

## CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VOLUME #25, ISSUE #1

### LAY LEADERSHIP NEWS:

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a great Christmas as we celebrated the birth of Jesus! I pray that 2021 will be a great year for us all! 2020 has definitely been a challenge but it has pushed us to find new ways of doing things and hopefully we are all better for it. I thank you for your patience and understanding with the church staff and with those of us in leadership rolls. We have had to make difficult decisions throughout the year and we have made them with the best we know how. I am thankful for a membership that has been supportive as we have tried to continue to offer a meaningful worship experience, study and growth opportunities and outreach ministries while navigating local, state and federal guidelines to try to prevent Carthage UMC from being a hotspot for the virus. I believe we have been successful in that but it hasn't been easy. Agree or not with the decisions we have been forced to make I applaud you have followed the teaching from Philippians to "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit rather, in humility value others above yourselves." I haven't enjoyed some of the sacrifices we have all had to make this year but I have tried to think about those who are more vulnerable than maybe I am and I thank you all for doing the same.

As you feel comfortable to start returning to in person worship I hope you will enjoy some ongoing upgrades that are taking place in the sanctuary. Jamie Carfi has done a great job improving our sound, the new tv screens have added a tool to be able to enhance the worship experience and improved lighting has made a huge difference as well. We continue to need more folks to help out with the service including typing slides for the service, running the computer to advance slides during worship, camera operator, sound engineer and many other opportunities. If you are interested in being trained in any of those areas please let the church office know. We will be setting up some training in the near future.

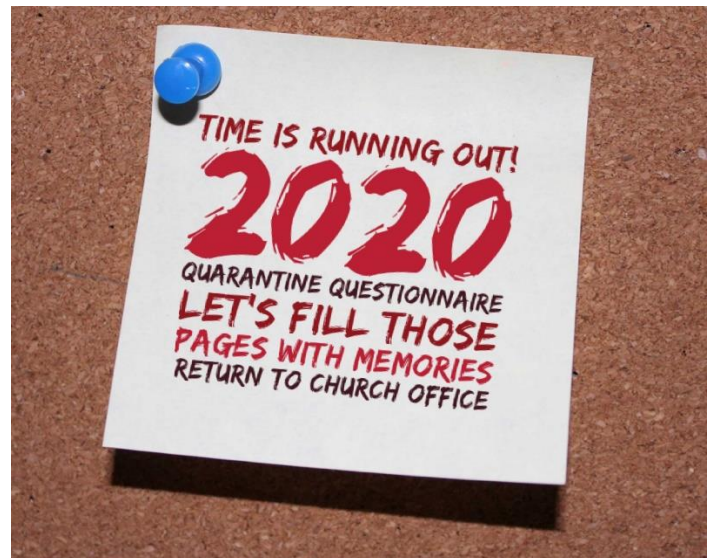
Thank you all again for all you are doing to share the light of Christ to the world. May 2021 bring a greater opportunity to be a blessing,

T.J.

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face  
shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up  
His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

*Happy New Year*

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:



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

*Mia Miller, Director of Youth Ministries*

Mia Miller  
Email: [carthageyouth@gmail.com](mailto:carthageyouth@gmail.com)  
Text: 615-418-7503

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Hi friends! Happy January and Happy New Year and Blessings from the Children's Ministry! We just wanted to share some updates and news with our church family and the parents of the children! We are thankful for all the ways the children, their families, and our church as a whole has supported the children's ministry during the past year and are excited to see what 2021 holds! As for what 2021 will hold and look like for the church and the children's ministry....well, honestly, we don't yet know what that is. That is a blessing God has yet to reveal, but regardless of what it looks like we are confident that it will be amazing in a way that only God can make things amazing and that the church and the children's ministry will thrive, and we are up to the work and challenges that it will bring! Starting out in the month of January we will work on our hybrid schedule of online and in person, please see the graphics in the newsletter for the schedule. Later this month we will have a parent meeting to discuss the needs and goals for the children's ministry in this New Year, please be looking for details on the church Facebook page and through the One Call Now system. As many of you know, Trinity Tippy has served as our nursery coordinator faithfully and has done a wonderful job, recently she made the decision to step down from her position and we are thankful for all the time she has put into the nursery and the love and care she has shown the children. We are currently searching for a new nursery coordinator but until we find someone, we are in need of volunteers to assist on Sunday mornings from 9:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m., also we are always looking for volunteers to assist in both in person and virtual ministry offerings, if you are able and willing to assist in anyway please contact Ms. Nicole at 615-388-1251 or [nicole.harriman@live.com](mailto:nicole.harriman@live.com). As always thank you for being the church that you are and all the ways you love and support the children.

### IN PERSON CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

SUNDAY SCHOOL-9AM  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH-  
DURING 10AM SERVICE  
WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP FUN-  
WEDNESDAYS FROM 5-6PM

### ONLINE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

BEDTIME STORIES AND  
PRAYERS-TUESDAYS AT 8PM  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH-  
SUNDAYS AT 6PM  
WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY-BY  
EMAIL CONTACT MS. NICOLE

## BLESSINGS FROM CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Ms. Nicole, Mrs. Jodi, and the kiddos

## **MUSIC NEWS:**

So long 2020, hello 2021...

I don't think I know anyone who is sad to see 2020 go into the record books. But, I've thought about Mia's testimony a few weeks ago several times...she shared that she was thankful for lessons learned this year, for seeing God work in and through CUMC during these unusual days and for the Lord's unfailing, abiding love through it all.

Amen.

As I look to 2021, I do hope that the Lord continues to use the worshippers/musicians of CUMC in mighty ways. Not for our glory, but only, and always, for His. I found the prayer below and I hope as you read it, that it will become your prayer, too.

(pray with me)

*Holy, Holy, Holy are You Lord, the whole earth is full of Your glory! How great is the Lord that made His awesomeness and beauty manifest in Creation. I pray that this worship ministry overflows with Your glory; Father I pray that no matter what we face, we wholeheartedly lift up Your Name. I declare that when people hear us worship, I pray that they will hear Your glory, I pray that they hear Your greatness, in Jesus Name, we pray, Amen.*

**Jennifer Perry,  
Music Director**

## **SUBMISSIONS:**

### **Books for Missions:**

Becomers is sponsoring the annual Books for Missions fund raiser. The books will be displayed on tables in the gathering room January 10<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to choose good books to read as we “shelter in place.” Please feel free to choose as many books as you like.

Also, we invite you to bring your good books that you would be willing to donate to this project.

In this unusual time, we invite those who are not yet comfortable attending church to come by during the week to choose books. If you come to the office entrance during office hours, you can gain entrance to the building by ringing the bell.

Becomers will use your donations to help fund one of their missions, such as Operation Christmas Child. This year our church donated 73 boxes to children living in difficult circumstances. Becomers packed 60 of those boxes.

Thank you for your continued support! And happy reading!

### **Persecuted Christians:**

For the first time the State Department has named Nigeria a country of particular concern (CPC). The US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has called on the State Department to recognize the persecution of Christians in Nigeria for several years & praised the designation. Diplomacy thus far has not reduced the violence directed at Nigerian Christians. A CPC designation means that additional efforts to stop the persecution are allowed, specifically economic measures can be introduced by Congress. The US contributes millions of dollars to Nigeria & that aid could be reduced if the Nigerian government continues to tolerate the violence directed towards Christians by the Fulani herdsmen, Boko Haram, Islamic State, etc. Hopefully the action by the State Department will have a positive impact – according to Nina Shea of the Hudson Institute, “More Christians have been targeted and slaughtered by extremists in Nigeria than in the entire Middle East in recent years.”

**Submitted by:  
Jill Garner**

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Jane deLong, 1/01  
Katie King, 1/02  
Phillip Hudson, Jr., 1/03  
Connie Roberts, 1/03  
Tommy Ballinger, 1/04  
Angie Brimm, 1/06  
Virginia Cothron, 1/07  
Jamie Summers, 1/07  
Millie Upchurch, 1/08  
Joe Mowdy, 1/10  
Jenny Tencza 1/10  
Kerri Clemons, 1/13  
Lucye Clair Polston, 1/13  
Valerie Cowan, 1/14  
Jon Alan Long, 1/15  
Sue Coble, 1/17  
Grant Lytle, 1/17  
Bard Coggins, 1/20  
Tiffany Halbrooks, 1/20  
Brett Kruzan, 1/20  
Lucas Doran, 1/21  
Estelene Myers, 1/21  
Boone Paschal, 1/21  
Everett West, 1/21  
Mia Miller, 1/22  
Jonathan Parker, 1/22  
Gail Russell, 1/26  
Roy Ethridge, 1/28

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Leann Lavender, 1/01  
James Clemons, 1/02  
Tynleigh Upchurch, 1/03  
Charlie Beth Davis, 1/06  
Lucas Wakefield, 1/06

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

**JANUARY  
ANNIVERSARIES**

George & Susan McDonald 1/09  
Terry & Alyson Pope 1/14  
Jamie & Jennifer Summers 1/19  
Luke & Julie Wyatt 1/25

**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY!!**

**IMPORTANT DATES IN  
JANUARY**

- **Friday, 1/01/21 – New Year's Day – OFFICE CLOSED**
- **Monday, 1/18/21 – Martin Luther King Day – OFFICE CLOSED**



**CUMC EMAIL:**  
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**CUMC WEBSITE:**  
[www.carthageumc.org](http://www.carthageumc.org)

**CUMC OFFICE:**  
**615-735-0343**

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



**WATCH US ONLINE!**  
CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**Be sure to like us on Facebook:**



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@CarthageUMCtn**