similar trade-offs in our own lives. Inflation at the grocery store, prices at the pump, and the cost of housing weigh heavily on many households, so this is a hard time to ask our faithful church family for more. Yet if

we want to continue the work God has called us to accomplish in the Carmichael community, that is exactly what we must do.

Our theme this year is “Rooted Deep, Reaching Wide.” CPC is firmly rooted in this community, and those roots are what allow us to reach so far: a Food Closet open four times a week, a monthly hot supper,

showers and winter respite for our unhoused neighbors, and a campus that welcomes guests from across the region. Hosting a workshop and serving our neighbors on the same Saturday was reaching wide, and it showed how quickly we come to the limits of what we have. Deep



CPC is firmly rooted in this community as we welcome guests through hosting events, providing groceries, and much more.

roots and a wide reach both need nourishment.

Stewardship comes in many forms:

our time, our talents, our prayers, our presence. This year's campaign focuses on money, because money is how we sustain everything else: our pastors and staff, our building, and the ministries that keep our doors open to everyone who needs them.

If you haven't already, you will soon receive a letter and

pledge card in the mail. Commitment Sunday is November 15. We invite you to pray and consider what you can give in the year ahead. This year, our goal is to cover our expenses without drawing on our operating reserves and to give our staff a pay increase, since no increases were given last year. To do that, we need pledges to rise by about 5% over last year. Every pledge, whatever its size, helps us plan responsibly and say yes more often than we have to say no.

None of us wants to be the person standing at the door explaining why we

can't serve someone this week. Together, we can keep our roots deep and our reach wide, making room for everyone who comes through our doors. Thank you for your generosity, past and future.









You Are Invited!

Breaking Bread, Building Bridges:
Many Faiths, One Table
Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner & Fellowship

All Are Welcome!

Date
 Tuesday, November 17

Time
 6:30 PM

Location
 Saint Mark's UMC
 2391 St Marks Way,
 Sacramento, CA 95864

Please RSVP by November 10



Question? John & Miriam McCormack
 firetester14@gmail.com

Sponsored by Saint Mark's UMC & Pacifica



Wednesday Dinner

Everyone is invited to enjoy a meal and conversation together on Wednesday evenings in McMillen Hall starting at 6:00 p.m. through the first part of June. Enjoy a delicious dinner for \$7 per person with a \$25 max per family and/or pizza for \$1 per slice. Youth Group for grades 6-12 meets from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and the Sanctuary Choir rehearses starting at 7:00 p.m.

We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with set up, clean up, making pizzas, and preparing meals. Cooks can choose the menu and are reimbursed for food expenses. You can volunteer every week, just once, or as your schedule allows. Interested? Contact Pastor Ivan at 916-486-9081 or ivan@carmichaelpres.org or Lynette Ledesma at catcmom@gmail.com and they will be glad to find a spot for you.



... Run to Feed the Hungry ...

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tion is open at www.runtofeedthehungry.com. Many of our past participants have walked, rather than run, and strollers, bicycles and pets are all welcome. We encourage you to invite friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors to join the fun and fellowship.

Contact **Anne Parker** with questions and let her know if you plan to join us.

If you would like to participate with a team, you can join with other runners and walkers on Team North Central California Presbytery. If you have questions regarding team registration, contact **Maria Mar** at 916-414-2080 ext. 4 or treasurer@nccpresby.org

Mission Updates: Alternative Gift Market

by Barbara Farley



For the past 35 years on the first Sunday of November, the Mission Division of Carmichael Presbyterian Church has supported ministries in Sacramento and around the world by hosting the Alternative Gift Market (AGM). After a thoughtful process of evaluation that included the availability of vendors and leadership, the Mission Division decided the AGM, in its historical sense, is no longer an appropriate way for us to do ministry.

We know that many of you started your Christmas shopping in November by buying craft items and donating to local organizations supported by CPC. For this reason, we are including a list of organizations who have most recently been at our AGM. Each one of these organizations received a letter from us a few months ago explaining that we would no longer host an AGM. We told them, as an alternative, we would list the organizations and their contact information in the *Mission Bell*. If you wish to continue a family tradition of giving cards with donation information to people on your shopping list, you can do that through each organization's website or email and request a gift card. Or you can go to another AGM in our area. The closest to us is at Fremont Presbyterian Church near Sac State on Saturday and Sunday, November 28-29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

You are invited to contribute to these organizations that have benefitted from CPC's Alternative Gift Market in the past:

Family Promise	P.O. Box 1378 Sacramento, CA 95812	916-443-3107 familypromisesacramento.org
Mustard Seed School	1321 North C Street Sacramento, CA 95811	916-447-3626 mustardseed@sacloaves.org
Coalition of Concerned Medical Professionals	3714 Marysville Rd. Sacramento, CA 95838	916-925-9379 ccmpsacramento@juno.com
Carmichael HART	P.O. Box 1822 Carmichael, CA 95609	916-716-6228 carmichaelhart.org
World Relief Sacramento	2233 Watt Avenue Sacramento, CA 95825	916-626-0827 worldrelief.org/sacramento/
Presbyterian Giving	100 Witherspoon St. Louisville, KY 40202	800-533-4371 pcusastore.com
Heifer Project	1 World Ave. Little Rock, AK 72202	855-948-6437 heifer.org

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

*Want to find out what it means to be Presbyterian,
how CPC operates, and how you can connect to the life
and ministry of CPC in a way that is meaningful to you?*

Join Pastor Keith for new member classes on

Sunday, November 15

1:00-3:00 p.m.

and

Saturday, November 21

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

(includes Welcome Lunch!)

Childcare will be provided upon request.

Questions? Want to sign up? Contact Anita Lawson at
anitawlawson@gmail.com

MISSION BELL DEADLINE



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

(Please note that November 10 is the deadline for the December 2026/January 2027 edition. There will not be a separate January newsletter.)

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

Library Corner

by Doris Beckert



The church library is open on Sunday mornings and during church office hours for your reading and browsing pleasure. In addition to a large selection of nonfiction, the library also has several works of fiction, including a couple of book series and a cozy kids' corner with books for any and all reading levels.

You can also find a complete listing of available books at <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/carmichaelpres>. Come find your next great read!

Come to Me – 2026 Women’s Retreat

by Sharon MacLean

On the weekend of September 18-20, we had 41 wonderful women attend the Women’s Retreat at beautiful Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center at Lake Tahoe.

Our wonderful speaker was **Pastor Cathy Lovejoy** of Shepherd of the Sierra Presbyterian Church. Our theme was “Come to Me”

(based on Matthew 11:28). We learned how important it is to make rest a priority so you can do better in all other areas of life – ministry, family, work, health, etc. If your tank is empty, you’re not living fully. But also,



it turns out that rest is not just taking a nap or a good night’s sleep. Rest can be time away from work listening to music, a favorite hobby, time with friends, time in nature, prayer, dancing, etc. Whatever fills your tank. Our weekend was full of “rest” ... and time with amazing women.

Ladies, mark your calendars for next year’s retreat – September 17-19, 2027 – and plan to join us for another wonderful weekend.



CPC’s 2026 Women’s Retreat was “Come to Me.” More than 40 wonderful women enjoyed a beautiful weekend at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center in Lake Tahoe.



What's Up in Children's & Youth Ministry?

by Michael Lombrano, Children's & Youth Ministry Director

Children:

On Sunday, November 15 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. we will be hosting Children's Movie Night! We will be watching "How to Train Your Dragon" (2010) and will have dinner with the movie! Please let **Michael Lombrano** (michael@carmichaelpres.org) know if you plan to attend!

Youth:

Scavenger Games is Sunday, November 15, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Join us for our annual Scavenger Games in a scavenger hunt across our campus. Be ready to run around and look high and low. Bring a friend or rock solo, either way, the winner(s) get a prize! We hope to see you there!

Questions about any of CPC's children's and youth programs? Contact Michael Lombrano at 916-486-9081 or michael@carmichaelpres.org.



Session Spotlight

by Mary MacDonald, Clerk of Session

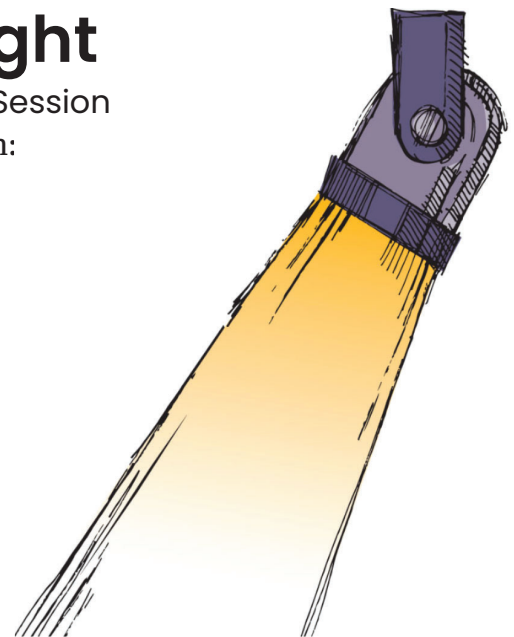
During their regular meeting on September 22, your Session:

- Received the August 2026 financial reports.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>August</u>
Income	\$80,535.64
Income, YTD	\$623,390.62
Expense	\$70,287.69
Expense, YTD	\$571,545.80

<u>21st Century Fund</u>	<u>August</u>
Income	\$28,542.67
Income, YTD	\$213,548.82
Expense	\$265,552.66
Expense, YTD	\$923,657.36

- Approved Study Leave for Pastor Ivan from October 5-8 to participate in a preaching cohort
- Approved Study Leave for Pastor Ivan from October 12-14 to attend the Pastor's Renewal Retreat
- Scheduled new member classes for Sunday November 15 and Saturday November 21
- Called a special Session Meeting for November 21 at 12:00p.m. to receive new members



by Kathy Lewis, Inclusion Task Force Chair

by Kathy Lewis, Inclusion Task Force Chair

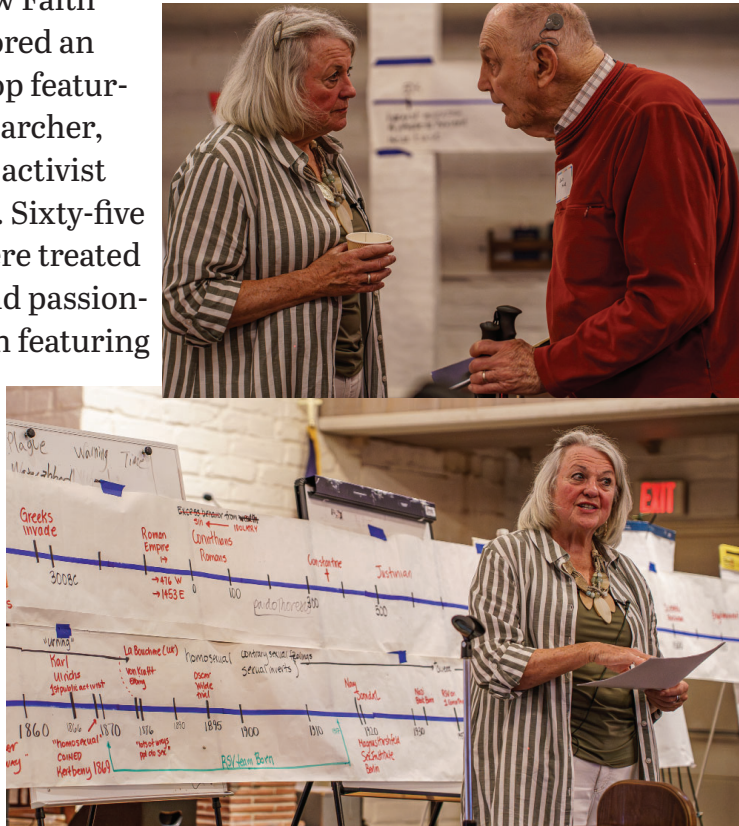
Evaluations of the event were all positive! People felt welcome, liked being part of a multi-faith-

Karen Gray was invaluable

In Our Church Family



- the family of **Dick Strader**, who passed away on October 1.



Author and activist **Kathy Baldock** presented an information-filled workshop and discussion at CPC in October.

Messiah Sing Sunday, December 6 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Local church choirs and their conductors join CPC as we sing the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah with orchestra and keyboard.

We'll have copies of the choral score to share.

Non-singers are invited to watch from the balcony or at home on YouTube.

Spread the word among your musical friends!

Caregiver Support Group



If you are caring for a loved one, you are invited to join CPC's Caregiver Support group, meeting the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom. The next meetings will be November 4 and November 18.

For more information or to receive the Zoom link, please contact Kathy Lewin at kslewin@sbcglobal.net.

Presbyterian Women PW Study Continues with Lesson Three

by Terry Sakuda

During our study of lessons 1 and 2 we reflected on Unity in Christ, Wisdom from God and Connected in Christ. We joyously continue our study with lesson 3.

Lesson 3: Freedom in Christ

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 5-6

Main Idea: The purpose of freedom we have in Christ is for our lives to be a sign of God's victory over death. Through the saving grace of Jesus Christ, we are set free to make choices that benefit each other.

We will learn how Paul rebuked the Corinthian church regarding how conflicts are handled and reminded them that they are siblings in Christ in faith and should treat each other accordingly. Acting contrary to the Gospel, damages the body of which we are all members. We will discuss what limits to our behavior can Christians agree on. We will also discuss how the church should assert its authority over nonbelievers and reminds us that God is the judge of these nonbelievers. This is so relevant today.

PW Bible Study Books

There are still Bible Study books available. If you are

interested in obtaining the Bible study book, please contact **Terry Sakuda** at terry.sakuda@yahoo.com The Bible Study books are \$16 and available in the church office. Please put payment in the PW mailbox.



Lesson Three in the 2026-2027 PW Bible Study, *United in Christ, Bound to Each Other* is "Freedom in Christ."

PW Pastor's Bible Study

On Thursday, November 12, **Pastor Keith DeVries** will lead the PW Bible Study Lesson 3 via Zoom, at 10:00 a.m., sharing his insights. All are welcome. If you wish to join these Zoom meetings, please contact **Karen Gray** in the church office for the Zoom link. These meetings are very informative and provide for lively discussions.

PW Circles

Mary Martha Circle meets monthly for continued Bible study, prayer, fellowship, mission and to nurture our faith as we share with one another. We also share reflections, fellowship and prayers. As **Lisa**

Benadom stated in the October *Mission Bell*, "Unity is rich in meaning and glorious in reward." Mary Martha will continue to meet every third Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. from October through May. If you have any questions about this Bible Study or about the Mary Martha Circle you can contact Lisa Benadom at lbenadom@comcast.net or **Kathy Daigle** kathyp-daigle777@gmail.com.

Dorcas Circle is our World Service Sewing Circle. The Dorcas Circle is for those who are interested in quilting, knitting and sewing. If you are interested in joining this sewing circle, please contact **Carolyn MacGregor** at sabrina53@earthlink.net.

Scuttlebutt

News from CPC's Marinerships

Companionship

On October 3, a very warm Saturday, thirteen Companionship members met in the nicely air-conditioned DeVries Gathering Place for a fun afternoon of visiting, snacks, games, and more



Companionship members enjoyed board games at their October gat-together.

visiting. The snacks, drinks, and wonderful Halloween decorations were provided by **Sharleen Millering, Priscilla Mauerman, and Barbara Farley**, and a delicious pear gingerbread cake was provided by Sharleen.

The players were led by our skipper **Hal Millering** who conducted our business meeting.

After the meeting we decided to play UpWords, a three-dimensional version of Scrabble, and one of our traditional favorites: Mexican Train.

The players were Sharleen and Hal Millering, **Nancy and Dave Studer, Sharlene St.Clair, Priscilla Mauerman, Bonnie and Burt Logan, Nina and Wayne Henley, Barbara**

and Tim Farley, and Chris Beeby.

The winner of Up Words was Priscilla Mauerman who kept saying she was a terrible spell-

er: not! And Barbara Farley was the winner of the first



Mexican Train ... the second game dissolved as rules were made and broken and a good time was had by all. (We missed **Sally Willey's** rule coaching!)

If you'd like to visit our ship, please contact our Lookout, Sharlene St. Clair.

Mothership

On the evening of Wednesday, September 2, Mothership were joined by the CPC Youth Group and **Michael Lombrano**, Youth and Children's Ministry Director,

to tackle the mountain of diapers collected through our Summer Diaper Drive. The goal was to package the diapers into 12-count bags for distribution at the Food Closet. While our combined efforts addressed the vast majority of the donations, we failed to complete our mission in the 1.5 hours we allotted for this activity.

That said, we are happy to report that, to date, we have prepared 528 bags of diapers (6,120 diapers in all) for distribution at the Food Closet.

We are astounded by the generosity of our CPC family.

On Saturday, September 26, Mothership fulfilled our commitment to the Planting Seeds of Faith Auction by welcoming 12 guests to WaffleFest 2.0 at the DeVries Gathering Place. The art gallery was set up with a



CPC's youth joined Mothership to bundle and sort more than 6,000 diapers donated in their Summer Diaper Drive!

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... Scuttlebutt ...

(continued from page 12)

dedicated dining area adorned with fall-themed decor. Our 5-course brunch featured tasty bites like Waffled Sesame Rice topped with crab salad, avocado, spicy mayo, and furikake; and Waffled Quesadilla Sticks served with homemade tomato soup made



Mothership hosted WaffleFest 2.0 in September as a "sign up" item from the Plannting Seeds of Faith auction.

with veggies grown in **Julie Ueltzen's** garden. We also featured mocktails for our guests to enjoy: Blue Berry Limeade and Midnight Crisp. A friendly trivia game was won by **Jenny DeVries** who left the event with a brand-new mini waffle maker.

WaffleFest 2.0 was enjoyed by all. Mothership are grateful for the opportunity to create a

fun event that benefits Children and Youth Ministries at CPC.

Skipjacks

Remember that travel saying: "If it's Saturday it must be Holland?"

Well, it's Saturday and it's October, so it must be Dutch Pea Soup cooked by **Bep van der Mik**.

Despite the unseasonal heat outside, we enjoyed hot soup, cornbread, salad, chocolate chip and wind-mill almond cookies and plenty of ice water.

Pumpkins and colorful fall leaves decorated the tables in the Gathering Place, thanks to **Bette Johnson**.

Substituting for Chaplain **Glenda Perrou, Doris Beckert** read a prayer by **Jimmi Mishler** that appeared in a small booklet printed in-house in 2000, along with several other members' prayers. Doris found it in the library in the archives section. What a surprise for Jimmi.

Debbie Cameron reported that 20 children's books for Mustard Seed School have been delivered by her and Doris. Our cargo

projects are gradually being completed for this year.

Our upcoming White Elephant Sale at our November 7 meeting was discussed. Two serious and substantial gifts per person will be auctioned off. This will be our major fund raiser for next year's treasury.

Bette has offered to host this year's Christmas Potluck. The date is Saturday, December 5, at 1 pm. At that time a committee of Diane, Carolee, Margo, & Bep will put into nomination the officers for next year. We will reveal our Secret Pals with a

card to share with all.



Bep van der Mik prepared Dutch Pea Soup for the Skipjacks October gathering.

Sundays @ CPC

In-Person and 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.



Children's 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 their classes.

Preschool through 2nd grade students experience Bible stories through Godly Play. Kids in 3rd-5th grade learn together using lectionary-based Whirl curriculum.

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



Coffee Fellowship Waterfall Singers & 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.

Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade can join CPC's children's choir, Waterfall Singers. Youth in 6th through 12th grade are encouraged to come to the Upper Rooms (youth rooms) for Bible study.



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,
Administrative Assistant

Paul Shultz,
Financial Administrator

Ron Morris,
Maintenance Manager

Christian Bolen, Custodian

John Busath,
Food Closet Warehouse Manager

Heidi Van Regenmorter,
Organist

Gabe Bisho, Pianist

Will Condrey, Drummer

Merlyn Van Regenmorter,
Bass Guitarist

**Noor Bitar, Michael
Gray, Bruce MacLean,
Steve Parker,
and Kiyo Romais**,
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 email:

Keith DeVries	keith@carmichaelpres.org
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Michael Lombrano	michael@carmichaelpres.org
Julie Ueltzen	carmichaelpres@gmail.com
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. to 3:00 p.m.



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