

CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2020 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME #24, ISSUE #9

The Church Filled OR Church Fulfilled?

Somedays I go into the sanctuary and look around and miss the days of when the sanctuary was filled. Nothing feels better than a full church. A filled church lend itself to the belief that there are many that are Christians; Christ followers. A full church gives us hope for tomorrow; that our faith is not dead, that God has not been removed from our land. People filling the sanctuary find comfort in traditions, rituals, community. Being in the sanctuary gives us a feeling of fulfilling our duty to be present in the church: "not forsaking assembly."

The term "church" is not found in scripture. The word most often translated as church is ekklesia - *ekklēsia* assembly, from *ekklētos* called, from *ekkalein* to call out. So why is the word meaning to be called out and assembled used to describe something we "go in" to? I say we have gotten complacent/lazy. We have substituted being the church for attending the church building. In the first century, the church/ekklesia were people called out of the Gentile or Jewish population to become Christ followers. They were assembled together to do the work of Christ in the midst of political turmoil and oppression. They were assembled together to bring people together under one King - Christ. They were assembled to reside in one Kingdom - The Kingdom of God. We saw at Pentecost as people were gathered, the believers were filled with Gods power uniting them in the holy work of calling out more people and assembling them together so they could be filled to repeat the process. They were gathered up and assembled to run; run the race set before us with endurance. We call that work discipleship.

Our sanctuary has been empty for two dozen Sundays. But long before we left the building, you were called. You have been assembled...before and since online, to do the work of Christ in our community; to run the race. What have you been doing since we left? I would love to hear. Some of you have been feeding, visiting, calling, studying, giving, praying, singing, exhorting. I am sure there are some great stories of God's work done by your hands.

We were not called to sit and wait to fill a sanctuary. We are called to be filled with the Holy Spirit to go **BE** the church. We will be returning soon to the sanctuary. Before we do, ask yourself, "Have I been waiting or assembling?" "How have I lived out my call during this time?" "How will I continue to live out my call?" "How will I run the race set before me?" If you have been sitting at home waiting to go to church, it is not too late to start **BEING** the church...even before we get there.

Pastor Monica

NEWS FROM LAY LEADERSHIP

Happy September folks! I hope this article finds you all safe and well. What an odd time we are living through. I wanted you to know that during the last few months we have had a small group of folks who have been meeting periodically to discuss what we should be doing as far as having the church open. We have representation from the medical community as well as chairs of trustees, finance, SPRC, etc. who have met via Zoom to have these discussions. I know many of you are wondering when we will be back in the sanctuary worshipping together. There are a few things that need to happen prior to that. Over the next couple of weeks we are going to be making several improvements from an audio visual aspect in the sanctuary including upgrading sound and adding screens. The reasons for these improvements are numerous. We anticipate when we go back in the building we will have smaller crowds than usual. With that we intend to continue to offer online worship through Facebook and YouTube. When the sanctuary is full sound is not as much of an issue but with smaller crowds it becomes more cavernous and getting good quality sound for the livestream has been difficult. We will be upgrading some sound equipment to try to overcome this issue. Also, COVID has made it so that we need to be able to eliminate surfaces that are touched as much as possible. To help with this we will add TV screens to be able to project announcements, scriptures, hymns, etc. This should also be a great enhancement to our worship experience. Another upgrade that is being planned out is an upgrade to the lighting in the sanctuary. This will be accomplished with new bulbs in the existing fixtures.

I tell you all this so that you will know what to expect and to also let you know that if you would like to help with any of these improvements there will be plenty to do. Please contact either me or the church office if you would be able to help in any way. The sooner we can get these things accomplished the quicker we can be back worshipping in the building.

Blessings, T.J.

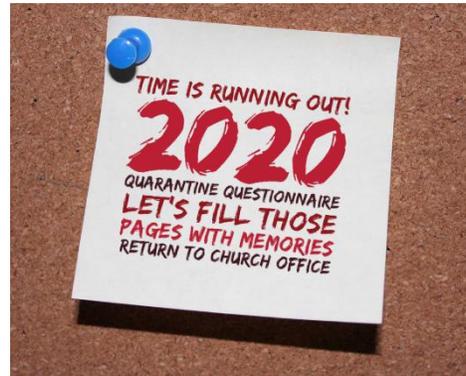
tjdixon1980@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

Happy New Year!!! Yes, I know it's not January 1st...but it is an exciting time in the life of our Youth. School is back in session in a NEW way than we have ever experienced before – let's celebrate this 'new year' by coming together to share communion with each other and pray God's blessing on our new beginning. We have so much to be thankful for in our lives today and it is time to shake off the doubt and insecurities of the past and step into and embrace our NEW beginning with faith and hope!

Members of Carthage youth fellowship will be serving and leading prayer and praise at a communion service on Sunday, Sept. 6th at 7:00 p.m. outside in the back parking lot; afterwards, we will have the opportunity to discuss new plans for fellowship, sign up for ministry opportunities and fill out permission forms for the year. Let's look forward to sharing our lives together in new and exciting ways!





It's time to return the 2020 Quarantine Questionnaire binders to the church office.

ATTENTION YOUTH PARENTS:

- Is your teenager signed up to participate in youth ministry this year?
- Are you and your teenager receiving Remind classroom messages?
- Have you responded to Mia Miller's request to discuss your family's plan for church and school yet?

If the answer to any of these questions is NO...what are you waiting for??

Call, text, or email Mia today – don't let your teenager miss the opportunity to fellowship with other teens in our church and community.

Mia Miller, Director of Youth Ministries

Mia Miller

Email: carthageyouth@gmail.com

Text: 615-418-7503

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Hi friends! Happy September and Blessings from the Children's Ministry! We pray this month is finding you well and full of joy!

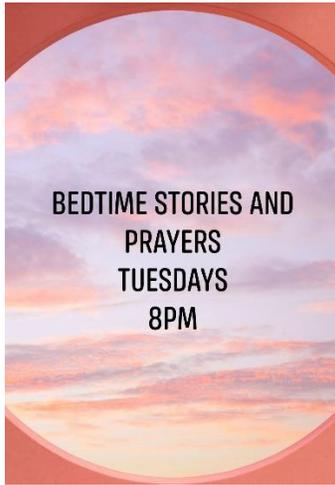
We are super excited to talk about this month as it is bringing the return of something we have definitely been missing...in person children's ministry activities!! As the month of September continues we will be planning and starting small group/family children's fellowship times. Plans will be announced as they are made and if we have to change our plans we will but we are so very thankful to be able to be together in person again and we have no doubt we will adapt to the differences and thrive in them as well!

As we make plans for this two special requests to make resuming go smoothly.

1. If you have not yet joined our remind group please do, this is how most of our announcements are made and it's the best way to make sure you don't miss any news, contact Ms. Nicole for details.
2. As we begin activities we have to have new yearly information/release forms, you can pick one up for your child from the office or you can fill it out online via the church website.

Also, even though we are resuming in person activities we will still continue our online worship and activities as well. We want to reach out to as many children and families as possible so please engage with these opportunities as you can and share with your friends!

Thank you to all of the church for the way you love the children and nurture them in their walk with God. Blessings!



BLESSINGS FROM CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
Ms. Nicole, Mrs. Jodi, and the kiddos

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS:

Deanna has recently completed an audit of the membership records at CUMC. If you have received a letter in the mail about your membership, please reply as soon as possible.

Deanna will be on vacation **Sept. 8th – 11th**, Teri Hills will be volunteering in the office each day from 8:00 a.m. till 12 Noon.

MUSIC NEWS:



Then Sings My Soul!

Admit it...you're already humming that tune, right? You can't help yourself, I know I can't. A dear friend gave me a coffee cup with that phrase printed on it...I use it everyday, morning and evening. It's one of my most cherished possessions.

The text to How Great Thou Art was originally a poem penned by a Swedish minister, Reverend Boberg. From Swedish, it was translated into German, then to Russian...and people began to add the words to folk tunes in their language and began singing it...at the time, only the first 3 verses existed. Some years later, Reverend Hine and his wife, missionaries to Ukraine heard the song being sung in Russian and he decided it needed an English translation. So, while he was in the majesty of the Carpathian Mountains, he started the work of putting it into English...again, only the first 3 verses existed. Soon, he and his wife returned to England. This was during the "Blitz Years", 1940-1941, bombs flying overhead every night. It was after this that the 4th verse was written..."When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow, in humble adoration, and then proclaim: MY GOD, HOW GREAT THOU ART!" Can you imagine?

We are in our own time of “Blitz”..not in the form of bombs, but something unseen. I pray that you are able to see beyond the obvious and can let your soul to sing in spite of the world’s circumstances. Our God is great and He will see us through. (Psalm 27)

**Jennifer Perry,
Music Director**

LOST AND FOUND:

The following items have been left in the church building. If you see something that you have lost, please contact the church office by **Friday, September 25th**. All items not claimed by this date, will be donated to the Smith County Help Center.



WOMEN’S RETREAT NEWS:

We are saddened to announce that this year’s Women’s Retreat has been cancelled due to COVID-19. We will hopefully be back together next year in October. Stay tuned and stay well.

**IMPORTANT DATES IN
SEPTEMBER**

- **Monday, 9/07 – Labor Day:
Church Office will be closed**
- **Friday, 9/18 – Saturday, 9/19:
Virtual Annual Conference**
- **Friday, 9/25 – 9:00 a.m.
Deadline for submissions to
the October Newsletter**

SEPTEMBER 2020 BIRTHDAYS

Bonnie Siech 9/02
Paulette Parker 9/05
Heather Gammon 9/06
Mary Alice Carfi 9/08
Harrison Polston 9/08
Reagan Dias 9/09
Judy Kruzan 9/09
Meredith Polston 9/12
Cohen Rigsby 9/13
Frances Poynter 9/15
Sherry Tuley 9/15
Cora Patrick 9/17
Jessie Reed 9/17
Andi Grace Davis 9/19
Nicole McDonald 9/19
Dr. Gordon Petty 9/19
Glenda Bush 9/20
Pam Davis 9/20
Herman Henry 9/20
Mary Martin 9/21
Brennan Rigsby 9/21
Ethan Dillehay 9/22
Dylan Mowdy 9/22
Sue Woosley 9/23
Andy Brimm 9/24
Jackson Penfield 9/24
Evan Penfield 9/24
Kaylee Vaughn 9/24
Ruston Kemp 9/25
Christopher Daniel 9/27
Michelle Halliburton 9/28
Helen Royster 9/30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

SEPTEMBER 2020 ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Linda Paschal 9/01
Scott & Rebecca Paschal 9/02
Walter G. & Helen Birdwell 9/13
David & Diane Dillehay 9/13
Tyrone & Frances Poynter 9/18
Larry & Jane Turner 9/26

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!!**

SUBMISSIONS:

Persecuted Christians:

Please remember the following in your prayers.

Huma Younus: (14 yrs. old) was kidnapped from her home by 3 men, taken over 350 miles away, forcibly converted to Islam & married to one of her abductors in Fall 2019. Her family sought help from the police & the legal system to get Huma returned, but the court ruled that under Islamic laws, an underage girl can be married if she has had her first menstrual cycle. On a recent phone call, Huma has let her parents know she has been confined to a single room by her husband & is expecting a child. (Pakistan)

Pastor Sean Clemons: was stabbed while leading a Bible study at Grace Covenant Church. His assailant was a man that was known to the church, he participated in a singles group at church. Quick intervention by group members to restrain the assailant saved Pastor Clemons from further injury. (Fairfax, Virginia)

Christians in Beirut: the massive explosions in the harbor on 8/4 devastated the city – over 300 hundred people were killed, 6,000 injured & over 300,000 have been displaced. The Christian district of the city was hit particularly hard. Damages are projected to exceed \$15 billion – the country’s economy was already nearing collapse prior to this incident & the situation is perilous for everyone. Prayers are needed for everyone impacted by this horrible disaster. (Beirut, Lebanon)

The Nazarene Fund: (update) was founded 5 years ago in response to religious persecution ignited by the Islamic State. Since then, the Nazarene Fund has provided humanitarian assistance to over 100,000 refugees fleeing conflict, has evacuated 37,000 persecuted people to safety in new countries, & performed 455 rescue missions to free slaves from captivity. The group is providing support & assistance to people in Lebanon who were impacted by the explosion.

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:
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