

**CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**VOLUME #25, ISSUE #10**

**OCTOBER 2021**

It is the **church's responsibility to represent God to our world**. Our main job is to let people know God has forgiven them. ... When the church shows love, acceptance, and forgiveness to the world, then perhaps the world will learn of God's forgiveness. The church exists to show grace to the world.

Understanding the definition of ekklesia (and its alternate spelling ecclesia) is an important component of understanding the church. Ekklesia is a Greek word defined as “a called-out assembly or congregation.” Ekklesia is commonly translated as “church” in the New Testament. It is important that the church today understand the definition of ekklesia. The church needs to see itself as being “called out” by God.

Recently I was asked about committees. I was excited to hear the question because what it told me is that the church is beginning to come alive again after literally being dormant in some ways. Part of the work of revival as a church will include setting up design teams that will begin to plan the outreach and movement of the church. Our primary committees As defined by United Methodist polity: Finance, Trustees, Staff Parish Relations and Lay Leadership have been meeting and working along with the Church Council. But Covid took away some of our ability to meet and gather or to go out into the world and we have now found safe ways to do that so other workgroups will be resuming.

As I mention Sunday be prepared for the call, be ready to answer. We are not at a place where we can say, “I’ve already done that” or “My time has passed” or “I don’t know if I have time.” These design teams will be able to shape what they do and how they do it in a brand new way. Some of you may even be asked to take on leadership of a team, or better yet, feel called to do so. In order for us to be the church in the community we must be organized and prepared to go out and serve and do.

**In Service Together,  
Pastor Monica**

## Lay Leadership News:

Happy Fall Church! I don't know about you but I am enjoying the slightly cooler days we are experiencing.

Hopefully we get to enjoy it for a little bit.

Our Sunday school class recently discussed an article from Carey Nieuwhof entitled "5 Big Attitude Differences That Separate Growing Churches From Declining Churches". We had some great discussion over these 5 thoughts and I wanted to share a small piece of it with you.

1.) We Can vs. We Can't - Growing churches believe they can. Declining churches believe they can't. THEY ARE BOTH RIGHT!

2.) Them vs. Us - Declining churches focus on themselves. Growing churches focus on the people they're trying to reach. The one point we made here was that this doesn't mean we shouldn't take care of those among us who are in need. We absolutely should and do that. The point is that we don't get so self focused that we aren't "offering Jesus Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time."

3.) Principles vs. Preferences - Declining churches focus on their member's preferences. And so the leaders respond, trying to please everybody. Growing churches focus on the principles that will help them reach new people. It's not that growing churches ignore the needs of their members, it's that they realize the needs of their members are best fulfilled by making their lives about something bigger than their preferences.

4.) Proactive vs. Reactive - Growing churches are proactive. They choose their agenda and immediately take action on issues that can impact their future. Declining churches are reactive, letting members determine the agenda and reacting to problems as they arise.

5.) Today vs. Someday - Growing churches act. And they act now. Declining churches don't actually say they won't act, they'll just say they'll get to it 'eventually', or someday, or 'when the times is right' - which means never.

If you'd like to read the entire article or check out some of Carey's other articles, books etc. you can find it here: [https://careynieuwhof.com/5-big-attitude-differences-that-separate-growing-churches-from-declining-churches/?he=tjdixon1980%40gmail.com&el=email&utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=Is+your+church+growing+or+declining%3F+%285+reasons+why%29&utm\\_campaign=9%2F26+-+Growing+v+Declining+Churches](https://careynieuwhof.com/5-big-attitude-differences-that-separate-growing-churches-from-declining-churches/?he=tjdixon1980%40gmail.com&el=email&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Is+your+church+growing+or+declining%3F+%285+reasons+why%29&utm_campaign=9%2F26+-+Growing+v+Declining+Churches)

So where are we? I don't necessarily agree with 100% of the article but it definitely made our group think. I know which of the two I want us to be. Maybe this gives us something to think about and some things to work towards.

Blessings,  
T.J.

**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:**



**This is my third and final newsletter plea, folks!**

**Youth ministry MUST have adult influence – there are many ways to help – YOU are needed!!**

**No Adult Helpers = No Youth Ministry**

**Please, reach out to our teenagers...they won't bite!!**



A three-week series geared towards encouraging those with mental illness. Each week on Wednesdays in October, the teaching guides take different lies a person with mental illness might believe about themselves or their illness and combats them with the truth.

Week 1 – Depression Isn't a Sin

Week 2 – You're Not Alone, God is with You

Week 3 – Misconceptions and Lies



*Mia Miller, Director of Youth Ministries*

Mia Miller

Email: [carthageyouth@gmail.com](mailto:carthageyouth@gmail.com)

Text: 615-418-7503

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS:**

Happy Fall Y'all (corny I know but I couldn't help myself) and blessings from the children's ministry! We are super super excited for this month and want to share some things with you that you definitely won't want to miss!

First, you don't want to miss the service on October 10th-this is our Children's Sabbath and all aspects will be led by the kiddos, from the scriptures to the music, to the message. Please be sure you join us that day to be blessed by them and show your support for them.

Second, that evening there will be a church wide family fun night at the Macon County Drive In. This is not just for the kiddos but everyone in the church. Plan to arrive between 6 and 630 to enjoy their concession stand and then bring your chairs and maybe your blankets depending on the weather that day and settle in to enjoy a family friendly movie beginning at 7. It's going to be a fun night and we hope to see you all there.

We continue to work on making upcoming plans as we juggle making sure we keep everyone safe and healthy and appreciate the support and love you continue to show the kiddos. Thank you for all you do to support the children in their walk with God!



**BLESSINGS FROM CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**  
**Ms. Nicole and the kiddos**

**MUSIC NEWS:**

We started a new song at choir practice last week. It's called O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer. The title says it all... Jesus saves us and he gives us a foundation we can count on. Yes, we will face challenges, but He is always on our side... He's got us, whatever comes our way.

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Strong defender of my weary heart  
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver  
And my shield against his hateful darts  
My song, when enemies surround me  
My hope, when tides of sorrow rise  
My joy, when trials are abounding  
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night

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Reminder: Choir meets at 6:30 on Thursday nights in the sanctuary. We'd love to see you there.

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The Jolly String Quartet will be leading us in Worship, Sunday, October 3rd. 10:00 a.m. in the CLC.

**Submitted by:**  
**Jennifer Perry**

## **SUBMISSIONS:**

### **IT'S SHOEBOX TIME!**

Well, not really. Packed boxes are not due until November, but you can get started early by picking up your boxes in the gathering area now. Thank you for blessing needy children. We encourage you to get your “little people” involved in this project.



### **Persecuted Christians:**

Please remember the following in your prayers.

**Arif Masih:** a 32 yr. old man was kidnapped, tortured & died after being poisoned by Muhammad Majid & Muhammad Tariq. He was targeted because he would not withdraw a harassment complaint against the men who abused his sister in the public market.

**Samuel Masih:** was poisoned by his Muslim co-workers who were upset after they had a conversation about Christian fasting. The police initially refused to pursue an investigation in Samuel's death; following a public protest authorities began investigating & a report registered by the police indicate Samuel was murdered by poison. The Christian communities in both villages are now concerned about this new threat to their safety. (Sahiwal District, Punjab Province, Pakistan)

**Hatun Tash:** a Muslim convert to Christianity was stabbed in London. Hatun is active in proselytizing to the Muslim community. She was speaking at the “Speaker's Corner” in Hyde Park, which is renowned as a public space for free, open debate & speech. Hatun has been physically assaulted multiple times over the years at the Speaker's Corner by Muslims who are offended by critiques of Islam & her professions of Christian faith. UK police have warned her of death threats & informed her she could be arrested if she continues to speak out at the corner due to safety concerns. (Hyde Park, London, England)

### **Submitted by:**

**Jill Garner**

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Judy Hackett, 10/05  
Christina Martin, 10/05  
Carolyn Webster, 10/05  
Grayson 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 Anne Hudson, 10/17  
Jason Kemp, 10/19  
Nancy Pettross, 10/19  
Jeff Davis, 10/20  
Ginny Jaikins, 10/22  
Amanda Meredith, 10/22  
Virginia Reed, 10/22  
Louise Ethridge, 10/24  
Carol Petty, 10/24  
Elizabeth Johnson, 10/25  
Mallory Dickerson, 10/26  
John Flemmons, 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 BIRTHDAYS

Kim Jackson, 11/02  
Kota Mowdy, 11/03

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Casey & Sarah Owens, 10/03  
Jeff & 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  
Marc & Sherry Tuley, 10/31

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Tommy & Paulette Parker, 10/08

**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY!!**

**IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER**

**Friday, 10/01 – Smith Co. Preschool Fall Consignment Sale 9am – 5pm**

**Saturday, 10/02 – Smith Co. Preschool Fall Consignment Sale 9am – 12 Noon**

**Sunday, 10/10 – Children’s Sabbath**

**Monday, 10/11 – Columbus Day – Church Office Closed**

**Thursday, 10/14 – 6pm Charge Conference**

**Monday, 10/18 – Friday, 10/22 – Smith County Schools Fall Break**

**Monday, 10/25 – 9am November Newsletter Deadline**

**Friday, 10/29 – Sunday, 10/31 – Women’s Retreat**



Be sure to like us on Facebook:



Carthage United Methodist Church  
@CarthageUMCtn

CUMC EMAIL:  
[carthageumcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:carthageumcsecretary@gmail.com)

CUMC WEBSITE:  
[www.carthagetnumc.org](http://www.carthagetnumc.org)

CUMC OFFICE:  
615-735-0343

Want to worship but need  
to stay home?



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