



First United Methodist Church of Bartow

# May 2025 Newsletter

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 5



*Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"*

-John 20: 17

As I held Angel, the parsonage pup, on her last morning and realized that it was time to let her go, I thought about Mary wanting to hold onto Jesus when she saw him that first Easter morning. If I wanted to hold onto my little dog, how much more did she want to hold onto Jesus? As I remembered past snuggles and silliness, how much more did she remember meals and teaching, and healing and signs of God's wonder? How much more did she remember moments of compassion and understanding, mercy and justice? Of course she wanted to hold on. And Jesus had to tell her to let go, because there were things that they both had to do. Staying with her in that moment was not what was needed for the world.

Remember Peter? When Jesus went to wash his feet, Peter didn't want him to because it was too different. Too strange. Not at all what Peter was expecting from the evening. He wanted to hold on to his expectations, but Jesus wouldn't let him.

The religious leaders thought they understood how things needed to be. They remembered beautiful stories of God's providence and care. Based on those things, they thought they understood the present, but God was doing a new thing in Christ. Some like Nicodemus, came to understand this. Others held onto the past, refusing to be open to the new present and future that God was showing them.

How often do we hold on to things? To memories? To ideals? There is nothing wrong with nostalgia as long as we don't try to live in the past when the present and future are beckoning. Letting go can be hard, because we want to have things stay the way they are. But that isn't life and that isn't life in Christ. Our loving God is creative and creating and constantly challenging us to grow in the Holy Spirit.

The people around Jesus who wanted things to stay as they had always been... in politics, in religion, in their interactions with others... had to accept that God was doing a new thing. Over and over, people like Peter, Mary, and Nicodemus, embraced the new thing God was doing by letting go of the past. Sometimes it felt radically different, as it did for James, who led the early Christians in Jerusalem and who finally embraced that God's love encompassed the Gentiles who were accepted just as they were (and invited to be part of the Christian community without circumcision). All this change was not always easy, but as the ripples of love that fueled the resurrection spread, more lives were changed forever. Just ask Paul, Cornelias, or Lydia.

And God is still doing new things. Resurrection can be confusing. Transformation can be hard to understand. The change they bring can even be painful. This is why we must focus on Jesus. In him we experience love, compassion, mercy, grace, and the justice of God lived out. Through Christ, we are empowered for something beyond what we know. We can let go of the past and walk into the future and the wonderful new things that God is calling us into.

To welcome resurrection means to welcome newness of life and participate in the ripples of loving change that God is offering us for good. For the good of our bodies, for the good of our souls, for the good of our neighbors, for the good of the world. It may not always seem easy, but it is part of the greatest and most glorious adventure we can ever experience!

With love in Christ,  -Pastor Missy

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## CHOIR NOTES *by Sylvia Spencer, Choir Director*



### 🎵 “Choir Notes” 🎵

One of the greatest joys in life is being able to do special things for my grandchildren. Though it's not always easy, I feel like it's important for me to keep up with what makes each of my grandchildren unique....their likes, dislikes, special interests, talents, and personalities. Though I love them all equally, I never want to treat them like they are all alike. Instead, I want to make sure they know that I recognize them as individuals. I want them to feel known and loved for who they are deep down inside, and that's exactly the way God loves us....all the same....but as individuals too.



Because of Him ....Sylvia

## Grace Notes

THANK YOU to everyone for their hard work to help us have a wonderful and blessed Holy Week! To our AV guys, Will, Bobby, Dano, and Dorrance, for all their help this week and every week! To our youth for making our palm crosses, and to Sylvia, Ina, and the choir for a glorious Cantata during our Palm Sunday Service! To everyone that brought items for our Love Feast! To Lisa, Dori, Gwyn, Dorothy, David, and Londyn for helping get everything ready! To John, Sam, Ted, Will, Sylvia, and the choir (including our two soloists, Bill and Janet) for helping our Tenebrae Service to be the moving experience it was. To our praise team: Brandon, Bill, Tom, and Deborah, and also to Will for their early rising, beautiful playing, and conscientious work at the Bartow Community Easter Sunrise Service. And finally, to everyone who helped to make the traditional Easter Worship Service in the sanctuary such a joy. Thank you again to Sylvia and our choir. Thank you to Pat, Kelly, and the others who helped usher. To Hezekiah and his helper, Nate, for acolyting, as well as for helping Mason and Josiah pass out stones to the congregation so we can remember to be ripples of the love of Christ in the world. And thank you to Brandon and Amy, Walt and Ina, Ted and Dorothy, and Gwen and Hezekiah for helping serve communion. So many of you helped in so many ways. If we forgot anyone in writing, please know that we are thanking you in our hearts! All of this is how we are the body of Christ to Bartow and Beyond.

# Holy Week Events



## Palm Sunday Service with Cantata!



## Maundy Thursday



## Love Feast



## Good Friday Crosswalk



## & Tenebrae Service



# Easter Morning!

# Community Easter Sonrise Service

To mock your reign,  
O dearest Lord,  
they made a crown of  
thorns;

Set you with taunts along  
that road  
from which  
no one  
returns.



They did not  
know,  
as we  
do now,  
that glorious  
is your crown,  
that thorns would flower  
upon your brow,  
your sorrows  
heal our own.



# Traditional Easter Service



## 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 May 2012.*

Every Sunday morning service at Bartow First UMC can be a "special" celebration with inspiring sermons, uplifting musical presentations, warm fellowship and answered prayers. However, certain Sundays consistently stand out as "extra special." One of these "extra special" Sundays is Mother's Day. Each year one of the delightful parts of this "special" day is the presentation by the Children's Choir (Note: It's pre performance security rivals the CIA).

Over 57 years ago our Children's Choir (Junior Choir) presented an evening Mother's Day program. That evening's program stated, "Our five sixth graders are making their last appearance as regular members of the Junior Choir. Accordingly, each has chosen a hymn honoring his mother, in which he will have a solo". (Note: There was one she soloist (me) but in those days nobody worried about "politically correct" wording.)

Favorite hymns presented on that Mother's Day were: My God and King honoring Mrs. Earl M. Hatton, Earl M. Hatton, Jr. soloist. Living for Jesus honoring Mrs. Wendell Waters (Frances), Nadine Waters (Robbins), soloist. Oh Say But I'm Glad honoring Mrs. Loren E. Hartsaw (Mae), Bobby Hartsaw, soloist. Whispering Hope honoring Mrs. Warren Sharp, Warren Sharp, Jr. soloist. How Firm a Foundation honoring Mrs. L. F. Blankner II (Mary), Leonard Blankner III, soloist.

Rev. Jesse E. Waller was the Pastor at that time. His daughter, Annabeal was a younger member of the Junior Choir, as was her friend, Betty Lee Waugh (Fitzgerald). Betty and Annabeal were part of a group of fifth grade girls who sang together on the second verse of Day is Dying in the West. Other female members of that Junior Choir were Harriet Reese, Mary

Hatton, Carolyn Conner, Judy Sutherland, Judy Shepherd, Susie Agnew, Donna Marley, Betty Ann Sheretz, Kathy Tillis, Beth Lyle, Cecelia Whidden, Bettylin Trask and Sallyanne Huffaker.

The director of the 1955 Junior Choir was Miss Peggy Ann Clark (Note: In the 80's Peggy Clark (Burr) was one of the musical directors of BPAC (Bartow Performing Arts Council), Polk County Schools Music Teacher and actress in many Lakeland Little Theater Productions.) The accompanist for that Junior Choir was Miss Janet Trask (Heidtman, currently well-known in the Bartow music community).

Over the years the former Junior Choir members have joined the ranks of Mother's Day "Honorees" as Mothers and Grandmothers. At First UMC and other churches, Mothers will continue to be honored on that "Special" Sunday. However, in our hearts every day is a "special" Mother's Day.

"Her children arise and call her blessed her husband also, and he praises her. Many women do noble things but you surpass them all Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned and let her words bring her praise at the City Gate."

Proverbs 31: 28-31

## Thank You!

Nadine's family would like to thank the congregation, choir members, and friends of Nadine:

*"Thank you for all the prayers and meals provided to Nadine and her family while in and out of the hospital. The meal provided after the service was greatly appreciated and delicious. Nadine was blessed to be a part of your families."*

*— Love to all, Dot Cleaves and family*

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 Education Building Library**



# WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER 6 PM



## MENUS

**May 7:** Covered dish with chicken \$2

**May 14:** Meatloaf, green beans, and mashed potatoes \$5

**May 21:** Covered dish with chicken \$2

## The Congregational Care Team

This great group coordinates love and care in our church and beyond with cards, calls, running errands, bringing food and more during a time of need.



Recently the group made Easter gifts for those who needed a little extra TLC this Easter season.

If you enjoy caring for others through cooking, crafting, driving, helping, or listening there is an aspect of what this group does that is for YOU!



## Tuesday Breakfast & Devotions at Broadway Diner 8:30 am



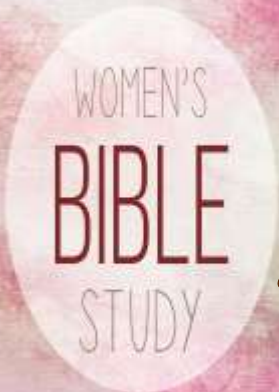
Questions?  
Call Walt

at 215-237-7985

**The first Monday of each month.**

**May 5 at 11:30 am.**

**870 Lila Street in Bartow**



**We welcome new members!**

**Bring a salad or sandwich!**

**We will have a soup to share!**

## Grief Support

**Our current group has just completed their time together.**



**A new group will be forming tentatively August 6.**

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 533-0904 or [firstumcbartow@aol.com](mailto:firstumcbartow@aol.com)  
Thank you!

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

### Children

We ALL love Children's Moment and Children's Church!



### YOUTH

Our youth help out in a variety of ways. They recently helped make our Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday!



But it isn't all work and no play. Sometimes they have blind-folded Peep tastings!

We studied the love letter from Paul to the Corinthians and made postage stamps to show God's love



We can be proud of the leadership and knowledge our Youth share during Chapels at FMS on Mondays.



# Reaching out in Jerusalem and Judea through Fellowship

## Fellowship Events

NEXT Lunch Bunch



**May 4, 12 pm**

Meet there right after worship.

**RSVP** to the Church Office 533-0904 or [fristumcbartow@aol.com](mailto:fristumcbartow@aol.com)

**By Wed April 30, 12:00 pm**



April at Ruby Tuesday with another beautiful and delicious cake made by Barbara



Our attending April birthdays!

## Silver Saints



Watch for detail coming soon. Had a great time at Lighthouse Ministries! Watch for pictures in the next newsletter!

## Golden Girls

Watch for details coming soon about a May event!



# FMS Special Programs

## Spring Program

Our final musical program of the year was a treat for the senses!



## VPK Graduation



Congratulations to our 40 who just graduated! We love you and are so proud of you!



# First Methodist School

What a busy month!

It started with standardized testing for the school students and will end with a Spring Program and VPK Graduation!

In between, we have all been learning about Holy Week... including in art class



The VPK students experienced foot washing!



The older students planned Easter Egg Hunts for the younger students



With Chapel, Resurrection Eggs in class, and other teaching moments, our little ones know their Holy Week stories!



The hunts and Easter Parties were BIG hits!



We are thankful that we have so many loving people to help make special events like these happen!



Maps in Math class?



# SHARING OUR BLESSINGS



## Connectional Giving

Helps fund ministries like...

### Africa University Fund

This apportionment helps fund the development of a United Methodist university located in Zimbabwe, Africa.

Africa University is the only degree-granting university on the continent of Africa – serving young men and women from all over Africa. This university provides opportunities for students and includes schools of theology, agriculture, and education.

Welcoming students from a variety of back grounds, languages, traditions, values and lifestyles. The university’s mission is to “provide higher education of high quality, to nurture students in Christian values, and to help the nations of Africa achieve their educational and professional goals.”



Individuals who Icel works with have graduated from Africa University and what they learned there has helped them to be resourceful and highly skilled in their areas!

### Want to give online?

It’s easy and free!  
Talk to your bank about how to  
**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](mailto:firstumcbartow@aol.com) to give!

**THANK YOU!**

### *Looking for Offering Envelopes?*

**We are using leftover, unused offering envelopes that we have not used in 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!

Deadline to sign up to volunteer as an usher is **May 25.**



2025 FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
JUNE 5-7 • LAKELAND, FL

Sign up at:

<https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/AC2025VolunteerOpportunities>

Email Cristi Moore at [cmoore@flumc.org](mailto:cmoore@flumc.org) or check out the FLUMC website volunteer page:

<https://www.flumc.org/volunteers-25> for more details and available shifts.

## Community Building Opportunities: Witnessing to Christ in Judea and Samaria



# Missions Outreach Evangelism



May and Mother's Day will be here before we know it! MOE is excited to be supporting women in special ways during May.



Please donate products such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, razors, feminine hygiene products, etc., and they will be shared with Bartow Community Center.



We will also continue to collect non-perishable food items.



Thank you for continuing to help our neighbors in need!



## **BLOOD DRIVE THIS MONTH**

### **THE BIG RED BUS WILL BE AT THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS PARKING LOT**

**MAY 4, 9 AM-1 PM!**

Go to: [oneblood.org/donate-now](http://oneblood.org/donate-now)  
Walk-Ins Welcome

**This is a safe, easy and painless way to help others.**

Your **one donation** has the ability to **save three lives!**

They will also provide a mini check up including a blood pressure check and cholesterol check.

A gift will be provided to you also...

**but the greatest gift will be the knowledge that you are saving a life.**

What a beautiful way to love our neighbor as Jesus taught us!

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

## REACHING OUT...

**Vacation Bible School is just around the corner!**

# Galilee Marketplace VBS

**June 23-27, 9 am-12 pm**

Marketplace VBS is great, but it takes LOTS of Volunteers! Help ahead of time with Prep Work. or...  
 Help for a couple of hours, for 1 or 2 days, or the week. or... Cut out or sew fabric. or... Cut & drill wood  
 Maybe you have something around your house we need to borrow!  
 Look below to see how YOU will participate!

### WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

#### Shopkeepers: (1-5 days)

Baker  
 Carpenter  
 Cloth Shop  
 Farmer  
 Jewelry Maker  
 Leather Worker  
 Metal Worker  
 Olive Oil Merchant

Potter  
 Spice/Herb Shop  
 Synagogue School  
 Village Green (games)  
 Weaver

**Tribe Leaders** (small groups)  
 MUST be there ALL FIVE DAYS

#### Other Volunteers:

Storyteller (5 days)  
 Game leader (1-5 days)  
 Kitchen Lead (5 days)  
 Kitchen Help (1-5 days)  
 Folk Dancer (1-5 days)  
 Outside Games (1-5 days)  
 Registration (1-5 days)  
 Photographer (1-5 days)

#### **Prep Work**

**Decorating Team**  
 -plan & collect ahead of time  
 -actual decorating is June 21/22  
 with lots of helpers

**Organizing Supplies**  
 -mostly June 15-19

### DONATIONS

Acrylic Paint	Raffia	Apricots– dried	Olives– Black
Air Dry Clay or Model Magic	Salt (Kosher or Sea Salt)	Bananas	Olives– Greek
Glue Dots	Tacky Glue	Canned biscuits	Olives– Green
Jute and string	Thin ribbon	Cheese	Pita
Leather pieces	Wire that is BENDABLE	Dates	Puffed Millet– 2 bags
Leather laces	Grains (wheat, rye, oats, etc)	Figs– dried or fresh	Puffed Kamut– 1 bag
Mustard seeds	Dried Herb Plants	Flour	Raisins
Olive Oil	Apple Juice	Frozen Bread Dough	Sesame seeds
Potting Soil	Apples	Grapes	Fabric. Light weight
Permanent Markers		Hummus	NO PRINTS unless stripes

Spices (oregano, basil, bay leaf, cinnamon, mint, spikenard, anise, coriander, cumin, dill, frankincense, myrrh, mustard)  
 Old prescription bottles (PLEASE WASH OUT!!! Take off or black out labels)

### THINGS TO BORROW- Please label CLEARLY with YOUR NAME!

Potted Palms and Trees (real or silk for decoration)	Old looking clay jars (for decoration)
Baskets (large or small– for decorating & holding supplies)	Simple wood tables (for decoration)
Wooden Boxes (to be used in decorating & holding supplies)	

PRE-REGISTRATION forms are available now!!! Pick one up in the back of the sanctuary or in the church office.

**YOU can SIGN UP TO HELP *now* in the Sanctuary or by contacting the church office.**

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

### A bit more about Pastor Charles who visited April 9



Charles Mulemena grew up in Zambia, the son of a preacher – or, as he calls it, a PK. “That’s a preacher’s kid,” he said. Life as a preacher in that part of the world meant that there were meager financial resources for their family. “I would go to school without breakfast, spend the whole day there without lunch, and then go back home to have dinner,” he said. “One meal a day. It wasn’t a fun experience.”

Given that experience, becoming a pastor was the last thing young Charles wanted. “You know God works in his own ways, that even when I was frowning against the pastoral call, God was still calling me and leading me into that. To cut the long story short, I answered God’s call to becoming a pastor and being a missionary.” Today, he is Rev. Charles Mulemena, stationed in Belize as part of the Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Icel Rodriguez, the Director of Global Missions for the Florida Conference, called him “a gifted, gifted, preacher.” “His leadership is phenomenal, and he’s also a man of great integrity and a person filled with the Holy Spirit,” she said. She relayed how Rev. Mulemena was mistakenly locked up in a Zambia prison for three months. More importantly, it was how he reacted to that situation before officials realized their mistake and released him. “He had just graduated from seminary, so, lo and behold, he started a ministry while he was in that prison. There are outreaches that he has led to communities in Zambia where Christianity is not a thing.”

Rev. Mulemena and his wife, Barbra, serve two congregations of the Methodist Church in Belize. One church is an urban setup, while the other is rural. Each one has a Methodist school. The student population has grown to 653 overall, and Rev. Mulemena has used the memory of what it was like for him in Zambia to help these students. “Most of them actually come from very humble backgrounds, and they cannot even afford to have school lunches,” he said. “My wife and I started out by sponsoring five students, but God has been able to lift that number from five to 46 over the past five years. “When I see kids at our schools going through that, I don’t see them. I see me. I see myself. I see my experience, and I don’t want them to experience it, as long as I can be able to be of help. That is part of what we are doing.”



He believes God put him on a path that led to Global Ministries and helped him overcome the distrust of missionaries he developed as a child. “Missionaries that came to not only Zambia, my home country, but Africa at large, and other parts of the world, were gathering information on the ground, and sending the information to their government back home,” he said. “In Zambia, for example, the missionaries came from Britain, and they sent the information back to the British government, and the British government was able to use that same information to colonize to come to Zambia and colonize it. They abused the locals, and so the missionary position, to me, was the position of a betrayer.”

“It’s just amazing I’m even here as a missionary, because I grew up in such tough conditions that even growing up to be an adult was going to be a miracle,” Rev. Mulemena said. “To be able to serve as a pastor and as a missionary, and not just a missionary in my own home country or in my own region, but in faraway places like Brazil and or in Belize, Central America and all that, it is just miraculous. And I praise God for every aspect of it that. He has used me a little piece of his puzzle in the missional endeavor.”

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



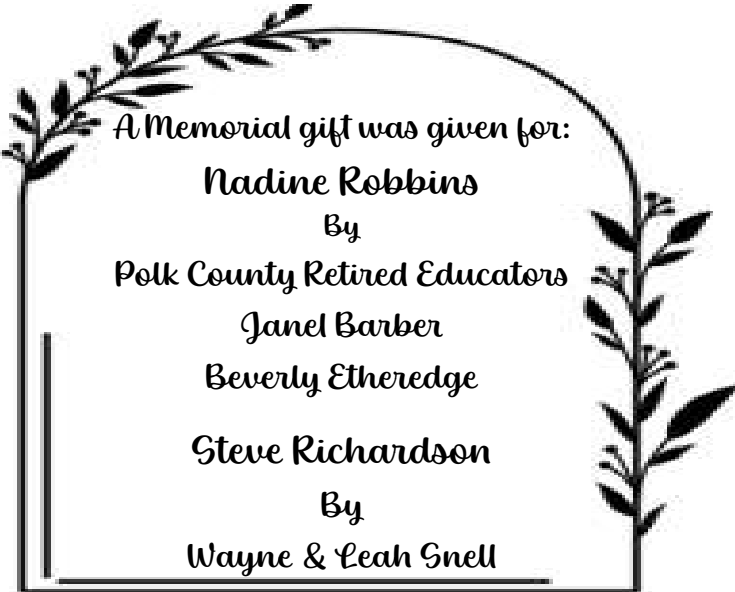
**2—Kathy Moss**  
**3—Aaron Bruns**  
**4—Patti Tuttle**  
**8—Susan Bergdoll**  
**Sara Van Hook**  
**8—Richard Lake**  
**16—Janie Robinson**  
**19—Kayline Lowe**  
**20—Brett Lowe**  
**29—Cynthia Lee**

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES



**6—Bob & Trish Pfeiffer**  
**28—Bill & Cindy Etheredge**

## SYMPATHY and MEMORIAL GIFTS



A Memorial gift was given for:

**Nadine Robbins**

By

**Polk County Retired Educators**

**Janel Barber**

**Beverly Etheredge**

**Steve Richardson**

By

**Wayne & Leah Snell**

## PLEASE NOTE

Information OR PICTURES for the June newsletter should be submitted by **Thursday, May 15th**.

Thank You for helping us send out the Newsletter in a timely manner!

The Newsletter is published monthly by FUMC-Bartow 455 S Broadway Ave, Bartow, FL 33830.

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

### The Chronically Ill and Homebound

Alice— 4 y/. health	Brenda R— Missy's mom
Diane A	Lynn S
<b>Ken A</b>	BJ S
<b>Amanda B</b>	Sadie— 6 y/o healing
Susan B	Louise T
Jonathon B	Jean & Dick T
Brian— safety	Kathy W
Lavada C & Family	Greg W
Danielle D- healing	Patricia W
Daphne— healing	<b>John Z family</b>
<b>Betty F—healing</b>	-Leaders everywhere to do God's will
Shawn F	-Everyone affected by sickness, repressive governments, gun violence, and natural & human caused disasters
Karel H	-Also on our hearts:
Brandon H	Our Nation, Ukraine, Haiti
Melody H	Israel/Hamas War, Sudan
Pat H	Santa Cruz Church
Kristin— BJ's d-i-l, healing	
James L— healing	
<b>Allye M</b>	
Dorrance M— healing	
Kathy M— healing	
Carolyn P	
Heath P healing	
Mary Beth P	

### 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 del Sur, Cuba; **Missionaries in Angola:** Leo & Cleivy Garcia, Kutela Katembo, Serguey and Graciela Espinosa; **Iglesia Evangelica Metodista Argentina:** UMC Missionary Doug Williams and FMEC Mendoza Pastor Pablo; Our Pastor, Church, and 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!

# MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 *10:30 am: Worship & Communion  9 am—1 pm: Blood Drive, see pg. 11  12 pm: Lunch Bunch at Sonny's BBQ	5 FMS Chapels  11:30 Women's Bible Study	6 8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner   5:30 pm: Choir	7    6 pm Wed Night Dinner 6:45 pm Bible Study	8    3-5 pm: Youth	9	10
11 Mother's Day *10:30 am: Worship	12 FMS Chapels   5:30 pm: Church Council Meeting	13 8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner   5:30 pm: Choir	14    6 pm Wed Night Dinner 6:45 pm Bible Study	15    3-5 pm: Youth	16	17
18 *10:30 am: Worship	19 11:30 am: FMS Early Release	20 8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner   5:30 pm: Choir	21 Last Day of FMS 9:00 am: FMS Awards Ceremony & Early Release   6 pm Last Wed Night Dinner until Fall 6:45 pm Last Bible Study	22 FMS Closed	23 FMS Closed	24
25 *10:30 am: Worship	26 Memorial Day FMS & Church Office Closed	27 First Day of Summer Camp Program 8:30 am: Breakfast & Devo, Broadway Diner   5:30 pm: Choir	28	29	30	31

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



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
BARTOW, FLORIDA**

455 S Broadway Ave.  
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MAY, 2025

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Instagram: fumcbartow

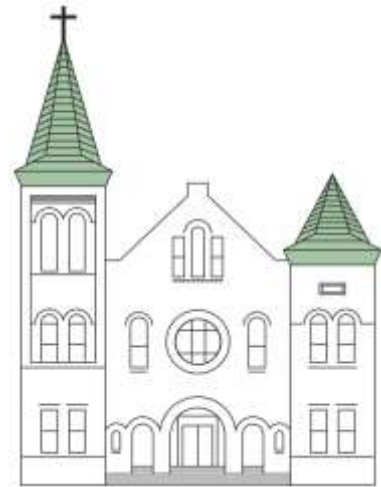
[www.firstumcbartow.com](http://www.firstumcbartow.com)

Witnessing to Christ empowered by the Spirit in Bartow & beyond

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE:

THUR-SAT, JUNE 5-7:  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LAKELAND

JUNE 23-27, 9 AM-12 PM:  
GALILEE MARKETPLACE VBS



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

**BE IN PRAYER FOR...**

Safe travels for everyone  
Our brothers and sisters in peril around the world  
Those dealing with upheaval in their lives

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.