

## CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VOLUME #25, ISSUE #4

APRIL 2021

### April News Letter

Well, spring has sprung, at least according to the calendar, the occasional pretty days and the sniffing due to pollen sensitivities. Easter is around the corner and there will be so many ways to enjoy the end of our Lenten Journey.

Here is a list:

† **Good Friday to Go** Friday, April 2nd at noon. This is an opportunity to observe Jesus' unique work on the cross through gathering and a devotional time with a simple lunch provided. You will be finished in time to return to work by 1pm.

† **Good Friday Worship Service** Friday, April 2nd at 7pm. A service of music and scripture will premier on our YouTube channel, CUMCTube and Facebook. It will be available to watch again, later on CUCMTube as well.

† **Easter Sunrise Service**, Sunday, April 4th at 6am at the Dixon's home. Join us for worship, song and breakfast.

† **Easter Sunday Worship**, Sunday April 4th at 10 am. We will celebrate the risen Savior Sunday morning, with song and worship. To continue with safe seating, we will have the CLC set up for overflow as we reach safe seating capacity in the sanctuary. We will share in communion on this day.

 Many of you have been wondering when the 8am service will return. Well, we have a date. **Beginning Sunday, April 18th**, we will have an **8am Chapel Worship Service** with a couple of hymns, a message and prayer. This service is perfect for those of you ready to return but prefer a smaller crowd or need an earlier time to worship. I look forward to seeing many of you return then.



We have been blessed to have a group of people that have diligently cooked and prepared Sunday meals for a few of our congregants that were unable to get out during the pandemic. We will be slowing this down soon as more people return to worship and community. I relied on these deliveries to keep me informed about how everyone is doing. **If you are interested in becoming someone that could stop by and check on just one household on your way home from church and let me know how people are doing, please let me know.**

While we have safe seating guidelines for the sanctuary and as the sanctuary is filling up, we are in need a few people willing to help guide people to available seating spaces for worship and help send overflow to the CLC on extra full Sundays. You will need to be in the Sanctuary by 9:45 and stay at the door until 10:15 to help those arriving late. If you can and will do this, please let me know.

***“See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.” Song of Songs 2:11-12***

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

Hello church family – Spring Has Sprung!!

It is hard to believe, but the time has come again for prayer pots in the gathering area to celebrate our graduates of the Class of 2021!

This year, we have five amazing young women who will graduate high school and head to college as they move on toward their future:

**Riley Bouwkamp**  
**Marissa Harriman**  
**Ashby Long**  
**Brennan Rigsby**  
**Sarah Young**

Not only will we remember them with cards and monetary gifts in their prayer pots, but we will honor them and bless their future in worship on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at the 10:00 a.m. service here in the sanctuary. Please, make every effort to attend this special 'Senior Sunday' where we will celebrate their achievements as the church family that has nurtured and loved them throughout their lives in Christ. **\*\*If you are unable to attend, but would like to bless the graduates with a card or gift, please contact Mia or the church office to arrange pickup or drop off.\*\***



### Other Youth Ministry news:

We are in need of a Sunday School teacher (or teachers) each week at 9:00 a.m. prior to the 10:00 a.m. worship service. If interested, please contact Rachel Kemp or Mia Miller.

The Youth will be honoring our dear friend and devoted adult leader, Jessie Reed, who is expecting her first child (our tiny mascot: Asher) who is due in May. We will be gifting The Reeds with 'Baby Books' during Wednesday night youth fellowship on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the CLC. **\*\*If you would like to contribute a book, or monetary gift to purchase one, please drop off at the church office or call Mia Miller to coordinate pickup time and place.\*\***



***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 April and Happy Spring! Don't you just love the blessing that a new season brings? Not just spring but all the seasons? I do, it is a reminder that everything changes, and nothing is forever, nothing except Jesus that is. The happy, the sad, the grief, the anger, the joy, all of it. Both the good and not so good are constantly changing, and while sometimes are certainly ones we want to last forever and some are times we never want to see again, each and every time is a time God will use to bring His light and message into our hearts and Jesus walks with us in each and every moment. That is one of the things I love about working with the children the most, they always see Jesus in everything and everyone. I challenge each and every one of us that as spring brings us new joys that we try to be more child like and see God in each and every moment no matter what it brings. I have several notes to share so please read each.

**-Children's Ministry Notes-**Please remember that Children's Church is available during the 10AM service, Bedtimes Stories and Prayers are available online every Thursday night at 8PM, and Wednesday Night fellowship fun is each Wednesday Night from 630-730 during adult bible study. We will soon begin working on summer plans so be on the lookout in our next newsletter and in our weekly emails and if you have any ideas or input to share, please feel free to contact me at any time.

**-Confirmation Update-**We are preparing to resume the 2020 confirmation class that had to be put on hold due to COVID. Each confirmand parent has been mailed a draft of our schedule. If this schedule does not work for your family, please let Ms. Nicole know immediately. If you do not contact Ms. Nicole we will plan for this schedule to begin as proposed and in order to complete confirmation each confirmand must complete all classes and the retreat.

**-Poll for possible ministry idea-**It has been working on my heart for a while now that there might be a need or interest in a ministry specifically for mothers of younger children. I know that with all the demands of raising small children it can be difficult to commit to a specific time or bible study. We have been discussing setting up a weekly time for the moms to meet and do a short devotional and fellowship time. It would not require any outside preparation or study and would not require for you to be there every week in order to participate as each week is independent of the other. If this is something you might be interested in please let me know.

As always thank you for being a church who loves and supports the children in their walk with God. Blessings!

## BLESSINGS FROM CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Ms. Nicole, Mrs. Jodi, and the kiddos

## SUBMISSIONS:

### Persecuted Christians:

Please remember to pray for the following people.

**Pastor James Coates:** has been jailed in the Edmonton Remand Center since February 14, 2021. Pastor Coates refused to comply with health department orders to limit church attendance to 15% capacity due to Covid restrictions. He has been holding regular services without any health issues for the 400 congregants of Grace Life Church since July 2020. He will stand trial in May for the violation of the Public Health Order. (Alberta, Canada)

**Munir Masih:** in February, Munir and his family were violently attacked in their home after they unblocked a sewage drain. Their neighbor had blocked the drainage ditch because he believed as Christians they were “untouchable” & he didn’t want their waste water to flow by his home. A mob of neighbors threw bricks/stones at the house, broke down their gate & beat everyone in the Masih home. Police have not responded to the complaint. (Jindry Village, Lahore, Pakistan)

The Egyptian Ministry Of Education has approved plans to present information about Christianity & Judaism in their religious education programs in schools. The goal is to try to spread values of tolerance & fraternity among the religions. According to the Barnabus Fund, Farid el-Bayadi, who submitted the proposal, also wants schools to stop using Islamic religious texts for teaching non-religious subjects. He stated: “Teaching religious texts through subjects not related to religion leads teachers to interpret such texts in extremist and subversive ways,” said Bayadi, adding that studies have demonstrated a link between such teaching and extremist ideas. Christians make up about 10% of the population in Egypt, which is ranked #16 on the World Watch List for religious persecution. Implementation of this proposal could be a positive change in the lives of many Egyptian believers.

**Submitted by:**  
**Jill Garner**



**Good Friday**  
*to go*

**Lunchtime Good Friday service**  
**Friday, April 2nd at noon**  
**Bag Lunch provided**  
**safe seating • masked requested**

*Bring your work friends*

**Women’s Retreat**

The 2021 Women’s Retreat will be  
October 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>.

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.

## 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, April 23rd**. All items not claimed by this date, will be donated to the Smith County Help Center.



A long overdue THANK YOU to my dear loving church family:

There are no adequate words to express my deep gratitude for the love and care shown to me and my family after the death of my father, Michael Figlio, Sr. (aka Mike, Daddy, Poppy, Mia's Dad, the bread man :)

Daddy absolutely loved coming to spend weekends in Carthage with us over the past 25+ years. He loved our town, our church, and most especially all of you – our church family at CUMC. He was so happy to know and love you all and often reminisced of times past in worship, meals, concerts, hayrides, memories of happy times spent. LOVE was my father's gift. He freely shared that gift with everyone he met; he changed lives with that love.

Carthage United Methodist Church changed my life when I came looking for family LOVE...and I certainly found it here, with you. Family was everything to Daddy. He was everything to his family.

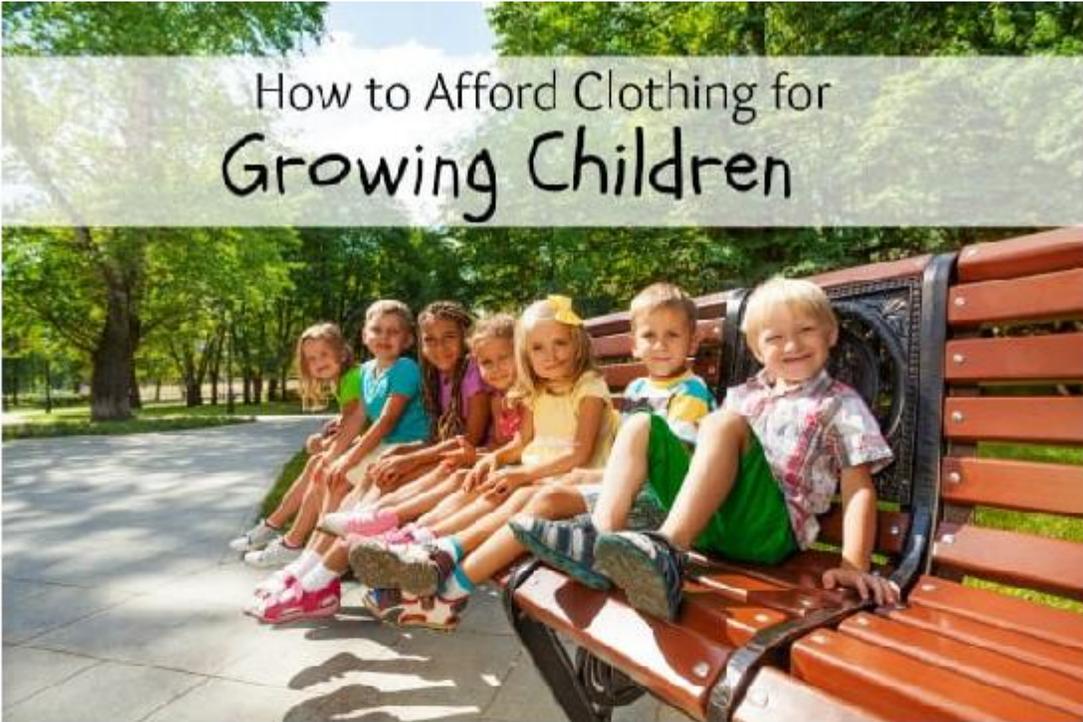
Last year's isolation and cancellations, took such a toll on our spirits, but I never imagined the blow my spirit would take from the loss of my beloved father. My spirit is broken...but Love Heals!

Please, continue to hold me and my family in your prayers, especially my mother, Rita (aka Grammy, Rambunctious Rita, Mia's Mom :) as we adjust to live without him.

And please, always continue to extravagantly share God's LOVE with everyone who enters your life, because it will change them! Thank you for sharing your love with me – for being family to my family. I am forever grateful and humbled.

May God continue to strengthen you in His LOVE, today and always!

Mia ♥



How to Afford Clothing for  
**Growing Children**

*Smith County Preschool Consignment Sale*

Pre-sale Thursday, April 8, 2021

5:30 - 6:30 for **(WORKERS)** 6 - 8 **(ALL PARTICIPANTS)**

Friday, 4-9, 9-5 ~ Saturday 4-10 9-12

**COVID SAFETY GUIDELINES**

**Masks worn properly by all**

**No trying on of clothing**

**No children under 12 years of age**

**Maximum of 25 people in the sales area**

**No stuffed animals**

### **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  
Jenny Baxter 4/06  
April Bush 4/09  
Lindsey Dixon 4/09  
Margaret Watts 4/09  
Kathy Lewis 4/11  
Jon Ethridge 4/12  
Jennifer Summers 4/12  
Matt Petty 4/13  
Alyson Pope 4/15  
Mary Leslie Wakefield 4/16  
Helen Birdwell 4/17  
Kachine Chingwa 4/17  
Abby Harriman 4/17  
Tim Shivers 4/17  
Jared Doran 4/20  
Jerry Wayne Gammon, Jr. 4/21  
Julie Wyatt 4/21  
Vivian Reynolds 4/23  
Phillip Upchurch 4/23  
Steven Clemons 4/24  
Prescott Long 4/24  
Draper Long 4/24  
Emily Shivers 4/24  
Lacey Laszlo 4/25  
Max Long 4/25  
Josh Kemp 4/28  
Reese Ethridge 4/30

### **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Andrew Lavender 5/01  
Ashby Long 5/02  
Clayton Rigsby 5/02  
Meagan Sanders 5/02

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

**APRIL  
ANNIVERSARIES**

Ronnie & Gail Russell 4/15  
Mark & Kathy Rodgers 4/21  
Jamie & Mary Alice Carfi 4/25

**MAY  
ANNIVERSARIES**

Phillip & Gayle Hudson 5/03

**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY!!**

**IMPORTANT DATES IN  
APRIL**

- **Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> –  
Good Friday –  
Church Office  
Closed**
- **Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> –  
Good Friday to  
Go – 12 Noon**
- **Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> –  
Good Friday  
Online - 7:00  
p.m.**
- **Monday, April  
26<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m.  
May Newsletter**



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615-735-0343

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



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



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@CarthageUMCtn**