

CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 2020 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME #24, ISSUE #10

We will be highlighting in the upcoming newsletters some of the ministries that CUMC is engaged in. Please be sure to check out these sections in the newsletters coming up.

This month I have turned over my newsletter space to get this section started. Be looking as you read this month's newsletter for the section titled "Ministry in Motion".

Pastor Monica

NEWS FROM LAY LEADERSHIP

Fall is here. I sure do miss y'all. I was looking forward to our first Sunday back in the Sanctuary and then I tested positive for COVID. I hope to be back sooner rather than later. I am sure you have noticed the new visual enhancements to the sanctuary. I believe this will open up a whole new area for us to continue to grow in our worship of God. Over the next few weeks some other upgrades will happen including changes to sound equipment and lighting. We had a large balance in our memorial fund so this was the perfect way to put those funds to use. We also hope to get a portion of our investment back through grants that are available through the conference.

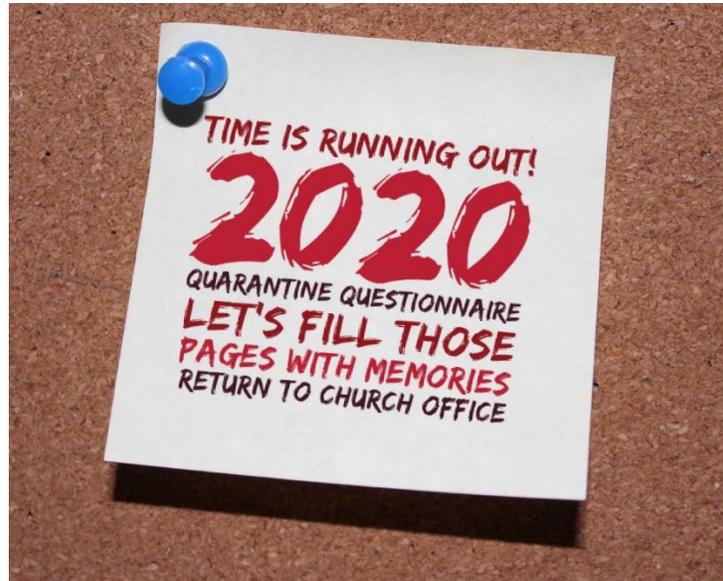
Annual Conference was held virtually Friday, September 18th and Saturday, September 19th. This link (<https://www.tnumc.org/brief-recap-of-the-2020-tennessee-annual-conference/>) will give you a brief recap of the business of annual conference. 2020 has been a unique year for us all and that includes the work of the annual conference. The original plan was to have annual conference for the Tennessee Conference as normal in June and then have the first Annual Conference for the newly formed Tennessee Kentucky Conference this year as well but that has been put on hold for one year. The merger of the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences needed the approval of jurisdictional conference and it was canceled and will be rescheduled.

I look forward to being back with you once I am out of quarantine. May God bless you all!

Blessings, T.J.

tjdixon1980@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:



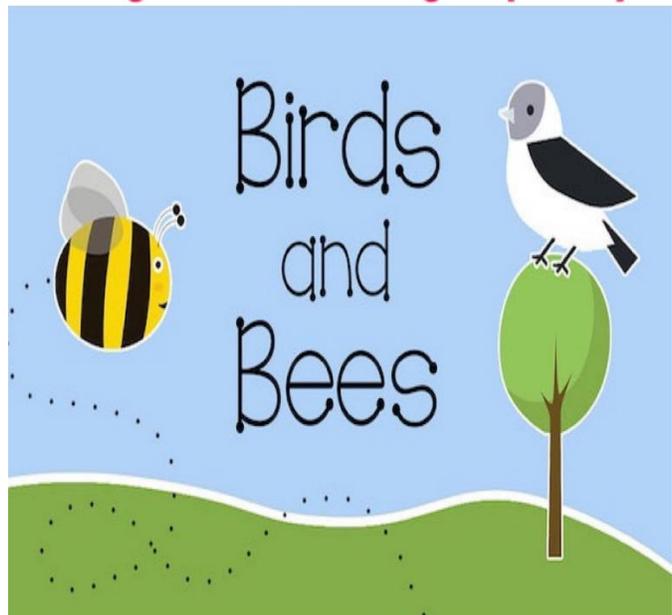
It's time to return the 2020 Quarantine Questionnaire binders to the church office.

INTIMACY with PURPOSE



**Sr. High : small group study
Wednesdays @ 7pm**

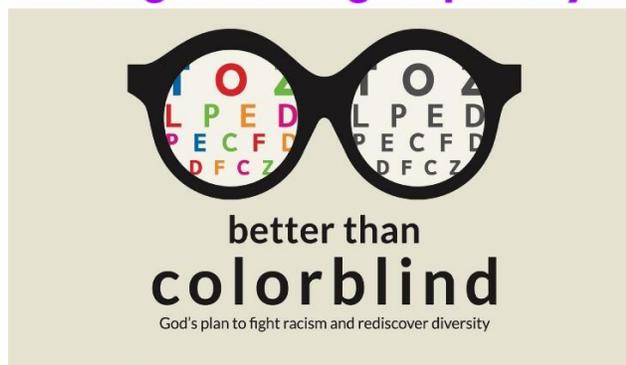
Jr. High Youth : small group study



Wednesdays @ 5pm



Jr. High : small group study



Wednesdays in November

Sunday night Youth Worship will be held outdoors, so dress weather-appropriate to your comfort. We will safely space ourselves and masks/sanitizer will be available. Please, be considerate of others safety and wait to attend if you have been exposed or quarantined.

Mia Miller, Director of Youth Ministries

Mia Miller

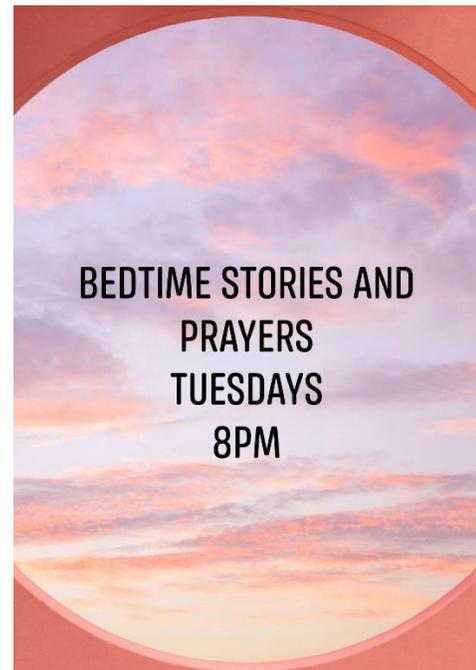
Email: carthageyouth@gmail.com

Text: 615-418-7503

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Happy October and blessings from the Children`s Ministry! We are so excited for what the month of October and fall are going to bring us! First, as in person worship resumes we will not initially have Children`s Church. We will be working first to make sure main worship is running smoothly and then will gradually add back Sunday School and Children`s Church. Our goal is to have all resumed by mid to late October and plans will be announced as they are available. We will still have all online offerings for Children`s Church even as we resume in person activities. Beginning the first full week in October we will have a weekly fellowship fun time for the children`s ministry, we will be outdoors as the weather allows and when indoors will follow our COVID/social distance guidelines. If you would like to assist please let Ms. Nicole know! Finally our Children`s Sabbath will be October 11th where the children will be assisting and leading the worship service! We hope you can join us for this special time. As always we are grateful to the church for being a church family who supports the children in their journey with God!

Children's Church
Online
Sunday Evenings
6PM



Children's Sabbath
-October 11th

Children's ministry
weekly fellowship fun
Starting first full week
of October
-DAY/TIME TBA

BLESSINGS FROM CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Ms. Nicole, Mrs. Jodi, and the kiddos

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS:

Deanna will be having knee replacement surgery on Wednesday, September 30th. She will be out of the office for several weeks. Please be patient with us during this time if you call or come by the office.

MUSIC NEWS:

Now that we're coming back to church for worship, we will be doing things a little differently. Since we cannot have a choir, I'm looking for worship teams of 3-4 people...from our youth to adults. The teams will rotate and will help provide meaningful worship for all who are able to come. If you are willing to either lead a team, or participate on a team, please contact the church office to leave a message for Jennifer.

Our Hearts of Worship

I'm sure everyone is familiar with Matt Redman's song, The Heart of Worship. If you're not, google it, pull it up on YouTube, I know you've all heard it. It was one of the most popular worship songs of the late 1990s. It's a great song! Matt didn't set out to write another hit with this song, instead it was in response to a message from his pastor, Mike Pilavachi. He felt like a dynamic was missing in their worship, the focus was blurred. They'd lost their way in worship, so he did a very brave thing...he removed all of the sound system, the instruments, the musicians...so that when people came to church, all they had to bring to worship was themselves. His question to them was "When you come through the doors on a Sunday, what are you bringing as your offering to God"?

Now, our circumstances were different than Matt's church...Covid kept us away from corporate worship together, so we've had our season of silence, separation and reflection. Deafening quiet at times. But now we are able to start worshipping together again, at church. I know you're looking forward to getting back together as the CUMC family, I know I am. But, as we come back together, let's ask ourselves, what are we bringing as our offering; are we ready to truly worship?

The song begins, "*When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come / Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless your heart.../ I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You, Jesus.*"

As we move forward, let this be our theme...It's all about YOU, Jesus...Amen.

**Jennifer Perry,
Music Director**

Ministry in Motion

So what's been going on since we were last together as a church family in March.

For several of us- something very soul satisfying and fulfilling- literally.

It all started on Sunday March 22,2020 with Nancy Moran and Valerie Upchurch who decided to help out some of the elderly and other folks who had recently lost loved ones - if we were not meeting together as a church wide body, let's feed their bodies with some good food. This idea quickly was embraced by others of the church and has become the "Sunday routine" for many of us. I think we look forward to it as much as the recipients of the meals.

Here is the routine. We meet on Sunday morning at the church kitchen- each of us having had our "assignment" on what to cook or bring or provide as was decided the previous week. We were very careful to be COVID compliant with individual portions and not mixing hands in bowls of food. We would start about 9:30 and begin the process of loading up the Styrofoam containers and checking and double checking the count to be sure it was correct for the week (a chuckle here from those of us who participated as more often than not, we had trouble counting to 20)- then each person would fix the designated number of plates for their "people" and be off for delivery.

The ones to receive the meals would fall into 2 basic categories- some of our home bound (for now) elderly or ill and some who had experienced some sort of grief or loss in their family. The list would change from week to week by a few names, but we had a basic core of people to whom we would deliver. And then we would each be off to go our separate ways for delivery. The reception has been so overwhelmingly positive, that we hate to see the meal deliveries end and are trying to find a way to manage being in church and continue meal prep and delivery for the ones who need it. For the most part, we were finished by 12 noon as that was lunchtime and our people were ready to eat.

So here are the details I know you have been waiting for. Menus were decided on the week before, usually, and duties assigned. Favorite meals included ham and beans, cornbread, salad, and dessert. Always dessert- and not just any dessert, but handmade homemade Valerie Upchurch dessert. She went above and beyond the call of duty every week to have the sweets ready for pick up- and samples included chocolate pie, carrot cake, cookies, and assorted other sweets. Yes, the kitchen crew may confess to having sampled the

desserts a time or two.

Other meals would be pork loin (thank Chris Baxter), congealed salad, roasted vegetables, and rolls. Also the chicken casserole was a hit as well as the vegetable soup and pimento cheese. Ham and potato casserole made the hit parade as did the beef and noodle casserole. The creativity was amazing and all of it was wonderful.

The main “crew” consisted of Nancy Moran, Valerie Upchurch, Sarah Tinsley, Connie Baxter, Dawn Bass, Pam Petty, Jane Turner, Chris Baxter, Larry and Lilly Turner. Also, Suzette Long, Suzanne Gammon, Heather Long, Jodi Gammon, Jane DeLong, and Carol McDonald were there to pitch in when we needed some relief or ideas. Forgive me if I have omitted anyone. My brain, you know.

As we have been doing this since March 22 and it is now September 24, we have forged a bond with “our people.” We try to deliver to the same people so we can keep an eye out for any changes or any additional needs and the people are used to who is coming around their house. We have, on average, been serving 24 people every Sunday. I dare say the blessing has been ours much more than theirs. And the families of the folks have been so appreciative. I do not think Mr. and Mrs. Birdwell would mind my sharing that they have been getting meals on Sunday and always have a hug for the one who delivers. We have gotten countless thank you notes and texts from their daughter, Sue. Linda Paschal, who is receiving treatment for some new health issues, sends a thank you text every week. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Agnew are always happy to see us and she calls me by name every week, even though she has dementia. These are but a few of the ones we serve- not all elderly- not all ill- just whoever someone suggests. We have food and will travel- our motto. My delivery man is Larry Turner who knows the route by heart and one Sunday, when Larry nor I either one could go, Lilly picked up and went by herself.

On a personal note, several of us who have helped with the meals have found ourselves on the receiving end as well. My father, James Bass, always looked forward to his Sunday morning meal and would portion it out so he would have plenty for lunch and supper. He especially loved the soup and sandwiches and any kind of dessert. It was actually just after his meal on Mother’s Day in May that he had gone outside to sit and enjoy the sunshine and then had his fall which, as you know, ended up being fatal.

Suddenly my family was on the receiving end of the meal delivery and it meant so much more than you or they will ever know because I know the love and care that is put into doing it. Yes, it is a little work and requires some prep and organization. But it is oh so worth it and we hope to figure out some way to continue this “Ministry in Motion” even when our organized services resume. If you have ideas or would like to help, see any of us mentioned above in the article and we will put you to work. Who knows, you might get to sample some of the goodies before they go out of the kitchen -just to be sure they are “good,” you know.

**Submitted by,
Jane Turner**

Guidelines for Return to CUMC

Please come symptom free

Feel free & encouraged to wear masks

Wait to come until you & others in your home are no longer quarantining

Share Jesus NOT hugs & handshakes

Maintain safe space

Wash your praise hands 🙌🙌

#BeChristianActChristlike

THANK YOU

CUMC Family,

We want to express our appreciation for all the love and support during this difficult time. We are very thankful for the meals and the ones who prepared and delivered them, also for the deli food after the funeral. It was very nice and a great variety of food. Keep us in your prayers.

Love,

Tyrone, Frances, Michelle & Tara

OCTOBER 2020 BIRTHDAYS

Judy Hackett 10/05
Christina Martin 10/05
Carolyn Webster 10/05
Greyson Banka 10/06
Liz Carver 10/06
Dalton Paschal 10/06
Brittany Vaughn 10/06
Gary Garrett 10/08
Valerie Tippy 10/08
Susan Daniel 10/09
Suzanne Gammon 10/09
Suzette Long 10/09
Sophia Ward 10/09
Mary Evelyn Key 10/10
Pat Wooten 10/10
Turner Upchurch 10/11
Tina Doran 10/13
David Donaldson 10/14
Joann James 10/14
Mackenzie Ash 10/15
Darby Hudson 10/17
Jason Kemp 10/19
Nancy Pettross 10/19
Jeffrey Davis 10/20
Virginia Jaikins 10/22
Amanda Meredith 10/22
Mark Donaldson 10/23
Louise Ethridge 10/24
Carol Petty 10/24
Ellie Johnson 10/25
Mallory Dickerson 10/26
John Flemmons 10/27
Greg Hiett 10/27
Dollie Cowan 10/28
Randy Dillehay 10/28
Emme Jenkins 10/28
Blake Manning 10/28
Clara Martin 10/30
Alan Long 10/31

NOVEMBER

Kim Jackson 11/02
Dakota Mowdy 11/03

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

**OCTOBER
2020 ANNIVERSARIES**

Casey & Sarah Owen 10/03
Jeffrey & Lauren Davis 10/06
George & Virginia Reed 10/06
Jon & Tiff Ethridge 10/09
Eric & Melanie West 10/11
Brooks & Christina Martin 10/14
John & Lisa Flemmons 10/17
Jerry & Jodi Gammon 10/18
Robert & Susan Daniel 10/21
Terry & Kim Jackson 10/21
Marcus & Leann Lavender 10/21
Bard & Terry Coggins 10/22
Carl & Anna Hudson 10/28
Marc & Sherry Tuley 10/31

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!!**

IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

- **Sunday, 10/11 – Children’s Sabbath**
- **Sunday, 10/11 – Church Council Meeting 11:00 a.m. (Immediately following the worship service)**
- **Monday, 10/12 – Columbus Day Observed – OFFICE CLOSED**
- **Friday, 10/16 – Sunday, 10/25 Smith County Schools Fall Break**
- **Monday, 10/26 – 9:00 a.m. November Newsletter Deadline**

SUBMISSIONS:

Persecuted Christians:

Please remember the following in your prayers.

Residents of 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. Continued prayers are needed for everyone impacted by this horrible disaster. (Beirut, Lebanon)

Pastor Sohail Latif Landu: was taken from his home in the middle of the night. He has been detained without a bond hearing since May 22nd. Pastor Sohail is the founder of River of Life Christian Church (Anglican) in Karachi. It appears that Pastor Sohail was arrested because he was offering assistance & ministering to the poor during the Covid crisis. In Pakistan, most Christians & other religious minorities were left out of the economic aid given by the IMF & World Bank. Since these same groups constitute some of the poorest & most vulnerable groups, Christians who helped their needy neighbors, did so at enormous personal risk since the government specifically forbade this type assistance. (Karachi, Pakistan)

Sunday, November 1st, is the International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians.

Submitted by:

Jill Garner

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



WATCH US ONLINE!

CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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