



New Year, New Life

Many of the songs and hymns of the Christmas season sing of silent, lonely, cold, dark nights; the adjectives describe the world in which Jesus, our Savior, entered into. John, the disciple, writes in his Gospel: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it."*

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness **DID NOT** overtake it; not won't, not can't, but **DID NOT**. These are strong words that leave no room for debate. The darkness has not overtaken Jesus, King Jesus, our Savior! The light is **LIFE**, and life is in Christ.

Our cycle within the church starts out with the eradication of darkness at Christmas with streams of light bursting forth on Resurrection Sunday – Easter. This year we are offered a beautiful surprise of early light, as Easter Sunday falls in March. We can celebrate our new lives in Christ and the springing forth of new life in the world around us in just a few short months – 13 weeks to be exact!

I feel as though the New Year – this year more than any other – is a great time to make a plan for how I will journey through the year ahead and embrace the new life. ***What do I plan to do with my new life this year?***

- **Stop saying, "Since Covid..."** We are almost four years past the interruption caused by the new virus and shutdowns. It is time to live into the new world created from the shift it caused instead of holding on to what we had before. We can't go back and undo it. The beautiful journey of today can only begin when we learn to let go of yesterday!
- **Stop listening to people that say, "We used to do (insert activity here)" when they haven't realized we haven't done said activity in over seven years.** I will redirect them to a way to lead a group to start up the activity again if they want it back, or better yet, form a new activity that better serves our new world.
- **I will start focusing on places and spaces that are strong instead of worrying about what is wrong.** Though I can't fix everything, I can collect strength around me and move forward. Stephen Covey once wrote, "Anything less than a conscious commitment to the important is an unconscious commitment to the unimportant."
- **My main focus in life will be the hospitality born out of grace and love by Jesus and giving that to the world.** I plan to gather with like-minded people in Christ as often as I can while there are still people who will give the time to gather with other Christians while also being in the world more, offering hospitality, grace, and love to others. Everything else is extracurricular. (I may have gotten that backwards in the past.)

- ***I will review my life's priorities.*** In 2022, I officiated 27 funerals. In 2023, 11. Both are still statistically high numbers in relationship to my previous years in ministry. Life is fleeting. I need to make sure I am putting first things first. Is what I am spending my time, energy, and resources on something that has eternal consequences for me and others or have I convinced myself that where my wheels are spinning is critical to existence?

What are your plans for the light that has entered your world? What do you plan to do with the new life you have been given in Christ? What is your list for the new year? I would love to see your lists! Lay them on my desk, send them to me virtually at monica.mowdy@twkumc.org, or via snail mail:

Carthage UMC
Attn: Monica Mowdy
PO Box 241
Carthage, TN 37030

Blessings,

Pastor Monica

THE CUMC CATCH-UP

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Happy January, Friends!

Blessings from the Children's Ministry! December was a wonderful month for us, as we got to present our Christmas program. So much love and support was given to the children that night and we are so very thankful. The children and all those who helped them prepare for their performance are so appreciated.

The Children's Ministry will be taking a little time off from our Wednesday Night Fellowship during the month of January. **We will resume in February and will announce details soon.**

On a personal note, thank you to all of those who showed your support to me and the children during 2023. It is so appreciated!

Nicole Harriman, Director of Children's Ministry

THE CUMC CATCH-UP

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Cheers To A Wonderful Year!

As I think of all the prayers prayed, memories made, stories shared, meals savored, and fun had together this year with our CUMC teens, my heart is full. Though it feels like I've been Youth Minister for far longer than one year (*seriously, it's only been a year!*), God has blessed me beyond measure. It is a joy to serve this church family.

YG Wednesday Gatherings will begin on January 24, 2024 at 6:00PM.

So many exciting things are already in the works for 2024, and I can't wait to get started. As always, thank you for all you do to make YG at CUMC possible.

May your Christmas be merry and your new year be happy!

Tucker Huseh, Director of Youth Ministry

THE CUMC CATCH-UP

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Grateful, Thankful, and Blessed

I'm writing you on Sunday evening, December 17th. We've just shared a wonderful time of worship with family and friends from across the area and Barton's Creek Baptist Church.

The music was good and the fellowship sweet, but the overwhelming feeling was one of being one body of faith, made up of many different members, in worship of the One we celebrate this season. I am so humbled and grateful that He allowed me to be apart of this amazing experience.

To the choir, musicians, construction crew, Nicole and her team, Pam, Steve, and Jamie, thank you for all of your hard work!

To my CUMC family, thank you for welcoming our guests and making them feel right at home. You truly are something special.

The choir will be taking a little break in January. Keep your eye out for a OneCallNow to let you know when rehearsals will begin in 2024.

Thank you, church family, for your gifts of kindness. You are too good to me.

Keep the light of Christ shining. Merry Christmas to you all!

Jennifer Perry, Director of Music Ministry

THE CUMC CATCH-UP

CHURCH + COMMUNITY NEWS



Thank You For Your Generosity!

The CUMC Staff – Monica, Deanna, Nicole, Tucker, Jennifer, and Jaqueline – would like to thank you for your generosity this Christmas season. The gifts given were so appreciated and we are grateful for a church family that loves us so well!



Looking For Liturgists

Reading Holy Scripture aloud is a core part of our worship experience each Sunday morning. If you would like to be added to the list of liturgists for 2024, please contact the church office.



A Night In Uganda Celebration Meal

January 18 | Time TBD

Join the CUMC RTRA Mission Group for an evening of fun and reflection as they share stories and photos from their recent trip to Uganda over a delicious meal of traditional East African fare.



Becoming the People of God

Sermon Series Begins Sunday, January 7

What does it mean to be “the people of God?” Join Pastor Monica on a journey of re-discovering the unique relationship offered to us by God and how that relationship should influence the way we move and have our being in the world.

THE CUMC CATCH-UP

CELEBRATE + CONNECT

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jane deLong	01/01
Katie King	01/02
Phillip Hudson, Jr.	01/03
Tommy Ballinger	01/04
Jamie Summers	01/07
Millie Upchurch	01/08
Joe Mowdy	01/10
Jenny Tencza	01/10
Kerri Clemons	01/13
Lucye Polston	01/13
Jon Alan Long	01/15
Sue Coble	01/17
Bard Coggins	01/20
Brett Kruzan	01/20
Lucas Doran	01/21
Boone Paschal	01/21
Everett West	01/21
Mia Miller	01/22
Jonathan Parker	01/22
Gail Russell	01/26
Roy Ethridge	01/28

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Leann Lavender	02/01
Tynleigh Upchurch	02/03

ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY	
George and Susan McDonald	01/09
Terry and Alyson Pope	01/14
Jamie and Jennifer Summers	01/19
Luke and Julie Wyatt	01/25
FEBRUARY	
Dennis and Tracy Banka	02/14
Phillip and Valerie Upchurch	02/16

RECENTLY MOVED?
JUST MARRIED?
NEW MEMBER?

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



608 Main Street North
P.O. Box 241
Carthage, TN 37030



www.carthagetnumc.org



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
JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 6 p.m. Pickleball/CLC	3 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC	4 Smith Co. Schools Return 12 Noon – Monica's Zoom Bible Study	5 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC	6
7 COMMUNION 11 a.m. Church Council Meeting 3-4 p.m. Pack 367 4-5:30 p.m. Troop 367	8 Smith Co. Preschool Returns 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC 5 – 7 p.m. The Spot	9 6 p.m. Pickleball/CLC	10 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC	11 12 Noon – Monica's Zoom Bible Study	12 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC	13 9 a.m. Shawl Ministry
14 3-4 p.m. Pack 367	15 Martin Luther King Day – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NO SCHOOL 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC	16 6 p.m. Pickleball/CLC	17 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC	18 12 Noon – Monica's Zoom Bible Study 6 p.m. Uganda Thank You Meal	19 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC	20
21 3-4 p.m. Pack 367 4-5:30 p.m. Troop 367	22 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC 5 – 7 p.m. The Spot	23 6 p.m. Pickleball/CLC	24 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC 6 p.m. Youth	25 12 Noon – Monica's Zoom Bible Study	26 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC 9 a.m. February Newsletter Deadline	27
28	29 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC 5 – 7 p.m. The Spot	30 6 p.m. Pickleball/CLC	31 8:30 a.m. Pickleball/CLC 6 p.m. Youth			