

First United Methodist Church of Bartow

February 2026

Newsletter

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 2

What are you looking for?

-John 1:38

What does it mean to belong to Jesus? What does the Bible tell us? What do we tell ourselves? Over the next few months we are going to be looking at who we understand Jesus to be, and what that understanding means to us as Christ followers.

Last month, the church family was asked to provide five words or short phrases that you would use to describe Jesus if you were asked by a friend. At last count, 125 descriptions had been turned in. Some of the descriptions are very similar to each other (for example- love and loving) but there are still 55 different ways that you described Jesus. All those different descriptions mean we have a wide variety of ways that we encounter Christ.

There is nothing wrong with that. In fact, it is to be expected because the Bible is set up that way. The New Testament has four separate accounts of Jesus's life and ministry in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and the rest of the New Testament continues with diverse understandings of Jesus. The early church understood that Jesus was more than one thing. It is important that we grasp this as well.

What does it mean to you that Jesus is King? Messiah? True Vine? Redeemer? Prince of Peace? Rabbi? Light? Friend? Savior? Our answers to these questions shape who we are as Christians and define how we live out the love of Christ in the world.

Jesus asked the question, "What are you looking for?" of those who would become his first disciples. He later asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" And at points in his ministry through word and deed, Jesus made it clear who he was. He even used "I am" statements such as, "I am the good Shepherd" and "I am the true vine." Jesus was many of the things that the people were looking for. He was also more than they could ever imagine. The disciples were beginning to grasp who Jesus was, but they still sometimes misunderstood, just like we do. Even when Jesus told them, and tells us, exactly who he is we can still have difficulty understanding and following. The discussions we will have over the next months are to help us to widen our view of who Jesus is.

This is not simply an exercise in knowledge. This is about confronting our need for a Savior and the expectations that we place on God. Like the people in Jesus' time we might be looking for an earthly king instead of a king to rule our hearts. We might be looking for a zealot who seeks to topple society and create a new order instead of recognizing the power of healing to turn the world on its head. We might be looking for pacification instead of peace with justice. Like the people in Jesus' time we might be surprised by some of the answers that we find. Perhaps like Nicodemus, it will take us a while to recognize what the power of the Holy Spirit to help us to have new life can mean for us and for those around us. Perhaps like Peter, we have a tendency to take one step forward and two steps back in our walk with Christ. Perhaps like Thomas, we need to see just a little bit more to recognize the wonder of resurrection in our lives.

How we follow Jesus, the kind of Christians that we are, is based on who we understand Jesus to be. If we are not careful, we can create a version of Jesus to follow based upon our own expectations. May these weeks and months ahead be a surprise and a joy. May we grow in our relationship with Jesus and learn new and exciting ways to live out our life in Christ. May our Jesus become so big that in following him our lives and all around us will be forever changed!

with Love in Christ,



-Pastor Missy

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CHOIR NOTES *by Sylvia Spencer, Choir Director*



🎵 “Choir Notes” 🎵

Grandparents have an uncanny ability to see only the good in their grandchildren. Even though they see weaknesses in their grandchildren, they choose to focus instead on their strengths.

Our heavenly Father sees us in much the same way. When we ask forgiveness for our sins, God completely erases them from His memory and sees us as perfect, holy and righteous.

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." Psalm 103:12

Isn't it comforting to know that you are as perfect in God's eyes as that precious grandchild who cuddles up in your lap?

Because of Him ...Sylvia 🎵

Mark your calendars for these Special Events!

Sun, February 8

SOUP-er Bowl Sunday!

10:30 am: Worship ~ Children's Sunday

12 pm: Mission Luncheon
Baked Potato Bar & more!

Join us at

**Homeland
Heritage Park**

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**

Ash Wednesday Service

Wed, February 18, 5:30 pm

*In the Sanctuary, with Fellowship Dinner
to follow in the Fellowship Hall*

VBS will be June 15-19

Watch for Registration & Volunteer Sign-Ups coming soon!

*We really want to do dramas this year!
If you would like to act in a short drama for one or more
days, watch for sign-ups or contact the Church Office.*

We are so thankful for everyone who has answered the call to leadership at First UMC Bartow!

Below is a list of most of those who are in ministry and administrative leadership in the church. This is not a complete list of all who serve! Many of you are on teams and committees or simply respond when called so that we can more fully be there for one another, our community, and our neighbors all over the world. This is what it looks like to be the body of Christ serving God empowered by the Holy Spirit in Bartow and beyond!

2026 CHURCH LEADERS

Council Members Italicized

- Church Council Chair.....*Brandon P*
- Residing Hope Children's Home Rep.....*Faye S*
- Children's Ministry.....*Elsa H*
- Congregational Care Coordinator.....*Dorothy T*
- Family Ministries Coordinator.....*Carolyn P*
- Fellowship & Beyond 50 Ministry.....*Elsa H*
- Finance Committee Chair.....*Chad J*
- Finance Sec/Bookkeeper/Visitation.....*Pat B*
- First Methodist School Board Chair.....*Pat H*
- Lay Leader.....*Gwyn P*
- Lay Delegate to Annual Conference.....*Gwyn P*
- Missions, Outreach, Evangelism Chair.....*Barbara H*
- Music Director.....*Sylvia S*
- Recording Secretary..... *Aidan R*
- Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair.....*Amy P*
- Trustees Chair.....*David B*
- Worship Chair.....*Heath P*
- Youth Ministry.....*Pastor Missy*

Further Leadership

- Bartow Community Service Center Representative.....*Barbara H*
- Disaster Relief Coordinator.....*Brad C*
- Golden Girls Ministry.....*Elsa H & Barbara H*
- Grief Support.....*Faye S*
- Interpreter of Connectional Giving.....*Dorothy T*
- Vacation Bible School.....*Pastor Missy*

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Chair: Chad Johnson

- Church Council Chair: Brandon P
- Finance Sec/Bookkeeper: Pat B
- Lay Leader: Gwyn P
- Lay Member to Annual Conference: Gwyn P
- Members: Pat H - FMS, John H
- SPRC Rep: Amy P (or designee)
- Treas: Aidan R Trustees Rep: David B

Counters: David B, Walt Hause, Pat H, Dorothy T

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP

(NOMINATIONS)

- Chair: Pastor Missy Lay Leader: Gwyn P*
- 2026:** Bill S
- 2027:** Kelly Z **2028:** BJ S

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- Outgoing Chair: Amy P Lay Leader: Gwyn P*
- 2026:** Lynn S, Tom T
- 2027:** Amy P
- 2028:** Tula R, Pat B

Lay Member Annual Conference: Gwyn P

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Chair: David B Lay Leader: Gwyn P*
- (also on Trustees, so has vote)
- 2026:** Gwyn P, Bobby V
- 2027:** Pat H, Cynthia L
- 2028:** David B, Marvin H

- Acolytes.....*Pastor Missy & Brandon P*
- Altar Guild*Jenny B & Tula R*
- Usher Coord.....*Pat B*
- A/V.....*Will A*
- Videographers.....*Bobby V, Dano R, Dorrance M, & Greg W*

Are you feeling moved to volunteer?

Maybe you know exactly where or maybe you are in discernment and have questions. Talk to these leaders or call the church office (863-533-0904) and we will get you in touch with someone to answer your questions.

God is calling you and we want to help you answer!

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

February 2, 11:30 am

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 soup to share!*



Tuesday Breakfast & Devotions



At **Broadway Diner**
8:30 am

Questions? Call Walt at 215-237-7985

Nurture & Care at FUMC Bartow

Our Congregational Care Committee and Visitation Team help us minister to those in our church and community through calls, notes, gifts, visits, and more!

Grief Support

New group starting in
FEBRUARY!



There will be a **Meet & Greet**
Wed, Feb 25 at 4pm
in the Annex Sunday School Room

The new session, using the book *Understanding Your Grief*, will begin on **March 4th** and will continue through **May 13th**. The sessions will be held in the Annex Sunday School Room.

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 862-533-0904 or firstumcbartow@aol.com

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

6pm in the Fellowship Hall

FEB 4: Covered Dish & Chicken \$2

FEB 11: Wingstop Boneless Wings, & more \$5

We will be doing soup & sandwiches for Lent

FEB 18: Soup & Sandwiches \$2

FEB 25: Soup Sandwiches \$2

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



Weekly Bible Study

*Watch your Bulletin, Email, and
social media for updates!*



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 July 2014.

This month our church is honored to welcome its 40th pastor, Rev. Alan Jefferson and his family to Bartow FUMC.

As a church that has been in Bartow for over 130 years we face unique challenges as we strive to attract new members and young families while cultivating the talents and spiritual gifts of members whose "roots" date back to the early years of our church.

In 1983, during the term of Rev. Booker C. Short, Jr., our church celebrated 100 years of Methodism in Bartow. The introductory page of the Church Directory for that year stated "on Sunday, March 11, 1883 Bartow's first Methodist Church was dedicated - a plain, frame building without architectural adornments, except for a steeple - at the corner of Church Street and Floral Avenue. Only 22 years later the members had outgrown their facilities, and the present sanctuary at 310 South Broadway Avenue was built in 1905-08. An educational annex, adjacent to the sanctuary at the south was added in 1948.

On January 28, 1969 the cornerstone was laid for our present educational building at 455 South Broadway.

Our present parsonage at 1170 South Orange Avenue was built in 1954 and first occupied by Rev. Jesse Waller and his family. Shortly thereafter, First Methodist sponsored the establishment of Asbury United Methodist Church in (south) Bartow.

The history of our church should not be measured by brick or stone, but by the

influence it had on the lives of our parents and grandparents and will continue to have on our lives and those of our children and grandchildren. We will carry into the years ahead the rich heritage of those of the past." (1983 Directory of FUMC).

As we enter a new period in our church history we will do our best to blend the "old" and the "new" as we join Rev. Jefferson in moving our church forward with God's plan for our role in the Bartow Community.

Reading this article reminds us that we have always celebrated our past as we have looked to the future. In moves from a "plain frame building" to our current Sanctuary, from adding the Annex to building the Education Building, and from building the current parsonage to encouraging what would become Asbury UMC, we have sought to follow God's vision to share the love of Christ.

It hasn't always been easy. Moving to a new Sanctuary, helping a new church as it is established, taking the risks to build the Education Building that would become a cornerstone for educating thousands of students in an inclusive and loving Christian environment over the decades— all these things meant change. Sometimes there were setbacks, but God has always been with us.

We can't always know what the future holds, but we always know who holds our future!

Speaking of New Things...

We are excited to announce that 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 for Children & Youth Ministries
(10 hours a week total to include Sunday mornings with other days/times to be negotiated)

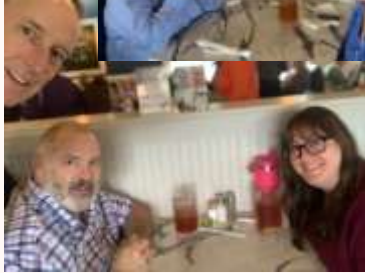
If you know of someone interested, please have them contact the Church Office for more details.

Fellowship Events

NEXT LUNCH BUNCH at *The Social Plate*

February 1 at 12 pm

RSVP to the Church Office by Wed, Jan 28 at 12pm



Pictures from our January Lunch Bunch at Broadway Diner! Bishop Tom Berlin joined us!



Thank you to Elsa H for providing & cutting the cake for our January Birthdays!



Golden Girls
Valentine's Party
Fri, Feb 13 at 11:30am
Contact the Church Office
for more information!
RSVP by Feb 9
to the Church Office

Silver Saints is looking for a coordinator! If you are interested, please contact the Church Office.

UNITED METHODIST YOUNG ADULTS

Picnic
AT THE PARK

Saturday, February 21, 11am - 1pm
At Bonnet Springs Park in Lakeland

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



Children

Early every year we talk about when Jesus was Baptized and remember our own Baptisms with gratitude. We celebrate how God has claimed us in our Baptisms and empowers us for amazing things in our lives. And a few weeks later we trained our new acolyte, DJ!



Youth Thursdays 3-5 pm



Our Youth continue to serve others in many ways. They helped count the hygiene products, socks, underwear, jackets, blankets, and other items people donated before Mr. David took them to the Bartow Community Service Center.



In the coming months, we are working to grow closer to God and to each other so our group can be strong and we can better share the love of Christ in Bartow and beyond!

There was a lot to count!
You are fearfully and wonderfully made!



We made snowflakes to remind us that we are each unique and beautiful. We named our gifts and skills and thanked God for them!



Take a look at some of our Special Services!

CHRISTMAS EVE:

The Church Staff helped with lighting the Christ Candle at our Christmas Eve Service...



Our Choir, Soloists, and the Congregation all sang joyously and welcomed the birth of the Christ Child who is the Light of the World!



BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

Our Florida Conference Bishop, Tom Berlin, joined us to preach and celebrate as we Reaffirmed our Baptismal Vows.



We weren't surprised when the Bishop said our "Passing of the Peace" felt like a family reunion. That's because we all know we are ONE in the family of God!



Pastor Missy isn't the only one who likes to walk when they preach!



Bishop Berlin took time to show the boys some ways to remember their baptisms!

We ended the service with a Farewell Blessing for Greg and Kathy W. We will miss them!



First Methodist School

We are back from Christmas Break and excited about all there is to learn and do!



The **TWOs** are learning shapes... Or colors... Or the letter O.. Or simply having snack. With **TWOs** ALL OF THAT is possible!



Our teachers are hard at work planning amazing lessons

Did you know that our **VPK** (4 & 5 year olds) have sight words???

That means they are well on their way to learning to read!



The **3rd Graders** practice their math skills in many ways with Mr. Wright. That includes using their math knowledge to play **BINGO!**



In **Art** we are learning about lines and texture!



Our **2nd Graders** took a field trip to Dinosaur world! Before going, Mrs. A gave them a crash course in archeology!

FMS
Love Program
February 19
at 6 pm
In the sanctuary



REACHING OUT... To minister with friends we know

Ways we are the body of Christ in the world through **M**ission **O**utreach **E**vangelism!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Some of our friends have exciting events coming up!

Feb 1, 2:30 pm:

Lakeland Concert Band Concert
4450 Harden Blvd, Lakeland, 33813

Feb 10, 7 pm:

Heartland Pops
Valentine's Concert
2740 Lakeview Dr, Sebring, 33870

Feb 17, 7 pm:

Heartland Pops Valentine's Concert
218 E Belleview St, Lake Placid, 33852

Mar 8, 2:30 pm:

Lakeland Concert Band Concert
4450 Harden Blvd, Lakeland, 33813

4 pm: Heartland Pops Spring Concert
33631 Grand Prix Dr, Sebring 33872

Sometimes being the Body of Christ looks like sprinkling the love of God all over a friend's new home!



Grace Notes

Thank you to Pastor Missy's mom, Brenda R, for helping our Pastor to finally have a clean office! ~from the entire Church

Thank You to visiting friend, Michelle B, for helping with the continued organization of the craft area upstairs in the Annex.

Thank You to David B for installing the railings to help the choir navigate the stairs and for the new, non-leaking kitchen faucet in the Parsonage!

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

SHARING OUR BLESSINGS

Connectional Giving (Apportionments)

Helps fund ministries like...



Pastor Missy
Clergy

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.

The Clergy Support Fund is used in the following ways:

Clergy Benefits and Equitable Compensation – The local church is the primary salary-paying unit for pastors, but the Florida Conference pays a variety of clergy benefits and expenses, including a substantial subsidy for equitable compensation.

Clergy-Related Conference Boards – Pays the meeting and program cost of our Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM).

Bishop's Office and Residence – Pays the Episcopal office and Episcopal residence expenses which are not paid by the General Church (through the Episcopal Fund).

District superintendents and Cabinet – Pays for the salaries, benefits, and business expenses of our six district superintendents; and the meeting-related and other costs of the Cabinet.

Judicial Process – Pays for the cost of the conference committee on Investigations and Judicial Procedures, which handles difficult clergy matters. It also pays the Conference's costs related to clergy suspensions during the investigative and judicial process.

*Our UM Connection is
an amazing thing!*

*We help people in our
communities, country,
and around the world*

*AND we have opportunities
to be in ministry together
close to home also!*

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
to give!

THANK YOU!

Witnessing to Christ in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria

Thank you to all who donated items for the Bartow Community Service Center!

106 pairs of underwear
 199 pairs of socks
 2 knit beanies (hats)
 Three pairs of jeans
 Two belts
 10 jackets
 One pair of crocs
 And 38 hygiene products



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!



Get ready for SOUP-er BOWL SUNDAY!
February 8

Just like the Super Bowl, we will have a little competition between the sides of the Church.

Team A—those sitting on the left facing the choir, put your cans in the **RED** bucket.

Team B—those sitting on the right facing the choir, put your cans in the **BLUE** bucket.

All donations will go to the Bartow Community Service Center. GO TEAM!!



THE BIG RED BUS WILL BE AT THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS PARKING LOT
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 9AM-1PM



Go to: oneblood.org/donate-now to schedule an appointment. *Walk-Ins Welcome!*

It's cold... very cold! But the fact of the matter is... cold, warm, wet, or dry, the need for blood is always there. How often do you have the opportunity to be a hero? You can this month by donating blood! It's painless, quick, and will make you feel so good to know that your donation helped to save a life. Remember your one donation has the capability of saving 3 lives. Just 3 drops can save an infants life! Thank you for being a hero! ~Barbara H

And just a reminder to NOT park in the Elections Lot that day! THANK YOU!

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

Mission Luncheon Feb 8 at 12 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

We will have Baked Potato,
Salad, & Brownie Bars!

*All donations will go
to Argentina Missions!*



**We are working on going
to Argentina in early July.**

If anyone is interested in joining
us or would like information,
please contact the Church Office
or the Pastor.

*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*

See the impact our church has made with helping our sister church in Cuba, Santa Cruz del Sur, with their Food Distribution Program and vitamins! And one more time, just a celebration that in just a week and a half we brought in 94 bottles of vitamins, which equaled over 13,000 individual vitamins! Our next Mission Luncheon for Cuba will be in the Fall, but we know, if there is a need before then, this church will rise to the challenge!



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

5—Elsa H	22—Dick T
6—Trish P	23—Laura R
11—Jenny B	24—Kilian V H
16—Bruce A	<i>Happy Birthday!</i>

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

12—Pat & Elsa H
24—Bill & Jane M

SYMPATHY and MEMORIAL GIFTS

A memorial gift was given in memory of

Beverly Etheredge

By Pat B

By Harriot C

By Pat & Elsa H

By Jeff & Kathy M

“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 March Newsletter should be submitted by **Monday, February 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	Carolyn P
Diane A	Mary Beth P— <i>health</i>
Ken A	Heath P — <i>healing</i>
Brian— <i>safety</i>	Brenda R— <i>Missy's mom</i>
Laura & John B	Sadie
Amanda B	BJ S
Susan B	Gary T— <i>Kelly Z's friend,</i>
Diane B— <i>healing</i>	<i>healing</i>
Shirley & Jonathon B	Jean & Dick T
Maggie C— <i>healing</i>	Laura Whitehurst— <i>health & comfort</i>
Daphne— <i>healing</i>	Kathy W
Shawn F	Greg W
Lyda F— <i>Pat H's grandniece</i>	-All leaders to do God's will
Cathy G	-Everyone affected by
Karel H	sickness, hunger around the
Brandon H	world, repressive
Melody H	governments, gun violence,
Pat H— <i>healing</i>	and natural & human
Jasmine— <i>4 yr old, doing well!</i>	caused disasters
Kristin— <i>BJ's d-i-l, healing</i>	<i>Also on our hearts:</i>
John M	<i>Our Nation, Cuba, Haiti,</i>
Allye M	<i>Israel, Palestine, Sudan,</i>
Dorrance M— <i>health</i>	<i>Ukraine, & Venezuela</i>
Kathy M— <i>healing</i>	
Becky O	

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!

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9 am: Adult Sunday School</p> <p>*10:30 am: Worship & Communion</p> <p>12:30 pm: Lunch Bunch at The Social Plate (see pg. 6)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Chapels</p> <p>11:30 am: Women's Bible Study (see pg. 4)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner</p> <p>5:30 pm: Choir</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6 pm: WND</p>	<p>5</p> <p>3 pm-5 pm: Youth</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Children's Sunday & SOUP-er Bowl Sunday</p> <p>9 am: Adult Sunday School</p> <p>*10:30 am: Worship</p> <p>12 pm: Argentina Mission Luncheon (see pg. 13)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Chapels</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner</p> <p>5:30 pm: Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6 pm: WND</p>	<p>12</p> <p>3 pm-5 pm: Youth</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11:30 am: FMS Early Release</p> <p>11:30 am: Golden Girls Valentine's Party (see pg. 6)</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Transfiguration Sunday</p> <p>9 am: Adult Sunday School</p> <p>*10:30 am: Worship</p>	<p>16 President's Day</p> <p>FMS, Preschool, & Day Care CLOSED</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner</p> <p>5:30 pm: Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30 pm: Ash Wednesday Service (see pg. 2)</p> <p>6 pm: WND</p>	<p>19</p> <p>3 pm-5 pm: Youth</p> <p>6 pm: FMS Love Program (see pg. 9)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>United Methodist Young Adult Event (see pg. 6)</p>
<p>22 First Sunday in Lent</p> <p>9 am: Adult Sunday School</p> <p>*10:30 am: Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Chapels</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner</p> <p>5:30 pm: Choir</p>	<p>25</p> <p>4 pm: Grief Group Meet & Greet (see pg. 4)</p> <p>6 pm: WND</p>	<p>26</p> <p>3-5 pm: Youth</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>Sun, March 1 Worship at Homeland (see pg. 2)</p> </div>

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



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BARTOW, FLORIDA**

455 S Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830

FEBRUARY, 2026

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



Witnessing to Christ empowered by the Spirit in Bartow & beyond

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE:

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

PALM SUN, MAR 29, 10:30 AM: WORSHIP WITH CANTATA

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 6 PM: LOVEFEAST IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

GOOD FRIDAY, 6 PM: TENEBRAE SERVICE IN SANCTUARY

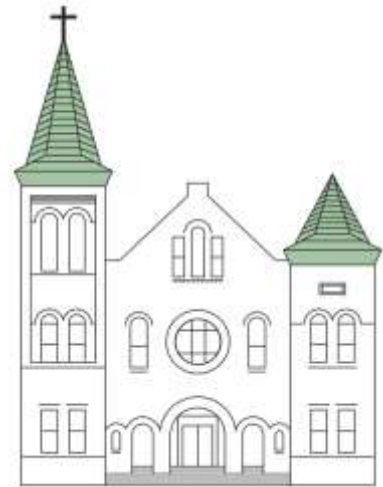
EASTER SUNDAY, APR 5:

7 AM: COMMUNITY EASTER SUNRISE AT MOSAIC PARK

10:30 AM: WORSHIP & COMMUNION

BE IN PRAYER FOR...

Those living in conflict & separated from loved ones



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.