

Imago Dei & the Theory of Unlearning

Imago Dei; a Latin term meaning image of God is a term I used the last Sunday in my sermon. I now wish I had planned to spend more time to unpack and understand the term. Another sermon for another day. The term was originally brought into focus by Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century. He felt like virtuous persons are formed in a lifelike portraiture of Creator. He based this on a deep, prayerful understanding of scripture; (particularly Genesis 1:26-27, Colossians 3:10, Genesis :6, 2 Corinthians 4:4, and Hebrews 1:3)

“This biblical passage does not imply that God is in human form, but that humans are in the image of God in their moral, spiritual, and intellectual essence. Thus, humans reflect God's divine nature in their ability to achieve the unique characteristics with which they have been endowed. These unique qualities make humans different than all other creatures: rational understanding, creative liberty, the capacity for self-actualization, and the potential for self-transcendence.” [christianity.com](https://www.christianity.com) 2023, March 21, 2022.

The term not only means we are created in the spiritual image of our Creator and God is self-actualized through humankind, the term has a further meaning. The term also refers to God's care for humans. Humans have special qualities that allow for God to work in and through humans. The care of God for all humans show in the chain of love and care. We love God - God loves us and make Himself known in us which shows love for God's other Created that have yet to enter into this chain of shared love; Holy Love.

While this concept was documented in scripture within the 1st century, it was twelve centuries before anyone dug into the deeper implications and documented the insight the help teachers of the Word to better instruct and guide the followers of Christ. People had to begin to unlearn the superficial knowledge and understanding they had been taught and relearn something more rich and abundant,

What you see here is what happened within the Sermon Series BE Attitudes we just completed. It was an exercise of “unlearning.” Unlearning is when you take the embedded knowledge you have accumulated over the years and allow yourself to hear deeper and more thorough understandings. Most of us have learned the Beatitudes; possibly many times. But taking the time to truly dig, prayerfully and with discernment to find a richer and more encompassing understanding, all the while being willing to consider adopting the understanding. This is what Aquinas did through the understanding of “Imago Dei.”

Unlearning also causes us to check and recheck things we “think” we know. Example: I had always studied and learned that the recidivism rates for Tennessee was 93%. I had looked it up to be certain, What I missed was that was **second time**, felons. The state of Tennessee's 46%. Although this rate does not include misdemeanor statistics which does significantly raise

the 1st time offender statistics. This re-reading, studying and correcting is called “**unlearning.**” It is important to know, unlearning is replaced by new learning, not just ditching what you thought you knew.

Unlearning takes so much more effort. It involves reading, studying and most importantly, prayer and discernment. God gave us a brain to use and people that have done a lot of work before us to look at to better understand God’s intent for us! Unlearning is part of Imago Dei. As those created in the image and living with God in us and working through, we will be compelled to know what God wants of us. Taking the time and effort to pray, learn and know, as opposed to complacently exist with superficial understanding keeps us from truly living into Imago Dei.

Pastor Monica Mowdy

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY NEWS:

Happy September friends and blessings from the Children`s Ministry! We are back to school in full force and all the joy and work that comes with it! We are so thankful to all of you for praying for our children, teachers, school support staff, and parents as they began the journey of a new school year!

Now that we have gotten back in the rhythm of school it is time to get back in the rhythm of church! Our Wednesday night kids will resume on Wednesday September 20th! We eat, laugh, and learn! This is such a great way for the kids to connect with each other and learn about who He calls them to be so they can carry that confidence and love with them as they go into their schools, sports, and the community so His love can be spread. Please remember that Wednesday nights as with all children's ministry activities is open to ALL children not just those who regularly attend CUMC. Wednesday nights are a great way for children who may be new to attending church to feel more comfortable meeting new people than on a Sunday morning. Please feel free to invite friends and not just invite but bring them with you! Even if they can't come every week Wednesday nights are designed so anyone can feel comfortable jumping in at any time and not feel as if they are behind or can't follow the lesson because they haven't been there before. Adult and youth studies are held at the same time so there's something for all ages! Let's make it a point to reach out and connect with our community and welcome them just where and as they are because God loves all of us in exactly that way!

Looking forward to October please go ahead and note two very important things to look forward to and put on your calendar now! 1. Our kick off for our yearlong VBS will happen in October, date to be announced the first week of September, be on the lookout out for it and be praying about how you can serve. 2. Children's Sabbath will be October 8th please make plans to attend and support the children!

As always thank you for being a congregation who loves and supports the children in their walk with God!

BLESSINGS FROM CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

Ms. Nicole and the kiddos

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

The school year has barely begun and YG at CUMC is already in full swing!

Wednesday Night Gatherings began on August 9 with our new series, *Defenders of the Faith*, an apologetics-centered study based on Lee Strobel's novel, *The Case for Faith*, in which students are being challenged to think critically and develop compelling arguments that provide a rational, truthful, and intellectual defense of Christianity. We've begun to tackle some tough topics and have been thoroughly impressed by the wisdom and spiritual maturity on display during discussion time.

After the inaugural meeting of the Youth Council on August 13, a number of new events and opportunities are being offered:

YOUTH LUNCHEON (SEPTEMBER 10, 11:00AM) – Enjoy a meal prepared by the CUMC Youth at this informational luncheon as we discuss policy changes, volunteer opportunities, and our vision for 2023-2024. **Attendance by current Youth parents and adult church members is strongly encouraged.**

YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE – Starting in October, YG at CUMC will begin hosting a monthly Sunday night Youth Worship service. Dinner will be served at 6:00PM. The service will begin at 7:00PM. Attendees can expect music, a guided devotional, and communion at every service. **All Youth who are interested in offering their gifts (i.e. singing, instrument playing, graphic design, sound engineering, etc.) to the CUMC Youth Worship Team are encouraged to submit a "YG Worship Interest Card" to Tucker or Kristi, available in the Gathering Area or Youth Minister's Office.**

FALL BREAK CABIN TRIP – A Youth cabin trip has been tentatively scheduled for October 14-16. **If interested in attending or volunteering, please provide your name to Tucker or Kristi.**

Thank you for all you do to support YG at CUMC!

Tucker Huseh & Kristi Hoopes

MUSIC NEWS:

September is here and things are moving fast. The choir has started rehearsals again. We meet Wednesday nights at 7 in the sanctuary. We rehearse for one hour and work to prepare a special song for Sunday worship. In addition to that, we also will start learning our Christmas musical, O Holy Light, in the next few weeks. All are welcomed, no previous experience required, just a desire to use the gift God gave you to praise Him.

Upcoming Event:

CUMC Choir and Family BBQ, October 21st at Kathryn lavender's home. BBQ & fixin's, smores, horse rides, corn hole... a great way to spend a beautiful Fall afternoon. If you'd like to join the choir, please come and enjoy this fun time together.

JENNIFER PERRY, MUSIC DIRECTOR

WOMEN'S RETREAT INFORMATION:

Clear your calendar for October 13th-15th to make your way to the mountains. Saturday lunch will be in the lodge or on your own. The cost is \$125.00. Contact Connie Baxter 615-418-7069 or Dawn Bass 615-735-7183 if you have any questions!

RINGERS NEEDED!



The Handbell Choir will have its first organizational meeting and rehearsal on Wednesday, September 6th at 2:30 p.m. in the rehearsal room at the church.

Rehearsals last one hour. We definitely need a few more ringers. We play near Thanksgiving and Christmas and then take a break before playing at Easter time. No previous experience is needed.

If you are interested, please contact Jane deLong 615-897-2039 or 859-250-9184 or call the church office.

Special thanks to everyone who participated in the Summer Splash program for the Emmanuel House. Together we donated 228 full size products and over 300 sample sizes. This might not sound like much but it was an awesome donation requiring 3 trips to deliver it all! Thanks again for your generosity!



Jacky and Liz Carver would like to invite everyone to help celebrate Goldie Tedrow's (Liz's Mom) 98th birthday on September 12th. You can do so by mailing cards to:

GOLDIE TEDROW
10480 Glasswater Lane
Apt 316
Indianapolis IN 46231

CARTHAGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS

MONTH OF SUNDAY REVIVALS

 SEPTEMBER 3 Rev. Josh Newberry Sr. Pastor, Centertown UMC	 SEPTEMBER 10 Rev. Rickey Wade Superintendent, Caneey Fork River District	 SEPTEMBER 17 Rev. Dr. Kim McLean Songwriter, Artist & Co-Author of <i>A Song and A Prayer</i> with Loretta Lynn	 SEPTEMBER 24 Rev. Jefferson Furtado Visionary Leader
---	--	--	--

MEAL AT 6:00PM
SERVICE AT 7:00PM

WORSHIP TO BE LED BY OUR SPEAKERS, THE CUMC PRAISE BAND, AND THE CENTERTOWN UMC CHOIR

Join us every Sunday in September for worship, prayer, and powerful messages from a group of gifted, Spirit-led speakers. This event is **FREE** and open to all in the community!

608 MAIN STREET N
CARTHAGE, TN 37030

Visit Our Website www.carthagetnumc.org Questions? 615-735-0343

CUMC
SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 COMMUNION 4-5:30 p.m. BS Troop 367 6 p.m. Revival Meal 7 p.m. Rev. Josh Newberry	4 LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED	5	6 9 a.m.-12 Noon Women’s Bible Study 6 p.m. Youth 7 p.m. Choir	7 12 Noon – Zoom Bible Study	8	9 9 a.m. Shawl Ministry
10 11 a.m. Youth Luncheon 6 p.m. Revival Meal 7 p.m. Rev. Rickey Wade	11 5-7 p.m. The Spot 5:30-6:30 p.m. BS Troop 367 MONICA VACATION	12	13 9 a.m.-12 Noon Women’s Bible Study 6 p.m. Youth 7 p.m. Choir	14 12 Noon – Zoom Bible Study	15	16
17 3-4 pm. BS Pack 367 4-5:30 p.m. BS Troop 367 6 p.m. Revival Meal 7 p.m. Rev. Kim McLean MONICA VACATION	18 5-7 p.m. The Spot	19	20 9 a.m.-12 Noon Women’s Bible Study 6 p.m. Children’s Ministry 6 p.m. Monica’s Bible Study 6 p.m. Youth 7 p.m. Choir	21 12 Noon – Zoom Bible Study	22	23
24	25 9 a.m. OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 5-7 p.m. The Spot	26	27 9 a.m.-12 Noon Women’s Bible Study 6 p.m. Children’s Ministry 6 p.m. Monica’s Bible Study 6 p.m. Youth 7 p.m. Choir	28 12 Noon – Zoom Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - CLC	29	30

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bonnie Siech 9/02
Paulette Parker 9/05
Heather Gammon 9/06
Mary Alice Carfi 9/08
Harrison Polston 9/08
Elowyn Woodard 9/08
Reagan Dias 9/09
Judy Kruzan 9/09
Savana Tippy 9/11
Meredith Polston 9/12
Cohen Rigsby 9/13
Frances Poynter 9/15
Sherry Tuley 9/15
Cora Patrick 9/17
Jessie Reed 9/17
Andi Grace Davis 9/19
Nicole McDonald 9/19
Pam Davis 9/20
Herman Henry 9/20
Kathryn Lavender 9/21
Mary Martin 9/21
Brennan Rigsby 9/21
Ethan Dillehay 9/22
Dylan Mowdy 9/22
Sue Woosley 9/23
Andy Brimm 9/24
Jackson Penfield 9/24
Evan Penfield 9/24
Ruston Kemp 9/25
Christopher Daniel 9/27
Michelle Halliburton 9/28

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Judy Hackett 10/05
Christina Martin 10/05
Carolyn Webster 10/05

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Linda Paschal 9/01
Scott & Rebecca Paschal 9/02
Walter G. & Helen Birdwell 9/13
David & Diane Dillehay 9/13
Tyrone & Frances Poynter 9/18
Larry & Jane Turner 9/26

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Casey & Sarah Owen 10/03

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

Be sure to like us on Facebook:



Carthage United Methodist Church
@CarthageUMCtn



CUMC EMAIL:

carthageumcsecretary@gmail.com

CUMC WEBSITE:

www.carthagetnumc.org

CUMC OFFICE:

615-735-0343

Want to worship but need
to stay home?



IS YOUR
CONTACT
INFORMATION
CURRENT?



If you have recently moved, changed phone numbers, email, etc. : please send your updated contact information to the church office. We 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!