

First United Methodist Church of Bartow

# April 2026 Newsletter

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 4

...Not my will, but Yours be done.

-Luke 22: 42

Does it sometimes feel like there's simply A LOT going on? Some of it's wonderful, exciting, and great and some of it just ...isn't. It must have been exciting to be around Jesus and his ministry. It must have been wonderful to hear such wisdom and to observe miracles, what John's gospel calls "signs" of the Kingdom of God. How exhilarating to experience people healed, the hungry fed, the broken welcomed. It also might have been occasionally exhausting. In fact, we know that it was, and that even Jesus stepped away sometimes to go and pray.

On the last night of his life, after washing his disciples' feet and eating a final meal with them, he went to a garden to pray. There was a lot going on. Much of it had been fantastic and gorgeous: Being welcomed into Jerusalem with "Hosannas;" people coming to ask questions, listen, and be healed; and spending Passover with his friends. There was also something dark happening: scheming, greed, and betrayal. Jesus knew all this. He knew what many of us have come to understand: that in order to reach new life in some way we will have to walk through the valley of the shadow.

In this season of self-reflection, as we prepare to celebrate Resurrection, we as a church are being given an opportunity to pray and reflect on who we are in Christ and how we can move forward in new life. We are entering a new chapter in the story of our church family. We are once again expanding staff in the areas of children and youth, but we are doing it in a slightly different way to better support those who have a passion and spiritual gift for working with children, youth, and their families. We continue to seek ways to be better neighbors in our community, including reaching out with love and compassion to the students, families, and staff in our school. We are having discussions and seeking to share ministry with our brothers and sisters at Asbury UMC to discern whether we want to merge our two congregations.

With each new page written in our story, we do not turn the page and forget what has gone before. We learn from experiences, retrenching in some cases and going from strength to strength in others. Much in our church life is exciting and includes wonderful opportunities to witness to the good news of Christ. As we do this, we want to add to our story of living empowered by the Holy Spirit and doing God's will in the world. In order to do that we have to start where Jesus started: with prayer.

May our prayers include our hopes and dreams for our ourselves, our families, our friends, and the body of Christ in Bartow and beyond. May our prayers include a confession of the things we have left undone or done contrary to God's will. May our prayers be for newness of life and healing of mind, body, and spirit for ourselves and everyone... so that the A LOT of life will not overwhelm the abundant life we have in Christ.

Whether we are in the valley of the shadow or on a mountain top, may our prayer be for our story to be one that reflects Christ on every page.

As we walk through Holy Week and experience the victory of Palm Sunday followed by the devastation of Good Friday, it is important to pause and remember that we are not alone on the journey. We follow Jesus, Emmanuel who is God with us. We are on a path with Jesus that leads to the grace of Easter morning. And even in the time of A LOT, may our prayers echo Jesus in the garden for God's will to be done. May our story be one of joyful obedience, empowered by the Spirit for abundant life together living out Jesus' heart to the world.

with Love in Christ,

-Pastor Missy

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# CHOIR NOTES *by Sylvia Spencer, Choir Director*



## “Choir Notes”

♪ Our choir has been working diligently on our music for Holy Week! ♪

Beginning Palm Sunday, March 29th, we will present 4 anthems... *Lord of Might and Miracles, Great is the Lord OUR God, Remember Me, and All Because of God's Amazing Grace.*

For the Good Friday Service, April 3rd, we will present *The Day He Wore My Crown.*

And then at the Traditional Easter Service, April 5th, we will present... *Alive, Forever, AMEN.*

Because of Him  
...Sylvia



We are pleased to announce that Avery H will be with us through the middle of May as our Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries.

Some of you know Avery as Cynthia L’s granddaughter.

*While Avery is not able to take this position permanently, her willingness to come on board is giving us time to look for a permanent coordinator.*

Avery & her cousins



*Thank you Avery!*

### **Exciting News!**

Our church is offering two part-time positions within our Children and Youth Ministries:

#### **Sunday Nursery Worker**

(2 hours a week 10 am - 12 pm on Sundays)

*and also a*

#### **Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministries**

The Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator will work with and support volunteers in our Sunday Children’s Church and Thursday Youth Ministries.

The coordinator will be a point of stability to enable volunteers to use their gifts with Children and Youth.

This position is 10 hours a week to include Sunday mornings with other days/times to be negotiated.

If you know of someone interested, please have them contact the Church Office for more details.

**Fri, Apr 3**

FMS, Preschool,  
& Day Care  
CLOSED

**Monday,  
April 6**

Church Office  
CLOSED

**Finance  
Meeting**

**Apr 9, 5:30 pm**  
In the Library

**Council  
Meeting**

**Apr 13, 5:30 pm**  
*In the Library*

**WATCH FOR  
MEETINGS TO  
DISCUSS MERGING  
WITH ASBURY UMC.**

## Holy Week Events

**Stations of the Cross: March 30-April 2,**  
9:30 am—2 pm at **Mulberry UMC** in their Sanctuary  
You are invited to walk through an interactive  
experience remembering the final hours of Jesus' life.



**Maundy Thursday Love Feast: April 2, 6 pm**  
Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we  
remember Jesus' last meal.

**Good Friday Crosswalk: April 3**  
Meet at Access Church at 11:40 am to  
begin walking to meet at NOON in Fort Blount Park.



**Good Friday Tenebrae Service:**  
April 3, 6 pm in the Sanctuary



**Easter, April 5**

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



**Traditional Easter Service & Communion**  
in our Sanctuary at 10:30 am  
*Don't forget your flowers  
for the Flower Cross!*



**If you signed up to bring food for the LOVE FEAST on Thur, Apr 2,**  
You can drop off at the Church Office (9 am– 2pm)

**Needed by Wed, Apr 1** (contact the church to sign up to bring something if you haven't already):

**Bread, Cheese, Grapes, Olives, Dried Fruit, and Nuts,**

**Brought on Thur, Apr 2 by 5:45 Apples** (sliced in preserving juice)

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  
Annex Sunday School Room



### Women's Bible Study April 6, 12:30 pm

870 Lila Street in Bartow

Questions? Contact Jenny at 863-205-6129  
or the Church Office at 862-533-0904

*We welcome new members!  
Bring a salad or sandwich!  
We will have a snack to share!*



### Tuesday Breakfast & Devotions



At **Broadway Diner**  
8:30 am

Questions? Call Walt at 215-237-7985



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

6pm in the Fellowship Hall

**APR 8:** Covered Dish & Chicken \$2

**APR 15:** Pizza & Salad \$5

**APR 22:** Covered Dish & Chicken \$2

**APR 29:** Pot Roast, Potatoes, & Carrots \$5



*Don't forget to **RSVP** to the Church  
Office the Monday before!*

### Grief Support has been postponed.



Keep an eye out for updates in the Bulletin, Website, and Social Media. If you are interested in participating when our next group begins, or you would like a book to read on your own, you can contact Faye at 863-537-0312 or the Church Office.

### Congregational Care Team



This group oversees nurture within the life of the church. If you enjoy caring for others through cooking, cards, calls, crafting, driving, helping, or listening, there is something in this group for YOU!

### We Care Visitation

Part of Congregational Care, this group reaches out through calls, cards, texts and even little gifts they create! **Interested?** Contact the Church Office to know more.



## ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian



*Nadine's gift for connecting the present to the past and future of our church is one we continue to learn from and will share for a bit longer. Below is another archive edition of "Across the Courtyard" from April 2017.*

"The purpose of it all? Simply to preach the gospel and influence of beauty reaching out to visitors through trees, shrubs, flowers, birds, superb architecture, the music of the bells, and the sylvan setting . . ." Edward William Bok. Recently I visited Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales during the annual Carillon Festival. Over the years many of our FUMC church members have attended this beautiful "attraction" on childhood school field trips, family day trips, or for other special events. One of former Pastor Roy Lowe's favorite times to enjoy Bok Tower along with his FUMC family was during annual performances of the Imperial Symphony Orchestra which included FUMC musicians Marsha Whitney (flute) and (Dad) Wendel Waters (cello).

Bok Tower Gardens (Mountain Lake Sanctuary and Singing Tower) was established in 1929 by Edward Bok as his gift to the American people. Many years ago our Bartow First Methodist Church also was the recipient of a gift from the legacy of Edward Bok.

During the 1920's Edward Bok, along with a colony of Winter residents, built homes in Mountain Lake, adjacent to what became Bok Tower Gardens. After Mr. Bok died in 1930 his wife remained at the Mountain Lake Estate for two months then left the resident to be near her family. In ensuing years she made occasional brief visits to the Lake Wales Estate.

After Mrs. Bok's permanent departure from Mountain Lake the Edward Bok Estate was

purchased by Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Kulas of Cleveland, Ohio. Located in the former Bok home was a magnificent Aeolian Pipe Organ.

Our FUMC Church History states that in 1941 the Kulas presented our church with a gift of this organ. A campaign was held to raise some \$3,000 to "defray the expenses of dismantling, transporting, and 'setting up'". Many Bartowans responded to the call for funds, realizing the value of this gift to the entire community. For this fine gift our church (was) also indebted to . . . Pastor Rev. A. A. Koestline and Mr. W. F. Bevis, one of its stewards for their alertness and active interest in making the contact that secured this gift for our church."

Further FUMC history relates ". . . In 1943 several hundred members of the Methodist Church and well-wishers from other denominations crowded the church auditorium on Sunday afternoon, March 21 to witness the formal dedication of this fine organ . . . In addition to (recognition) of the Kulas (benefactors), the church acknowledged . . . Mr. and Mrs. Harold S. Day, who presented the amplifying system, Mr. Ralph Piper . . . construction engineer and 'many friends' for their help and contributions in making the acceptance of this gift possible."

"Dr. P. M. Boyd, District Superintendent from Bradenton delivered the dedicatory address . . . Other notables were Governor and Mrs. Spessard L. Holland and Dr. J. W. Blake, District Superintendent. Governor Holland, a former member of our church spoke of the appreciation of the congregation. He . . . emphasized the value of the church and its importance to humanity, especially in critical times . . . urging support of the church as the only institution which has offered a program for lasting peace . . . The musical program was in the charge of Miss Margaret Clark (choir director) and Mrs. W. F. Bevis, organist . . . Mrs. Spessard Holland sang 'The Holy City'".

The "Bok" organ remained in our church until 1967 when the present organ was purchased. This was funded from a bequest by Mrs. Solon G. Wilson and Mrs. Alfred I. DuPont to honor then Senator Spessard L. Holland, who remained a member of our church until his death in 1971.

# We had an amazing time at Homeland!



We made it back to Homeland!  
We worshipped God as we shared  
what it meant to have a friend in  
Jesus through Scripture, Music,  
and Example!



We had a fabulous time eating  
and playing...  
Methodist Fellowship at its finest!



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

### Children

Children's Church is BACK!

During Children's Church Mrs. Elsa led the children in Scripture on the Last Supper and they had apples, honey, shortbread cookies, and grape juice. Their memory verse for the month was John 3:16



Learning about forgiveness with Pastor Missy during Children's Moment.

### Youth Thursdays 3-5 pm



Sometimes snack's in the kitchen and other times it's across the street in our Youth Room, All the times, it's good!

We created Holy Week Tableaus. Can you guess the Holy Week story we were telling?



Each Youth "directed" and played Jesus in a different tableau.



Our Youth are creative and hard workers! They even helped make our Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday!

Fellowship Events

NEXT **LUNCH BUNCH** at **Broadway Diner**

**Sunday, May 3**  
at 12 pm



**RSVP** to the Church Office  
by Wed, April 29, noon



Thank you to Barbara H for the cake to celebrate our March Birthdays!

We had a nice time at our March Lunch Bunch at Charm City!



**Silver Saints** is looking for a coordinator! If you are interested, please contact the Church Office at 863-533-0904 or firstumcbartow@aol.com

Monday Night Bingo at



Come join us on Monday nights at **6pm** at Beef O' Brady's for a fun evening of fellowship and **FREE Bingo!**

**Come early at 5:15pm** and enjoy some fellowship and food.

Bring your friends and family!

All supplies are provided to you  
And winners receive food coupons to redeem on a future visit.

*Spring Luncheon*

*Sunday, April 12 at 12 pm*

In the Fellowship Hall

*Menu:* Salad, Shepherd's Pie, Pecan Pie, and other Desserts.



*Golden Girls  
Mother's Day Tea*



**Friday, May 1**  
at 12 pm

*At the home of Elsa H  
1895 Hermosa Ave*

# First Methodist School

Our students are blooming like flowers!



Early in March the school had testing each morning for a week... Then there was Spring break. ...And then there was the READ-A-THON!



Our older students helped out the younger ones as everyone read at home and school. Some folks even stepped out of the pages of their favorite book!



And as Easter approached, our Middle School Chapel groups worked diligently to create a special Holy Week reminder for all the classes in the School.



## Upcoming FMS Events

**VPK Graduation**  
Friday, April 24th  
9:30 am  
*In the Sanctuary*

**Spring Program**  
Thur, Apr 30, 6 pm  
*In the Sanctuary*

**Extracurricular Dance Recital**  
Thur, May 14, 5 pm  
*In the Sanctuary*

**End of School Awards Ceremony**  
Thur, May 21, 9 am  
*In the Sanctuary*

# Grace Notes

*Thank You* to everyone for their prayers & love for my daughter-in-law, Kristin, during her illness. Everyone has been wonderful and lifting me up all the time.

Also, thank you for the cards. They have been a blessing. —BJ

*Thank you to*

Hebb Tree Service!

They got here quickly to take care of a tree that was becoming a safety hazard on the school's field and recently dealt with the dangerous limbs of one of the parsonage oaks.



*Thank You*  
to ALL the Homeland Helpers!

Brandon, for bringing all the sound equipment; Will for getting our AV set up; David, for all the tables and last minute items; Jenny, Dorothy, Betty, and others for set up and cleanup; Amy and others for creative child wrangling ideas; Chad for his hard work to continue our treasured tradition of having corn at Homeland!



To these and more, we thank you for helping Homeland be a blessing to so many!

*Thank you* to David! We have had some ongoing issues with the grease trap leading from the kitchen. We think it is all fixed, due in great part to the perseverance of David.

Have a "Thank you" Grace Note you want to share? Email the church office at [firstumcbartow@aol.com](mailto:firstumcbartow@aol.com)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

*Some of our friends have exciting events coming up!*

**April 12, 2:30 pm:**  
Lakeland Concert  
Band Concert  
4450 Harden Blvd,  
Lakeland, 33813

**May 5, 7:30 pm:**  
Hollingsworth  
Winds Concert  
1100 Johnson Ave,  
Lakeland 33803

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—shout for joy before the LORD, the King.*

~ Psalm 98:4-6

## SHARING OUR BLESSINGS

### Connectional Giving (Apportionments)

Helps fund ministries like the...

#### District Work Fund

The District Work Fund provides for the operations of each District. Monies from this fund support the maintenance of the District Parsonage and District Office, the salary and benefits of the District Administrative Assistant (and sometimes other staff), office supplies, office utilities, office equipment, and the cost of District meetings and/or District training events.



Emily Hotho  
Gulf Central  
District  
Superintendent

### Want to give online? It's easy and free!

Talk to your bank about how to **ZELLE** your tithes, 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!**

## Classifieds



Will Alderman, our very own AV Person, has a Photography business!

Capture the beauty in everyday life.



✦ Whether it's your pet's personality, a quiet family moment, or a creative portrait just because your memories deserve to be seen.

📷 I specialize in finding the perfect composition to make your photos pop – and I can even enhance or restore old or damaged images.

📄 I also offer custom menus, signage, and graphic design for your home, events, or business.

☎️ (904) 263-2296 ✉️ [Willderman@gmail.com](mailto:Willderman@gmail.com)  
*Let's create something meaningful.*



Did you notice the lovely new short sidewalk between the Frost law office parking lot and the sidewalk in front of the Sanctuary?

That work was carried out by Jordan Reynolds:



A great guy and Certified Handyman!  
(872) 344-7585  
[jlrcustomworks@gmail.com](mailto:jlrcustomworks@gmail.com)

**Witnessing to Christ in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria**



**Community**  
**Easter Egg Hunt**  
**Sat, Apr 4, time TBA**  
**Carver Recreation Center**  
 520 Herbert Dixon Blvd,  
 Bartow, FL 33830



Thank you for your donations  
to the **Lions Club**.

Over the last several months you have given **30** pairs of glasses or lenses, **12** glasses cases, and **3** boxes of contacts.  
**Thank you so much!**

Leave footprints  
of **love** and **kindness**  
wherever you go.



*Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. ~ Proverbs 11:25*

# Holy Week & Beyond VBS

**June 15-19, 9 am-12 pm**

Last year's VBS changed format was a big hit, so we are doing something similar this year as we go back in time to experience Palm Sunday through Pentecost! We need YOU to make this year's VBS amazing!  
 Help ahead of time with Prep Work. or... Volunteer for a couple of hours, for 1 or 2 days, of the week. or...  
 Maybe you have something around your house we need to borrow! Look below to see how YOU will participate!

**WAYS TO VOLUNTEER**

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>All FIVE DAYS</b><br/>Tribe Leader</p> <p><b>5 days preferred</b><br/>Kitchen Lead<br/>Craft Lead (craft changes each day to match story)<br/>Varied Craft/Activity</p> | <p>Lead (changes each day to create depth of experience)</p> <p><b>1-5 days helpers</b> (some choices are on specific days)<br/>We need LOTS of Craft helpers to "weave"; create with clay, make cross</p> | <p>pendants, and more!<br/>Indoor old games<br/>Kitchen<br/>Folk Dancer (1-2 days)<br/>Outside Games (1-5 days)<br/>Registration (1-5 days)<br/>Prep Work</p> | <p>Decorating Team<br/>-plan &amp; collect ahead of time<br/>-actual decorating is June 13/14 with lots of helpers</p> <p>Organizing Supplies<br/>-mostly June 8-12</p> |
|---|--|---|---|

**DONATIONS**

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Acrylic Paint<br/>Air Dry Clay- WHITE<br/>Feathers, small white<br/>Glue Dots<br/>Leather laces<br/>SILVER Sequins</p> | <p>Thin ribbon<br/>Wire that is BENDABLE<br/>Apple Juice- Many bottles<br/>Apples<br/>Apricots- dried<br/>Bread—rolls and small loaves</p> | <p>Canned biscuits<br/>Cheese—need A LOT<br/>Dates<br/>Figs- dried or fresh<br/>Flour<br/>Frozen Bread Dough</p> | <p>Grapes- Need A LOT<br/>Grape Juice- Hummus<br/>Olives- all types<br/>Pita<br/>Raisins</p> |
|---|--|--|--|

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Potted Palms and Trees (real or silk for decoration)<br/>Baskets (large or small- for decorating &amp; holding supplies)</p> | <p>Old looking clay jars (for decoration)<br/>Wooden Boxes (for decorating &amp; holding supplies)</p> |
|---|--|

**YOU can SIGN UP TO HELP now in the Sanctuary or by contacting the Church Office.**

**AND REACHING FURTHER OUT...**

Ways we are the body of Christ in Judea and to the ends of the earth!

Unfortunately, Cuba continues to deteriorate. They are out of electricity 20-22 hours a day. Food is scarce, gasoline even worse. Hospitals are having a terrible time because of this. There seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel—at least that is our prayer. Please continue to pray for your brothers and sisters at our sister church, **Santa Cruz del Sur**.



*Bendiciones to you all,  
Robert & Mary L*

Pictures of Worship at Santa Cruz del Sur



Help us share some gifts with our friends in Mendoza for our



**RELATIONSHIP BUILDING  
MISSION TO ARGENTINA**

*Some things that we are looking for are...*

Pencil top erasers

Lightweight, plastic beads

Pipe cleaners

Thumb drives

Laptops or tablets that are internet accessible

Dry erase markers in colors

**ALSO...** If you have smaller, lightweight, easily packable gifts that you have made and you would like us to take to our friends in Argentina, please talk to Pastor Missy.

*The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*

—Matthew 25:40

**East Angola  
Mission Luncheon  
Sunday, May 17  
at 12 pm**



**Menu: Ham, Sweet Potato Casserole, Scalloped Potatoes, Collard Greens, Green Beans, & Banana Pudding**

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2—Clarice R

15—Pat H

4—Ted W

24—William E

8—Nadege M

28 Cheryl G

BJ S

*Happy Birthday!*

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching.*

~ Hebrews 10:24-25

Large print bulletins can easily be made!  
Contact the church office if you would prefer a

**LARGE PRINT BULLETIN!**

## PLEASE NOTE

Information OR PICTURES for the May Newsletter should be submitted by **Wednesday, 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

Diane A

Ken A

Brian—*safety*

Amanda B

**Susan B**

Shirley &amp; Jonathon B

Diane B—*healing*Maggie C—*healing*Daphne—*healing*

Shawn F

Lyda F—*Pat H's grandniece*

Cathy G

**Karel H****Brandon H**

Melody H

Pat H—*healing & energy*Jasmine—*4 yr old, doing well!*

John M

**Allye M**—*health*Dorrance M—*health*Kathy M—*healing*

Becky O

Carolyn P

Mary Beth P—*health***Heath P**—*healing*Ricardo—*Patti T's friend, healing*Brenda R—*Missy's mom*

Sadie

BJ S

Gary T—*Kelly Z's friend, healing*

Jean &amp; Dick T

Bobby V—*healing*Laura W—*health & comfort***Greg W**—*health & peace*Pat W—*strength*

John Z

-All leaders to do God's will

-Everyone affected by sickness, hunger around the world, repressive governments, gun violence, and natural & human caused disasters

*Also on our hearts:*

*Our Nation, Cuba, Haiti, Israel, Palestine, Sudan, Ukraine, & Venezuela*

## Serving in the Military:

Brandon A, Oscar A, Jeremy B, Victor O, Joseph S, Bryson T

## Missionaries and Others:

**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 & First IEM Mendoza Pastor Alejandro; Our Pastor, Church, & School Staff; District Supt. Emily Hotho, & 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](http://firstumcbartow.com).

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

Thank you!

# APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Palm Sunday *10:30 am: Worship	30 Chapels	31 8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner  5:30 pm: Choir	1	2  3 pm-5 pm: Youth  6 pm: Love Feast (see pg. 3)	3 Good Friday FMS, Preschool, & Day Care CLOSED  12 pm: Crosswalk (see pg. 3)  6 pm: Tenebrae Service (see pg. 3)	4 Time TBA: Community Easter Egg Hunt (see pg. 12)
Mulberry UMC Stations of the Cross 9:30 am-2 pm (see pg. 3)						
Holy Week						
5 7 am: Easter Sunrise Service (see pg. 3) *10:30 am: Worship & Communion	6  12:30 pm: Women's Bible Study (see pg. 4)	7 8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner  5:30 pm: Choir	8  6 pm: WND	9  3 pm-5 pm: Youth  5:30 pm: Finance Meeting (see pg. 3)	10	11
12 9 am: Adult Sunday School *10:30 am: Worship  12 pm: Spring Luncheon (see pg. 8)	13 Chapels  5:30 pm: Church Council Meeting (see pg. 3)	14 8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner  5:30 pm: Choir	15  6 pm: WND	16  3 pm-5 pm: Youth	17	18
19 9 am: Adult Sunday School *10:30 am: Worship	20 Chapels	21 8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner  9 am: End of School Ceremony (see pg. 9)  5:30 pm: Choir	22  6 pm: WND	23  3-5 pm: Youth	24 9:30 am: VPK Graduation (see pg. 9)  11:30 am: FMS Early Release	25
26 9 am: Adult Sunday School *10:30 am: Worship	27 Chapels	28 8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner  5:30 pm: Choir	29  6 pm: WND	30  3 pm: Youth  6 pm: FMS Spring Program (see pg. 9)	1  12 pm: Golden Girls Mother's Day Tea (see pg. 8)	2



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
BARTOW, FLORIDA**

455 S Broadway Ave.  
Bartow, FL 33830

APRIL, 2026

Phone: 863-533-0904  
E-mail: firstumcbartow@aol.com  
<https://www.facebook.com/fumcbartow>  
YouTube: First Methodist Bartow  
Instagram: fumcbartow

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

Witnessing to Christ empowered by the Spirit in Bartow & beyond

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE:

MAY 1, 12 PM: GOLDEN GIRLS MOTHER'S DAY TEA

MAY 24: PENTECOST SUNDAY

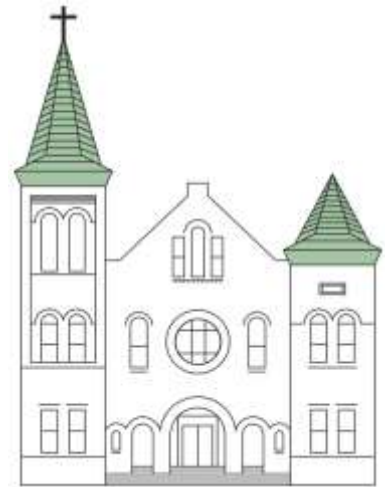
MAY 26-JULY 31: FMS SUMMER CAMP

JUNE 3: PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

JUNE 4-6: ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 15-19, 9 AM-12 PM: VBS

JUNE 29-JULY 10: ARGENTINA MISSION



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

BE IN PRAYER FOR...

Those living in conflict & separated from loved ones

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.