

CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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MAY 2021

Phew! It has been a long process but we are finally there...Confirmation! In January of 2020 Ms. Nicole, Ms. Mia and I, with all the hope and faith and excitement you could imagine, collected up some wonderful, eager young souls who expresses their willingness to begin to learn what it means to take responsibility, along with their personal and church families, for their continuing faith journeys.

We had completed all but one class and then we were sent home for what was supposed to be a couple of weeks to wait out a health issue. When it began to stretch out we finished our last class by zoom and waited for the all clear to have the important retreat/mission trip for spiritual formation and then the ceremony. We all know the rest of that story.

But by the time you read this article, we will be "retreating;" learning about sacraments, our spiritual life, our calls and discipleship together, along with pretty intense worship and prayerful reflection, in the woods of Ozone, Tennessee and we will be returning to confirm these young people on Pentecost!

Many of you in our congregation comes from faith traditions where confirmation isn't a practice, so I feel it would be a good idea to explain why we confirm and what it is.

Some children are baptized very young, even as infants. Obviously, they aren't professing faith at that age, however, their parents are asking the church to surround their family with love and support as they raise that child to a place where they can pick up their own faith walk. This is the point where the all-important confirmation process comes in. Not just for those baptized as infants, but for those ready for baptism. In understanding that being a follower of Christ means so much more than personal salvation (a free pass to Heaven) but salvation also encompasses living a life that brings others to Christ. A life that mirrors the change Christ has brought to their life, a life free from the bondage to sin, a life that is lived, loving God and loving God's people. In other words, being a Christian and taking your Christ walk in your own hands means you care about your effect on others in this world while here more than your life when you die and leave this world.

The confirmation process for CUMC young people means they learned about the Bible, Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit, grace, loving others enough to draw them to Christ and why that matters, the practices of the church and why we have them, and most importantly how to continue their faith walk on their own terms.

I am so proud of the kids that stuck with us through the separation and all the hard work that they have put into getting themselves to this point. You can be assured that the kids you see stand up in front of the church and take vows, confirming that they are prepared and will continue in these steps, have all the tools they need in their tool belt.

Many denominations follow the practice of confirmation, Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutherans, many Presbyterians, and of course United Methodists. Many other denominations are adopting some form of course preparation to prepare young people for a continued life in their faith, lately.

In my near 20 years in ministry and the years prior as a church member that worked with children and youth, I have seen a more knowledgeable, lasting faith beyond the homes of their parents when it is undergirded with the understanding of what being a Christ follower requires as well as what it offers. Salvation isn't our finish line, it is the starting point for your journey in Christ.

Will confirmands be perfect people, no, because they are people. But they will walk in God's grace knowing there are no failures in mistakes, only lessons to learn for themselves and others. Are they saved, absolutely, but they also know that with salvation comes responsibility beyond themselves and are full-fledged members of

Carthage United Methodist Church, and trust me, they will be equipped with ideas and spirits ready and eager to serve.

Be sure and be proud of them, recognize them and continue to pray for them!

Pastor Monica

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

Riley Bouwkamp



Riley plans to attend Lipscomb University and to major in biology and pre-med to later become a pediatrician. She also says that the best advice ever received would be from her mom, Kim: "She always tells me that even if I fail, as long as I try my hardest I should still be proud of myself." We wish Riley all the best as she continues her journey toward a bright and beautiful future.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9

Marissa Harriman



Marissa plans to attend Volstate and get an associate degree in science of psychology; then, continue her education at Tennessee Tech to obtain a master's degree in psychology. When asked about the best advice she's been given, she states:

"Anytime someone has told me not to overthink or plan out too far ahead."

We wish Marissa all the success in her studies and look forward to her bright future.

Ashby Long



Ashby plans on attending the University of Tennessee this fall. The best advice she has received is “To not let the words of other people get you down. Draw the people closest to you even closer, and rely on God to get you through everything. Casting every fear and doubt on Him in prayer makes a burden a little less heavy.”

We wish Ashby all the best as she embarks on her journey as a Tennessee Vol.

Brennan Rigsby



Brennan plans to attend Western Kentucky University to pursue a career in Speech Therapy. When asked about the best advice she’s been given, Brennan states: “Start out like you can hold out.”

We look forward to watching her grow and flourish on her life’s journey.

When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock that is higher than I. Psalm 61:2

Sarah Young



Sarah will continue her studies at Tennessee Tech and plans to major in elementary education. She also quotes her mother, Cynthia, with giving the best advice: "You are the head not the tail." We wish Sarah a beautiful and bright future filled with eager young learners.

Youth Ministry congratulates all the graduates of high school and elementary school. If I am being honest, I must admit that this time of year is always exciting but bittersweet. Watching you g people grow up is the most rewarding experience for me, yet it can also be heartbreaking to see them move on without us. Please, join with me in prayer, asking our Heavenly Father to guide them and protect them through each and every milestone of their life.

Class of 2021 high school graduates:

Riley Bouwkamp
Marissa Harriman
Ashby Long
Brennan Rigsby
Sarah Young

Class of 2021 elementary school graduates:

Greyson Banka
Campbell Jo Bush
Lauren Carlyle
Bennett Gammon
Abigail Jane Harriman
Rick Hembree
Madelyn Sampson

Mia Miller, Director of Youth Ministries

Mia Miller

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Hi friends! Happy Spring and Happy May from the Children's Ministry! In her newsletter article Pastor Monica shared with you the importance of Confirmation. We are all so very proud of our confirmands and how hard they have worked and challenged themselves during this time. On Sunday May 23rd we will have our Confirmation Sunday service, we would be so very grateful for you to make plans to attend this service if you are able to show your support to them. If you are unable to attend feel free to send a card or letter to the church that I can share with them. As always thank you for being the church you are and the way you support the children of all ages in our church and community.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
SUMMER FUN PLANNING
MEETING MAY 6TH 6PM,
ALL PEOPLE OF ALL AGES
INVITED (THIS MEANS
BRING THE KIDS)

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
MAY 23RD-PLEASE MAKE
PLANS TO ATTEND AND
SHOW THE CONFIRMANDS
HOW PROUD WE ARE OF
THEM!

BLESSINGS FROM CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Ms. Nicole, Mrs. Jodi, and the kiddos

MUSIC NEWS:

Singing with Mom (in honor of Mother's Day)

One of the most vivid memories I have as a child is singing with my mother. In particular, while visiting my great Aunt Addie, who lived in Watertown.

I dreaded those trips because there wasn't anything for me to do. Mom and Addie would sit and visit, check the plants in the yard, look at old family pictures, and if lucky, we'd go for ice cream at the Snow White drive in (I'd always get the large chocolate soft serve because Aunt Addie would convince my mom that it was ok).

Then we'd end up back in the parlor of Aunt Addie's house on Woodland Street. Mom would sit down at the piano start playing. The Old Rugged Cross, Amazing Grace, How Great Thou Art, and on it would go. But, without fail, the last song of the day was always Suppertime. Mom would play and we'd sing it together. As a child, I don't think I gave much thought to the meaning of the song, it just sounded nice, I liked the harmony. But now that I'm older and my parents have moved on, it rings in my memory and I look forward to singing with her again. (Revelation 7: 9-10)

In visions now I see her standing yonder,
and her familiar voice I hear once more.
The banquet table's ready up in heaven,
It's supper time upon that golden shore.

Come home, come home
it's supper time,
The shadows lengthen fast.
Come home, come home,
it's supper time,
we're going home at last.

We're going home at last

Submitted by:
Jennifer Perry

SUBMISSIONS:

Persecuted Christians:

Please remember to pray for the following people.

Elder Zhang Chunlei: primary leader of the Guiyang Renaissance Reformed Church was arrested & detained on March 16 along with ten other Christians for attending a Bible study. The small house church has been repeatedly targeted by Communist authorities because they refuse to join the government sanctioned Three Self Church. The church has been raided 3 times this year, the doors have been sealed twice & they've lost their building lease & had to relocate on more than one occasion from government pressure. (Guiyang, Ghizhou Provence, China)

Rahat John Austin: is a Christian Pakistani human rights activist who focuses on calling out the persecution of religious minorities in Pakistan. He has exposed many cases of persecution that would have been ignored & has been attacked by jihadists for his efforts. He fled Pakistan & is currently living as a refugee in South Korea. He is at risk of being deported back to Pakistan despite his status as a recognized refugee. Mr. Austin has reported that he will likely be killed if he is returned to the Pakistani authorities. (South Korea)

Nabil El-Habashy: age 62 was executed d on video by ISIS fighters for cooperating with the Egyptian military in their fight against the terrorist organization. The video included the warning to other Christians & Egyptians that they would be killed as well. He was kidnapped & held hostage for over 5 months prior to his execution by firing squad. The Coptic Christian Church released a statement mourning his death & praising El-Habashy for his work building the Church of the Virgin Mary in Bir-El Abd. (Bir-El Abd, North Sinai, Egypt)

Chibok Schoolgirls (update): April 14 was the 7th anniversary of the kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls, over half of whom were Christians, by Islamist militant group Boko Haram. 112 of the girls are still missing today.

Submitted by:
Jill Garner

With heavy heart I am announcing I am leaving Carthage on May 21st. I am going to Johnson City, TN to an independent living apartment. I do believe that God is leading me to this special place. I will be close to my son, Barry and his wife, Doris. I will be leaving my special church family and friends, but will be praying for all of you. I still want you to call me and keep me informed. My cell is 931-304-0168. I will let you know the new address later. Thank you all who sent me cards and prayers for the family on the death of our special Son and Brother, Scott.

God Bless You All!

Love you,

Lois Schnabel

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to have served this church for the past three years. I appreciate all the wonderful blessing I received while here! I also cherish the friendships I have made! I don't look at this new journey as a goodbye to anyone but just a see ya later!

Love,

Cheryl Hiatt

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Andrew Lavender 5/01
Ashby Long 5/02
Clayton Rigsby 5/02
Meagan Sanders 5/02
Riley Ethridge 5/04
Rosemary Martin 5/04
Sharon Woodard 5/06
Melanie Bennett 5/13
Cynthia Stickney 5/14
Katherine Bass 5/19
Emily Bass 5/19
Katie Grandstaff 5/20
Mina Henderson 5/20
Brooks Martin 5/20
Jamie Carfi 5/23
Peggy Manning 5/25
Aiden Pope 5/25
Carl Hudson 5/26
Melanie West 5/26
Bill Lowe, Jr. 5/30
Tom Upchurch 5/30

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Jerry Gammon, Sr. 6/01
Terry Pope 6/01
Julia Doran 6/02
Kellan Kemp 6/02
Susan McDonald 6/02
Tiff Ethridge 6/03
Hayes Polston 6/05

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Phillip & Gayle Hudson 5/03
Jordan & Andrea Patrick 5/11
Scott Penfield & Vivian Reynolds 5/12
Lucas & Celia Dillon 5/14
Stites Ray & Nancy Carter 5/18
Brandon & Rion Rigsby 5/19
Andy & Angie Brimm 5/26
Greg & Tina Frizzell 5/26
Jonathan & April Bush 5/30

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Scott & Leslie Pope 6/01
Randy & Mary Leslie Wakefield 6/02
David & Dawn Bass 6/03

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!!**

**IMPORTANT DATES IN
MAY**

- **Sunday 5/23 –
10:00 a.m.
Worship Service:
Confirmation
Sunday**
- **Monday 5/25 at
9:00a.m. June
Newsletter
Deadline**
- **Monday 5/31 –
Memorial Day –
Church Office
Closed**



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[615-735-0343](tel:615-735-0343)

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



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CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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