



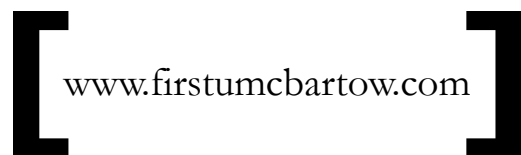
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BARTOW, FLORIDA

455 S Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830

JANUARY 2024

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Missy Turbeville Pastor
Becky Otten Administrative Assistant
Bonnie Allen 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:

- FEB 1ST-4TH: MEN'S EMMAUS
- FEB 8TH-11TH: WOMEN'S EMMAUS
- FEB 11TH, 12 PM: VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON
- FEB 14TH: ASH WEDNESDAY

BE IN PRAYER...

**For all those who have been ill.
For those traveling.
For our church family as we plan for 2024 and beyond.**



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 light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

-John 1:5



As we move further into the new year, whether we count it beginning from the first Sunday Advent or January 1, it is important that we remember that *the* beginning and *our* beginnings go back much farther than a few days or a month and our opportunities for new beginning are only as far away as a prayer.

This brief message that Bishop Americo Reyes of the Methodist Evangelical Church of Argentina shared with us is filled with hope. It points us to the author of our salvation and the one who is the light in a sometimes dark world. This message also reminds us that Jesus calls *us* the light of the world and we are invited to take part in the love of God at work in the world.

Keeping that in mind, we begin this month with the Wesleyan Covenant prayer and follow the next Sunday with reaffirming our Baptisms. Both services are meant to remind whose we are and the strength and empowering that are ours in Christ.

God loves us fiercely and we are created to both **live in the love of God AND live out the love of God.** While accepting the love of God in Christ into our hearts can seem like a purely personal issue, it really isn't. We reach a place of recognizing and responding to God's love because others have not only done the same thing, but shared their experience with others- including us. They were the light of the world that Jesus tells us we all are.

The days are getting longer, and although we will still suffer through some bone-chilling 60 and sometimes 50(!) degree weather, we are being reminded by the very sun in the sky that darkness does not overcome the light. Just as we deal with shortening days for a time, there are seasons in our lives and in the world when it can feel like the light is dimmed. Yet the light still shines and you are a part of that! We all are. Maybe someone is sharing light in your life, maybe you are sharing light in theirs. The point is, the love of God in Christ shines as a light and we are a part of that glorious brightness!

In this New Year, we continue to live into our new and restarted ministries. Why do we visit people, worship, do crazy Bible lessons with teenagers, send birthday and get well cards, have meals together, pray, serve in the Bartow Service Center, study the Bible, participate in missions, and seek to do crafts with children? For the same reason others have done it before and for us: to love each other as we are loved! Together we are light to the world, the love of God lived out... in Bartow and beyond.

with Love in Christ,
-Pastor Missy

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CHOIR NOTES



I appreciate everyone's love, prayers, visits, food, cards, and gifts. I have missed everyone so much. Surgery is January 22nd.

Hopefully after that I will be back at church.



I want to thank Margie Anderson for being able to step in so beautifully. The music and services were awesome.

Sending love and best wishes for a great 2024. **-BONNIE**



A CHOIR UPDATE FROM MARGIE

First and foremost, my gratitude and undying affection for our beloved Mrs. Bonnie! When she suddenly became unable to lead us through the cantata, a few other Sundays and events, she had already put so much into place that it wasn't difficult to take what was there and 'run' with it. Please continue to keep her in prayers as she goes through more medical appointments, procedures and whatever those may indicate to be beneficial for her. She is greatly loved and missed!

For many years, Bonnie Allen has coordinated and hosted our 2 annual "Sounds and Silences" for our church and community. This year's "Sounds and Silences" involved (Dec. 6) Pastor Missy, Sylvia Spencer, Richard Lake, Tom Mizell, Barbara Hess (pray for her with health issues), Deborah Brister, Dennis Croom, Bill Sheetz, and Will Alderman. (Dec. 13) Pastor Missy, Will Alderman and the "Silent Singers" from The Estates at Carpenters in Lakeland. What a blessing Bonnie and this event has been to so many through the years! Thank you to all who 'made it happen.'

I can never thank our choir enough for their encouragement and support these past weeks. They individually and collectively live out being 'the hands and feet and heart' of Jesus within and beyond our choir. They put up with some unexpected changes with grace and indulgence and I know I've learned a few things from them about leading a choir. I've always been 'in' the choir and rarely led adults in choir. It's much easier to be one of many than in the lead role - even temporarily.

Beyond my many thanks to our choir (see listing below), I want to specifically thank our always fabulous accompanist, Sylvia, who is invaluable in our choir's success. Thanks to our cantata soloists: Bill Sheetz, Deborah Brister, Brandon Pickard, Lanny Sheffield, Missy Turbeville, and Sam Hudnell for their additional hours rehearsing and learning their parts so well. Thanks

to our cantata tech team: Will Alderman, Brandon Pickard, and Bill Sheetz for chasing down all the unexpected glitches, fixing them, and making everything flow so well Sunday morning ... and we still had unused back-up available!!!

Special Thank You to our cantata narrator, John Hutto, who always does a magnificent job in helping to weave Scripture and text, telling the story, between the musical selections. We appreciate you, John!

Another BIG thank you to those who participated in our "Talent Night" Wednesday Night Dinner: Pastor Missy and Laura Sheffield, for planning, preparing, setting-up and serving our delicious meal. Thank you also to those who offered their gifts, talents, and enthusiasm with us: Brandon Pickard (Emcee/Light & Sound Tech), Deborah Brister, Lyle Hudnell, Sam Hudnell, Richard Lake, Bill Sheetz and our participating 'audience.' It was a fun night!

Also special thanks to our 'host and hostess with the mostest' - Pat and Elsa Huff for opening their hearts, home and hospitality for our Silver Saints/Choir party Sunday, 12/17. It was a wonderful evening of food, fellowship and laughter.

*Our choir members are: *Bonnie Allen (Director), Ken Allen, Margie Anderson, *Susan Bergdoll, Deborah Brister, *David Brooks, *Jenny Brooks, Shiela Faramarzifar, Betty Fitzgerald, Judy Gay, Sam Hudnell, Elsa Huff, *Nadege Masseur, Janet Moshier, Ina Ogden, Bette Orwig, *Heath Petersen, Brandon Pickard, Nadine Robbins, Faye Sarvis, Bill Sheetz, Lynn Sheetz, Lanny Sheffield, BJ Simpson, Sylvia Spencer (Accompanist), Christine Tomlinson, Missy Turbeville (Pastor), *Gene Whitney, *Marsha Whitney. (*currently out with health issues)*

With grateful blessings, I am Margie Anderson Interim Music Director



JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner	3	4	5	6
7 Celebrate Epiphany *10:30 am: Worship, Covenant, And Communion Lunch Bunch at Catfish Country	8 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels 11:30 Women's Bible Study 870 Lila Street	9 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	10 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Covered Dish & Chicken \$2 6:45 Wednesday Night Bible Study Library	11	12	13 Emmaus Gathering
14 Baptism of the Lord *10:30 am: Worship	15 FMS Closed MLK JR Day 5pm Bingo Beef 'O' Brady's	16 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	17 6 pm Wed Night Dinner 6:45 Wednesday Night Bible Study Library	18	19	20
21 *10:30 am: Worship 1ST QUARTER MISSIONS LUNCH ARGENTINA & ZOE orphans in Rwanda	22 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels	23 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	24 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Covered Dish & Chicken \$2 6:45 Wednesday Night Bible Study Library	25	26	27
28 10:30 am: Worship	29 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels	30 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	31 6 pm Wed Night Dinner 6:45 Wednesday Night Bible Study Library			

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

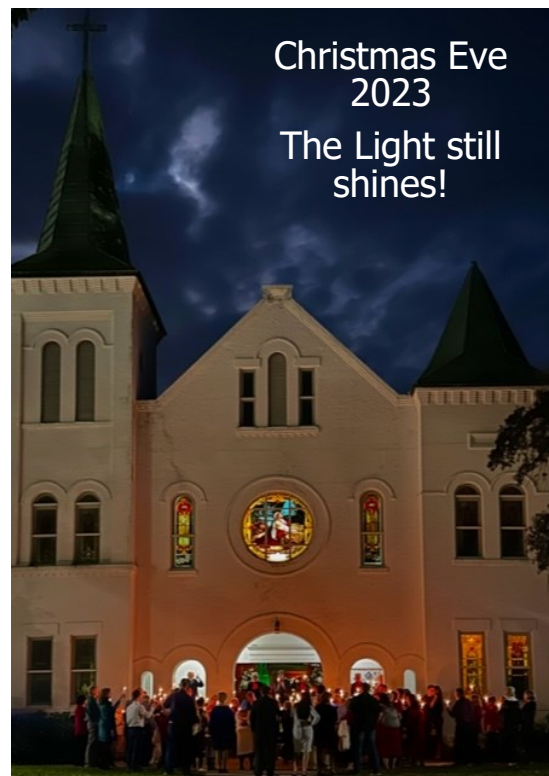
- 5- Bob Pfeiffer
- 8- Aaron Presnell
- 9- Mary Beth Packard
- 10- Talesha Clements
- 14- Ps. Missy Turbeville
- 17- Bill Wright
- 18- Diane Pannebaker
- Sam Draper
- 25- Eric Presnell
- 31- Bailey Whitehead

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 9- Eddie & Jennifer Hartsaw
- 23- Bill & Barbara Hess
- 23- Dick & Jean Thompson

SYMPATHY and MEMORIAL GIFTS

A Memorial gift was given for:
 Leonard & Mary Blankner
 By:
 Theresa Blankner Vernetson
 &
 Keith Krueger
 By:
 Mary Beth Packard
 Hardee County Middle School
 Dr. Kate & Joe Kinsley



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

The Chronically Ill and Homebound

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Beverly A | Brandon H | Steve R |
| Diane A | Lyle H- <i>healing</i> | Richard- <i>Beverly E's friend</i> |
| Jerry B | Pat H | BJ S |
| Amanda B | Allye M | Louise T |
| David B | Heath P <i>healing</i> | Jean & Dick T |
| Peg B | Mary Beth P | Bill & Joan W |
| Brian- <i>safety</i> | Mary Ellen R- <i>Sandy & Bo's granddaughter</i> | Patricia W |
| Shawn F | Lyn R <i>Betty's cousin</i> | Johnny & Hilda Z |
| Karel H | | |

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, in the Ushers' Room to the left of the Sanctuary entrance (facing the altar), 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 February newsletter should be submitted by Friday, January 19th. Thank You for helping us send out the Good News in a timely manner. The Good News is published monthly by FUMC-Bartow 455 S Broadway Ave, Bartow, FL 33830.

Connectional Giving... Connectional Giving for January 2024 From the November 20, 2023 /UM News

*United Methodist Church General Council on Finance and Administration

Key points:

- The board approved agency and bishop spending plans for 2024, including an additional bump in bishop pay (3%) and funding for office staff (3%). Office allowance (1%)
- The board also looked ahead to what giving and church departures might mean for the 2025-2028 denominational budget that will go before General Conference delegates.
- The finance agency's online meeting follows the Council of Bishops meeting, where denominational leaders heard how United Methodist agencies already have down sized to adjust to lower collections.

The board planned to propose a significantly lower four-year budget to General Conference, scheduled for April 23-May 3, in Charlotte, NC. This is the smallest budget submitted to General Conference since 1984. Additional cuts may need to be made.

"Disaffiliations have happened quicker than we anticipated and at a higher rate (24%). This has an impact on the quadrennial budget," said Rick King, CFO. The finance agency board plans to work on the budget again in February, 2024 to finalize the proposal that will be submitted to General Conference. The finance board works along with the Connectional Table, a leadership body that coordinates the work of general agencies.

-Heather Hahn- UM News
 - submitted by Dorothy Tucker

*This article is about our international denomination's overall budget.

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!

Grace Notes

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

Dear Church Family,
 On behalf of our Staff-Parish Relations Committee, I want to thank you for your generosity in giving to our Staff Love Offering. Because of you, our staff each received a \$350 bonus. In recent years, this bonus has generously and voluntarily received funding from very limited sources. With those sources no longer available, you were called on to pray and discern how we, as The Body of Christ, could participate in this act of love and generosity to those who so faithfully serve us. Our staff members often serve and work in ways for much less than what they would commensurately receive in secular corporate venues. Thank you for recognizing this and all the ways you share the Love of Christ.

Margie Anderson
SPRC Chairperson

Thank you all for my Christmas gift... I am honored to be able to serve at our church and for the Lord.
 Sylvia Spencer

You are all such a blessing to work with/for! Thank you for your love and support. Robin and I are very thankful for the Christmas gift from all of you! Love you all.
 Becky

Thank you to everyone for their love and support in so many ways! Thank you also to each of you as you use your beautiful gifts so that together we love and serve God and others! Each and every one of you is a gift reflecting the gift of love in Christ!
 With love in Christ, - Pastor Missy

ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian



January 2024

Last month among the many holiday blessings, was the Messiah Sing-A-Long. This was sponsored by the Bartow Orpheum Theatre and hosted in our FUMC Sanctuary. With a brief “warm-up ses-

sion” on the day of “this impromptu” chorus delighted the audience with a presentation mimicking supposed months of practice. FUMC’s own versatile Margie Anderson, a seasoned Messiah participant, was one of the featured soloists.

Messiah performances in Bartow had been a tradition for many years. Ten years ago an ATC column related the “history” of Bartow Messiah events.

“Beginning in the 1940’s Ms. Margaret Clark who also served as musical director of our church, gifted the Bartow Community with the Summerlin (BHS) Glee Club’s annual December Production of Handel’s Messiah. In those early years the Glee Club was accompanied by members of the Winer Haven Pops Orchestra (Da, Wendell Waters included)... In the early 1950’s and 60’s the Messiah Chorus boasted 100-150 members. Ed Etheredge, Sandra Kennedy (Breton), Betty Waugh (Fitzgerald)... Bette Orwig... Linda Newport (Fazekas)... (Ken Allen)... Walter Stoltz (Jackie’s husband) and Pat and Elsa Huff were among the members of those early Messiah companies.

In the early 1990’s John Anderson (who also was one of FUMC ministers of music) revived the Messiah for the Bartow community. This Messiah (Choir) consisted of Bartow High School and Community singers. The 90’s (assemblage) was accompanied by members of the Imperial Symphony (Wendell-Waters– Cello). Among those 100+ Chorus members were Bonnie Allen, Marion Harrison, Linda Fazekas, and Allegra, Gene, and Marsha Whitney, (... and of course Mrs. Margie Anderson, joined many of these performances.)

In the 1991 program conductor Anderson alluded to Margaret Clark’s legacy. ‘Throughout

music history there are few compositions more universally beloved as Handel’s... Messiah. Its combination of scripture and song have helped evoke the spirit of Christmas for almost two centuries. Margaret Clark recognized the power of music and made it’s performance an integral part of the musical lives 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...’

“Program notes from the Messiah state that George Frederic Handel composed the entire Messiah within... three... weeks... Messiah is not only a Christmas work. The text reaches back to the prophecy of the coming of the Messiah (including Christ’s suffering and death and moves on to his resurrection and victory over death).”

Hopefully the Messiah Sing-A-Long will remain a Bartow tradition for many years to come.

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 are working to create a **Craft Time** for **Elementary Children** on **Wednesday afternoons** from **3:30-4:30 pm in January**.

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!

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.

Special Events, Seasonal Services, and Sunday Worship

We were blessed with two amazing **Sounds and Silences** Wednesday Events.

Several church and community members shared their gifts on Dec 6. Then on Dec 13 the Silent Singers (pictured here) from Carpenter’s Estates shared with us again this year.

Our Bonnie planned these beautiful events even though her health kept her from being with us for them!



Also on Wed, Dec 13, we had our final WND of 2023 and our **Talent Show Extravaganza!**

What Talent!
What perseverance!
What kazoo!

Thank you to everyone who participated!

Sun, Jan 7, 10:30 am *Epiphany Sunday and Covenant Renewal*

We will begin 2024 by celebrating the revelation of God to all creation and re-covenanting ourselves to God with prayer

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer For a New Year

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

We hope you will join us for this service as we reflect on the gift of Christ in our lives

Some of our families dressed up to...



remind us of the birth of our Savior and the Greatest Gift any of us have ever received!

Sun, Jan 14, 10:30 am *Baptism of the Lord Sunday and Reaffirming our Baptismal Vows*

If you have been considering a Baptism or joining the church this is a lovely Sunday to do so! Please talk to Missy if you are interested!

Ash Wednesday is Feb 14
We will have a service in the Sanctuary before WND

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!

Jan. 10: Pizza & Salad \$5

Jan. 17: Covered dish & Chicken \$2

Jan. 24: Chicken & yellow rice,
green peas \$5

Jan. 31: Covered dish & Chicken \$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
January 7th
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
Next Month's will be the
Valentine's luncheon



Barabara H. makes us an amazing
birthday cake each month she is able!
She shares her gifts as we all try to do!

3rd Monday Fellowship Event for everyone:



January 15th at Beef 'O' Brady's.

Arrive at 5, Bingo starts at 6.
RSVP to the church by Nov. 14th.

Silver Saints

Picture of
Christmas Party
With Choir



Next Event will be in
February! Game Night and
Charcuterie! Date TBA

First Methodist School



December was a busy
month at FMS!



We helped set up, serve, and
eat a Christmas lunch with our
families

Going to practice
our Christmas
program in the
Sanctuary!



Mrs. Margie with two of her second graders



What a beautiful sight! Our FMS students and families eating together



Here come the students! All the hard
work paid off! What a beautiful program!
And in the Spring the other half of our
students will share!



After all that excitement,
it was good to relax with
a pajama day in VPK!

Blessing for the New Year from FMS!

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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

JANUARY 1, 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



Ms. Beverly A. Ms. Pat W. Here are two of our ladies that we visit!

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!

Wednesday Night Bible Study 6:45 pm in the Library

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



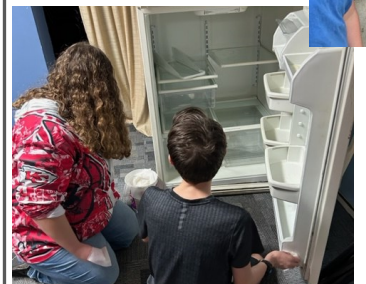
Our Youth decorating the Christmas Tree for Advent!



125 Halos 190 jingle bells and 140 goodie bags

Our Youth are hard workers!

Thank goodness it is our Christmas Party next week



But first, we finally cleaned our fridge so we could start using it!

After snacks, were games, including "decorate a team member like Christmas"! We have VERY creative Youth!



Contact the Church Office to know more!

Who is that? The Youth!

Mission accomplished! Then it was time to make items to help celebrate these holydays! Such as...



Heading over for our Party!



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

Missions Outreach & Evangelism

1st Quarter Mission Luncheon:

Sun, Jan 14, Noon

First Methodist Evangelical Church & Togetherness Group



Orphans in Rwanda through ZOE Empowers

More than 187,000 Children have been empowered by ZOE since 2007. We are blessed to be able to partner with them to help impact the lives of orphans in Rwanda. By creating opportunities for helping orphans to become skilled, healthy, and connected community members, we not only solve the core issue of extreme poverty but eliminate the need for endless aid. To find out more, visit https://www.flumc.org/zoe-empowers.

Coming Soon! Kathy Wood will have a yard sale. Money raised goes to purchase food to feed hungry folks. Donations can be left in the screened in porch at her house.



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 baskets in the church.



We took some pipe cleaners, beads, and tissue paper with us to Mendoza to share! Vilma, Vivi, and others worked with the children to create Christmas decorations and maybe a gift or two!



Remember the school supplies, including stickers that you brought in? Christmas goodie bags were made for the children and passed out at a special Pastoral Mario that included bags of food (and the children's goodie bags) just a bit before Christmas.

Interested in taking a mission trip to Argentina in June? Contact Pastor Missy!