



First United Methodist Church of Bartow

# April 2025 Newsletter

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 4



*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life..."*

-John 11: 25

I've been thinking about resurrection a lot lately, and not just because Easter is mere weeks away. The hope we find in the resurrection is on my mind, as it might be on many of ours, in light of all that is going on around us. Trust in new life and transformation keeps me steady as we continue to be in a season of loss as another of our beloved members has passed away. Even while missing these loved ones, do you imagine them, as I do, all gathered and cheering us on? The resurrection certainly has to do with such realities. Yet, even in the face of such a joyful conviction, with so many things changing around us, it can feel like the darkness is encroaching.

I wonder if what some of us are feeling right now is similar to what the disciples went through. They thought they understood how things were supposed to go. They had seen the crowds on Palm Sunday- so much excitement and so much possibility. They had watched Jesus confound those who would try to trap him with their questions. Even when he tried to warn them of what was coming at their last meal together, did they notice or were they more focused on the beauty of their time together? Perhaps, they thought, as most of us have at some point, that if they just ignored the other signs, then maybe what Jesus had been trying to tell them for so long wouldn't happen.

But, we know it did happen. Jesus was betrayed. Jesus was denied. Darkness won. ...Except it didn't. As John reminds us at the very beginning of his gospel, "Light has come into the world and darkness cannot overcome it." The disciples learned, as we have learned, that that which seemed to be the end of everything, the death of all that they knew and held dear, was actually part of a much larger and glorious reality.

Sometimes resurrection happens when it seems most impossible. The world tells us that our loved ones are gone. The world tells us that we should just accept injustice and oppression. The world tells us that we should feed ourselves and ignore the hungry, the outcast, the losers by the world's reckoning.

It is in this crucible of the impossible that God's power shows most clearly. And out of what seem like ashes, new life springs. And this new life remembers and looks forward to what God is doing now and into eternity. The only thing that is eternal is the love of God. The most powerful thing in the universe is the love of God. When the world shouted, "Crucify him!" God was planning a new thing. The transformation of all creation. A world turned upside down. New life. Resurrection. ...And we are part of this.

Like the women who got up early on the day we now call Easter, we also get up and go about the things that we know need doing. And those things are a participation in the good news to all creation.

We are surrounded by the wonder and reminder of God's power. It is not just that the darkness was turned to light. It was that the darkness was never as dark as the world would have us believe it was or is. This doesn't mean that we don't grieve. It doesn't mean that we're not sometimes confused or angry. It means that in opening our hearts to the love of God, as exemplified in Christ, we become part of something powerful and eternal. We shine in the darkness now and forever.

In the mysterious power and creative love of God we are living the hope of all creation made new. That hope includes us. That hope includes our loved ones. That hope includes strangers and systems, powers and principalities. This change, this resurrection, this transformation is possible because with the help of the Holy Spirit we, like the women that first Easter morning, get up and do what must be done.

We don't hide. We don't make excuses. We love one another. ALL the one anothers. Fiercely. Brilliantly. Sacrificially. And with God's help... eternally.

With love in Christ,

-Pastor Missy

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## CHOIR NOTES *by Sylvia Spencer, Choir Director*



### 🎵 “Choir Notes” 🎵

What a joy at choir practice last week, when I saw BJ walking in. I was surprised, because about a week before, she was attacked by a large German shepherd dog! She had stitches in her neck and her face was swollen and very bruised! Her arm was black and blue and she said she had bruising on her chest. When she walked in she said she would not be able to sing, but she just wanted to be around her friends and just listening to us practice would make her feel so much better.

So for those who don't know BJ Simpson, let me tell you about her. She grew up in southeast Kansas on a farm. She was the middle child of 5. Twin sisters who were 4 years older and 2 brothers who were 5 and 6 years younger. Her constant companion on the farm was a herd dog! They had cattle and chickens.



When she was in high school, her parents started a pheasant business for hunting preserves. She graduated high school in 1969. Eventually, she finished with a MBA degree in 1986. Her easiest class was in finance. She taught at the University level for one year, but that wasn't for her!

She worked mostly in the medical field as a financial analyst for the long term industry. She became totally disabled in 1996 by an auto accident, which broke her neck and lumber. She married her late husband in 1980. He died of lung cancer in 2011. He was a medical director at a hospital before he was badly injured by being broadsided by a driver who ran a stop sign. She left Kansas in 1993 to work in Toledo for a big healthcare corporation. She lived right across the border of Ohio.

Her in-laws were from Canada, so whenever they could travel, that's where they would go to visit all the relatives. BJ has one son, Sean, and his wife is Kristin, who is battling brain cancer. Kristin has a son Brady, who is now 13. BJ also has 2 granddaughters, who are in their early 20's. They are the reason she moved to Florida in 2015. It certainly took her a while to adjust to Florida living. Her hobbies used to be walking, her beagles, photography, sewing, and quilting.

BJ sings Alto in our choir, and is usually the one on the far right. I was so inspired by her wanting to come and listen, I thought 'Our choir is a ministry.' I invite all of you, whenever you need to be uplifted by listening to us practice, to come and join us. We won't ask you to sing, just come and let our choir put a little joy in your heart.

Because of HIM,

Sylvia



## Lent and Easter Events



**Lent Wed Night Dinners, 6 pm**  
Wednesday Night Dinners are Soup and Sandwiches throughout Lent. Sign ups are in the Sanctuary, at WND, and through the Church Office.

## Holy Week and Easter Services

**Palm Sunday Service, April 13**  
in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am



**Maundy Thursday Love Feast, April 17**  
in the Fellowship Hall at 6 pm



**Good Friday, April 18**

**Crosswalk,** Meet at Access Church (formerly Assembly of God) at 11:35 am to begin walking to meet at NOON in Fort Blount Park



**Tenebrae Service**

in the Sanctuary at 6 pm



**Easter, April 20**

**Community Easter Sunrise Service**  
in Mosaic Park at 7 am



**Traditional Easter Service**

in our Sanctuary at 10:30 am  
Don't forget your flowers  
for the Flower Cross!



# Grace Notes



Before....

## THANK YOU!

Almost half of the money for the roof repairs came from donations from individuals and the November Silent Auction!

Thank you so much for your contributions and prayers!



And after!

## A Thank You to First from Asbury!



The greatest thing about giving a hug is you can't get one without giving one. Sending you a great big hug!



Thank you so much for including Asbury in your Ash Wednesday Service and fellowship. We were very appreciative of the invitation and fellowship  
-Asbury Church

## THANK YOU!

A HUGE THANK YOU to Clarice and Dori for sharing about their Rotary Trip to India to help administer Polio Vaccines and experience some of the amazing ways Rotary International is partnering for good there. Dori and Clarice showed us yet more ways that loving our neighbors is possible! THANK YOU BOTH!



## THANK YOU!

We are very thankful to Dorothy and Becky for helping while we found our new Secretary/Treasurer and also to Cynthia and Becky for helping with Aidan's training!

## ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian



*Our beloved Church Historian, Nadine Robbins, died in late March. We will miss her kindness, compassion, smile, and wisdom. Below is one of her Newsletter articles from 2014.*

Lights - Camera - Action! The anticipated Day of Celebration has finally arrived! Smiling, beautiful people sporting the latest fashions or vintage apparel walk the red carpet! Inspiring music fills the magnificent "hall" where this event is about to convene. The "master of ceremonies" surveys the crowd and steps to the podium . . .

No - It's not the Oscars, it's Easter Sunday at FUMC. On Easter Sunday, 1955 Bartow First (pre United) Methodist Church hosted three "celebrations". Rev. Jesse E. Waller (1951-55) was the "master of ceremonies" (pastor).

The first "celebration" (service) began at 8:30 am in our sanctuary. New members were received at this early gathering.

A second service was held at 11:00 am. An infant baptism was a part of this service.

The evening "celebration" consisted of "The Easter Festival of Music" presented by the Chancel and Chapel choirs. The choir director was J. Wesley Diffenweirth who had been named Minister of Music in 1950. He served off and on in that capacity from 1950 to 1960. Norman Hallock (1954-57) was the organist.

Other instrumentalists were Wendell Waters (my dad), trombone and Larry Mims and Hugh Martin, trumpets. Hugh Martin was then Summerlin Institute (BHS) band

director. Wendell, during his lifetime at FUMC, was our resident cello virtuoso. For many years Wendell also was an accomplished trombonist, participating in numerous church and community events. Wendell also played trombone in a dance band, "The Stardusters". In the 50's "The Stardusters" were a frequent "house band" for weekend dances at the then-active Bartow Air Base.

Each year at Easter our church and churches around the globe host "Jesus celebrations" where there are no Losers. Everyone is a Winner! The prize is not a gold statuette but the Assurance of the Gift of Eternal Life through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! (Note: The "After Parties" also are open to EVERYONE!

## Help Set Up or Bring Food For the LOVE FEAST on Thurs, April 17 at 6 pm

Help with Set up starting at 5 pm ..or bring..

- Bread** (any variety),
- Apples** (sliced in preserving juice),
- Cheese** (cut in cubes or planks)
- Grapes** (washed in small bunches or single)
- Olives** (Green, Greek, or Black),
- Dried Fruit** (figs, dates, or apricots),
- and **Nuts** (walnuts, almonds, pecans).

Please contact the Church Office to sign up. FOOD (except apples) can be brought to Church beginning on Sunday, April 13 or to the church office from 9 am to 2 pm through Wed, April 16.



Through **NURTURE AND DISCIPLESHIP** we grow in our relationship with God in *Jerusalem*, our own church, and beyond through study, prayer, & service.



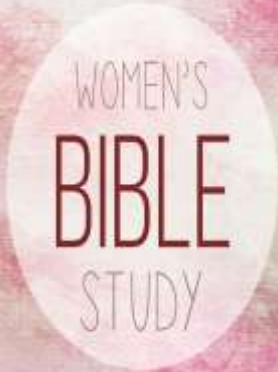
### Adult Sunday School

9 am in the Education Building Library

The first Monday of each month.

April 7 at 11:30 am.

870 Lila Street in Bartow



We welcome new members!

Bring a salad or sandwich!

We will have a soup to share!



Tuesday Breakfast & Devotions at Broadway Diner 8:30 am

Questions? Call Walt at 215-237-7985

### Grief Support

Our current group has begun

If you are interested in participating when our next group begins or you would like a book to read on your own, you can sign up in the Sanctuary, contact Faye at 863-537-0312 or the church at 533-0904 or firstumcbartow@aol.com Thank you!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER



April 2, 9, & 30

During Lent, all our WND meals are soup and sandwiches. We do this as an exercise in simplicity. Please sign up to bring soup or sandwiches at Church.

## Wednesday Night After Dinner

...sometimes it's Bible Study at 6:45 pm

And sometimes it's Special Programs like...

Dori & Clarice sharing about Their Rotary trip to India!



Ways we are the body of Christ as Jerusalem and Judea with Children and Youth!

### Children

We ALL love Children's Moment and Children's Church!



Our Youth also enjoy cooking and are getting good at bread pudding and brownies!

### YOUTH

Our Youth are wonderful role models and leaders at FMS



They shared their bread pudding with the FMS teachers, WND group, and others who needed a little TLC!



And like any tween or teen, our Youth really like to have fun and eat!

# Reaching out in Jerusalem and Judea through Fellowship

## Fellowship Events

NEXT Lunch Bunch

**Ruby Tuesday**

**April 6**

Meet there right after worship.



March at Mike's on 17

**RSVP**

to the Church Office  
533-0904 or  
firststumcbartow@aol.com

**By Wed April 2,  
12:00 pm**



Thank you Barbara!

# Silver Saints



**April 28th Meet THERE at 10am**  
**215 E Magnolia St in Lakeland**

**\*RSVP by Wed April 23rd\***

Contact the Church Office by April 23rd to  
**CARPOOL-** ride or drive!

Carpoolers must let us know you plan to carpool!  
And please meet at 9:15 am in church parking lot.

## Golden Girls

**Watch for details coming soon  
about a May event!**

## Do you like Crafting?

No special skills required!

If you are interested in being a part of a crafting group,  
Sign up in the back of the Sanctuary!



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>April 2025</b>		<b>1</b> A coin for every electronic video game.	<b>2</b> A coin for every smart device (phones, tablets, etc.).	<b>3</b> A coin for every television	<b>4</b> A coin for every doll or stuffed animal.	<b>5</b> A coin for every board or card game
<b>6</b> Song: "Cover Me in Sunshine" Pray today, thanking God for the entertainment in your home. Pray for those who would be grateful for just one of these items.	<b>7</b> A coin for every ball cap or hat	<b>8</b> A coin for every pair of shoes	<b>9</b> A coin for every pair of jeans or pants	<b>10</b> A coin for every coat	<b>11</b> A coin for every t-shirt	<b>12</b> A coin for every sweatshirt
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> Song: "You Will Be Found" Pray today, thanking God for clothing that protects you from the elements. Pray for those who lack clothing to keep them warm and dry.	<b>14</b> A coin for every Bible.	<b>15</b> A coin for every book of hymns or sacred songs in your home.	<b>16</b> A coin for every cross in your home.	<b>17</b> A coin for every prayer you say today.	<b>18</b> A coin for every story of Jesus you can tell.	<b>19</b> A coin for every person in your family.
<b>20 Easter Sunday</b> Song: "Light Of A Clear Blue Morning" Pray, thanking God for Jesus and for the many ways we can gather and worship God. Pray for those who will receive the coins collected that they would see God's presence through them.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	Each household is challenged to take a <b>Lenten Coin Calendar</b> and fill the holder of your choice with coins. Each day, except Sunday, your household counts how many of a given item you have and you put that many coins in your holder. A special song to listen to and a prayer based on that week's items are suggested for Sundays. Coins will be collected beginning on Easter Sunday for Missions and Outreach.			



# First Methodist School



Science & Letters in Preschool: V for Volcano!



Sometimes ya' just gotta' dance!

Flat Stella & Flat Stanley went on Spring Break!



Mr David builds a Preschool sandbox while Miss Pat checks out his handiwork



Yes, lunch is orange, but all the food groups are there!



The Second Graders solved a mystery and are computer detectives!



You know it is Spring when Mr. Meier's class is planting again!



Our 7th graders on Picture Day



The students in Art have a very special project going right now. Expect to see more about that soon!

# SHARING OUR BLESSINGS



## Connectional Giving

Helps fund ministries like...

**Conference Services and Administration**

Provides funds for the general operations and administration of the Florida Conference.

- Finance and Administrative Leadership
- Annual Conference Events
- Conference Workbook and Journal
- United Methodist Conference Center
- Employee Salaries and Benefits
- Property Maintenance – Pays for the cost of property and casualty insurance on all conference-owned facilities.

This fund makes it possible for us to have experts in Human Resources, Leadership and Equipping, Risk Management, Missions, and others available with the sending of an email or the picking up of a phone. Without the infrastructure this fund supports, we would be on our own when dealing with insurance, pension, figuring out workman's comp, and so many other things. This fund helps keep us all connected.



### CAS Recovery Project

Three years ago a huge hail storm ripped through Mendoza. It came up so fast that the leaders at **Colegio Albert Schweitzer** (the school that is partnered with the church we are friends with in Mendoza) did not have time

to reel in the heavy tarp they use to shade their courtyard for the students during PE. The hail came so fast and heavy it tore down the WALL that the special shade was attached to. Thankfully, no one was hurt and it was not the wall on the classroom side! Our friends have just begun the process of rebuilding the wall. It is a very intensive process. Just like we have recently had to deal with fixing roofs and brick facades, our friends are on a similar Journey, and we pray for each other all along the way!

### Want to give online?

It's easy and free!  
Talk to your bank about how to  
**ZELLE**

your tithe, offerings, and other gifts directly from your bank account to the church's bank account.

Use the email address [firstumcbartow@aol.com](mailto:firstumcbartow@aol.com) to give!

**THANK YOU!**

### Using Our Gifts!



Deborah B uses her prodigious vocal gifts to croon to the crowd at Bloomin' Arts!

Deborah shows us yet another way to witness to Christ by using our gifts in Bartow & beyond!

Community Building Opportunities: Witnessing to Christ in Judea and Samaria



**BLOOD DRIVE THIS MONTH**  
**THE BIG RED BUS WILL**  
**BE AT THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS**  
**PARKING LOT**

**APRIL 13, 9 AM-1 PM!**

Go to: [oneblood.org/donate-now](http://oneblood.org/donate-now) & use sponsor code **35745**

**This is a safe, easy and painless way to help others.**

Your **one donation** has the ability to **save three lives!**

They will also provide a mini check up including a blood pressure check and cholesterol check.

A gift will be provided to you also...

**but the greatest gift will be the knowledge that you are saving a life.**

What a beautiful way to love our neighbor as Jesus taught us!

**Please do not park in the Elections Lot! THANK YOU!**



**M**issions **O**utreach **E**vangelism



May and Mother's Day will be here before we know it! MOE is excited to be supporting women in special ways during May.



Please donate products such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, razors, feminine hygiene products, etc., and they will be shared with Bartow Community Center.

We will also continue to collect non-perishable food items.



Thank you for continuing to help our neighbors in need!

## REACHING OUT...

**Vacation Bible School is just around the corner!**

# Galilee Marketplace VBS

**June 23-27, 9 am-12 pm**

Marketplace VBS is great, but it takes LOTS of Volunteers! Help ahead of time with Prep Work. or... Help for a couple of hours, for 1 or 2 days, or the week. or... Cut out or sew fabric. or... Cut & drill wood  
Maybe you have something around your house we need to borrow!  
Look below to see how YOU will participate!

### WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

#### Shopkeepers: (1-5 days)

Baker  
Carpenter  
Cloth Shop  
Farmer  
Jewelry Maker  
Leather Worker  
Metal Worker  
Olive Oil Merchant

Potter  
Spice/Herb Shop  
Synagogue School  
Village Green (games)  
Weaver  
  
**Tribe Leaders** (small groups)  
MUST be there ALL FIVE DAYS

#### Other Volunteers:

Storyteller (5 days)  
Game leader (1-5 days)  
Kitchen Lead (5 days)  
Kitchen Help (1-5 days)  
Folk Dancer (1-5 days)  
Outside Games (1-5 days)  
Registration (1-5 days)  
Photographer (1-5 days)

#### Prep Work

Decorating Team  
-plan & collect ahead of time  
-actual decorating is June 21/22  
with lots of helpers  
Organizing Supplies  
-mostly June 15-19

### DONATIONS

Acrylic Paint	Raffia	Apricots– dried	Olives– Black
Air Dry Clay or Model Magic	Salt (Kosher or Sea Salt)	Bananas	Olives– Greek
Glue Dots	Tacky Glue	Canned biscuits	Olives– Green
Jute and string	Thin ribbon	Cheese	Pita
Leather pieces	Wire that is BENDABLE	Dates	Puffed Millet– 2 bags
Leather laces	Grains (wheat, rye, oats, etc)	Figs– dried or fresh	Puffed Kamut– 1 bag
Mustard seeds	Dried Herb Plants	Flour	Raisins
Olive Oil	Apple Juice	Frozen Bread Dough	Sesame seeds
Potting Soil	Apples	Grapes	
Permanent Markers		Hummus	Fabric. Light weight

NO PRINTS unless stripes

Spices (oregano, basil, bay leaf, cinnamon, mint, spikenard, anise, coriander, cumin, dill, frankincense, myrrh, mustard)

Old prescription bottles (PLEASE WASH OUT!!! Take off or black out labels)

### THINGS TO BORROW- Please label CLEARLY with YOUR NAME!

Potted Palms and Trees (real or silk for decoration)      Old looking clay jars (for decoration)  
Baskets (large or small– for decorating & holding supplies)      Simple wood tables (for decoration)  
Wooden Boxes (to be used in decorating & holding supplies)

PRE-REGISTRATION forms are available now!!! Pick one up in the back of the sanctuary or in the church office.

**YOU can SIGN UP TO HELP *now* in the Sanctuary or by contacting the church office.**

Ways we are the body of Christ to the ends of the earth!

## **Missionary Charles Mulena will be visiting us April 9!**

The Rev. Charles I. Mulemena is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, serving as a Pastor and Trainer of the MCCA Belize Honduras District, The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, based in Belize. He was commissioned in October 2015.



Charles is from Kitwe, Zambia and is an elder of the Zambia Annual Conference. He was pastor of Grace United Methodist Church from 2007 to 2013, and also director of the New Life Center, a United Methodist facility, beginning in 2009. In 2011 through 2013, he was chair of the Kitwe District of the Council of Churches in Zambia. Charles received a diploma in theology and mission in 2007 from the Trans-Africa Theological Seminary located in Zambia, and also holds certificates in church administration and psychological counseling. He has served as youth coordinator for his annual conference and as a prison ministry coordinator.

“I have learned that the Christian walk is not in any way easy, but a very exciting one as I daily learn to trust and obey the Lord’s direction,” he says. After giving his life to Jesus at the age of 12, Charles joined a volunteer evangelism team, recalling, “It was such a fulfilling and exciting experience that from that day, evangelistic ministry—sharing God’s love with different kinds of people—has been my passion all my life. This has helped me to grow in my Christian faith so that I can say that I would not be where I am today without such encounters.”

Of his call to mission service, he says, “I have been involved in both national and international mission, which has given me such an exciting experience in cross-cultural relations. Therefore, I strongly feel it is time for me to enter full-time missionary service.”

Charles is married to Barbra Mulemena, and the couple have five young children.

**We hope you can join us for Charles’ presentation after WND at 7 pm on April 9**



### **ZOE Empowers**

At just 13, Fiona lost her mother, leaving her to care for her seven-year-old brother with epilepsy and two other siblings. Forced to drop out of school and eventually kicked out of her home, Fiona sought refuge with her blind grandfather and disabled grandmother in another village.

Despite the hardships, Fiona persevered, finding work as a laborer, though often unpaid. Her burden increased when a friend left her one-year-old child behind, adding another responsibility to Fiona's plate.



In 2022, hope arrived in the form of the Zoe Empowers program, offering her a supportive empowerment group and a chance for a better future. With determination and the support of her peers, Fiona started her own vegetable business, cultivated a garden, and mastered the art of basket making. Today, her group members came together to build her family a new home with two bedrooms, a living space, and a kitchen. Fiona, your resilience and strength are truly remarkable and this is just beginning. We cannot wait to see the heights you will reach!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



**2—Clarice Roth**  
**4—Ted Wright**  
**8—BJ Simpson**  
**9—Ethan Hartsaw**  
**13— Kaylee Coil**  
**15— Pat Huff**  
**24— William Etheredge**  
**28—Cheryl Gillooley**

SYMPATHY and MEMORIAL GIFTS



*The Sympathy of our church goes to the Family of Nadine Robbins, who passed on to eternal life on March 27th, 2025.*

PLEASE NOTE

Information OR PICTURES for the April newsletter should be submitted by **Tuesday, April 15th.**

Thank You for helping us send out the Newsletter in a timely manner!

The Newsletter is published monthly by FUMC-Bartow 455 S Broadway Ave, Bartow, FL 33830.

Please remember these in your prayers, visits, and other expressions of Christian love.

**The Chronically Ill and Homebound**

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Alice— 3 y/. <i>health</i>          | Steve R  |
| Diane A                             | Brenda R— <i>Missy's mom</i>   |
| <b>Ken A</b>                        | Lynn S   |
| <b>Amanda B</b>                     | BJ S   |
| Susan B                             | Sadie— 6 y/o <i>healing</i>  |
| Jonathon B                          | Louise T   |
| Brian— <i>safety</i>                | Jean & Dick T  |
| Lavada C & Family                   | Kathy W  |
| Danielle D- <i>healing</i>          | Greg W   |
| Daphne— <i>healing</i>              | Patricia W   |
| <b>Betty F—<i>healing</i></b>       | <b>John Z family</b>   |
| Shawn F                             | -Leaders everywhere to do God's will   |
| Karel H                             | -Everyone affected by sickness, repressive governments, gun violence, and natural & human caused disasters |
| Brandon H                           | -Also on our hearts:   |
| Melody H                            | Our Nation, Ukraine, Haiti   |
| <b>Pat H</b>                        | Israel/Hamas War, Sudan  |
| Kristin— <i>BJ's d-i-l, healing</i> | Santa Cruz Church  |
| James L— <i>healing</i>             |  |
| Allye M                             |  |
| Dorrance M— <i>healing</i>          |  |
| Kathy M— <i>healing</i>             |  |
| Carolyn P                           |  |
| Heath P <i>healing</i>              |  |
| Mary Beth P                         |  |

**Serving in the Military:**

Jeremy B, Victor O, Joseph S, Bryson T

**Missionaries and Others:**

**Pioneer Missions, Indonesia:** Christian, Dawn & Joshua William; **Sister Church:** Iglesia Metodista de Santa Cruz del Sur, Cuba; **Missionaries in Angola:** Leo & Cleivy Garcia, Kutela Katembo, Serguey and Graciela Espinosa; **Iglesia Evangelica Metodista Argentina:** UMC Missionary Doug Williams and FMEC Mendoza Pastor Pablo; Our Pastor, Church, and School Staff; District Supt. Emily Hotho, and our Bishop Tom Berlin

**Don't Forget!** The **Newsletter** is available in a variety of ways! Printed copies are on the table in the back of the Sanctuary and in the **Church Office** in the Education Building.

It can be found in digital format in the **EMAIL** the church sends out with it attached each month **AND** the **website: firstumcbartow.com.**

If you wish to receive a newsletter by mail, please contact the church office at firstumcbartow@aol.com or 863-533-0904.

Thank you!

# APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 4 pm Grief Group 6 pm Wed Night Dinner 6:45 pm Bible Study	3	4	5
6 *10:30 am: Worship & Communion Noon: Lunch Bunch Ruby Tuesday	7 FMS Chapels 11:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm: Finance Meeting	8 8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	9 4 pm Grief Group 6 pm Wed Night Dinner 7 pm: Charles Mulemena sharing	10 3-5 pm: Youth	11	12 12 pm: Nadine's Visitation 1 pm: Funeral & Graveside with Meal afterwards
13 Palm Sunday *10:30 am: Worship	14 Chapels	15 8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	16 4 pm: Grief Group NO WND or Bible Study	17 Maundy Thursday 3-5 pm: Youth 6 pm: Love Feast	18 Good Friday 11:35 am CrossWalk 12 pm: Service at Ft Blount Park See pg 3 for details 6 pm: Tenebrae Service	19
Holy Week						
20 Easter Sunday 7 am: Community Easter Sunrise Service in Mosaic Park *10:30 am: Worship	21	22 8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	23 4 pm Grief Group NO WND or Bible Study	24 6 pm: FMS Spring Program	25 9:30 am: VPK Graduation	26
27 *10:30 am: Worship	28	29 8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	30 4 pm Grief Group 6 pm Wed Night Dinner NO Bible Study			

\* in the Sanctuary, on Facebook, and by Monday on YouTube



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
BARTOW, FLORIDA**

455 S Broadway Ave.  
Bartow, FL 33830

APRIL, 2025

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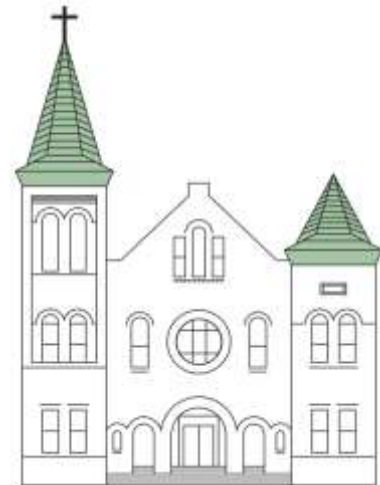
[www.firstumcbartow.com](http://www.firstumcbartow.com)

Witnessing to Christ empowered by the Spirit in Bartow & beyond

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE:

THUR-SAT, JUNE 5-7:  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LAKELAND

JUNE 23-27, 9 AM-12 PM:  
GALILEE MARKETPLACE VBS



Missy Turbeville .....Pastor  
Aidan Reed ..... Administrative Assistant  
Sylvia Spencer .....Pianist/Accompanist &  
Choir Director  
Will Alderman ..... Audio/Visual Technician  
Ernesto Fonseca ..... Sanctuary/Annex Custodian

**BE IN PRAYER FOR...**

Safe travels for everyone  
Our brothers and sisters in peril around the world  
Those dealing with upheaval in their lives

Did you know we have **Facebook** and **YouTube** pages as well as an **Instagram** feed?  
Share with your friends as you “Follow” us and watch services at First United Methodist Church Bartow, FL  
on Facebook and First Methodist Bartow on YouTube, and follow us on Instagram at firstumcbartow.