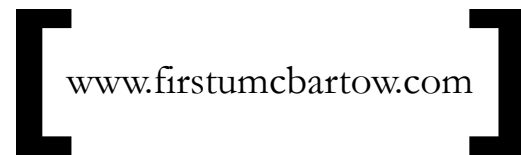




**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
BARTOW, FLORIDA**

455 S Broadway Ave.  
Bartow, FL 33830  
MARCH 2024

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



Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

**IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE:**

**APRIL 7: 2ND QUARTER MISSION LUNCHEON— CUBA**

**APRIL 23: VPK GRADUATION**

**MAY 23: LAST DAY OF FMS**

**JUNE 6-8: ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LAKE LAND AT FSC**

**JUNE 8: CELEBRATION OF PASTOR MISSY'S ORDINATION**

**JUNE 16-27: MISSION TO ARGENTINA**

**JULY 22-26: VBS: Marketplace Nazareth**

**BE IN PRAYER...**

For all who continue to be in harm's way and those who seek to help and bring peace.



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

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!



"...those who do what is true come to the light..."

-Jesus in John 3:21

As we prepare our hearts to celebrate Easter at the end of the month, we are being challenged in many ways during these days. Some of our challenges we have chosen as Lenten Disciplines: fasting, beginning or adding devotions, readings such as *Holy Moments*, or Bible study, the Coin Calendar, almsgiving, or something totally different. Some of our challenges are not of our choosing: illness, crises among family or friends, financial worries, emotional turmoil, and other things. Even events or situations that appear as good news can place demands on us as we navigate new circumstances. No matter what their source, chosen or thrust upon us, each challenge is a choice: a choice to respond in a way that brings us closer to God or away from God.

This is true at any time. We are simply more likely to notice the consequences of our choices during Lent when we are more introspective. Lent is when we consider who we are in relationship to Christ who lived, ministered, died, rose, and ascended to make a clear and gracious way for us to live life as the fearfully and wonderfully made people God created us to be. The salvation that Jesus offers us is more than a singular moment in our lives that only applies to our eternal life with God. When we give our hearts to Christ we begin a new life we live out starting right NOW with each decision we make.

None of these ideas are new. In one way or another, this is what we talk about every week on Sunday. For those of you who have decided to read *Holy Moments* as a Lenten Discipline, you will recognize this as the language of choosing to make a decision that is a holy moment or an unholy moment (towards God or away from God). The beautiful thing we sometimes forget is that when we feel we have lost our way, we are one decision away from changing that situation and moving closer to God.

We see this possibility for sudden change in the choices of those around Jesus in his last hours. Judas was one decision away from moving closer or farther from God. He chose farther and then farther still. Peter was one decision away each time he denied Christ. Three times he moved away from being the faithful disciple he was created to be, but later he made new decisions to witness to Christ despite the danger and continued on that path for the rest of his life. The members of the Sanhedrin; Pontius Pilate; the crowd members who screamed "Crucify him!"; the soldiers; Simon the Cyrene; the two thieves; each of the women at the foot of the Cross; John standing with Mary as she watched her son dying... each of them was one decision away from participating in something holy or unholy.

And in Jesus, our Savior, we see the glory that is possible when we choose holy moments one after another. In His forgiveness of Peter, we see guilt and shame replaced by a steadfast determination by Peter to witness to Christ. In Jesus' words from the Cross asking God to forgive them (this includes us!) because "they don't know what they are doing", we all are gifted with grace and the opportunity for a new type of relationship with God. In Jesus' willingness to make the impossible choice to remain faithful to His complete relationship with God and die on the cross, resurrection and new life becomes possible for all of us.

We don't have to wait to experience resurrection and new life. If we are feeling hopeless, lost, dissatisfied, or unfulfilled, we are just one decision away from wholeness in God's love. We are one moment from holy joy. Let's choose joy!

with Love in Christ, -Pastor Missy

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**CHOIR NOTES**

**Choir Notes**

(From Interim Choir Director, Margie Anderson)



[Psalm 95:1-2](#) ESV

*Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!*



There is much proof that singing in a choir has many healthful and emotional benefits! How much better it is when singing in a choir in Christian fellowship with one another in praise to God is the purpose of that choir! I can scarcely remember a time in my life when I wasn't in a church choir and every choir has been a blessing! We work hard and laugh—a lot! But most of all, we are bound together by not just 'chords' but 'cords' of God's love and presence among us. If you haven't tried singing in a choir - come check us out on Tuesday evenings at 5:30. You do not have to be a 'trained singer' or musician. We are preparing our Holy Week and Easter music!

I know many of you (if not all) know what an amazing blessing you've had in Bonnie Allen as your Music Director for over these past 23 years. She is a gifted musician and her heart and passion for encouraging singers is well known community wide. At some point in the not too distant future (date/time/location to be announced) we will all have an opportunity to surround her, along with her also incredibly talented husband, Ken, in honoring her years of dedicated service to First UMC Bartow.

Please also pray for SPRC as in early March we will meet to discern the right person to lead our choir going forward. While asking for prayer, also keep our choir, Praise Band (Brandon, Tom, Bill, Sam, & Deborah), Sylvia, Nadine, Janet, Ina and me in prayer every week as we seek to lead in praising our beyond amazing, loving Lord!

Blessings, Margie



**Easter Lilies**

We will once again order lilies for Easter and decorate the sanctuary for the Easter service.

These lilies will be Florist Quality 6-inch pots with a decorative cover.

If you would like to purchase one of these plants, simply fill out the information below and enclose it along with \$10 in an envelope and place it in the offering plate. Please be sure to print your name and designate if the lily is to be purchased "to the glory of God" or "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone.



All who purchase lilies may take them home to enjoy after our Easter service.

**ORDER BY 2-28-24**

**DONOR'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LILY TO BE PRESENTED:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

\_\_\_\_\_ **IN MEMORY OF**

\_\_\_\_\_ **IN HONOR OF**

**MARCH 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <b>*10:30 am: Worship And Communion</b>  Lunch Bunch at Broadway Diner	4 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels  11:30 Women's Bible Study 870 Lila Street	5 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	6 6 pm: Wed Night Dinner Lent Soup & Sandwiches \$2  6:45: Bible Study Library	7   2:30 pm: Youth	8	9
10 <b>*10:30 am: Worship Special Worship Service and Cookout at Mary Holland Park</b>	11	12 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	13 6 pm: Wed Night Dinner Lent Soup & Sandwiches \$2 6:45: Bible Study Library	14	15	16
			FMS Spring Break			
17 <b>*10:30 am: Worship</b>	18 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels	19 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	20 6 pm: Wed Night Dinner Lent Soup & Sandwiches \$2 6:45: Bible Study Library	21   2:30 pm: Youth	22	23
24 Palm Sunday <b>10:30 am: Worship</b>	25 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels	26 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	27 <b>NO</b> Wed Night Dinner or Bible Study Library	28 2:30 pm: Youth  5:45 pm: Maundy Thursday Love Feast  7 pm: Tenebrae Service	29 FMS and Church Office Closed for Good Friday  11:45 am: Good Friday Crosswalk	30
31 Easter <b>10:30 am: Worship</b>						

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



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Greg Wood
- 2- Beverly Etheredge
- 3- Evan Presnell
- 7- Lynn Sheetz
- 9- Nadine Robbins
- 10- Tim Brooks
- 16- Troy Whitfield
- 17- Joanne Crum
- 18- Chad Johnson
- 19- Brady Draper
- 20- Elizabeth Roth
- 23- Phil Petote
- 24- Greg McMillan
- 27- Amanda Bergdoll
- David Moore
- Brady Draper
- Elizabeth Roth
- Phil Petote
- Brandon Pickard
- Cadence Van Hook
- Amanda Bergdoll
- Betsy Draper
- Marvin Hammer

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

11- Ken & Bonnie Allen

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

The Chronically Ill and Homebound

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

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 April newsletter should be submitted by Friday, March 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.



LENT

CLASSIFIEDS

Have yarn that you don't use/ need? Ms. Shirley would like to have it so that she can use it to make blankets! Bring it with you to church and we will make sure she gets it. Thanks!

Special Events, Seasonal Services, and Sunday Worship

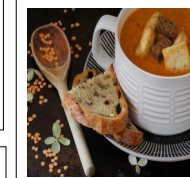
Lunch Bunch March 3rd  
Broadway Diner RSVP by Feb. 28th



Worship and Cookout  
Sunday, March 10  
at Mary Holland Park  
Worship at 10:30 am,  
Cookout at Noon!



The church will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks. We need your help with cookout sides! Invite Your friends!



Wed Night Dinners  
during Lent  
through March 20  
Soup &  
Sandwiches



Join us as we practice simplicity this Lent with meals of soup and sandwiches as we are thankful for the extravagant love of God as shown to us through Jesus.

Sign up to bring soup or sandwiches in the church office or Sanctuary.



Ash Wednesday WND with Asbury UMC

Holy Week and Easter Services

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



Maundy 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



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



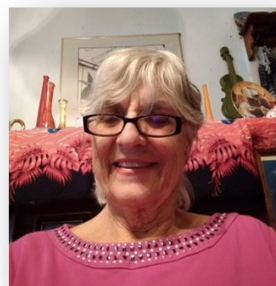
Traditional Easter Service  
in our Sanctuary at 10:30 am  
Don't forget your flowers for the Flower Cross!





ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian



March 2024

Once upon a time... before Facebook all one had to do to find out the "extracurricular" activities of fellow FUMC members and friends was open a newspaper (a what?) Yes, back then newspapers contained a lot of Good News.

Unlike Facebook however, once a newspaper article was "out there" it could not be deleted with the touch of a finger and remained for "all the world to see."

A "top drawer stash" (well, maybe a lower drawer) in the church office contained a "gold mine" of newspaper clippings about FUMC's presence in the Bartow community. It appeared that every time one of our congregants "sneezed" it made the papers. Of course it helped that Bartow's roots in journalism stemmed from some prominent Methodist families (Frisbee, Gallemore)... And... two of the main staffers of the Polk County Democrat, touted as "Bartow's Hometown Newspaper" (Bret Lowe, columnist and Peggy Kehoe, photographer) "grew up" in our church.

One interesting piece published in the Democrat in 2009 featured our own Brandon Pickard when was Student Government President at University of South Florida, Polytechnic University. "I'm pretty much your average guy, Brandon says, "Pretty laid back and just like to have good time." (Journalist comments: Average? Does your average guy stroll the halls of his school giving free hugs? If so, Brandon Pickard is average.) The article concludes: "Those who "know him well have little doubt that whatever he chooses... will break the average mold, spreading smiles along the way." (We can all add a big AMEN to that.)

Another of our hard-working FUMC members was spotlighted in a 2006 write-up, "Bartow's answer to Sherlock Holmes is now a captain in the Bartow Police Department... David Brooks was promoted on January 18 after the retirement of Captain Charles Spencer. Brooks has long been a fan of Sherlock Holmes... He doesn't just have the Arthur Conan Doyle looks,

he even has a Sherlock Holmes watch and tie tack. And like Holmes, Brooks takes crime detection seriously. Called an "expert" in forensics and crime scene processing... he created a palm print classifying system for BPD... by combining two coding systems including one from England. (This) was then programmed... into the BPD computers... Police chief Erik Sandvik said at (David's) promotion ceremony. "I've never seen anybody who works harder than David Brooks. ... and we here at FUMC can add another big "AMEN" to that!

There are many more of these "published gems" that highlighted the good works of our members throughout their community.

Today we may not "see it in the papers" but we can see it all around us as our FUMCers continue to share their gifts and talents wherever they are needed inside or outside of the walls of our church.

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.

Looking for Offering Envelopes?

We are using leftover unused offering envelopes that we have from former years.

Because of this AND because it makes less work for our wonderful counters, please make sure that your: name, amounts, and what you are giving toward are clearly marked on the outside of your envelope. Thank you!

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

firststumcbartow@aol.com to give!

Ways we are the body of Christ in the world through Mission Outreach Evangelism!



More than 187,000 Children have been empowered by ZOE since 2007.

We are blessed to be able to partner with other churches in the Gulf Central District and ZOE to help impact the lives of orphans in the Togetherness Group 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.

Please keep Pastor Doug Williams in prayer as he moves to his new appointment in Tucuman in Northwest Argentina. He will still help us plan our missions in Argentina as we continue our relationships with the church and school in Mendoza and their new pastor.



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.

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!



In Ministry with First Mendoza!



Art Class at CAS



Folk Dancing at CAS



Ways we are the body of Christ Jerusalem and Judea!

Fellowship Events



Impromptu lunch after church on Feb. 18 at Broadway Diner.

**We have a Souper Bowl winner!**

**Team A** donated 25 items and **Team B** donated 19 items.

**Congratulations Team A!!!**

Thank you everyone for being a blessing to your community!

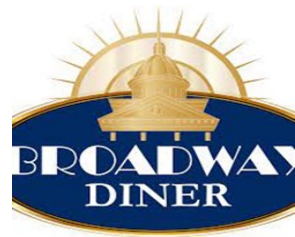
This is a letter from someone thanking donors... Hello to our generous and giving donor. We are so thankful for you. Your blood went to our son. He is a twin and they were born prematurely at almost 33 weeks. They are now just shy of 7 weeks old. Our son received your blood. He was born with bilateral Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia and has been on ECMO since birth. He's required 2 major and 1 minor surgery. He requires frequent transfusions daily due to the nature of the ECMO machine. Our sweet boy would not be here if it wasn't for people like you. We are so truly thankful for your contribution and are sending a big, warm hug to you!



**Mondays at Beef 'O' Brady's.**  
 Arrive at 5, Bingo starts at 6.  
**Contact Elsa to reserve a table.**

**LUNCH BUNCH**  
**March 3rd**

RSVP to the Church by  
 Wed. Feb 28th!



presented by **Lighthouse ministries**

**BALLET MAGNIFICAT!**

**Scarlet Cord**

A Moving Story of a Revolution  
 A Heart Turning to the Ultimate Truth

20% DISCOUNT with code BMSC20

Save the Date!  
**Polk Theatre**  
 March 2nd // 7pm

Tickets & Information  
**WhiteThornEvents.com**

March 2nd at 7 pm Tickets available thru  
 WhiteThornEvents.com  
 20% discount with code BMSC20

**H.A.C.T.**  
 Environmental & Infrastructure  
 PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTING SERVICES

presents the  
 37th Annual  
**Mayor's Sunrise Prayer Breakfast**

March 19, 2024 • Bartow Civic Center  
 Breakfast line open at 6:30 a.m.  
 Program begins promptly at 7:00 a.m.

featuring our guest: **Sheriff Grady Judd**

After beginning his career with the Polk County Sheriff's Office as a dispatcher, Grady Judd quickly progressed through every rank - from Corporal to Colonel. As a small child growing up in Polk County, Grady had dreamed of being Sheriff. In 2004, Polk County overwhelmingly elected him to serve as their Sheriff, fulfilling that childhood dream.

Sheriff Judd has earned higher education degrees through the Master's level and has graduated from the FBI National Academy, as well as several other prestigious law enforcement academies, and has taught 23 years at both the University of South Florida and Florida Southern College. He is currently the Immediate Past President of the Major County Sheriffs of America, a national organization serving counties with a population of 50,000 or more. Grady realizes that having a positive impact in his place is important to success. Faith, family, and the men and women of the Sheriff's Office along with the citizens of Polk County are the priorities that direct his life. Grady has been married to his wife Marisa for 31 years, and has two grown sons and thirteen grandchildren.

**Want to sponsor?**  
 Call 863-533-7125  
 or go online at Bartowchamber.com  
 Individual tickets at the Chamber  
 or online: \$20  
 No tickets will be sold at the door.

# Grace Notes

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

Thank you to all the Care Committee Members.  
**Pat Barber**

Thank you to all the members of the committees and teams who "organize and run" this church! If it was only the staff, there would be many things left undone! You are a vital part of what happens here!

Thank you to the praise team, choir, band, and all the techs who help with lighting, sounds, and visuals!  
 You make services so much better!!!

Thank you to EVERYONE for your prayers and support as I wrote for Elders Orders and waited for my meeting with BOM at which I was approved! You all helped me to grow and be ready for this part of my call story.  
 THANK YOU! In Christ, -Pastor Missy

Thank you to our youth, children's, and children's craft time (with FMS students) volunteers. This is a wonderful way for us to reach out to the families of our community and build relationships with the school! You are making an impact on their lives!  
 Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.  
 Proverbs 22:6 *ESV*

Thank you to Jenny B for our New Visitor Bags!



Because of her gift of sewing and embroidery, first time visitors will receive a tiny tote bag with our church name that is filled with a church pen and brochure as well as a water and some snacks. Thank you Jenny!

## SHARING OUR BLESSINGS

### Connectional Giving...

Connectional Giving helps fund ministries like...



Bishop Berlin

#### Episcopal Fund

Pays for the expenses of all active bishops and for the support of retired bishops and spouses, both in the USA and also for the missionary bishops around the world.

**Bishops' Salaries and Benefits** – The episcopal Fund provides salaries, moving expenses, pension, disability coverage, medical insurance and professional travel expenses for bishops.  
**Episcopal Office and Residence** – This fund helps support the cost of the Episcopal residences, as well as, operating expenses for the Episcopal Office.

- Dorothy Tucker

*"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



# First Methodist School

FMS IN FEBRUARY!!!



3rd, 5th, 6th, & 7th grade after lunch, getting ready to go to their afternoon classes.



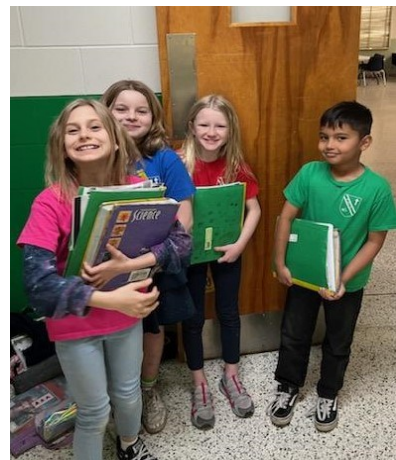
← 2nd graders in class with Mrs. Anderson



→ Kindergarteners in class with Mrs. Fort



← Learning to play the recorder in music class!



→ Ready to go into the cafeteria!



FMS is a 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 AND OUT....

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

### Sunday Morning is for Children!

Sunday mornings mean Children's Moments and Children's Church!

We have a wonderful group of young gentlemen and



amazing volunteers who have a great time together learning about God and Jesus!

**First UMC Youth Group: Thursdays 2:30-5 pm**



Whether it's undecorating the church,



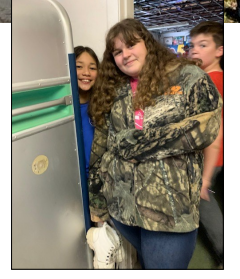
making Valentine's cards, baking cookies,



playing games, or helping stock shelves at the Bartow Community Service Center...

Our Youth are busy learning about and

being the hands, feet, and heart of Christ!



Contact the Church Office to know more!

### FUMC in Ministry with FMS 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!**



**WEEKLY Ministries**

**Breakfast and Devotions at**



**Broadway Diner  
Tuesdays at 8 am  
Everyone is invited!**

**Contact Walt Hause  
215-237-7985**

**Prayer Zoom**

**Tuesday Morning at 9:30!!!**

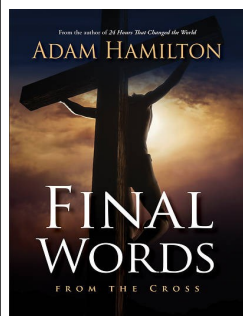
You are invited to join us for prayer via zoom video or voice call. Please call or email the church office for the link/phone number! If you can't join us in those ways, please join us in prayer in one accord.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS**

at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

RSVP by Monday noon each week, THANK YOU!

- March 6: Lenten Soup & Sandwiches \$2
- March 13 : Lenten Soup & Sandwiches \$2
- March 20 : Lenten Soup & Sandwiches \$2
- March 27: NO WND or Bible Study



**Wednesday Night  
Lenten Bible Study  
6:45 pm in the Library  
Final Words  
from the Cross  
By Adam Hamilton  
Copies available for \$14.**



**MONTHLYLY Ministries**

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES**

**March 4, 11:30 AM.  
870 Lila Street**

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

**The Congregational Care Team**

Ever wonder who sends you a birthday, anniversary, or holiday card from FUMC?



This team does a lot, but we can not do it all without you! If you could help or know someone who could benefit from a meal, visit, phone call, card, or other help like driving; please contact the church office. Thank you!

Volunteers from our church help the church service center with Feeding Tampa Bay.



They can use more volunteers!



Contact the Church Service Center at 863-533-5822.



**Special Opportunities to grow in Discipleship**

*Inviting you to a different kind of Lent...*

Our church has some gorgeous opportunities to help us all prepare for Holy Week, Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and what Jesus' ministry means for each and all of us! You are invited to participate in one or both of these different Lenten Disciplines.

First, everyone is welcome to pick up a **Holy Moments** book to read this Lent. Rather than a traditional daily devotion, this book can be read in several sittings (almost like a devotional) or in just a few longer readings. The goal is to read it, sit with it, and allow the Holy Spirit to show you the connections between Jesus' ministry of love and grace (the Good News of God's Kingdom) and your life and how you live it.



Second, we have a really neat way to be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ in the world as we recognize our blessings and thank God for them! Each household is challenged to take a **Lenten Coin Calendar** and fill the holder of your choice with coins. Each day except Sunday your household counts how many of a given item you have and you put that many coins in your holder. Whatever coins you have are perfect! Coins will be collected beginning Easter for Missions and Outreach.



Copies of *Holy Moments* are in the back of the sanctuary and in the church office and the rest of the *Lenten Coin Calendar* is below!

February & March 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25 Pray today, thanking God for the food you enjoy. Pray for those who have no food this day.	26 A coin for every ball cap or hat.	27 A coin for every pair of shoes.	28 A coin for every t-shirt.	29 A coin for every sweatshirt.	1 A coin for every pair of jeans or pants.	2 A coin for every coat.
Pray today, thanking God for clothing that protects you from the elements. Pray for those who lack clothing to keep them warm and dry.	A coin for every ball or piece of athletic equipment.	A coin for every electronic video game.	A coin for every smart device (phones, tablets, etc.).	A coin for every television.	A coin for every doll or stuffed animal.	A coin for every board or card game.
10 Pray today, thanking God for how you can enjoy entertainment in your home. Pray for those who would be grateful for just one of these items.	11 A coin for every box of band-aids.	12 A coin for every bottle of vitamins.	13 A coin for every box of tissues.	14 A coin for every bottle of hand sanitizer.	15 A coin for every toothbrush and tube of toothpaste.	16 A coin for every cough drop in your house.
17 Pray today, thanking God for your health. Pray for those who are sick.	18 A coin for every room in your home.	19 A coin for every electrical outlet in your home.	20 A coin for every chair in your home.	21 A coin for every desk (virtual work/school) in your home.	22 A coin for every bathroom.	23 A coin for every bed.
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Pray today, thanking God for shelter. Pray for those who have no place to sleep at night.	25 A coin for every Bible.	26 A coin for every book of hymns or sacred songs in your home.	27 A coin for every cross in your home.	28 A coin for every prayer you say today.	29 A coin for every story of Jesus you can tell.	30 A coin for every person in your family.
31 <b>Easter Sunday</b>	Pray, thanking God for Jesus and for the many ways we can gather and worship God. Pray for those who will receive the coins collected that they would see God's presence through them.					