



First United Methodist Church of Bartow

December 2025

Newsletter

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 12



The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it -John 1:5

If it were possible during this Christmas season, I would gift everyone with the opportunity to see this congregation in some of the ways that I do. It is a beautiful thing to watch you interact during the *Passing of the Peace* and see people talking and reaching out to one another. It is a joy to witness the way folks stay after church and chat— sometimes deciding to join each other for lunch, other times going their separate ways; the acts of compassion and generosity that I am privy to for various reasons; and the grace with which so many of you navigate your days despite hardship and obstacles that might even give Job pause.

In the last year, we have continued to live into our calling to witness to Christ in Bartow and beyond. We really sought to be there for our brothers and sisters in Cuba. We walked beside multiple families as they grieved, often while we also grieved. We supported our ZOE Empowers *Togetherness* Group in Rwanda. We almost doubled our goal of 10 flood buckets when we created 17 buckets full of supplies to help those who face the devastation of flooding and storms. We are well on our way to meeting 100% of our apportionments which means women and children in harm's way will be ministered to; people around the world seeking to be in ministry will find it easier and less expensive to be educated; pastors who need a break will be given opportunities to rest; those caught in disasters and violence will find spiritual and physical support; hungry people are being fed in their bodies and souls; and those who have felt like the world was against them have heard the good news that they are loved by the living God. In these ways and many more, we have acted as the hands, feet, and heart of Christ.

We are now entering the last month of the calendar year and have just begun the Christian year. It is a time of continued ministries and new starts. It is a time of hope, peace, joy, love, and light. Like the gospel writer John, we do not deny that the world is sometimes dark, instead we proclaim and live the good news that **the light always overcomes the darkness**. We are a part of that light bringing and do what we do in the name of the One who is the light of the world and calls *us* salt and light. In this time of beginnings and endings, we are challenged to continue and add to the good work that this congregation has been a part of this year.

This year's *March to the Manger* is an opportunity to start the new year strong. In past years, the *March to the Manger* helped us finish paying our apportionments and work to close the gap between our income (your giving) and our expenses (the costs associated with the ministries of this church). For the first time in years, we believe that we will have already met the two goals above and we seek to push into the new calendar and fiscal year from a place of stability. We would like to expand our ministries and we cannot do that without ending well and starting strong.

All we are and aspire to be is in keeping with who we are as Christ followers who seek to witness to the good news of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit in Bartow and beyond. There are children, youth, and families who need the message of hope that we bear. There are retirees, empty-nesters, and those in nursing homes who need to know the joy that they are not alone and are loved. We have people going through crisis who desperately need peace and support that is physical, spiritual, and emotional. To do these things takes all that we are as we participate with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness in and as the body of Christ at work in the world.

This year's *March to the Manger* will be Sunday, December 21. On the day of the longest night of the year, you are invited to help the light of Christ shine in the darkness as we move to expand our ministries of hope, peace, joy, and love.

With Love in Christ,

-Pastor Missy

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CHOIR NOTES *by Sylvia Spencer, Choir Director*

🎵 "Choir Notes" 🎵



When I say I've been playing piano "all my life" I mean all my life. The picture of the certificate is what I received when I played at the National Federation of Music Clubs in 1955. I had not turned 10 years old yet... And now to the present... Working in my garden area, I tried pulling up a large, old, dead flower bush, and in doing so I injured my wrist... Nothing broken (thank God) but seriously painful... I'm wearing a brace and on steroids...

Now what about playing piano? I talked with Janet, our Organist, about playing extra music for this Sunday... and the twinkle in her eye was precious... Maybe God used my injured wrist to give Janet a special blessing to be able to play piano and organ... By the time you read this that Sunday will be gone, but I certainly hope you all told her what a great job she did.

Because of Him ...Sylvia 🎵



SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

March to the Manger, Sun Dec 21: Starting Strong

Our end of the year giving campaign, **March to the Manger**, has two goals: to help close any still existing gap between our current giving and expenditures and to start the new year on a strong financial footing. Because of some generous gifts at the beginning of the year, we have been given an opportunity to end 2025 well and are poised to add to the important ministries we are doing now and that the Holy Spirit is calling us into in the future.

Therefore this March to the Manger, we are challenging ourselves to **Start Strong!** Our partnership in Christ's work in the world begins at the manger. Join us!

*You are invited as
Mulberry United
Methodist Church leads a*

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Dec 21 at 4pm

*Here in the FUMC Bartow
Sanctuary*

For those who are wondering, a Longest Night Service is a Christmas Service that allows space for the remembrance of loss that many of us experience this time of year. It is a quieter service of both lament and hope.

Watch for other exciting worship opportunities created with Asbury and Mulberry UMC

Upcoming Events

First Sunday of Advent, Nov 30: Lighting the Candle of Hope!

10:30 am: *Hanging of the Greens Service*

4 pm: Decorate for Advent!

Everyone is invited to the Sanctuary to help finish decorating for Advent!

Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 7: Lighting the Candle of Peace!

10:30 am: *Worship & Communion*

12 pm: Lunch Bunch at Blue Ridge Grill

Thur, Dec 11, 3-5 pm: Youth Christmas Party

Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 14: Lighting the Candle of Joy!

10:30 am: *Chrismon & Creche*

Through the figures of the nativity and symbols on the Chrismon tree we connect the baby born in Bethlehem with our Savior and Redeemer of the world

5:30pm: Silver Saints Christmas Party

Wed, Dec 17, Morning FMS Christmas Program Rehearsal time TBA

You are invited to join the school in watching this complete run-through

6 pm: Wednesday Night dinner

7pm: *Christmas Talent Extravaganza* in the Fellowship Hall

Thur, Dec 18, 12pm: Golden Girls Christmas Party

6 pm: FMS Christmas Program

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec 21: Lighting the Candle of Love!

9 am—1 pm: Blood Drive *at Supervisor of Elections Parking Lot*

10:30 am: *Worship and March to the Manger*

4 pm: *Longest Night Service* led by Mulberry UMC

In the FUMC Bartow Sanctuary

Christmas Eve, Wed, Dec 24, 5:30 pm:

Lessons, Carols, Communion, and Candlelight

Sun, Dec 28, 10:30 am: Hymn Sing Service

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

December 1, 11:30 am

870 Lila Street in Bartow

Questions? Contact the Church Office
or Jenny at 863-203-6129

We welcome new members!

Bring a dish to share!



Tuesday Breakfast & Devotions



At Broadway Diner
8:30 am

Questions? Call Walt at 215-237-7985

We have a date for

Homeland Heritage Park

Join us on

March 1, at 10:30 am

*for Worship at the Church with a
Covered Dish Lunch to follow in the
Pavilion!*

**249 Church Ave.
Homeland, FL 33847**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER MENUS

6pm in the Fellowship Hall

Dec 3: Lasagna, breadsticks, & salad \$5

Dec 10: Covered Dish & Chicken \$2

Dec 17: Pizza & salad \$5

Bring a dessert to share!

Weekly Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:30 am

in the Annex Sunday School Room
AND through Zoom.

**If you would like to attend through
Zoom, you will need to contact the
Church Office to get the Zoom link
by noon on the preceding Tuesday.**

We will be finishing up Reuben Job's book
and study *Three Simple Rules*
in December.

Our last day will be **Dec 10 or 17.**

The next session will begin in mid January.

Grief Support

Our current group
has finished!



If you are interested in participating when our
next group begins, or you would like a book to
read on your own, contact Faye at 863-537-0312
or the Church at 862-533-0904 or
firstumcbartow@aol.com

Nurture & Care at FUMC Bartow

Our Congregational Care Committee and
Visitation Team help us minister to others in
our church and community through calls, notes,
gifts, visits, and 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 December 2012.

Many FUMC members who attended Summerlin Institute (aka Bartow High School) remain on "Cloud 9" after the weekend events of last month's Summerlin 125 Reunion. Our own "Award Winning" FUMC Praise Band (aka 66 Stories) highlighted the versatility of members Brandon, Heath, Jacob and Tom as they delighted the Reunion crowd with their renditions of some of their favorite "oldies".

As expected some of the weekends' reminiscing included memories of one of Summerlin's "icons," Glee Club director, Ms. Margaret Clark who also served as musical director of our church.

Beginning in the 1940s Ms. Clark gifted the Bartow Community with the Summerlin Glee Club's annual December production of The Messiah. In those early years the Glee Club was accompanied by members of the Winter Haven Pops Orchestra (Wendell Waters - Bassist).

Program notes from The Messiah state "George Frederic Handel composed the entire Messiah within . . . three weeks. The text of The Messiah is taken from the Bible by Charles Jennens, a wealthy patron . . . who compiled texts for Handel's other oratorios and operas . . . Messiah is not only a Christmas work. The text reaches back to the prophecy of the coming of the Messiah, includes Christ's suffering and death, and moves on to his resurrection and victory over death."

In the early 1950s and 60s the SI Messiah chorus included 100-150 members. Ed Etheredge, Sandra Kennedy (Breton), Betty Waugh (Fitzgerald) and Linda Newport (Fazekas) were among some of the FUMC members of those early Messiah groups.

In the early 1990s John Anderson, who also served as an FUMC director revived The Messiah presentation for the Bartow community. This Messiah group consisted of Bartow High School and Community Singers. This 90s chorus was accompanied by members of the Imperial Symphony (Wendell Waters - Cello). Among these 100 + chorus members were Bonnie Allen, Marion Harrison, Linda Newport (Fazekas) and Allegra, Gene and Marsha Whitney. In the 1991 program conductor Anderson alluded to Margaret Clark's Messiah legacy.

"Throughout music history there are few compositions more universally beloved as Handel's . . . Messiah. Its combinations of scripture and song have helped evoke the spirit of Christmas for almost two centuries. Margaret Clark recognized the power of this music and made its performance an integral part of the musical lives and experiences of her students. We are now seeking to carry on the tradition of performing Handel's music with a new generation of singers. We hope that . . . as these familiar memories are performed they will stir within you memories of Family Traditions and Christmases gone by. May your Christmas be a truly blessed and happy one."

And in the tradition of The Messiah I'm sure we can all give an "Amen Chorus" to that!

*While we are not hosting a **Messiah** Sing-a-long this year, you are invited to RSVP to enjoy it at First Sebring Church on Dec 20 or 21 (see the top of page 12 for details).*



The Cornucopia on the Communion Table during much of November was placed there in loving memory of Adele Durrance by Pat & Elsa Huff.

Fellowship Events



NEXT *Lunch Bunch* at **BLUE RIDGE GRILL**

December 7 at 12 pm

RSVP by Wed, Nov 5, 12pm



Our Veterans at the November Lunch Bunch at Broadway Diner.



Thank you to John Helms for your presentation and for hosting us.

Historical Presentation by Pat H at the Bartow Airbase History Museum. Pictures courtesy of Will A.



Some of our friends got to be in the Bartow Halloween Parade!



Richard P (Gwyn P's dad)

Pat B & a friend



Silver Saints Christmas Party

December 14 At 5:30pm

Bring a present & dish to share!

At the home of Pat & Elsa H



Golden Girls Christmas Party

Dec 18 at 12pm

At the home of Pat & Elsa

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

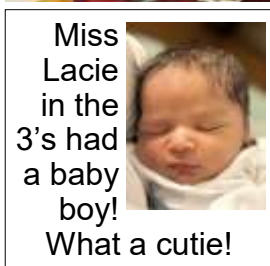
Children



Everyone likes to say that the children are our future. We know they are a vital part of us right now!



Look closely! That's our very own Hezekiah holding up the tenth day in the *Twelve Days of Kindness* song from the FMS Thanksgiving Program!



Miss Lacie in the 3's had a baby boy! What a cutie!



Youth Thursdays 3-5 pm

Our Youth are always up to something! This Fall has been a busy one!

Mr. Wright and Liam missed out on Youth so they could help FMS in the Halloween Parade



While the other youth were occupied, Izzy & Jack helped to pass out waters from the church!



Miss Elsa dropped by with some awards from an earlier lesson!



Our youth have continued in their lessons based on *Three Simple Rules*. We have moved on to *Staying in Love With God* & have begun talking about the ways we can center ourselves in God's love to better live our lives & love others!



One of the neat things that happens as our Youth Group grows is that we get to teach the new youth our games and see who figures out the most creative ways to play them!



Look at our youth, past and present, helping to open the FMS Thanksgiving Program! They are amazing youth people!

Grace Notes

Thank You to Elsa H for helping with putting the labels on the water bottles, and to the Youth for handing them out at the Halloween Parade!

Thank You to David & Pastor Missy for setting up for Trunk 'n' Treasure and to everyone who participated & visited during the event!

Thank You to Pat B & Kelly Z for your continued help with contacting people that we haven't seen in a while.

Thank You to Pat H for your Historical Presentation at the Bartow Airbase History Museum & to Will A for taking pictures!

Thank you all for the loving card and thoughtful gift cards!
-Pastor Missy

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving Luncheon!



Thank you to David and Andrea B for your hard work removing some of our damaged kitchen cabinets!



Have a "Thank you" Grace Note you want to share? Email the church office at firstumcbartow@aol.com

First Methodist School

FMS had a great time this Halloween!



The parade was fantastic!

And everyone LOVED trick-or-treating around the school!



First Methodist School

Our Fall didn't slow down after all the candy was passed out. Maybe all that sugar had something to do with it, but our FMS students and staff have been busier than ever in November!



Dance Lessons were offered afterschool and several students joined!



Birthdays were celebrated!

...Including some of our youth!



Our Chapels studied Jesus' healing of the lepers and made lists of things and people they were thankful for in their lives.



Our Staff dressed up like Turkeys for Thanksgiving! Word is, they really roasted in their costumes :)



Nate represented the letter N with great taste!



Thank you Nate for bringing in letter N Snack Nilla wafers and Nachos cheese Doritos!!!



Our Preschool had their Annual Pie Tasting! Another success!



And like the church family, FMS families gathered food for hungry people and took it to the Bartow

Community Service Center!



And we ended the month with a Thanksgiving Program on the themes of Gratitude and Kindness



While doing all that, they were also starting to prepare for Christmas! FMS Christmas Program is Dec 18. The church family is invited to the FINAL Rehearsal that morning. The exact time will be announced.

Witnessing to Christ in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria

The holidays are fast approaching!

Show those you care about that you are thinking of them by sending a holiday card utilizing our free "post office." It is located in the Usher Room, to your right as you enter the church. It's free and a great way to let someone know you care anytime of year!



We are Collecting gently used jackets, sweaters, & blankets! There is a basket in the Sanctuary to collect these items and we will take them to the Bartow Community Center, who will share them with people in need!



We will be stuffing the stockings again this year!

One stocking will be for **socks and underwear** and another will be for **hygiene products**. The stockings will hang up front as in the past, and we will collect for men, women and children!



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

Don't forget our ongoing Holiday Food Drive!

We are collecting non-perishable items for the Bartow Community Service Center so that they can provide extra food to families in need during Christmas time.

The second food drive is going through Sunday Dec 14. Please drop off donations in the back of the Sanctuary.

Yams	Box Mac & Cheese	Can Cream Soup
Can Vegetables	Box Stuffing	Can Fruit
Cranberry Sauce	Dessert/Pudding/	Pkg Cornbread
Can of Broth	Jello	Pkg/Can Potatoes

So far we have collected 1 blanket, 22 non perishable items, and 56 canned goods that were delivered to Bartow Community Center this week **plus** 12 bags from the first Drive!



AND REACHING FURTHER OUT...

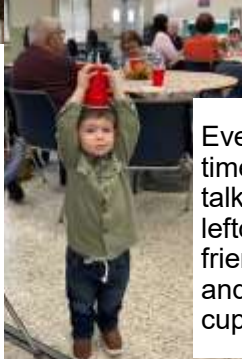
Ways we are the body of Christ to the ends of the earth!



Each Quarter MOE sponsors a Missions luncheon. Our Fourth Quarter Thanksgiving Luncheon raised \$95 for the Bartow Community Service Center.



Barbara H & Bill S both baked wonderful turkeys and then Barabara also baked us a turkey cake!



Everyone had a great time! We ate, we talked, we took leftovers home to friends and family, and we balanced cups on our heads!



TRUNK N TREASURE




We had 6 outside vendors and 1 inside vendor, with 2 of them from the community!



Our proceeds from the Cuba Mission Luncheon are helping to feed the kids and elderly at our sister church, **Santa Cruz del Sur**, in Cuba.



THE BIG RED BUS WILL BE AT THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS PARKING LOT
DECEMBER 21, 9AM-1PM
 Go to: oneblood.org/donate-now to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome!
 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.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Some of our friends have exciting events coming up!

Dec 6, 9 am-2 pm: Mulberry UMC
Christmas Bazaar
306 N Church Ave, Mulberry, 33860

Dec 14, 2:30 pm: Lakeland Concert Band
Christmas Concert
4450 Harden Boulevard Lakeland 33813

Dec 14, 3 pm: Lakeland Choral Society
Joyful Sounds of the Season
175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr, Lakeland 33801

Dec 16, 7:00 pm: Heartland Pops
Christmas Concert

4514 Hammock Rd, Sebring 33872

Dec 20, 3 pm & Dec 21, 7 pm: Handel's
Messiah Hosted by First Sebring Church

Must RSVP for these events!

126 S Pine St, Sebring 33870



Classifieds

Nadege has started a business!

She is selling rings, bracelets, chains, and anklets. You can put in a request for small handbags and sandals as well. Even if you are not thinking of buying anything, if you feel comfortable, you can follow her page. It helps with her business! Contact her on Facebook if you are interested in supporting her business:

[Facebook.com/nadege.louis.58](https://www.facebook.com/nadege.louis.58)

You may have noticed the lovely new short sidewalk between the Frost law office parking lot and the sidewalk in front of he Sanctuary.

That work was carried out by Jordan Reynolds:



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



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.



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Let's create something meaningful.



UNDERSTANDING OUR CONNECTION BEYOND BARTOW

Connectional Giving (Apportionments)

Helps fund... **Higher Education and Campus Ministry**

Do you know a student at USF? Do you know a high school student planning to attend USF? Encourage them to join in the good times at the Wesley House!

USF WESLEY, 12705 N Sycamore Dr., Tampa, FL 33620 813-985-4057

The USF Wesley House was officially opened on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, after have been closed for over two years. Many USF students attended along with parents and grandparents. There was a great time of just standing around talking, getting to know each other and the excitement of gathering. Of course, there was a large “food trough” with colorful vegetables, fruit, meat choices and cheeses. A table of USF Wesley cookies, homemade by one of the USF parents, that had the Wesley medallion on it was a popular choice.

A service of dedication and worship was the highlight of the evening. Popular songs among the young adults were enthusiastically sung by them, lead by the FSU Praise Band and students. Several students voiced their appreciation for USF Wesley. Their desire to meet and be with students of like Christian background, a safe place to congregate, one night to watch TV, and one night to have bible study are times to look forward to attending. An invitation was given to anyone interested in serving on the Board.

Ministry Expenses and Goals:

Funds were donated to help cover the 2025-2026 school year: \$20,000 -Project manager (part-time salary); \$10,000 – Ministry Budget; \$15,000 already funded from previous donations (There are no budgeted funds from Conference Apportionments for USF Wesley this year and next. Although the building expenses are temporarily covered by the Florida Conference)

Ministry Goals for 2026/2027 School year: \$100,000 – Full time Campus Minister (salary, housing, health, benefits); \$40,000 – Ministry Budget (The building expenses are temporarily covered by the Florida Conference)

Donations may be made to Fund #114090 – USF Wesley Campus Ministries (Gulf Coast District)



**USF Wesley House Night of Worship
Celebration and Fundraiser
on November 11**



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1—Tula Richardson	26—Dano Rodolewicz
2—Parker Pannebaker	28—Gwyn Phillips
3—Carolyn Presnell	29—Caleb Charbonneau
15—John Hutto	Mary Lopez
16—Andrea Croom	31—Hezekiah Charbonneau
18—Marsha Whitney	
25—Robert Lopez	

Happy Birthday!

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

10—George & Ina Ogden
 11—Richard & Sue Lake
 18—Bruce & Connie Marvin

“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 January newsletter should be submitted by **Monday, December 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—4 y/o health	Kathy M—healing
Diane A	Becky O
Ken A	Carolyn P
Brian—safety	Heath P—healing
Butch B	Mary Beth P-B
Laura & John B	Brenda R—Missy's mom
Amanda B	Sadie—6 y/o healing
Susan B	BJ S
Shirley & Jonathon B (Shirley's son)	Louise T
Maggie C	Jean & Dick T
Lavada C & Family	Kathy W
Daphne—healing	Greg W—healing
Shawn F	Patricia W
Lyda F—Pat H's grandniece	John Z family
Cathy G	-All leaders to do God's will
Karel H	-Everyone affected by sickness, hunger around the world, repressive governments, gun violence, and natural & human caused disasters
Brandon H	-Also on our hearts:
Melody H	Our Nation, Cuba, Haiti, Israel, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine
Pat H	
Jasmine—4 y/o	
Kristin—BJ's d-i-l, healing	
John M—healing & strength	
Allye M	
Dorrance M—healing	

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.

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

Thank you!

DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>30 Advent 1st Sunday</p> <p>9 am: Adult Sunday School</p> <p>*10:30 am: Hanging of the Greens Service</p> <p>4 pm: Decorating for Advent in the Sanctuary</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Chapels</p> <p>11:30 am: Women's Bible Study (See pg. 4)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner</p> <p>5:30 pm: Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30 am: Bible Study</p> <p>6 pm: WND</p>	<p>4</p> <p>3 pm: Youth Sanctuary Tree Decorating</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Advent 2nd Sunday</p> <p>9 am: Adult Sunday School</p> <p>*10:30 am: Worship & Communion</p> <p>12 pm: Lunch Bunch at Blue Ridge Grill (see pg. 6)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Chapels</p> <p>5:30 pm: Finance Meeting with Joint Trustees Meeting to follow</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner</p> <p>5:30 pm: Choir</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:30 am: Bible Study</p> <p>6 pm: WND</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3 pm: Youth Christmas Party</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Advent 3rd Sunday</p> <p>9 am: Adult Sunday School</p> <p>*10:30 am: Chrismon & Creche Service</p> <p>5:30 pm: Silver Saints Christmas Party (see pg. 6)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Christmas Chapel</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner</p> <p>5:30 pm: Choir</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Time TBD—FMS Christmas Final Rehearsal</p> <p>10:30 am: Bible Study</p> <p>6 pm: WND</p> <p>7 pm: Talent Extravaganza</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12 pm: Golden Girls Christmas Party (see pg. 6)</p> <p>3 pm: Youth</p> <p>6 pm: FMS Christmas Program</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:30 am: FMS Early Release</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Advent 4th Sunday</p> <p>9 am—1 pm: Blood Drive (see pg. 11)</p> <p>9 am: Adult Sunday School</p> <p>*10:30 am: Worship & March to the Manger</p> <p>4 pm: Longest Night Service (see pg. 2)</p>	<p>22</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">FMS Holiday Day Care OPEN</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30 am: TENT Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner</p> <p>5:30 pm: Choir</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve</p> <p>5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i></p> <p>Church Office CLOSED</p>  <p style="background-color: orange;">FMS Holiday Day Care CLOSED</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Church Office CLOSED</p>	<p>27</p>
FMS CLOSED for Christmas Holidays						
<p>28</p> <p>9 am: Adult Sunday School</p> <p>*10:30 am: Hymn Sing Service</p>	<p>29</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">FMS Holiday Day Care OPEN</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30 am: TENT Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner</p>	<p>31</p> <p style="background-color: orange;">FMS Holiday Day Care CLOSED</p>	<p>1 <i>Happy New Year!</i></p> <p>Church Office CLOSED</p>	<p>2</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">FMS Holiday Day Care OPEN</p>	<p>3</p>
FMS Closed for Christmas Holidays—starts back January						

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



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BARTOW, FLORIDA**

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DECEMBER, 2025

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Witnessing to Christ empowered by the Spirit in Bartow & beyond

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE:

EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JAN 4, 10:30 AM: WORSHIP & COMMUNION

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY, JAN 11, 10:30 AM:
BISHOP TOM BERLIN PREACHING & REAFFIRMATION OF
OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

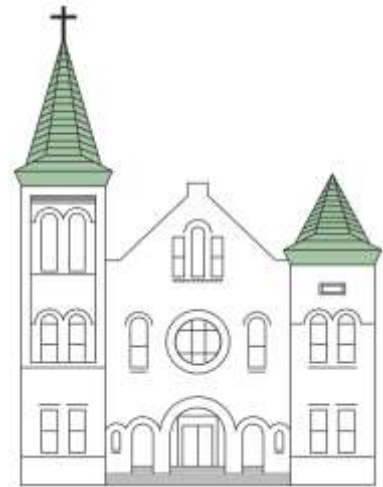
SUN, FEB 8, 10:30 AM: CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

SUN, MAR 1, 10:30 AM: WORSHIP AT HOMELAND HERITAGE
PARK WITH COVERED DISH LUNCH TO FOLLOW

BE IN PRAYER FOR...

Those living in conflict

Joyfully following the Holy Spirit's lead



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

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.