

CARLISLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

305 Market Street, 515-989-0176
Email: carlisle.cc@q.com
FB: Carlisle Christian Church — DOC
Website: www.carlislechristianchurch.com
Sunday School @ 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship @ 10:00 a.m.
Worship @ 10:30 a.m.
Kristin Pike, Pastor

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

We are a movement of more than 3,000 congregations in the United States and Canada, committed to sharing the limitless love of God throughout the world. We worship in over 17 languages, in a variety of styles and settings. We are related to 15 colleges and universities and 7 seminaries and divinity houses where new leaders are nurtured. Our 31 regions, 14 general ministries, and ministry partners throughout the world make it possible for us to love and serve our neighbors from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

Lord, give us the ability to speak not in languages of hate or greed, complacency or discontent, but in love and peace, mercy and kindness; in generosity and benevolence, in humility and patience, and in truthful words of encouragement. Amen

*Jesus was born in
a manger because
there was no
room in the inn.*

*An angel of the
Lord appeared to
shepherds and
told them where
to find Jesus lying
in a manger in
Bethlehem.*

Christmas
— Anon

Every time a hand reaches out to help another...that is Christmas.
Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding...that is Christmas.
Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other...that is Christmas.
May this Christmas bring us closer to the blessing peace!

*Three wise
men fol-
lowed the
Star to
Bethlehem
to find the
new king of
the Jews.*

*Mary pon-
dered these
things in her
heart.*

REGIONAL NEWS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN THE UPPER MIDWEST



WINTER YOUTH RETREATS!
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

CHI RHO (GRADES 6-8) JAN 23-25
CYF (GRADES 9-12) JAN 23-25
JR (GRADES 3-5) FEB 20-22

SCAN ME

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$130
AFTER JANUARY 16 CHI RHO/CYF IS \$150
AFTER FEBRUARY 13 JR. IS \$150

<https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/mid-year-retreats>

Mid-Year Youth Retreats

REMINDER: Youth retreats are just around the corner! Registration is open! The early bird deadline is Dec. 1. The Chi Rho and CYF retreats will be held at the same time again this year.



SUMMER 2026 CAMP DATES

FAMILY CAMP	JUNE 5-7
GRAND 1	JUNE 13-14
JR 1	JUNE 14-19
CHI NON-RUSTIC	JUNE 14-19
CHI RHO 1	JUNE 21-26
CYF 1	JUNE 21-26
BEGINNER	JUNE 29-JULY 1
JR 2	JULY 5-10
GRAND 2	JULY 11-12
CHI RHO 2	JULY 12-17
CYF 2	JULY 12-17
ADAM	JULY 19-24
ADVENTURE	JULY 26-31
JR 3	AUGUST 2-7

Registration Opens November 1, 2025

Watch for more information and the registration link!

2026 Camp Sessions will begin on Sundays with 4pm drop-off and conclude on Friday with a 2pm pick-up

Christmas Special Offering Dec 14 & 21

All gifts made through the Christmas special offering stay here in the Upper Midwest, supporting the many ministries of the region, including supporting congregations in transition.

Christmas Concert - Sara Groves

Sara Groves, a Christian singer-songwriter, will be bringing her Christmas concert to West Des Moines Christian Church, West Des Moines, IA on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7p. She will be performing songs from her Christmas albums *O Holy Night* and *Joy of Every Longing Heart*.



Meals from the Heartland

Empowering people to save starving children

Want to share the Spirit of Christmas? Join us **December 11th** during their “The Gift of Hope Christmas Pack.” The dates are December 1-20 if you are not able to be with us on Dec. 11th and would still like to volunteer your time. Call the church office, or contact Judy Watkins (515-681-1741) or Nancy Cumberland (515-481-3804) by Dec 7th if you would like to help and we’ll plan to car pool. **Our shift begins at 2:30p so we’ll need to leave Carlisle by 1:45p.** We will be going to WDM Packaging Center, 357 Lincoln St. A fun and worthwhile project!

The Meaning of the Candy Cane

Hard Candy: Reminds us that Jesus is like a “rock,” strong and dependable. His love grows sweeter each day.

Peppermint flavor: Reminds us of the gift of spices from the wise men.

White Candy: Stands for Jesus as the holy, pure, sinless Son of God. He washed our sins away and made us white as snow.

The “J” shape: is for the Name of Jesus, our Savior.

Cane: Is like the staff used by the shepherds in caring for sheep. Jesus is our “Good Shepherd.”

The Color Red: Is for God’s love that sent Jesus to give his life for us on the cross. His blood he shed for us.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: (Workers are few, but the harvest is plentiful.)

The **Middle River Friends Church** needs help on **Mondays and Wednesdays Noon to 2:30** to help with the **food pantry**. Please contact Cathie Zeliadt at 515-975-3815 if you are interested in helping. **THANK YOU!**

The **Carlisle Care Center** needs **volunteers to come and read to the residents; or to do crafts/bingo** with them. Please call the facility and ask for Missi Reiland or Jennie. 515-989-0871 **THANK YOU!**

The **Community Meal Site** needs **drivers!** Let others know. Only takes an hour a day to help others. Reach out to Mary at 515-989-4367. **THANK YOU!**

ONGOING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Free Breakfast: *Middle River Friends Church*
1st Saturday each month
8:00-9:30 a.m.

Carlisle Area Historical Society Breakfast
Randleman House Adults \$10
2nd Saturday each month
8:00 -10:00 a.m.

Free Breakfast: *Masonic Lodge, Hartford*
3rd Saturday each month
7:00-10:00 a.m.

ONGOING FOOD PANTRIES

Middle River Friends Church, 4057 S 23 Hwy
Mon & Wed 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1100 Market St
2nd & 4th Tues, 4-5:30 p.m.

School Food Pantry, 430 School St.
1st & 3rd Thurs, 4-5:30 p.m.

CCA Blessing Box, Carlisle Christian Church
305 Market St., North side of bldg
Open 24/7 (DONATIONS ALWAYS ACCEPTED.
OR come help yourself also.)

GRIEFSHARE: Beginning Dec 6th Tuesdays 6:30p and Wednesdays 10:00a
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
2566 Scotch Ridge Road
Carlisle, IA
515-989-0659

Canned chicken is back! \$10/jar. Help spread the word to friends and families. Call the church office and leave a message with your order.
515-989-0176.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE STANDING EVENTS AT YOUR CHURCH!



Everyone is welcome to gather after the worship service on the **first Sunday** of each month to dig deeper into the sermon and to ask ANY question of the Pastor.



You are welcome to join us on the **second Sunday** of each month as we worship/sing with the residents of the **Carlisle Care Center at 1:00 p.m.** Delightful time with lots of smiles!



Pastor Kristin is leading an Advent Study on **Tuesdays** at two different times and locations. The Carlisle Christian Church study will be held at 10:00 a.m. The Community United Presbyterian Church in Hartford study will be held at 6:30 p.m. Come prepare for our Savior's arrival.

Getting to know your BIBLE

Every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. join others in learning more about the Bible. How to get the most out of it; what's in there; prophecies; and so much more.



Usually on the **third Sunday** of each month we share a potluck lunch. The church provides the main course and YOU supply the trimmings! **HOWEVER, WE WILL HAVE A SOUP POTLUCK ON DEC. 14TH, SO DON'T MISS OUT!**

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Gloria Graham 2nd
Sande Zirkelbach 2nd
Rev. Bob Zirkelbach 4th
Kay Tilton 6th
Craig Price 10th
Sarah Lamb 20th

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Craig and Kayla Price 3rd

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS



Heavenly Father, you know needs, struggles, and hearts. We pray for your love and grace, bringing healing to bodies, minds, and spirits. Let Your Holy Spirit work, bringing comfort and hope where there is pain and uncertainty. We ask these things in the name of your only son, our Savior, Jesus. Amen

Our friends in Care Centers:

Gordy Kain Joe Lang Patsy Overton

Friends & family members:

Cathie Berg Sandee Zirkelbach
Randy Skoglund (Sande Zirkelbach's brother)
Mike Lynch (Linda Lemley's oldest son)
Rodger Rothfus family

Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, (39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

REMEMBERING MILITARY PERSONNEL

Justin Miller (Okinawa) Tara Wesner (IN) Josh Wesner (IN)

Our Prayer Group's focus is centered on being more intentional with praying to our Heavenly Father and providing comfort and care to our church family.

- If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Group, please join them on the last Sunday of the month at 4:00p in the West room.
- If you would like to receive prayer requests via text message, please call the church office or let the pastor, an elder, or deacon know. Once you receive a message, please stop and pray for the situation. The **POWER OF PRAYER IS MIGHTY!** If you have a prayer request you would like to go out, let an elder, deacon, board member, or Pastor Kristin know. If you have any questions, contact Kyle Nordyke at 515-306-2356.

A story that never gets old and is worth reading again and again:
Luke 1:26-2:40 and Matthew 1:18-2:23.

We will be hosting a Blue Christmas evening on Wednesday, December 17th from 4-6:00 p.m. This will be a time of remembrance, prayer and lighting of a candle. You may come anytime between these hours and stay as long as you wish.

Dear Friends,
This is the last newsletter I will be putting together. Changes are coming in 2026. Blessings to you all. Nancy C.

NEWS FOR YOU

WORSHIP, Judy Watkins, Chair

The **Blue Christmas** evening is on Wednesday 12/17 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

Rebecca Campbell will filling in for Justin on 12/21 and 12/24.

Justin and friend will provide special music on 12/30, and Justin and Rev. Bob Zirkelbach on 12/7.

Christmas Eve Service will be on Wednesday 12/24 at 7:00 pm.

If anyone is interested in **joining the Carlisle Christian Church and/or being baptized**, please contact Pastor Kristin (515-989-0176 church or 515-230-6511 cell or pastorkristincarlislechristian@gmail.com).

EVANGELISM, Kayla Price, Chair

Thanksgiving - Thank you for your donations of stuffing mix and cranberries. CCA and St. Vincent De-Paul served approximately 120 families in our community on Saturday, November 22nd.

CCA Spirit of Christmas program - Our church will be adopting three families for Christmas supplying gift cards and grocery cards along with a box of fresh food. Your donations are very much appreciated! Checks may be made payable to the church with "Christmas families" on the memo line by Sunday, December 14th.

Mitten Tree-We would like to collect warm mittens, gloves, hats and socks for the Carlisle School District students. Mittens and socks get wet quickly during the cold winter months! These will be donated to the school in mid-January.

Items may be placed in the white donation box in the coat room or the back room on the table.

Personal Care Bags - We will be collecting personal care items to place in bags for the homeless to be donated at the end of January. Items needed include: shampoo, shower gel, soap, shower puff, toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss, cotton swabs, deodorant, small tissue packs, band-aids, feminine hygiene products, etc. These items may be placed in the white donation box in the coat room or the back room on the table.

PROPERTY, Craig Price, Chair

- Hauled broken table, broken restroom cabinet, broken chairs and glass from West room cabinets to land fill.
- New exit signs were installed and inspected by Fire Department. They said we should take down old emergency lights which has been completed.
- Trimmed tree in Memorial Garden.
- Zinkulas cleared garden boxes.
- Yard was treated by GT Lawn Service.
- Will clear leaves at least one more time.
- Moved tables purchased by CWF to garage and brought tables from basement to double classroom.
- Assembled new cabinet for upstairs restroom.

FINANCE, Cheree Miller, Chair

The congregation voted to order the "lift" since enough funds have been secured. The vendor will store it for us as construction will not begin until after the first of the new year. Please continue to pray over this project.

October Offering: \$4,164.00
October Actual Expense: \$13,720.43
Shortage: (\$9,556.43)

CWF Judy Watkins, President.

1. Canned chicken is back! Hopefully, beef will be canned after the holiday.
2. Senior Ladies Christmas Party is on Monday, 12/8 at 1:30 pm.
3. Discussion regarding cleaning/sorting/organizing to prepare for the lift project, and possibly sending letters to the Scouts, Freedom for Youth and Janet Ray to organize their areas of storage.
4. Discuss specific guidelines regarding camp fees.
5. The Blessing Bank has not been as successful as in years' past. We collected so far \$499.30. Thanks for everyone's support for this budget project!
6. Next meeting is January 12, 2026.

December 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Worship, Community Life, Education @ 5:30p	Advent Study at CCC @ 10:00 a.m. CUPC @ 6:30 p.m.	Getting to know your Bible @ 5:30 p.m.			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Post sermon discussion @ 11:30a	CWF Senior Ladies Christmas Party @ 1:30p Finance, Property, Evangelism @ 5:30p	Advent Study at CCC @ 10:00 a.m. CUPC @ 6:30 p.m.	Getting to know your Bible @ 5:30 p.m.	Meals from the Heartland packaging day, depart the church @ 1:45p		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Potluck @ 11:30p Caroling @ 1:00p	Board Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.	Advent Study at CCC @ 10:00 a.m. CUPC @ 6:30 p.m.	Blue Christmas @ 4-6p Getting to know your Bible @ 5:30 p.m.			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Advent Study at CCC @ 10:00 a.m. CUPC @ 6:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service @ 7:00p	MERRY CHRISTMAS! Pastor Kristin out of the office	Pastor Kristin out of the office	Pastor Kristin out of the office
28	29	30	31			
Pastor Kristin out of the office	Pastor Kristin out of the office	Pastor Kristin out of the office	Getting to know your Bible @ 5:30 p.m. Pastor Kristin out of the office			



Carlisle Christian Church
305 Market Street
Carlisle, IA 50047