

Church Office Hours 8-4 Mon-Fri,
Pastor Bob Norris (989)763-7231
PHONE: 906-639-2165
Email: cefc@carneyfreechurch.org
Discipleship Classes 9am

52 Church St
PO Box 56
Carney, MI 49812
Website: carneyfreechurch.org
Worship Service 10am

Serving This Week: December 21, 2025

Worship Leader: Colette Gilbert
Song Leader: Caleb Meissner
Livestream: Laura Strietzel
Tim Strietzel
Greeters: Bernie Strahl
Don Ihander
Children's Church: Singing in Service
Toddlers: Diane Brazelton
Nursery: Martha Palmer & Ducky Stanfors

Serving Next Week: December 28, 2025

Worship Leader: Michelle Gilbert
Song Leader: Tristan Kacynski
Livestream: Krystle Kuntze
Mike Pollard
Don Ihander
Greeters: No Children's Church
Children's Church: Sonja Dwyer & Athena Dwyer
Toddlers: Megan Meissner & Grace Imhoff
Nursery:

Facilities Team On-Call December: Roger Jones (715) 927-1801

Budgeted Dec: 14,043.08	YTD Budgeted: 179,049.27
Received Dec: 14,145.00	YTD Received: 181,243.84
Spent Dec: 4,522.19	YTD Spent: 184,025.22



Thank you for letting the Lord give through you to sustain the ministries of Carney Free Church! You can use the offering boxes in the lobby on Sundays to give in person, or if you would like to give online (one-time or regularly), please point your camera at this code. Hold it until it opens a link. Click on the link.

The mission of Carney Evangelical Free Church
is to make fervent and obedient disciples
of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20)

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION DECEMBER 21, 2025



"HOPE FOR THE FEARFUL"
JOSHUA 2: 6:22-25
PASTOR BOB NORRIS

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION

December 21, 2025

Prelude Instrumental Solo *Mike Brown*

Joy to the World **Congregational Song**

Advent Reading *Moreau Family*

Welcome & Call to Worship, Greeting Time

O Come All Ye Faithful **Congregational Song**

Nativity Melody *Choir*

The Christmas Story *K-6 Kid's*

John 3:16

A Merry Christmas

We Shall Overcome *Duke Erickson*

There's a New Kid in Town *Cindy Betters*

400 Years *Cate & Michelle Gilbert*

Congregational Scripture Reading **Luke 1:26-38**
Prayer

We Three Kings Instrumental *Caleb Meissner & Michelle Gilbert*

Reading *Ruth Hyrshkanych*

He Shall Reign Forevermore **Congregational Song**

Holy Forever (Christmas version) **Congregational Song**

Silent Night, Violin *Autumn Meissner*

Holy Night, Silent Night *Rachel, Autumn, Greta & Megan Meissner*

Message: Pastor Bob Norris
"Hope for the Fearful" Joshua 2; 6:22-25 (p 178)

All is Well *Choir*

Before You Go

Benediction

TODAY

8:45am Café Corner, Fellowship & Refreshments
9:30am Prayer in Pastor's Office
10am Morning Service

THIS WEEK

Dec	23	7:30am	Men's Bible Study
	24	5pm	Christmas Eve Service
	24		Office Closed (24-26, 29)
	25		Merry Christmas!

COMING SOON

Dec	30	Annual Reports to Office Please
	31	Office Closed @ noon
Jan	1	Happy New Year!
	4	11:30-4pm Sr High & Jr High Lunch/LLBC (they will return to church by 4)



PRAYER FOR OUR FUTURE PASTOR & OUR CHURCH

We are praying for our future pastor & his family on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays – for our church on Tuesdays – and for our Transition Team on Tuesday & Thursdays.

Monday Dec 22, Ask God to heal any hurts that our Pastor has suffered in the ministry.

Tuesday Dec 23, Pray for wisdom for our church's leadership as changes are implemented.

Wednesday Dec 24, Pray for the Lord to reveal His will to our Pastor.

Thursday Dec 25, Pray for an overwhelming sense of God's presence and guidance as we work through the steps of the search.

Friday Dec 26, Pray for our Pastor's family as they transition to a new location.

Hope For The Fearful

Joshua 2; 6:22-25

December 21, 2025

This morning, we continue our hope-filled review of the genealogy of Christ as presented by Matthew. Last Sunday we looked at the first mention of a woman – Tamar and her father-in-law Judah. This morning, we pause at the 2nd mention of a woman – the one who forever will have a label, but was part of God’s forgiven family – her name is Rahab and she not only was part of the story – but the point of the story.

1. Rahab’s Faith In Action – Joshua 2

- The setting for the story – vs. 1
- Her “occupation” – vs. 1
- The secret is exposed – vs. 2-7
- Rahab reveals what is in her heart – *fear* – vs. 8-11
 - What did she know about God?
 - What she knew about God’s plans
- Rahab acts on what she believed – vs. 12-24

2. Rahab’s Reward For Her Faith – Joshua 6:22-25

- Go get her and her family – vs. 22-24
- She and her family are spared because of her faith in action – vs. 25a
- She lives among the Israelites to this day – vs. 25b

3. A Post-Script – Matthew 1:5

So What?

Christmas is all about God starting the process of reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, *not counting men’s sins against them*.

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Digging Deeper.....for further study either individually or with a small group.

1. Read Joshua 2:1-24. Observe as many details as possible, and ask God to tell you what He wants to say through this narrative. Basically, what happens in 2:1-24?
2. The Lord had repeatedly promised to *give* the land to Israel (1:2-3, 6, 13, 15). Was Joshua faithless, then, to send spies to scout the quarry? Why or why not?
3. Read Hebrews 11:1-2, 31 and James 2:25-26. What lessons do these two New Testament letters draw from Joshua 2?
 - Hebrews:
 - James:
4. What was Rahab's "faith"? What did she believe about the Lord, and why? (see Joshua 2:8-11).
5. How did her beliefs affect her deeds (see 2:2-7, 12-21)?
6. What became of Rahab and her family when Israel finally took Jericho (see 6:17-25)?
7. God had commanded that all the Canaanites must be destroyed because of their wickedness toward each other and their rebellion against Him (see Deuteronomy 7:1-5; 9:1-5). Why was the family of Rahab the prostitute saved from destruction? What does this tell you about God?

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New Elder Initiative – Pastoral Assistant – Temporary, Part-time

This new Elder Initiative is in keeping with the desire of the Elders and congregation of Carney Evangelical Free Church to undertake a fresh start with our efforts to make *fervent and obedient disciples of Jesus Christ*. One step to the desired success will be a greater emphasis on evangelism and discipleship efforts necessitating an increased allocation of time and financial resources.

The Christian Education (CE) ministry team is charged with fulfilling most of the discipleship efforts, much of which is accomplished by volunteers who selflessly invest their time and talents. The challenge is that we are experiencing fewer people willing to step up and fill these roles. The pending departure of Brian & Haley Kuntze will impact the leadership of our youth group and place even more of a strain on our already stretched volunteer base.

Carney Evangelical Free Church is at a point where a concentrated retooling of our discipleship efforts is necessary to become more effective in our mission. It calls for an investment of time that is more than Pastor Bob can make given his role as an intentional interim. Your next permanent pastor will also have significant demands on his time during those early months as he gets to know our church family along with the usual, pastoral responsibilities of preaching and teaching.

For the past 10+ years, Brad Moreau has volunteered his Christian Education expertise, training, and time here in Carney. The needs of his growing family are such that he will most likely need to scale back his involvement here in order to better provide financially for his family. We cannot afford to move backward if we are serious about a fresh start in making fervent and obedient disciples of Jesus Christ. over



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Ministry Responsibilities:

Our elders have hired Brad on a temporary, part time basis providing him the freedom to use his education and expertise to help stabilize and grow our discipleship efforts. Below are the highlights of his expanded responsibilities pertaining to Christian Education here at CEFC:

- Focused attention on stabilizing the staffing needs of Wednesday evening ministries
- Implement at least one additional adult discipleship class on Sunday mornings
- Vision-cast, implement, and oversee all Christian Education (CE) ministries.
- Recruit, train, and oversee volunteers for Christian Education (CE) ministries
- Plan special events, such as Districts and other youth retreats/activities, 5-Day Club, children's holiday programs, and service projects.
- Continued leadership of the CE ministry team

We are expecting Brad to invest approximately 10-12 hours weekly which will include Sunday responsibilities and any ministry meetings of the teams he would be a part of. He has been hired as an *independent contractor* (meaning he is responsible for his own taxes) for 12 months @ \$1,000/month for him to focus on the ministry responsibilities noted above. His remuneration will be funded exclusively by the Spiritual Growth Ministry Fund which is outside the General Fund of CEFC. He will report weekly to Pastor Bob or the incoming permanent pastor for the 12-month commitment. He will begin his expanded responsibilities on January 1, 2026.

Please direct any questions that you might have to Pastor Bob or any of our elders. Please be praying for Brad as he begins in this expanded role in a few weeks.

December 14, 2025

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K-6 Kid's

Reader	Greta Meissner
Joseph	Titus Meissner
Mary	Evalyn Schaff
Angels	Callie Brown, Harper Charles, Liberty Imhoff, Chloe Hartwig, Mia Hartwig, Sammy Moreau and Adrienn Schaff
Shepherds	Rowan Brown, Peter Meissner, Eli Moreau, Tim Moreau and Abram Schaff

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Monday	Luke 1:26-56	Friday	John 1:19-34
Tuesday	Luke 1:57-80	Saturday	John 2:1-12
Wednesday	Luke 2:1-21	Sunday	Zechariah 9:9-17
Thursday	John 1:1-18		

NEW & NOTES

MID COUNTY FOOD PANTRY in Stephenson: In January, our church is responsible for providing people to help on Saturday Mornings, Sign up to help at the Welcome Center.

Thank you Laurie Chaney for altering the costumes. Thank you for using your musical & artistic talents.

THANK YOU: I just wanted to say thank you to all of you for your prayers, kindness & encouragement that you give me throughout the year! Thanks also to Elaine for doing a great job on the bulletin board and to Jennifer L. for folding the bulletin. ~ Susie

On Behalf of the NELSON FAMILY, I would like to thank our church family for all the encouragement and prayers you have given to dad and mom through the 56+ years we have been attending this church. Because of health reasons, my parents had to move with my brother, Dan's family. They will miss all of you very much. If you have time, here is their new address: Milo & Joyce Nelson, 109 East White Bear, Negaunee, Michigan 49866. They would appreciate the encouragement at this time. Thank you again! ~ Colleen.

There are updated newsletters from the Browning, Weise & Derocher Families located on the eastside entrance bulletin board and at the Mission Center.