



Kingdom Knowledge: The Parables of Jesus

Normally, we don't think of Jesus as being divisive. He was usually all about gathering everyone up and bringing them under the banner of the Kingdom of God. But Jesus intentionally divided the people that heard His teaching. In Matthew 13:10-12, Jesus' disciples asked Him why He spoke in parables and His answer was that they were permitted to hear the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven but others would not. That sounds divisive to me!

Jesus' use of parables served to divide those who came to hear Him into two groups: His disciples and everyone else. His disciples would be able to learn from the parables. But to those who were not His disciples, their meaning was obscure. By using parables, His disciples would be enriched, but others would be further impoverished in Kingdom knowledge. It reminds me of the Parable of the Talents. Each servant is entrusted with a certain amount of money by the Master to care for; one of them increases the value while one just holds on to the original value. It is as if those willing to invest the knowledge of Christ will gain in abundance, but those who are just in it for the miracles or just to hold on to what Jesus teaches on the surface will lose what little they have.

While teaching with parables was not unique to Jesus (rabbis had used them for years to make a certain point more teachable), He took parables to a different, divine level. By investing in understanding the pearls of wisdom found in Kingdom knowledge, hearers will be transformed into true Kingdom dwellers. **Coupled with the instruction of the Holy Spirit, parables allow those who have faith to learn about the Kingdom.** Those without faith and the Spirit are unable to understand the truths of Jesus' parables.

Join us beginning April 14 through May 26 as we deeply investigate Jesus' teachings through parables you have chosen to hear about: **"The Ten Virgins" (Matthew 25:1-13), "The Good Samaritan" (Luke 10:30-37), "The Judgement of the Nations" aka "The Sheep and the Goats" (Matthew 25:31-46), "The Pharisee and the Tax Collector" (Luke 18:10-14), and "Counting the Cost" (Luke 14:28-33).** Get a jump start on investing in Kingdom knowledge by reading these parables in advance!

Blessings,

Pastor Monica

THE CUMC CATCH-UP

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Happy April, Friends!

Blessings from the Children's Ministry! We have had a great March and are excited to see what this month will bring us. We finished up our Wednesday night Lenten Bible study and will begin our last study of the school year on April 3. We meet every Wednesday night school is in session and dinner is provided. **As with all Children's Ministry activities, this is open to all children in the community, so if you know of someone who might like to join in, please invite them!** The Adults and Youth meet at the same time, so there is fellowship for all ages. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

We are beginning to work on plans for summer, so be on the lookout for announcements of dates, details, and opportunities to lend a helping hand.

As always, thank you for being a congregation that loves and supports the children in their walk with the Lord!

Nicole Harriman, Director of Children's Ministry

THE CUMC CATCH-UP

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

April Updates

Hi CUMC family and friends! The spring semester is quickly coming to a close, much to my disbelief. Our *Word For Moments When* series has been incredibly fun and impactful, and I look forward to finishing it out here over the next few weeks. Read on for more details about all things YG at CUMC!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT GATHERING UPDATES

We are still in need of adults to sit in on our sessions this semester to comply with Safe Sanctuary regulations. (Ask anyone who has already volunteered and I guarantee they'll tell you they had a wonderful time!) **If you are available on one or more of the dates listed below, please contact me or Kristi.**

- **APRIL 10, 17, 24**
- **MAY 1, 8**

UPCOMING EVENTS

In an effort to raise funds for the basement renovation project, **we will be hosting a Church Yard Sale on Saturday, April 27.** If you have items that you would like to donate, please drop them off in the CLC on Friday, April 26.

The Senior Sunday Service will be held on May 5 at 10:00AM. We have a number of YG Seniors to celebrate this year, including Carley Ruckman and Evan King, so please make plans to join us!

If y'all have any questions, feel free to email or text me at your convenience. As always, thank you for what you do to make YG at CUMC a place where godly growth and good times collide!

Tucker Huseh, Director of Youth Ministry

THE CUMC CATCH-UP

CHURCH + COMMUNITY NEWS



GOT JUNK YOU
WANT GONE?

DONATE IT TO THE CLC
ON FRIDAY, APRIL 26!

ALL PROCEEDS FROM
YARD SALE TO BENEFIT
BASEMENT RENOVATION.



CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST MUSIC MINISTRIES PRESENTS

SEASONS OF SACRED SONGS

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY

JANE DELONG

NICOLE HARRIMAN

KATHRYN LAVENDER

CARTHAGE UMC HANDBELL CHOIR

MAY 19 • 2:00PM
SANCTUARY

THE CUMC CATCH-UP

CHURCH + COMMUNITY NEWS

Get Your Church Directory Photo Taken!

April 14, 21 at 11:00AM

Carthage UMC is in the process of creating a new church directory! If you do not have a current photo of yourself or your family and would like to have one taken, **visit the sanctuary following the 10:00AM service on Sunday, April 14 or Sunday, April 21 to have your photo taken by our resident photographer, Joe Mowdy.**



Shawl Ministry Meeting

April 13 at 9:00AM | CLC Room #203

Join the members of the Shawl Ministry in spreading the love of God to members of our church family and local community through cozy creations such as scarves and blankets sent in sympathy, celebration, and consolation. **Questions? Contact Jane deLong.**



A Note From Dawn Bass

Thank you to our wonderful church family for your texts, calls, cards, and especially your prayers in the loss of my sister, Phyllis. It is hard losing someone you've loved all your life, but it helps to have a caring extended family we can count on in times of need.



THE CUMC CATCH-UP

CELEBRATE + CONNECT

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Kurt Bass	04/02
Marissa Harriman	04/02
Heather Long	04/03
Harvey Tinsley	04/03
Jenny Baxter	04/06
April Bush	04/09
Lindsey Dixon	04/09
Margaret Watts	04/09
Jennifer Summers	04/12
Matthew Petty	04/13
Alyson Pope	04/15
Mary Leslie Wakefield	04/16
Helen Birdwell	04/17
Abby Harriman	04/17
Tim Shivers	04/17
Jared Doran	04/20
Jerry Gammon, Jr.	04/21
Julie Wyatt	04/21
Vivian Reynolds	04/23
Phillip Upchurch	04/23
Steven Clemons	04/24
Prescott Long	04/24
Draper Long	04/24
Emily Shivers	04/24
Lacey Laszlo	04/25
Max Long	04/25
Josh Kemp	04/28

ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL	
Ronnie and Gail Russell	04/15
Jamie and Mary Alice Carfi	04/25

**RECENTLY MOVED?
JUST MARRIED?
NEW MEMBER?**

**Contact the church office to
have your info updated!**



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615-735-0343



carthageumcsecretary@gmail.com (General Inquiries)
media.carthagetnumc@gmail.com (Events + Newsletter)



Carthage United Methodist Church
Livestream, Facebook + YouTube

CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC Pastor Monica VACATION Smith Co. Schools – Spring Break	2 6 p.m. Pickleball/CLC Pastor Monica VACATION	3 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Meal 6 p.m. Children's Ministry 6 p.m. Youth 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. AA Pastor Monica VACATION	4 Pastor Monica VACATION	5 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC Pastor Monica VACATION	6 Pastor Monica VACATION
7 11 a.m. Church Council Meeting 3-4 p.m. BS Pack 367 4-5:30 p.m. BS Troop 367 Pastor Monica VACATION	8 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC 5-7 p.m. The Spot	9 6 p.m. Pickleball/CLC	10 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Meal 6 p.m. Children's Ministry 6 p.m. Youth 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. AA	11 12 Noon Bible Study	12 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC	13 9 a.m. Shawl Ministry
14 11 a.m. Directory Photos 3-4 p.m. BS Pack 367	15 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC 5-7 p.m. The Spot Deanna Cowan- VACATION	16 6 p.m. Pickleball/CLC Deanna Cowan- VACATION	17 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Meal 6 p.m. Children's Ministry 6 p.m. Youth 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. AA Deanna Cowan- VACATION	18 5:30 – 9 a.m. Boy Scout Breakfast/CLC 12 Noon Bible Study Deanna Cowan- VACATION	19 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC Deanna Cowan- VACATION	20
21 11 a.m. Directory Photos 3-4 p.m. BS Pack 367 4-5:30 p.m. BS Troop 367	22 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC 5-7 p.m. The Spot	23 6 p.m. Pickleball/CLC	24 5:30 p.m. Meal 6 p.m. Children's Ministry 6 p.m. Youth 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. AA	25 12 Noon Bible Study	26 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC	27 Youth Yard Sale
28	29 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC 5-7 p.m. The Spot	30 6 p.m. Pickleball/CLC				