

CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VOLUME #27, ISSUE #2

FEBRUARY 2023

February is often the month associated with love, care, romance and matters of the heart. Recently on our Abide movement, one of sermon scripture stands out. "“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.” John 15:13 I believe that to be true I believe that as Christians, we are called to be in compassion, and redemptive concern for our friends and neighbors. And if we lift our heads and look around, we will take notice that we have friends, family, and community members in our country that are hurting and struggling. It might even be YOU. Sadly, our response is too often ignoring people who are struggling, even if it's our self, we don't take the time to care, not because we don't care or we lack empathy. It is most likely we avoid the vulnerability of humanity. Helping others in a weakened state, or allowing people to help you, makes us admit we are vulnerable. Often, we don't want to take the time to give ourselves the time to be cared for or to care for ourselves, let alone someone else that we know. Maybe we're not sure how to help or enter in to their distress. Yet there is no greater love but to lay down our life for another; to sacrifice our needs for the needs of another. we are called to carry their burdens with them. I believe that, in order to care for others we must first care for ourselves. You can't pour from an empty cup. Giving ourselves compassion, love and care may make our hearts more fertile to care for others. If we are already caring for others, it will give us the strength to continue.

What if we use this month to begin a practice of caring for ourselves first to give us the strength, the energy and the compassion and understanding to know when and how to care for others? Below is a self-guided meditation for rest found in Christ; by Abiding. I urge you to spend 15 minutes a day engaging in this practice to put your heart and your soul in a better place, so you can receive and give help other; to fill your cup, as you begin to pour into others,

Focus on God's Word:

“My child, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.” Proverbs 4:20-22 NRSV

- How do you prevent your soul from getting sick? Maybe you care for your health by taking vitamins and exercise and getting in the sun.
- **Take a deep breath.** Like you are breathing that fresh air outside on a beautiful warm spring day. Hopefully, you do something each day to
- take care of the health of your body but what do you do to care for the spiritual needs of your body? The passage above has some tips to help us find ways to care for ourselves; our souls each day.
- **Reflect on that passage again.** Here is a different version. “Dear friend, listen well to my words; tune your ears to my voice. Keep my message in plain view at all times. Concentrate! Learn it by heart! Those who discover these words live, really live; body and soul, they're bursting with health.” Proverbs 4:20-22 MSG

Just like daily vitamins, take time to pray daily. Not just when you need something, or there's a problem. But take time to seek Christ daily. Spend time with God through His Son. This will help you develop a deep connection with God and give you the ability to be vulnerable and inform him of your concerns and your fears. Practice preventative prayer. Much like yearly physicals for your health, spending time with God regularly, allows us to work on problems before they are out of control. Spend a few minutes right now. Just relaxing in gods

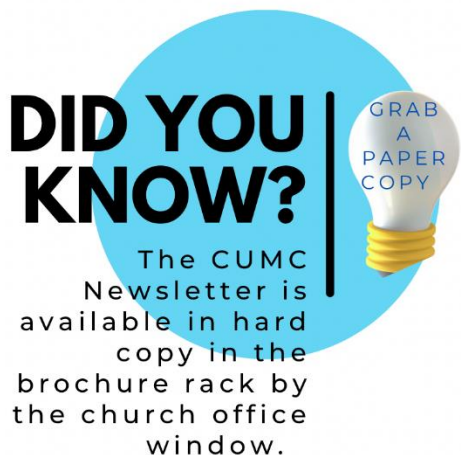
• **Pray:**

Almighty God, we realize that we don't know what the future holds, but we are thankful that we know who holds our future. Help me pay attention to what's going on on the inside and not just what's going on on the outside. God, you know my heart so help me know those places that are hurting and need healing and then Lord I invite you in to those places to bring about that very healing.

Amen

Pastor Monica

The newsletter has all the news you need to know and arrives in your email inbox at the first of the month.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The first Church Council meeting of 2023 will be held on **Sunday, February 19, 2023**, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. All committee chairpersons, please try to schedule a committee meeting prior to this meeting.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS:

Happy February friends and blessings from the Children's Ministry! This is the month of "love" in the commercial world so we wanted to share a couple of ways for you to show love this month.

The children are currently working on a study over the book "love Does for Kids" by Bob Goff, if you have a moment make sure you ask them about what they are learning. Also, as we have our Wednesday night fellowship, we are displaying our artwork in the Gathering Area so please make sure you take time to look at all of the creations they are making.

We are working on upcoming plans for the spring and summer, so please be on the lookout for details and ways you can join in!

As always thank you for being a church that loves and supports the children. You are truly appreciated.

BLESSINGS FROM CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Ms. Nicole and the kiddos

YOUTH

The Youth will be hosting a church-wide Mardi Gras Breakfast on Sunday, February 19th at 8:45 a.m.

Snack Meals for Youth: If you would like to help with providing a snack meal for Youth on Wednesdays this semester, please see David Bass or go on the church website and sign up on line under the youth page (look on the last page of the YG Newsletter for the QR code). We will need food for approximately 16. Thanks!

Tucker Huseh,
Youth Director

The poster features a black background with white and pink text. At the top, 'Smith County Habitat for Humanity' is written in pink. Below it, 'Ties and TIARAS' is written in white and pink, with a white tie icon on the left and a pink crown icon on the right. The main title 'FATHER-DAUGHTER SWEETHEART NIGHT' is in white, followed by the date 'SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023' in pink. The time and location '6:00 p.m. • Smith County Ag Center' are in white. The Eventbrite logo is in the bottom right. A pink banner at the bottom lists ticket locations: 'Citizens Bank, Wilson Bank, Smith Co. Drugs'.

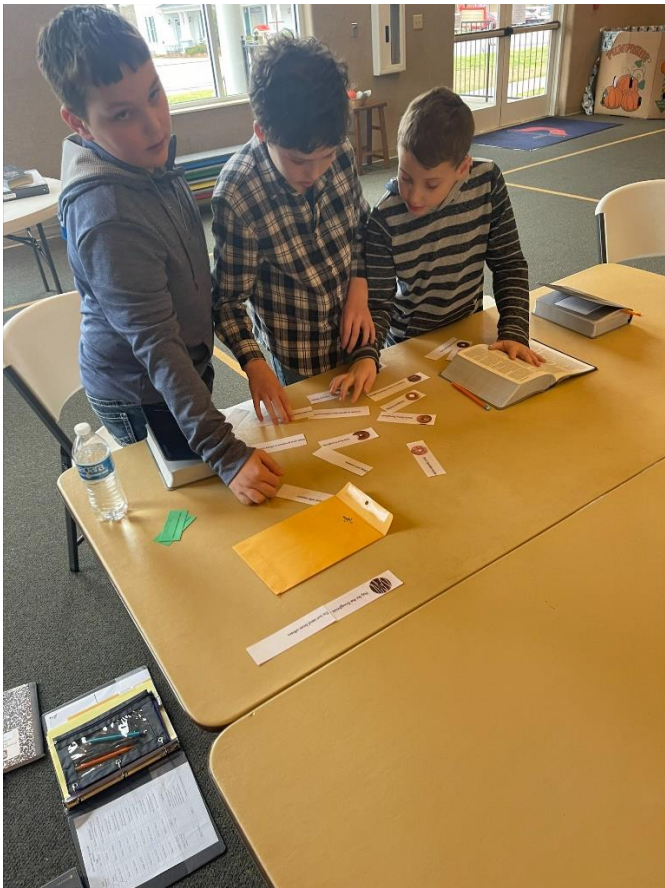
Smith County Habitat for Humanity
Ties and TIARAS
FATHER-DAUGHTER SWEETHEART NIGHT
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Eventbrite Smith Co Habitat
Eventbrite
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Habitat for Humanity sponsors Father-Daughter Sweetheart Night in February

After missing two years due to the COVID pandemic, Smith County Habitate for Humanity, Inc. is pleased to bring back its 2023 version of the popular **Father-Daughter Sweetheart Night** on **Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ag Center**. This dinner and dance will give dads and daughters (or grandfathers and granddaughters) the chance to enjoy a memorable date evening. Costs of the event is \$50.00 for a father and daughter, with \$20 for an additional daughter. Tickets are available at Citizens Bank (Carthage & Gordonsville); Wison Bank & Trust (Carthage & Gordonsville); Smith County Drug Center, Bass & Bass Attorneys or on-line through Smith County for Humanity Carthage TN Facebook page or google the words: **Eventbrite Smith County Habitat**, All proceeds go to support the local housing work of Smith County Habitat for Humanity, Inc. as the organization constructs its 13th home in Smith County this year.

If you would like to help with providing a dessert, please contact David Bass. We will need the dessert at church by noon on February 25th.

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2023



CUMC
FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6 p.m. Children's Ministry 6 p.m. Pastor Monica's Bible Study 6 p.m. Youth 7 p.m. Adult Choir	2 12 Noon Pastor Monica's Zoom Bible Study	3 Youth – Winter Jam	4 Youth – Winter Jam
5 COMMUNION 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Confirmation Class #3	6 5-7 p.m. The Spot	7	8 6 p.m. Children's Ministry 6 p.m. Pastor Monica's Bible Study 6 p.m. Youth 7 p.m. Adult Choir	9 12 Noon Pastor Monica's Zoom Bible Study	10	11 9 a.m. Shawl Ministry
12 Scout Sunday 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Confirmation Class #4	13 5-7 p.m. The Spot	14 Valentine's Day	15 9 a.m. – 12 Noon Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Children's Ministry 6 p.m. Pastor Monica's Bible Study 6 p.m. Youth 7 p.m. Adult Choir	16 12 Noon Pastor Monica's Zoom Bible Study	17	18
19 8:45 a.m. Youth Mardi Gras Church-wide Breakfast 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Confirmation Class #5	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	21	22 9 a.m. – 12 Noon Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. ASH WEDNESDAY	23 12 Noon Pastor Monica's Zoom Bible Study	24 Pastor Monica's Birthday	25
26 1st Sunday of Lent 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Confirmation Class #6	27 9 a.m. March Newsletter Deadline 5-7 p.m. The Spot	28				



Be sure to like us on Facebook:



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CUMC OFFICE:
615-735-0343

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/01 Leann Lavender
- 2/03 Tynleigh Upchurch
- 2/04 Julian Upchurch
- 2/06 Charlie Beth Davis
- 2/08 Lisa Flemmons
- 2/09 Lauren Carlyle
- 2/09 Ella Dixon
- 2/10 Marie Roberts
- 2/13 John Donaldson
- 2/15 Nina Morris
- 2/17 Jorja Summers
- 2/18 Nancy Carter
- 2/18 Tina Jenkins
- 2/18 Melanie Lancaster
- 2/18 Rebecca Paschal
- 2/19 Rachel Kemp
- 2/19 Holleigh Upchurch
- 2/22 August Long
- 2/23 Ronnie Russell
- 2/24 Monica Mowdy
- 2/26 Salter Rackley
- 2/27 Jack Sanders

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/01 Luke Wyatt
- 3/04 Missy Baker
- 3/05 Maxwell Long
- 3/05 Carol McDonald
- 3/05 Jude Summers

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- Dennis & Tracy Banka 2/14
- Phillip & Valerie Upchurch 2/16

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/01 Don & Phyllis Eckel

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!



If you have recently moved, changed phone numbers, email, etc. : please send your updated contact information to the church office. W3 need this information to keep the church membership records updated and also for the One Call Now messaging system to keep everyone updated about all things at CUMC!

Persecuted Christians

Please remember the following in your prayers.

Father Isaac Achi & Father Collins Omeh: served as priests at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in the Diocese of Minna. At 3:00 am, armed assailants set the church rectory on fire. Father Achi perished in the blaze. Father Omeh escaped the burning building but sustained gunshot wounds & was hospitalized. (Karin Koro, Nigeria)

Ahamada Mafabi: (37 yrs.) was killed after participating in a Muslim-Christian debate on January 2. A former Muslim who converted to Christianity in December 2020 after meeting many times with a pastor, Ahamada became instrumental in setting up several religious debates over the past couple of years in his community. The debates were very successful as a reported 100 people converted – on the evening he was murdered 13 people came to Christianity. He survived 4 previous assassination attempts by Muslims & is survived by a wife & 4 children aged 3-14 yrs. old. Uganda's constitution affords religious freedom to both proselytize & change one's religion. Christianity is the largest religion in Uganda (84%) & Islam is the largest minority religion (14%). (Mbale, Uganda)

Good news! A federal judge recently ruled that exempting religious colleges from Title IX to avoid interference with their religious convictions is "substantially related to the government's objective of accommodating religious exercise." The plaintiffs, The Religious Exemption Accountability Project, are considering an appeal of the ruling & seek to have the religious exemption declared unconstitutional.

Submitted by: Jill Garner