

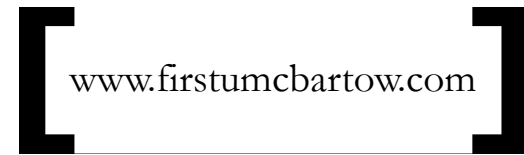


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BARTOW, FLORIDA

455 S Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830

AUGUST 2023

Phone: 863-533-0904
Fax: 863-533-9023
E-mail: firstumcbartow@aol.com
<https://www.facebook.com/fumcbartow>



Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE

It's Budget time!

Administrative and Ministry Chairs, budgets will be due by Oct 2. Watch for budget planning information to be sent soon from Finance. Thank you!

**Charge Conference is Oct 8.
We are a host church!**

First Methodist School's 50th Anniversary Fall Festival is October 7th 4- 6:30 pm!

BE IN PRAYER...

We have had many people hospitalized recently.

Please be in prayer for all who are recuperating. Also, please watch for and pray about how God has gifted you to be there for our siblings in Christ during these times of need for calls, visits, food, and other methods of loving support. TOGETHER as the body of Christ we can make sure all needs are met!



First United Methodist Church of Bartow

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 8

GOOD NEWS

AUGUST 2023

But Jesus said to them, "There's no need to send them away. You give them something to eat."
-Matthew 14:16

It seems strange to say as we hit 90 plus degrees each day with heat indexes often over 100, but Fall is coming! Perhaps a more appropriate way of saying this is that school starts this month and we will be starting back some of the ministries that we put on hold or changed for the Summer. The very special season that we call Fall in Florida, but is nothing like Fall in many parts of the country will arrive this month with our Choir, reconvening on Tuesday, August 1 to be ready to sing in worship on August 6; our First Methodist School starting classes for its 50th Anniversary Year on August 10th; and Wednesday Night Bible Study resuming on August 30th at 6:45 pm. And that's not all! We begin a new Children's Church curriculum; plan to start meeting with our tiny new Youth Group; and hope to see our Golden Girls meeting again by September.

The above list doesn't even include Prayer Zoom on Mondays; Monthly Women's Bible Study also on Mondays; Breakfast and Devotions on Tuesdays; Wednesday Night Dinners on Wednesdays; Praise Band practice on Thursdays; Worship, monthly Lunch Bunch, and quarterly Missions Lunches on Sundays; and regular gatherings of the Silver Saints. So many beautiful ministries. Why do we do them?

Because despite the heat, despite the difficulties of some days, we are called to care for and feed the sheep of this world. The truth is sometimes we are the sheep ourselves, even as we also act as shepherds. Care and feeding is the comfort of Worship through song, proclaiming of the Good News of Christ, prayer, and sacraments. It is Bibles Studies, meals together, visits, cards, and phone calls. It is outreach that shares the love of Christ through food with Kathy Wood; a ministry of presence at Friday Fest; and by supporting the many mercy ministries of Bartow Church Service Center and the justice ministries of PEACE. It is being a part of the loving will of God at work in the world through missions with medical supplies to Cuba; helping children take hold of their God-given talents to thrive in a supportive Christian community in Rwanda; supporting missionaries and doctors so that people can learn about Christ, be healthy, regain sight, and grow food in East Angola; and a church and school in Mendoza with whom we share ideas, prayers, and friendship.

All of this is why even in the heat of Summer we continue ministries and seek ways to feed those hungry for the good news and thirsty for the living water that are life in Christ. And now as Fall approaches, we glorify God for all the wondrous ways we are offered to participate in God's amazing grace in the world. We can negotiate whatever heat the world brings because God is with us and empowers us for these ministries. Rooted deeply in Christ, individually and as a church family we continue to flourish with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

On Sunday, August 27th we will celebrate Laity Sunday. We will praise God for the ministries of this church and thank God for all those who have responded to God's call to love and serve. We will bless those who share their gifts in ways that bless others. We will offer praise and thanksgiving for all that God has given us to do this impossibly possible work. ...and then in good Methodist fashion, we will eat! Hope you can join us in person or in spirit!

With love in Christ,
-Pastor Missy

In this Issue:

Choir & Grace Notes	2
Fellowship Events	3
Across the Courtyard & Miscellaneous	4
FMS Camp!	5
In Reach & Nurture	6
Out Reach & Mission	7
Marketplace Bethlehem	8
Vacation Bible School	9
Birthdays and Anniversaries, Memorials, Prayer List & Miscellaneous	10
Calendar	11

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

CHOIR NOTES, by Bonnie Allen



Choir News August 2023

August is here with all the heat of summer-time! It has been a difficult summer for so many of our church family. The unexpected catches all of us off-guard. It is easy to fall into the trap of WHAT NEXT! WHAT

IF! FEAR!

I often wonder how I would react if I woke up and could not walk, as Heath Petersen, Joan Wright and Betty Fitzgerald are experiencing. I know the pain of losing someone you love as the Wetherington's are going through at this time.

All of us have had to handle life's unexpected occurrences, and although it is difficult, we have seen God working through each trial as our Rock, our Healer, our Savior. What do people do who do not know the Lord?

I love the way our church family works together in times of need. Pastor Missy is always preaching about the Body of Christ. I think that she has seen how we all come together to help each other in times of need. That is the Body of Christ fully present here!! I thank God for each and every one of you.

In my times of need, this congregation has prayed, brought food, offered to feed horses, clean stalls, and help after hurricanes. When my daughter was so very sick, I could feel the prayers of all our prayer warriors. All of these crises in my life have brought me to a great desire to pay it back. My prayer list is very long, but I take it seriously to pray for each one every day. One of the times when I had to be in Gainesville with Kim for 3 months, my Bible Study girls brought food to my family every day. I couldn't believe it. A man not known to us, heard that we needed a place to stay, and he gave us his apartment rent free. Even though we were so afraid, we saw God at work in our lives every step of the way. I often asked God, "Why are we here? Is there someone here who needs our prayers or assistance?" There usually was.

All of this is said to encourage others who are going through very difficult circumstances to STAY STRONG! Lean on the Lord for He is good, and has a wonderful plan for your life. Give praise every day, for He inhabits the praise of His people. Try to understand that there may be a greater purpose that we can't see at the time.

That is my prayer for each one of our family who

is suffering right now. May God hold you in the palm of His hand. May He raise you up with His victorious right hand. May you stay safe under the shelter of His mighty wings. May you be given extraordinary Faith as you heal and return to a new life. Never Give Up!!
 Sending love and prayers to all,
 Bonnie
 P.S. Our choir will return full force this month. We are so happy to have some of our members who were unable to come back due to the pandemic, are now back. Praise God!!

Grace Notes

First Methodist School students and staff want to thank Pastor Missy and FUMC....

For an amazing week traveling through time and learning about Jesus at Vacation Bible School!

From UMCOR:

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

Dear friends in mission,
 Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be— *Thank you!* Roland Fernandes

THANK YOU!!!!

To everyone for the phone calls, emails, and visits to the office from people asking how my knee is.. And to David for fixing up the crutches so that they were not as painful for me to use. I am grateful to you all for your thoughtfulness and concern!
 -Becky O.

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

AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Shepherd's Pie & Tossed Salad \$5	3	4	5
6 *10:30 am: Worship & Communion 12 pm: Lunch Bunch Catfish Country	7 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30 Chapel 11:30 Women's Bible Study 870 Lila Street	8 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	9 FMS Orientation 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Covered dish & Rotisserie Chicken \$2	10 FMS First day back to school	11	12
13 *10:30 am: Worship	14 9 am: Prayer Zoom	15 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	16 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Chicken, yellow rice, & green vegetable \$5	17	18	19
20 *10:30 am: Worship	21 9 am: Prayer Zoom	22 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	23 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Covered dish & Rotisserie Chicken \$2	24	25	26
27 *10:30 am: Worship LAITY Sunday & Fall Kickoff POTLUCK	28 9 am: Prayer Zoom	29 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	30 6 pm Wed Night Dinner First Fall Wednesday Night Dinner TBD \$5 6:45 Wednesday Night Bible Study Library	31		

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 4- Peg Beckner
- 6- Emily Hart
- 7- Mary Tomlinson
- 8- Bonnie Allen
- 15- Josh Whitehead
- 17- Brenda Vaughn
- 18- Pat Wright
- 19- Michael Brooks
- 22- Jerry Barber
- 25- Cindy Etheredge
- 27- Linda Hutto

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 12- Jerry & Pat Barber
- 18- Parker & Diane Pannebaker

SYMPATHY and MEMORIAL GIFTS

Memorial gifts were given for:
Cathy Engle, Christine Sherlock, David Breton,
& Ken Wetherington
by Pat & Elsa Huff

We've heard you! We are making an Interim in house directory and plans for a professional directory are coming soon! Please take a picture of yourself (a suggestion would be in front of one of the stained glass windows) and send it to us. *If you live far away and still consider us your church family, we do too! Send us a picture along with your name, address, phone number, and birthday so we can include you!*

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

We share our concerns:
 Banks A, Shirley B & son, Jonathon, **Betty F**-had 2nd surgery, Ginnie- Walt's niece, **Barbara H**- eye ulcers, Scott H, Melody H Faye, Pat, & Kelly's friend, Fran L healing, Mack & Lettie Mae Dorothy's family, Cheri M Sylvia's daughter, Joshua & Noelle Missy's friends healing, Judi M, Becky O knee, Riza Bonnie's friend, **Faye S**, Jackie S healing, **Sylvia S** healing, Tanner, Roger W had surgery, **Kelly Z**

Those in mourning
Ongoing Prayers:
 Beverly A, **Jerry B**, **David B**, **Ed E**, Karel H, Brandon H, Pat H, **Keith K**, Allye M, **Heath P** at rehab!, **Mary Beth P**, James P, Lyn R, BJ S, Louise T, Jean & Dick T, Bill & **Joan W** rehab, Patricia W, Johnny & Hilda Z

-Leaders of OUR COUNTRY & everywhere to do God's will
 -Everyone affected by COVID, other sickness, repressive governments, & natural & human caused disasters

Serving in the Military:
 Jeremy B, Victor O, Joseph S, Bryson T

Missionaries and Others:
Pioneer Missions, Indonesia: Christian, Dawn & Joshua William; **Sister Church:** Iglesia Metodista de Santa Cruz, Cuba; **Missionaries in Angola:** Leo & Cleivy Garcia, Kutela Katembo, Serguey and Graciela Espinosa; **Iglesia Evangelica Metodista Argentina** Pastor Doug Williams; Our Pastor, Church, & School Staff; District Supt. Emily Hotho, and our Bishop Tom Berlin

You have a story of hope someone needs to hear!
 Please be in prayer as to whether God is nudging you to share a story about your faith during Worship. Sign up in the Sanctuary or by contacting the church office.

PLEASE NOTE

Information for the September newsletter should be submitted by **Friday, August 18th**. 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.

Don't Forget!

The **Newsletter** is available in a variety of ways! Printed copies are on the table on the Sanctuary porch, 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!

WEEKLY REMINDERS

Monday Morning Prayer Zoom & Call

Every Monday morning at 9 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! Even if you can't join us in those ways, please join us in prayer however you are able each Monday at 9 am.

Breakfast and Devotions Tuesdays at 8 am Broadway Diner



Everyone is invited!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

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

- Aug 2: Shepherd's Pie & Tossed Salad \$5
- Aug 9: Covered Dish & Rotisserie Chicken \$2
- Aug 16: Chicken, Yellow Rice & Green Veggie \$5
- August 23: Covered Dish & Rotisserie Chicken \$2
- August 30: First Fall Wed Night Dinner TBD \$5

Fellowship Events

Lunch Bunch August 6

RSVP to church by August 2nd at noon



Lunch Bunch July at El Ranchito

New Monthly Fellowship Event for everyone:



3rd Monday of every month at Beef 'O' Brady's. Arrive at 5. RSVP to the church by the day before.

Laity Sunday is August 27th!

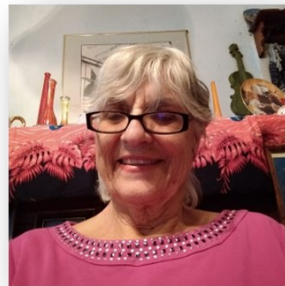
We will officially kick off our Fall and celebrate ALL the ministries and ways God is calling this church family to be the body of Christ and the hands, feet and heart of Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth!

Oh!
 AND we will have a Potluck in the Fellowship Hall after Worship!

Silver Saints
 Be looking forward to September 17th at 5:30 . Game night and Charcuterie boards at the Huffs! Charades and Pictionary.

ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian



August 2023

In recent FUMC Newsletters and FUMC bulletins notice has been made of plans for an "interim in-house directory". A suggestion was made that contributors take a selfie with a backdrop of one of our beautiful stained glass

windows. Our church history relates that in 1978 Richard Beasley of Beasley's Stained Glass in Apopka wrote... "These windows are a beautiful example of stained glass style of the turn of the Century and are priceless antiques in that artwork. The glass they contain can not be duplicated. They should be treated with the same respect accorded with any work of art that can not be replaced."

All of the original donors of the windows were prominent in the early history of our church and the city of Bartow. Their legacy continued with future generations of our church family and beyond.

"If these windows could talk..."

Vestiges of these "Stained glass saints" could be found in Bartow streets (Carpenter, Wilson, Hooker...) Parks (Jordan, Holland...), Buildings (Mann, E. A. Law, Civic Center...), Department Stores (Macys...) and even the Governor's mansion (Holland).

...But those are other stories...

One of the windows that is especially "close to the heart" of some of our current FUMCers is inscribed "In memoriam... Charles E. Earnest, Sr. and is highlighted with the figure of Jesus as he uplifts his serene face to heaven. The right side In memoriam Sarah L. Earnest... is adorned with several stems of wheat. They were the parents of Charles Earnest, who was very active in First Methodist from the time of his arrival in Bartow with (his wife) until he relocated to West Palm Beach in 1936. Mrs. Earnest was also engaged in the Women's work of the church. (Earnest) relatives included Jesse Sutton Timberlake, Adele Timberlake Bevis, Elsa Sutton Wilson and her daughters, Harriet and Elsa (Huff). Another relative was

Audrey Timberlake Taylor and her daughter, Vicki Taylor Sweet."

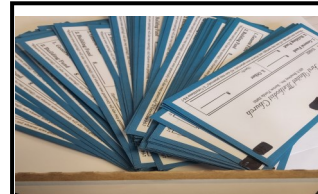
...So whether your "selfie setting" contains one of these glorious stained glass windows or your own personal "place of radiance" sharing your beauty with others in our congregation will be a much loved contribution to our "in-house directory" and your Bartow First United Methodist family.

SHARING OUR BLESSINGS

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house."

"Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

-Malachi 3:10



Offering Envelopes

If you have extra offering envelopes, DON'T throw them away! Many of us have plenty left and the church office has a stock pile. **Simply mark off any incorrect information on old envelopes and use them.** We will not be ordering new ones this year. **If you need more, please contact the church office.** Thank you for helping us save the church some finances and help the environment!

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!



Then it was Tribe Time!



From there, we headed to the Marketplace! Where we could make nativities of Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus at the Pottery Shop



...or make bread at the Bakery



We all ate together like a family



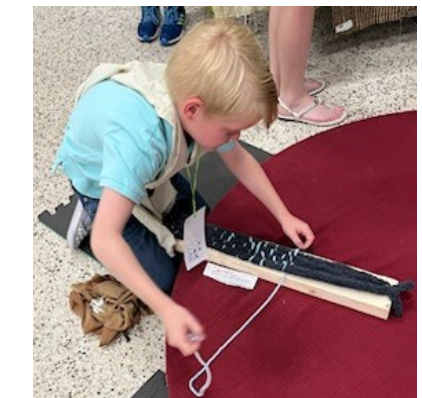
We said our "Sh'hekol" snack prayer, thanking God for the bread, cheese, grapes, and other yummy food!



We ALL helped clean up!



The Innkeeper told us all about how Jesus was born and everything that was going on!



We learned to weave scarves at the Shepherd's Hut!



At our Final Closing Gathering we shared all about our week.

We sang and danced, chanted and cheered. It was an amazing week together learning about Bethlehem and how Jesus was born!

Welcome to...
Bethlehem
Marketplace
Vacation Bible School

Join us as we go
back in time to the
first century to
Bethlehem at the
time of a census...



We started with our Opening Gathering



...or star necklaces at the Jewelers!



...or little stables at the Carpenter's



Then SNACKS!



Everyone helped!



Then back to the Marketplace!
The stables were hard to make.



We learned games that Jesus might
have played!



Outside Games
were fun!



BOK Tower Gardens



Sky Zone is always a fun time!



Yummy!!! Yogurt at Two Crazy Nuts!!!



Play time outside in the playground with our new fence.



*Special
Thanks to
FMS dad
Brain
Sullivan for
using your
expertise, and
giving of your
time to
construct our
new FMS
playground
fences!*



Each day we had Closing Gathering, we talked about the day, sang songs,
and were reminded of the next day's Mission Challenge!



At our Final Closing Gathering each Tribe
shared a cheer or chant that they made!



Play time in the classroom!

First Methodist School

We are wrapping up our
Summer Camp and excited and looking forward to the 2023-2024 school year at FMS.
We will be starting the **50th school year** of educating the children of our community.

Mark your calendars for:

FMS 50th Anniversary Fall Festival
October 7, 4-6:30 pm.

Games, Food Trucks, and Silent Auction

REACHING IN....

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



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
AUGUST 7, 11:30 AM.
870 Lila Street

All ladies are welcome to join us!

Connectional Giving...

Connectional Giving helps fund ministries like ...

Black College Fund
The Black College Fund supports the operational expense and capital improvement needs of our eleven predominantly black, United Methodist-related colleges and universities. These institutions serve as intellectual and spiritual founts preserving and expanding upon the rich history, traditions, and culture of a people and a nation.

The United Methodist Black institutions include:

- Bennet College, Greensboro NC
- Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach FL**
- Claffin College, Orangeburg SC
- Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta GA
- Dillard University, New Orleans LA
- Huston-Tillotson College, Austin TX
- Meharry Medical College, Nashville TN
- Paine College, Augusta GA
- Philander Smith College, Little Rock AR
- Rust College, Holly Springs MS
- Wiley College, Marshall TX

Graduates of these eleven colleges and universities include significant numbers of teachers and doctors, ministers and bishops, scientists and artists, judges, entrepreneurs and journalists. Many are leaders in the African-American community and, notably, leaders in a rapidly changing United States.

-Dorothy Tucker

If you are interested in being part of a Golden Girls Planning TEAM Starting in the Fall, please contact the church office!

The WE CARE Congregational Care Team



visits people, sends cards, makes phone calls, brings meals, and delivers home communion to those who need it. These are very important ministries in the body of Christ.

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.

If you could help or know someone who could benefit from any of these ministries, please contact Pat Barber at 1-443-900-2520. Thank you!

In need of a little extra food this summer?

Contact Kathy Wood...

There will be no Big Food Giveaways at church, but there is food available for pickup as needed.



AND REACHING OUT...

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

THE UPPER ROOM
WHERE THE WORLD MEETS TO PRAY
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Did you know that the United Methodist church has it's own daily devotional guide?

These are available for you to pick up on the porch table or in the office. The small pocket version is \$1 and the large magazine addition is \$2. If you would like to take one and pay later, please do so! They are printed bimonthly. Pick up the July- August edition today! September will be available in mid August.

FOOD NEEDED!!!

The Bartow Community Service Center is currently in need of food items with pop top lids and food that doesn't need to be cooked. Please place your donations in the blue bucket located out front of the church.



Thank you for helping our local people in need!

School Supplies



Thank you for gathering school supplies for the children in the area! Together you as a church family were able to collect:

6 rulers, 7 packs of crayons, 7 glues, 20 glue sticks, 12 portfolio folders, 76 pencils, 12 colored pencils, 10 3 ring binders, 13 highlighters, 10 pens, 3 erasers, 4 safety scissors, 4 backpacks, 10 mechanical pencils, 11 spiral bound notebooks, 4 3 subject spiral bound notebooks, 11 packs of paper, 4 writing pads, and 8 pocket folders.

Altogether over 200 items will be donated for the Back to School Event!

We are now officially partners with the "Togetherness" group in Rwanda!

Through ZOE Empowers and with other UM Churches in the Gulf-Central District, we have partnered with orphans in Rwanda to have healthy, self-sufficient, and community oriented lives centered in Christ!

Translated as 'Togetherness,' our group is made up of 76 children in Rwanda.

To partner with our group and with other churches in our District, we needed to raise \$125. We offered our children at Vacation Bible School the opportunity to get the ball rolling with one of their Mission days. *Our children* brought in \$100.58!

The church family was then challenged to finish what VBS started. We not only were able to send our \$125 to become official partners, we even have a little bit left over for any special projects we might hear that our Togetherness group is doing! Together and with the Holy Spirit's help, we share the love of Christ in surprising ways!

