

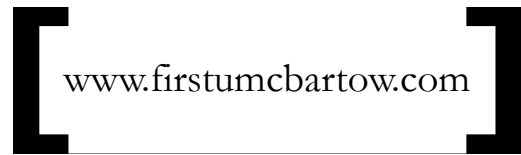


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BARTOW, FLORIDA

455 S Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830

FEBRUARY 2024

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



Missy Turbeville Pastor
Becky Otten Administrative Assistant
Margie Anderson Interim Director of Music Ministry
Sylvia Spencer Pianist/Accompanist
Will Alderman Audio/Visual Technician
Ernesto Fonseca Sanctuary/Annex Custodian

Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE:

MARCH 3 OR 10 HOMELAND OR MARY HOLLAND

MARCH 11-15: FMS SPRING BREAK

MARCH 28: LOVEFEAST/ TENEBRAE

MARCH 29: CROSSWALK

MARCH 31: EASTER SONRISE SERVICE

JULY 22-26: VBS: Marketplace Nazareth

BE IN PRAYER...

May we all be open to the wondrous ways God is constantly at work in our lives. May we have eyes that see and ears that hear God's love in the world, so that we may echo that love with our hands and feet, words and deeds.



Did you know we have a **Facebook** page and a **YouTube** page?
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!



"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

-Jesus in Mark 1:15

Wow! What a glorious thing to know that we live in a time fulfilled. We live in 2024 A.D., 2024 *Anno Domini*, 2024 *in the year of our Lord*. The Kingdom of God is more than just near, the Kingdom of God is all around us! We live in the year (and years!) when God in Christ is doing marvelous things. We can even witness this, if we will have the eyes to see and ears to hear. Even better, we are invited to *participate* in the glorious things God is doing!

Sometimes we forget this. We get focused on the hardships, on the negatives, on the wars, disasters, sickness, and darkness and we forget that God in Christ offers to share our burdens, calls us salt and light and blesses us as peacemakers. The healings, feeding, preaching, teaching, dying, rising, and ascending that Jesus did 2000 years ago were done in the midst of oppression, injustice, fear, and disease just like today. And the good news of Christ and abundant life that people experienced 2000 years ago is the same good news and abundant life that we experience right now.

Yes, there is darkness, but the light overcomes it! Yes, there is brokenness of mind, body, and spirit, but we have a Great Physician by whose stripes we are healed. Yes, there is bigotry and hatred, but we are empowered to resist evil, injustice, and oppression. We are a part of something beautiful and good. We are a part of second and third chances. We are a part of the power of God poured out in love and grace for new life for each of us and all of us.

It is beautifully appropriate that this year the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is Valentine's Day. On a day when we celebrate love, we will begin our journey to delve deeper into what it means to be beloved of God and to love God and others in return.

How have you experienced God's love? What person has been a blessing in your life? What cool water quenched your parched throat? What stranger performed a kindness? What sunset reminded you of God's gorgeous creative care? What burden have you been able to lay down, knowing you are forgiven, loved, and freed from its weight?

How has God's love changed you? How light are your steps knowing that despite what others might say, you are of infinite worth to God? What unkind thoughts have you redirected before they reached your eyes or lips? What does it mean to you to look for the good in people rather than assume the worst? How is the day brighter knowing you are not alone?

How have you shared God's love? What prayers have you whispered? What good news did you embody in word or deed? How did it feel to forgive and see that grudge evaporate like mist in the morning light?

And this is just the beginning! Each moment gives birth to another as we love and care for each other into eternity. We are given an example of love that seems impossible to follow, but that is just the world whispering its lies in our ear. Through the love of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit; we reject those whispers and the impossible becomes possible!

This month, as we move into Lent, may the love of Christ infuse all we do. May we experience God's love in big and small ways and love others with abounding hope and joy.

With Love in Christ, -Pastor Missy

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CHOIR NOTES



January 1, 2024

Dear Pastor Missy, our beloved Choir, and our loving church family,
 Due to circumstances beyond my control, I am going to give up my position as Music Minister. It has been a wonderful experience for 23 years, as God promised, He helped me do the job, gave me ideas, also music, and wonderful people with which to work.

I have loved the music, the people, the great acceptance of our church family for any and all imperfections. It has truly been a blessing.

With my declining eyesight, and other health factors, I believe God is telling me that it is time for me to go. However, I am not leaving our church family and intend on taking part in the next assignment, whatever that may be.

I have loved working with Pastor Missy and being able to coordinate music with her sermons. She has given us so much energy, love and teaching. I ask that you continue your support of her.

As for the love I have received, there are no words to express my gratitude. You have been there with me through thick and through thin. I will forever be grateful for the outpouring of love and care.

I thank God for Margie Anderson who was able to step right in and continue the good work. I thank God for the dedication and camaraderie that exists in our choir, and for their willingness to come every Tuesday and every Sunday. We have all been blessed by these amazing musicians.

May God continue to bless this and all other ministries of this Holy Place called, First United Methodist Church of Bartow.

Sincerely, *Bonnie Allen*

Wow! It's hard to believe Lent and Easter are already knocking on our door and we are beginning to prepare our hearts and music for this season of reflection and then celebrating Jesus' Resurrection! I'm so grateful to our choir for their encouragement and devotion to bringing their hearts and voices to leading in worship every Sunday! They're 'digging-in' on some less familiar music but it's music I hope will inspire and give us all pause to ponder and grow in God's grace, mercy, leading, and love.

We are also experiencing a big change to our choir with the retirement of our beloved Bonnie, my being 'volunteer interim director,' while leading as chairperson of Staff-Parish Relations Committee entering the search for a 'permanent' director.

Those of us on SPRC have a huge task ahead in finding the right, God-lead, person to fill this position. We will never 'replace' Bonnie as she brought more to the 'job' than just beautiful music skills—but also her passion for our choir and church which is something that can only come from a heart fully connected to loving and serving the Lord. She hopes to be able to enjoy 'just being a part of the choir' once she is sufficiently healed. Please continue to pray for Bonnie and Ken along with our choir. Also pray for our SPRC as we seek God's person for this position.

-Margie Anderson



First UMC Bartow FL is accepting resumes through Feb. 29, 2024 for Part Time Choir Director, experience preferred, approx. 10 hours weekly, to prepare 14-18 voice traditional adult choir (SAB/SATB) for weekly Sunday Blended morning worship service plus special services at Christmas Eve, Lent/Holy Week. Job description with more information available by contacting the church office at firstumcbartow@aol.com

FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2:30 pm Youth	2	3
				Men's Walk to Emmaus		
4 *10:30 am: Worship And Communion Baptism of Mason Pickard Men's Emmaus	5 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels 11:30 Women's Bible Study 870 Lila Street	6 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	7 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Chicken fajitas, rice, and refried beans 6:45 Bible Study Library	8 2:30 pm Youth	9 Kathy Wood Yard Sale	10 Kathy Wood Yard Sale Women's Walk to Emmaus
11 *10:30 am: Worship Noon: Valentine's Luncheon Women's Emmaus	12 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels	13 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	14 5:30 ASH Wed Service 6 ish Wed Night Dinner Lent Soup & Sandwiches \$2 7 Bible Study Library	15 2:30 pm Youth	16	17 Laity District Gathering at FUMC Lakeland 10am-12 pm
18 *10:30 am: Worship	19 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels	20 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	21 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Lent Soup & Sandwiches \$2 6:45 Bible Study Library	22 2:30 pm Youth	23	24
25 10:30 am: Worship	26 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels	27 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	28 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Lent Soup & Sandwiches \$2 6:45 Bible Study Library	29 2:30 pm Youth		

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Loren Hartsaw
- 5- Elsa Huff
- 6- Trish Pfeiffer
- 11- Jenny Brooks
- 15- Chris Brooks
- 19- Beverly Albritton
- 22- Dick Thompson
- 23- Laura Roth
- 24- Killian Van Hook
- 26- Justin Clements
- Jennifer Hartsaw

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1- Justin and Talesha Clements
- 12- Pat & Elsa Huff
- 14- Bill & Marlene Simpkins
- 24- Bill & Jane Meyer

SYMPATHY and MEMORIAL GIFTS

A Memorial gift was given for:

Ken Wetherington

By:

The Wetherington Family

Keith Krueger

By:

Pat & Jerry Barber

Pat & Elsa Huff

Hardee County Middle School

Dr. Kate & Joe Kinsley

Mary Beth Packard

Bill & Joan Wright

NOT a Lent Devotional exactly...

This Lent the church will be giving out a small book called *Holy Moments*.

It is an invitation to look at the world differently...

....and maybe live differently.

A unique kind of Lenten discipline for these unusual times.

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

The Chronically Ill and Homebound

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Beverly A Diane A
Jerry B
Amanda B David B
Shirley B
Jonathon B
Brian
Shawn F
Karel H
Brandon H
Melody H | Lyle H
Pat H
Allye M
Heath P
Mary Beth P
Mary Ellen R
Lyn R
Steve R
Lynn S
BJ S
Louise T
Jean & Dick T | Tom T
Bill & Joan W
Patricia W
Johnny & Hilda Z
-Leaders everywhere to do God's will
-Everyone affected by sickness, repressive governments, gun violence, & natural & human caused disasters. |
|---|--|--|

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, Cuba; **Missionaries in Angola:** Leo & Cleivy Garcia, Kutela Katembo, Serguey and Graciela Espinosa; **Iglesia Evangelica Metodista Argentina** Pastor Doug Williams; Our Pastor, Church, & 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!

Large print bulletins can easily be made!

Contact the church office if you would prefer a LARGE PRINT BULLETIN!

PLEASE NOTE

Information for the March newsletter should be submitted by Friday, February 16th. 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.

Connectional Giving...



Missy Turbeville
Clergy

Connectional Giving helps fund ministries like ...

Clergy Support Fund

The Clergy Support Fund provides funding for the expenses borne by the Florida Conference to sustain, support, hold accountable, and nurture our clergy. Our system of appointed clergy is an essential part of our connectional United Methodist Church.

- Dorothy Tucker

SHARING OUR BLESSINGS

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house." "Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." -Malachi 3:10

Want to give online?

It's easy and free!

Talk to your bank about how you can

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 to give!

THE UPPER ROOM

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

These are available in the back of the sanctuary or in the office.

Small print \$1 Large print \$2.

Grace Notes

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

Thank you to those in my FUMC family for prayers for my friend Richard in NYC. He lost his fight with leukemia December 12th. He was aware and grateful for those prayers. -Beverly Etheredge

You are ALL amazing! Thank you for serenading me on my birthday and all the kind cards and gifts. You are all such a gift to me! Thank you so much! With Love in Christ, -Missy

Thank you to Ms. Shirley for coming up to the church and helping to clean and do office work. We appreciate your work for the Kingdom!

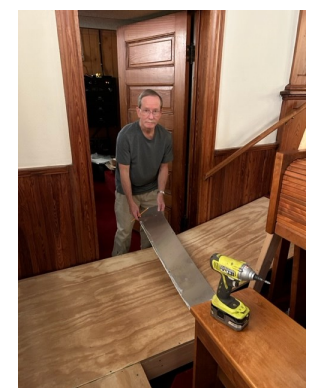
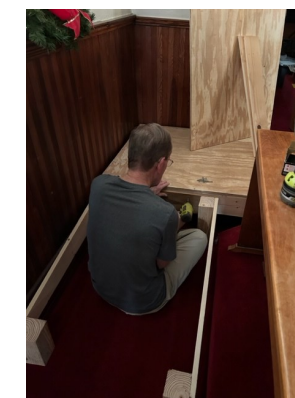


Did you see the new ramp?



Thank you David and Pastor Missy!

David does a lot of handy work around here!



We are thankful to have David as the Chair of Trustees.

ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian



February 2024

While a few of us were “hanging around” during December’s Hanging of the Greens, some inquiries were made concerning our FUMC Sanctuary organs.

Our first organ was housed in a wooden frame building on March 11, 1883. First Methodist Church of Bartow was dedicated, this being Bartow’s first house of worship. Even before the building was erected the ladies of the church had raised funds for a bell and organ.

In 1903 there was talk of a new brick church. In 1905, then Pastor Rev. J. B. Mitchell and the church leaders lost no time in “getting down to business” for a new church. In 1906 the foundation was laid and in 1907 the congregation held their first service in the “new” brick building. (I assume the original organ was transported to the “new” building.)

In 1941 E. J. Kulas, a philanthropist prominent in the steel and railroad industries gifted our church with a magnificent Aeolian Pipe Organ. Mr. and Mrs. Kulas were very interested in music. Mr. Kulas served as vice-president of the Musical Arts Association as well as a trustee of both the Northern Ohio Opera Association and the Cleveland Chamber Music Society. The Kulas’ had purchased the estate of Edward Bok (yes, the Bok Tower Bok) in Mountain Lake Estates (in Lake Wales), which housed the organ. Bartow Methodist held a campaign to raise some \$3,000 to defray the expenses of dismantling, transporting, and setting up the “Bok” organ in our sanctuary. In 1943 several hundred congregants and well-wishers from other denominations crowded the church auditorium on Sunday afternoon March 21, to witness the formal dedication of this fine organ.

The “Bok” organ remained in our church until 1967 when the present organ was purchased. This was funded by bequests of \$10,000 from Mrs. Solon G. Wilson and \$15,000 from Mrs. Alfred I. Dupont to honor Spessard L. Holland (Senator, Governor) who was a lifetime member

of FUMC.

In 1966 Robin Smith, FUMC’s choir director and organist felt the need for the church to obtain a new pipe organ. Wendell Waters (dad) and Leonard Blankner were among the choir members and trustees who traveled to Bradenton to check out a McManis Pipe Organ. Post-purchase, Mr. McManis came to Bartow to help some men from the church install the majestic musical instrument.

After it’s purchase and dedication in 1967, over a dozen organists have blessed our church with their keyboard skills. Since 1983 Marion Harrison and Bill Wright were FUMC’s principle organists... When the “last man standing” Bill Wright “really retired” the FUMC organ bench has been shared by a “trio of tuneful ladies” (Janet, Margie, and me).

It has been said... “Pipe organs are expensive to maintain, repair... and challenging to play. However, the sound of a pipe organ is wonderful and supports the singing of the congregation... The organ’s tones are sustained and there is tremendous variety in the sounds.... So it can be more expressive in interpreting each verse to enhance the worship.”

FUMC in Ministry with FMS

Our Youth Group is currently comprised of past and present FMS students and meets on Thursdays from 2:30 to 5 pm.

And... we NOW have a once a month **Craft Time** for **Elementary Children** on the **FIRST Wednesday of each month from 3:30-4:30 pm!**

Looking for a way to be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ? There is a place for you in our church’s ministry with FMS.

Interested? Contact the office, sign up in the Sanctuary, or talk to Pastor Missy!

Special Events, Seasonal Services, and Sunday Worship

Please be in prayer for our **TWO** Walk to Emmaus Retreats happening this month. The men’s retreat is Feb. 1-4 and the women’s is Feb. 8-11. Thank you!

Wed Night Dinners during Lent February 14 - March 20, Soup and Sandwiches

Join us for these slightly more simple meals as we remember and are thankful for the extravagant love of God as shown to us through Jesus.



If you are interested in bringing soup or sandwiches, sign up in the sanctuary or contact the church office.

We are working on going to Homeland or Mary Holland Park in early March. Stay tuned for details!

Ash Wednesday is Feb 14!

We will have an **Ash Wednesday Service** in the Sanctuary at **5:30 pm** before **Wednesday Night Dinner**

Mark your calendars for these other special Lent and Easter Services!

Palm Sunday Service, March 24 in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am

Maunder Thursday Love Feast, March 28 in the Fellowship Hall at 5:45 pm Followed by a **Tenebrae Service** in the Sanctuary at 7 pm

Good Friday Crosswalk, March 29 Meet at the Assembly of God Church at 11:45 am to begin walking to meet at NOON in Fort Blount Park

Community Easter Sunrise Service, March 31 in Mosaic Park at 7:30 am

Traditional Easter Service in our Sanctuary at 10:30 am

Lighthouse Laughs

Victory CHURCH
1401 Griffin Rd, Lakeland, FL 33810

FRIDAY, FEB 23 7:00 PM

FREE EVENT - YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES

Mike Williams, Robert G. Lee, Tommy Morin, David Pendleton

DRY BAR COMEDY

the joy fm

WEEKLY REMINDERS

Breakfast and Devotions Tuesdays at 8 am



Broadway Diner
Everyone is invited!

Prayer Zoom Tuesday Morning at 9:30!!!

Every Tuesday morning at 9:30 am you are invited to join us for prayer via zoom video or voice call. Please call or email the church office for the link/phone number! If you can't join us in those ways, please join us in prayer in one accord.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall
RSVP by Monday noon each week,
THANK YOU!

Feb. 7: Chicken fajitas, rice & refried beans \$5

Feb. 14: ASH Wednesday service then Lenten Soup & Sandwiches \$2

Feb 21: Lenten Soup & Sandwiches \$2

Feb. 28: Lenten Soup & Sandwiches \$2

Bible Study at 6:45 pm in the Library

Youth meets Thursdays, 2:30 -5 pm

Interested? Contact the Church Office!

Fellowship Events

This month's
Lunch Bunch
Will be the



**Covered dish
Valentine's Luncheon**
February 11th after worship

First Sundays of the month, 12pm

RSVP to the Church Office by
Wed before 2pm at
863-533-0904 or firstumcbartow@aol.com

Silver Saints



February 25th!
Game Night and
Charcuterie at the Huffs

Contact Elsa by
Feb 21st to RSVP.
863-632-2133

Bingo is every Monday!
Contact Elsa to reserve a table.



Beef 'O' Brady's.
Arrive at 5, Bingo starts at 6.

First Methodist School



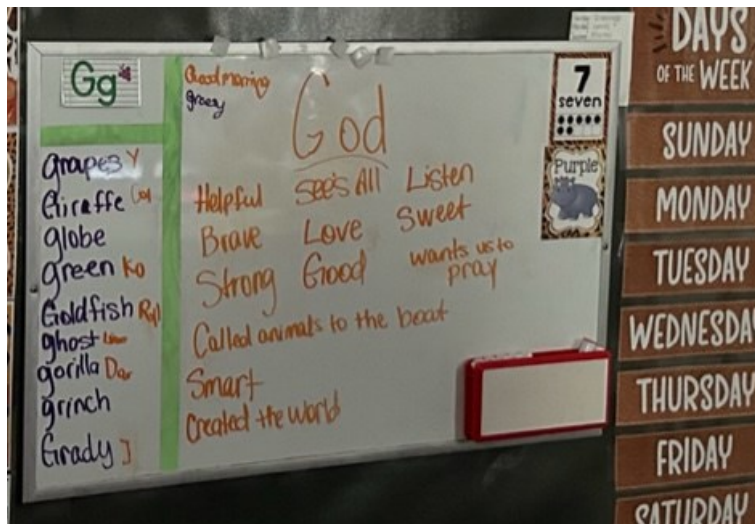
Our Eighth Graders are brilliant and talented!



Time for Vocabulary and Spelling with the Fourth Graders!



Our Kindergartners are busy learning every day!



Our 3 Year Olds have learned that "G" is for "God" and shared all kinds of wonderful things they know about God! Did YOU know all those things?



Having lunch among the snowfolk!



Our Art Classes have been hard at work!



Praising God in Elementary Chapel!

FMS is a mission and ministry of First UMC Bartow. If you would like to be more involved with the school through reading to a class, doing crafts afterschool, helping with the Youth, or helping with physical projects contact the church office. You have love to share!

REACHING IN....

Ways we are the body of Christ in Jerusalem through Nurture & Discipleship

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES FEBRUARY 5, 11:30 AM.

870 Lila Street

*All ladies are welcome to join us!
Bring a sandwich or salad. We will have soup.*

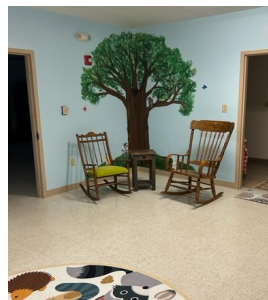
The WE CARE Congregational Care Team

You may have noticed that we have had a lot of people for whom we have been in prayer recently. Many times these individuals or their families could use a meal, visit, or someone to help with transportation to appointments. **This team is awesome, but we can not do it all without you! If you could help or know someone who could benefit from any of these ministries, please contact the church office.**

Thank you!



OUR NURSERY LOOKS SO GOOD!



Thank you to everyone who has contributed by making, buying, decorating, donating and assembling things for our babies and their families!

Wednesday Night Lenten Bible Study
6:45 pm in the Library
Final Words from the Cross
By Adam Hamilton
Contact office ASAP to order book (\$14)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERS

I will be stepping down from being chair person for the Children's church ministry and I am so happy to have Laura Sheffield step in my place for the year 2024. This is a wonderful ministry of volunteers who lead the children during worship and teach them the Bible stories in the Old and New Testament.

I want to thank the following volunteers who take turns leading this ministry and giving of their time and talents in their love of children and Jesus.

Laura Sheffield and Allye Martin
Robert and Mary Lopez
Betty Fitzgerald and Elsa Huff
Ina Ogden and Lee Anne Layton
Margie Anderson and B J Simpson

*May God bless us in the
New Year of 2024, Elsa Huff*

First UMC Youth Group: Thurs, 2:30-5 pm

*In January,
we helped undecorate
the Sanctuary,
learned how we are
uniquely made by God,*



*made
empanadas,*

*helped clean up after Pastor
Missy, and played games!*

*In February, we start helping
monthly at the Bartow
Church Service Center!*



Contact the Church Office to know more!

AND REACHING OUT...

Ways we are the body of Christ in Judea, Samaria, & beyond through Mission Outreach Evangelism!

Thank you to all who attended and supported our Mission lunch celebrating

Mendoza First Methodist & Colegio Albert Schweitzer

Togetherness Group
Rwanda ZOE Empowers

You donated **\$219.18** and that money will help share the love of Christ in concrete ways in Mendoza and Rwanda



Our Youth helped make the empanadas for the luncheon!

Thank you to the MOE Team and everyone else who helped make the lunch a success!

February 9 & 10!

YARD SALE
At Kathy Wood's

Money raised goes to purchase food to feed hungry folks. Donations can be left in the screened in porch at her house.

LAITY GATHERING
Saturday, February 17
10 am—Noon
At First UMC Lakeland

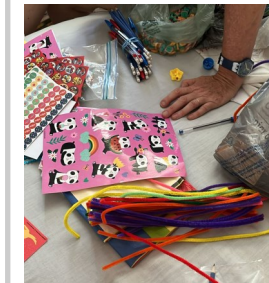
**Lunch available afterward for \$10*

To register or for more information, contact: Warren Pattison
District Lay Leader
wpattison@firstumc.org, 863-686-3163



ARGENTINA MISSION:

Our friends in Mendoza could put the following items to use in their ministries:



- +Thumb drives
- +Used Laptops or Tablets (or new— we aren't picky)
- +Useful and fun school supplies (such as pens, erasers & stickers) for neighborhood children

**You can drop donations in the basket in the church.*

PASTORAL MARIO

"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



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS AND DEVOTION IN 2023!
IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA METODISTA MENDOZA



Five people from our Church and School will be going to Argentina June 16-26. There we will be in ministry with First Mendoza and Colegio Albert Schweitzer! Stay tuned for ways to support the trip!