

CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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MARCH 2021



Recently, on my day off, I decided it was time; time to put away Dylan's trophies, outgrown clothes and keepsakes. Dylan has grown up and moved on to live on his own as a grown man, working and caring for himself back in the town he calls home. He assured me it was time, too. It was also time to clean out the closets and dresser drawers I had left full for over a year. I didn't do this to punish Dylan for moving away. I wasn't closing off his room to him. In fact we moved Kota to the larger room Dylan had occupied and turned Kota's room into a guest room, conveniently decorated in a way that would please Dylan if he were to come and spend a few nights.

It felt good to have both rooms cleaned, all traces of young school boy gone and Kota's room set up as a man apartment and Dylan's items safely stored away. All the cleaning made me think of the Lenten Season process we are called to engage in.

Modern day theologian, N.T. Wright, says,

“Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store.”

Participating in Lent is like cleaning out a room, readying it for all the good that will be in store in the future; that day when Dylan visits with Beka for holidays. The room is ready for when Alli, my youngest daughter and her husband, Matt, comes for a special visit with the new baby that is due late Summer. The room is ready for my sister to visit from Oklahoma, I hope. There is so much more hope available now that we have cleaned out the room and prepared it for guests.

I don't know what is in store or who will come to visit, but I know that we are ready for visitors and surprises are welcome. While Lent is a time for repentance; a time to turn away from the clutter of the world that has filled up our souls. Lent is a time to metaphorically clean house by getting rid of the trash, the junk and the no longer needed things we have accumulated in our hearts and minds. There is joy in the vacant, the empty rooms of our beings.

If you have yet to begin to participate in the season of Lent, by cleaning house, moving forward with vacating the old to be ready for the new God will bring into your life, I ask you to pray about it. Ask God if He wants for you to begin readying yourself for what can be brought to you by God's glory and grace. ~ Pastor Monica

LAY LEADERSHIP NEWS:

Happy March folks! After the winter storm in February I am ready for longer days and higher temps. I bet you are too.

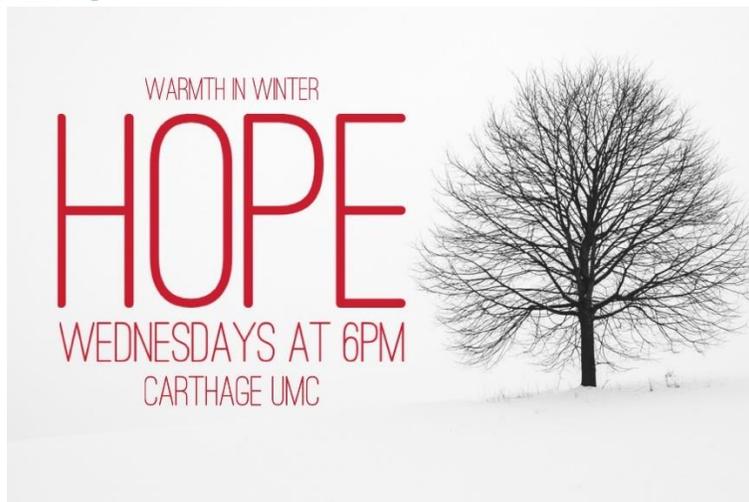
Just a quick update as I didn't send in anything last month. It's great to see more and more of you back in worship on Sunday morning. I think the availability of a vaccine is helping this and I can't wait until we are all back together again.

A couple lay leadership items from a conference level. Annual Conference is scheduled to be held virtually June 10th and 11th. More information will be available at a later date on how to watch etc. Also you may remember that we are in the process of merging the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences into the Tennessee Western Kentucky Conference. As part of that there is something called the Connect Strategy Team. I have been chosen as a member of one portion of the Connect Strategy Team which is called the Administrative Services Team. There are four other teams that make up the Connect Strategy Team, they are the Discover/Send Team, Equip Team, Connect Team and Communications Team. The team that I am on will be charged to seek out the needs and help with challenges to merge the activities of the following committees that currently exist in both of the existing conferences: Trustees, Conference Finance and Administration, HR, Equitable Compensation, Medical Leave, Archives and History, IT, Treasurer and Administrative Function, Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and United Methodist Foundation. Unlike all the other teams, this one consists almost entirely of business functions of the church. Truthfully, I am not sure what all of this means but I am excited to get to be a part of this work. I may be reaching out to some of you for advice from time to time as we try to come to a decision on matters that relate to the new conference.

Thank you for all you are doing in this community. We are at our best when we are offering Christ to a broken world one community at a time.

Blessings, T.J.

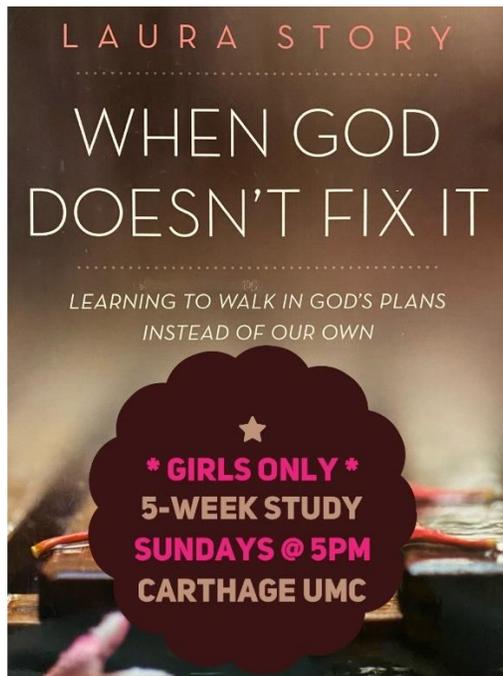
YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:



This year, due to covid restrictions, the Tennessee conference held a 'virtual' Warmth in Winter called: HOPE. The theme this year was based on a scripture passage from Paul's letters to the Romans.

In chapter 15, verse 13, Paul says: "I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."

We will spend the next month unpacking Paul's message of Hope during our regular Wednesday night youth fellowship time. Please, be in prayer for all those who participate :)



The high school girls will begin a 5-week study based on the book written by Laura Story titled: "When God Doesn't Fix It" on Sunday, February 28th. Learning to walk in God's plan instead of our own will be the emphasis of this series where we will have the opportunity to ask questions like: Is it possible that good things can come out of our broken dreams?

The past year has brought many unprecedented changes in the lives of every teenage around the world. This small group study will give us an opportunity to unpack and discuss the disappointment and loss that the pandemic imposed on us and where to find God's faithfulness through it all.



The following are a couple more questions/answers from the Quarantine Questionnaire notebooks:

Question – Name one life change that you will keep after quarantine:

Answers:

- One life change that occurred during the pandemic was cooking at home. We used to get take out or fast food several nights a week because of getting home late from work. Now we plan, prepare, and enjoy healthy meals. We hoe to keep that going. Another life change is that we are using hand sanitizer much more often at home, work, at grocery stores and any place we go.
- Stock up on toilet paper!

Question – Name your 2020 Quarantine theme song:

Answers:

- It Is Well With My Soul
- Crazy Train

Mia Miller, Director of Youth Ministries

Mia Miller

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Hi friends! Happy March and blessings from the Children's Ministry! I hope everyone is well and has stayed warm during our beautiful blessing of snow and winter weather and quiet, blessed time with your family. As we are continuing to be able to slowly resume more in person activities with precautions in place, I wanted to share a few updates from the children's ministry. We have been offering a Wednesday night fellowship from 5-6, through our recent meeting the decision was made that moving the time of it to 630-730 to be in line with the time of adult bible study. So, starting on Wednesday Feb. 24th there will be Children's Ministry Fellowship Fun from 630-730. During this time, we will do a lesson, craft, and add in music as appropriate. We will continue this through Wednesday March the 24th and then continue with it past that time if there is enough interest.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION-I know many who were in the Confirmation class that did not get to finish due to COVID have been anxiously waiting their chance to resume and be confirmed. At the children's ministry meeting a couple of the confirmation parents were there and we discussed if it were better to simply start over from the beginning to ensure that they learned what they needed to and are supposed to during that time or if we could simply do a few refresher classes to brush up on what might have been forgotten and then do our retreat. Initially it was a pretty split opinion but after talking to more parents the consensus is that starting over from scratch is not necessary and that it will work fine to do a couple refresher courses, the retreat, and then schedule a confirmation date so these confirmands can have the confirmation they deserve and have worked so hard for. I plan on starting this the week after spring break. Please be watching for information and scheduling for this.

As always thank you for being a congregation who loves and support the children in their walk with God! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns or ideas!

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN PERSON
WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
CHILDREN'S CHURCH-SUNDAY DURING
THE 10AM WORSHIP SERVICE
FELLOWSHIP FUN-WEDNESDAY FROM
630-730**

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ONLINE
WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
CHILDREN'S CHURCH-TUESDAY AT 6
BEDTIME STORIES AND PRAYERS:
THURSDAY AT 8**

BLESSINGS FROM CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Ms. Nicole, Mrs. Jodi, and the kiddos

MUSIC NEWS:

We've been talking about The Cross on Sunday mornings... it's that time of year when we tend to focus on the work of the cross more than normal. This past Sunday, Monica talked about what it meant to be crucified and just how horrific that was. We try to explain, or imagine, how much suffering accompanied death on a cross, but words do not do it justice. Some deserved that punishment, but the **ONLY ONE** who did not deserve His sentence, and the **ONLY ONE** who could have removed Himself from that torture, did not. He took it for us. Why? **LOVE**

The lyrics below put into words better than any other song I know, just what Jesus did for us that day. He took it all on Himself so that we might have life in Him. We will sing The Power of the Cross again at CUMC, but until then, let our lives be the song.

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, Torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

**This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us,
Took the blame, bore the wrath:
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;
Every bitter thought, every evil deed,
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees, Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, Dead are raised to life;
'Finished!' the victory cry.

Oh, to see my name Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

**This, the power of the cross:
Son of God, slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

**Jennifer Perry,
Music Director**

SUBMISSIONS:

Persecuted Christians:

Joy Subasiguller: is an American Christian who has lived in Turkey with her husband, Pastor Lutfu Subasiguller & their children for 10 years. Recently Joy's residency permit was rescinded & although they've appealed the decision, it is likely the appeal will be denied. According to FRC at least 16 other foreign Christian workers have been expelled from the country in 2020. Turkey has become increasingly intolerant of Christianity under the leadership of President Erdogan. (Turkey)

Kande Mudu: (27 yr. old) former Hindu was targeted by other Hindus for leading his family members to Christ. His mother-in-law was sexually assaulted, his home was attacked. When Kande refused to renounce his faith, the assailants returned & kidnapped him. His parting words were an encouragement to his wife, Bindu, to remain true to her faith. His body was discovered the next day. Bindu continues to raise their 2 children as Christians. (India)

Habib Heydari, Sam Khosravi & Sasan Khosravi: were found guilty of promoting Christianity & operating house churches. They were each sentenced to 1 year in prison. The defendants' Christian faith was listed as a basis for action against them when they were charged in June. (Iran)

Submitted by:

Jill Garner

Lindsey and I would like to thank you all for your prayers for our family in the loss of my grandmother, Nancy McCall. We would also like to thank the church for the beautiful gift of a church music box that plays Amazing Grace., certainly one of her favorites. She was blessed to live to 90 years of age and was able to live in her home for all but a couple months of that time. She is celebrating now with Jesus and my grandfather, Bobby Hugh McCall. We love you all.

T.J. Dixon

Women's Retreat

The 2021 Women's Retreat will be
October 29th – 31st.

Looking forward to meeting on the mountain. If you haven't been before, this may be the perfect time to go!

Contact Dawn Bass, Jennifer Perry, or
Connie Baxter for more info.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Luke Wyatt 3/01
Mike Lytle 3/03
Missy Baker 3/04
Maxwell Long 3/05
Carol McDonald 3/05
Jude Summers 3/05
Nicole Harriman 3/06
Seth McRae 3/08
Brad Tippy 3/08
Diane Dillehay 3/10
Mya Wagner 3/11
Nancy Moran 3/13
Mark Rodgers 3/13
Dick Fulton 3/14
Ronnie Jenkins 3/14
Jordan Patrick 3/15
Davis Sanders 3/15
Stan Webster 3/18
Candy Carlyle 3/20
Andrea Tencza 3/20
Addison Pope 3/21
Ryder Grisham 3/22
Joe Lane 3/22
Robert Daniel 3/24
Mandy Beaty 3/25
Cole Miller 3/25
Eli Bush 3/26
Emily Hughes 3/26
Phyllis Eckel 3/27
Ruth Garrett 3/27
Jennifer Perry 3/27
Sam Lavender 3/28
Barry Clemons 3/29
Suzanna Gammon 3/29
James Lavender 3/30
Oliver Martin 3/30
Bennett Gammon 3/31

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Kurt Bass 4/02
Marissa Harriman 4/02
Heather Long 4/03
Harvey Tinsley 4/03
Dezi Gage 4/04
Bettie Spiva 4/05

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

**MARCH
ANNIVERSARIES**

Don & Phyllis Eckel 3/01
Joe & Monica Mowdy 3/18
Seth & Michelle McRae 3/19

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!!**

**IMPORTANT DATES IN
FEBRUARY**

- **Sunday, March 7th – Church Council Meeting after worship**
- **Sunday, March 28th – Palm Sunday**
- **Monday, March 29th – 9:00 a.m. April Newsletter Deadline**



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CUMC OFFICE:
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**Want to worship but need
to stay home?**



WATCH US ONLINE!
CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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