

CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JULY 2020 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME #24, ISSUE #7

The other day, on social media I saw an object lesson that caught my attention. A man squeezed an orange and asked the crowd what would come out of the orange he was squeezing. Of course, they replied “orange juice.” And that is, indeed, what came out of that orange, orange juice. He then asked them if someone squeezed them what would come out? In other words, when we are pressed, put under pressure, what would come out of our spirit? This really made me go in to a deep meditative time in my prayer life, about my personal spirit, a spirit that most often goes neglected...there is just always too many other things that need care. I was not surprised but also not pleased by what God revealed to me.

When COVID 19 became a real thing in Smith County I began to make changes and adhere to decisions made by superiors. Squeezing me then caused excitement, energy, and creativity to flow. The church never missed a beat, we immediately switched to online offerings for Bible Study, Worship, Children’s Ministries. Blogging began to help guide those that prefer to read. Note writing and phone calls replaced visits. Our outreach was, and still is large.

That was nearly four months ago. Now if you squeeze me, you may get, impatience, frustration mostly born out of exhaustion. None of these traits are useful, productive, or helpful. Jesus instructed us that we will be blessed if we recognize our need for Him. I recognize that need. Now! In my prayer life it became evident that I need a vacation to reset, recharge and refuel for the new shifting and changing that lies ahead for Carthage United Methodist Church. While we have “come back...out back to be exact” we are still constantly making changes and adapting as our surroundings require. As TJ mentioned in his lay leader article, we won’t be going inside yet. We have some safety changes that need to be made, some audio enhancement that we are making to help those that struggle to hear and it is taking a little while to work through the proper channels and figure things out. Worship will still continue out back. On rainy days, bring your chairs, we will be inside the CLC, distanced course. And, as always, all study, worship, etc. offerings will remain online and there is more to come as we see the need.

To prepare for what lies ahead, I will be leaving for a short vacation. Joe and I will be staying at a friend’s home, but we will be unreachable by phone or online. Jane Turner will handle pastoral calls and emergencies. Deanna will also be on vacation July 1st & 2nd and the office is closed the 3rd.

When I come back, I have faith that God will help me to be rested, ready and excited for whatever comes our way. I count on God to restore all creativity, adaptability, and energy those 6 days away. I love you, and I can’t wait to see what we do next for the glory of our Lord. Put your runnin’ shoes on! It will take all of us!

Pastor Monica

NEWS FROM LAY LEADERSHIP

Summer is finally here! What a year! I know many of you are like me and feel like this year has been five years long so far. If you watch the news regularly at all you would be hard pressed to find any good news. I try to limit my exposure to that! There is good news here at Carthage UMC though. We are finally moving toward getting back to regularly meeting in person! Sunday, June 21st brought in person worship back to the back parking lot. It was certainly good to be back with everyone that was able to be there. We have tried to be diligent in following the Bishop's recommendations for in person gatherings and I think we have done that. As we begin to move back toward meeting in the building some things may look different. We will be social distancing and working to limit touched surfaces that could allow germs to be transferred. I would ask that we would all share some grace with each other during this time as we have up until this point. It is definitely not easy for anyone but I hope we can all follow the guidance of Philippians 2:3 and "do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves". I can't wait to see you all soon!!

Blessings, T.J.

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YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:



#picture scripture2020 is a way for the youth to share their interpretation of passages of the Bible that we are reading on the social media platform of Instagram. The Bible is the living word of God...it feeds our spirits. The same way that a well-balanced meal nourishes our body, God's word can provide nourishment to our souls in time of need, sickness, health, sorrow, joy, celebration...there is a scripture passage for everything our soul craves: peace, faith, trials, courage, grief, joy, anxiety...

#picture scripture2020 gives each individual an opportunity to share their own experiences with God's word...how it feeds us, what it means to us at the moment that we read (and feed) on it.

All it takes is a Bible passage and a creative spirit.

There is no right or wrong way to interpret God's message – use your imagination! Color, draw, sketch a picture that comes to mind...use your smart device to take a photo of your interpretation. You can include the scripture address, if you'd like.

Let's share our favorite "spiritual foods" and prepare a social media feast for our souls!!

See you on Instagram @carthageyouth2020!

**2020 QUARANTINE
QUESTIONNAIRE
????????????????**
**LET'S SHARE
OUR PANDEMIC
LESSONS AND
LAUGHS WITH
EACH OTHER.**

The Youth have come up with a fun way to share the ups and downs of quarantine with our church family while continuing to practice safe social distancing.

Introducing...the 2020 QUARANTINE QUESTIONNAIRE: (think 'baby Jesus' notebook that travels from home to home during Advent)

This binder will be passed from home to home – along with hand sanitizer/wipes – where church members can share their most memorable pandemic moments by answering the questions...then, pass the binder to another church member...and so on.

By the time school starts back, we will have a fantastic song list and a priceless memoir of this unprecedented time in our history.

Mia Miller, Director of Youth Ministries

Mia Miller

Email: carthageyouth@gmail.com

Text: 615-418-7503

SHAWL MINISTRY NEWS:

Keeping in touch while observing social distancing has proved to be a challenge for our ministry, but not an impossible one. We are doing our best to remember and recognize all those in our community who are experiencing difficult or joyful times. BUT...we need your help! If you know someone who should receive a shawl, scarf, throw, or hat from our ministry, please let any of our members know and we'll be sure to take care of it. OR...You may visit our little corner of the church located in the front classroom (where the Sunday school class led by David Bass ordinarily meets), pick out an appropriate gift, and deliver it yourself. We only ask that you follow the guidelines that are posted before taking a shawl. This will help us to avoid duplication and also keep track of our "inventory" so that we will know what items need replenishing. Thanks for helping to make our church body of believers who put our faith into action by caring for not only our members, but also the larger community.

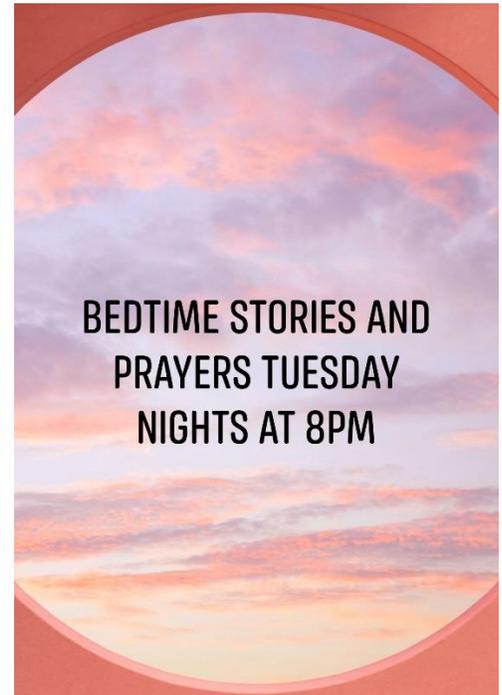
CHURCH OFFICE NEWS:

Just wanted to update everyone on the following dates that Deanna will be out of the office:

Monday, June 28th – Thursday, July 2nd – Vacation

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Hi friends! Happy July and blessing from the Children's Ministry! My news this month will be brief. We are thankful to have the opportunity to meet at church as a congregation again while doing it in a safe and distanced way, however per the guidelines we have been given children and youth cannot meet in person until at the earliest, school starts back. Given these guidelines we will continue online children's ministry through the month of July. We have many different opportunities for the children available each week on our church Facebook and YouTube channel and these are detailed in the graphics in this newsletter. We are thankful for those who have been engaging and fellowshiping with us online and invite anyone to join in! If you have any questions or any suggestions for other opportunities please feel free to contact Ms. Nicole! Thank you for always being a church who loves and supports the children's ministry!



BLESSINGS FROM CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Ms. Nicole, Mrs. Jodi, and the kiddos

LOST AND FOUND:

The following item has been found in the church building. If this item belongs to you, please contact the church office by **FRIDAY, JULY 31ST**. If this item is not claimed by this date, it will be donated to the Smith County Help Center.



THANK YOU:

Dear CUMC Family,
On behalf of our families, thank you to the church collectively and each of you individually. Daddy loved this church and the fellow members. He was so proud of his Methodist heritage. You as a church body have kept us fed, nourished, encouraged, and gifted with memorial donations to the church honoring daddy. His legacy will continue on thanks to all of you. Please accept our gratitude. And to the choir, and Marcus and Pastor Monica – our special thanks for your participation in the service. It was just as daddy wanted.

With our appreciation,
The James Bass Family
David and Dawn
Jane and Larry
Emily, Greg, and Lilly

Church Family,
We sure do appreciate your prayers!
I am healing slowly but surely. Nelson is taking great care of me and my Physical Therapist is getting me stronger so I can get back to work and church. We probably won't be back until sometime in July. Just know that we love and miss you all. Also thanks for all the sweet cards and calls! You bless us with your love & care!
Love,
Barb & Nelson



SUBMISSIONS:

Persecuted Christians:

Please remember the following in your prayers.

Christians in Mali: At least 27 Christians were killed in 3 villages in central Mali. Reports indicate many were shot or burned alive by extremists during the attacks. Mali has seen increasing episodes of violence over the past several years, Christians are frequently the target of these attacks. (Bankass, Kari, & Tille, Mali)

Pastor Bryan Nerron: was released after 7 months of being detained in India. He had taught Sunday school instructors for 17 years without incident but was stopped while traveling to a ministry conference last October. Pastor Nerron has been reunited with his family in Shelbyville, TN. (US)

Shafqat & Shagufta Emmanuel: have been in prison & facing death sentences on blasphemy charges for 7 years. They were accused of sending a blasphemous text insulting Mohammed & the Koran. Their attorney claims the charges are fraudulent as both Emmanuel's are illiterate & cannot read or write. Additionally, the texts were in English; the couple only speak Urdu. The police elicited a confession from Shafqat after they beat him. The couple's attorney has attempted to appeal their case since 2014. (Pakistan)

Submitted by:

Jill Garner



**Want to worship but need
to stay home?**



WATCH US ONLINE!

CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CUMC OFFICE:

615-735-0343



Be sure to like us on Facebook:



Carthage United Methodist Church
@CarthageUMCtn

JULY 2020 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**FRIDAY, JULY 3RD – THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF JULY 4TH**

**MONDAY, JULY 27TH – 9:00 A.M. AUGUST NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**