The United Methodist Church

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BARTOW, FLORIDA

455 S Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830

JULY 2022

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

www.firstumcbartow.com

Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Lakeland, FL
Permit 2001

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, July 3	Holy Communion 9 am Adult and Children's Sunday school 10:30 am Worship
Monday, July 4	Happy Independence Day
Sunday, July 10	10:30 am Worship
Wednesday, July 13	6 pmn Welcome Dinner for Pastor Missy (F Hall)
Sunday, July 17	10:30 am Worship
Tuesday, July 19	6:30 pm Trustees Meeting (Library)
Thursday, July 21	6:30 pm Finance Meeting (Library)
Sunday, July 24	10:30 am Worship
Tuesday, July 26	6:30 pm Church Council (Library)

First United Methodist Church of Bartow
1867-2017
150 YEARS
Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

First United Methodist Church of Bartow

GOOD NEWS

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 7
JULY 2022

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength… Love your neighbor as yourself." from Mark 12: 30-31 (NIV)

Hello! Missy Turbeville here! It is a joy, wonder, and privilege to greet you as your new pastor! Many of us have had an opportunity to meet briefly at leadership gatherings and in worship on Sunday, July 3. There will be much more time for us to get to know one another as we love one another and our community and world as we love and serve God together. Below is a brief bio to get us started knowing each other:

I am originally from Lakeland, FL. A lifelong United Methodist, I was baptized as an infant and confirmed as a teen at First UMC, Lakeland. My family moved to Lake City, FL when I was a teen and then I returned to Polk County to go to Florida Southern College where I studied Religion and English Literature. After college I went to Princeton Theological Seminary where I obtained my Masters of Divinity. I began working in United Methodist churches in the summers during college and continued through seminary. I then transitioned to full time Christian Education with all age levels, but most often children and youth in various UMCs around the state while I struggled with and finally answered the call to ordained ministry in the UMC which God had spoken into my life when I was ten years old! I served for the last six years at the marvelous two-point charge of Jasper First and Jennings UMCs in rural North Florida.

I am single and share the parsonage with my fluffy pup, a long hair Chihuahua named Angel Amelia. I enjoy reading mysteries, relaxing in one of my hammocks (yes, I have more than one!), doing arts and crafts, occasionally painting, and sometimes gardening if the weather is nice. My mother and stepfather live in Tennessee and my father and stepmother live in Lake City, FL. I have one brother who lives with his wife and my youngest nephew in Lake City. My other three nephews are scattered about North Central Florida. I have several aunts, uncles, and cousins in Polk County (and elsewhere– especially, Tennessee). Family and friends are a vital part of my life. But most importantly, what fills my heart and life is loving God and others as Christ reminds us in the Great Commandment. I find joy and meaning in all aspects of ministry as I lead, serve, and most importantly love.

In our time together you will often hear me quote the Great Commandment and Jesus' only command to us, that we "love one another" just as Christ has loved us (John 13: 34).This is the center of who we are as Christ-followers. We respond to God's grace-filled, reconciling, redeeming love for us by loving God. All that love at work in and through us empowers us through the Holy Spirit to love others in ways we could never do on our own. There is much more to say and even more to do, and in the upcoming seasons, with God's help, we will share with one another in glorious ways as we are the hands, feet, and heart of Christ together in our community and world!

With LOVE in CHRIST, Pastor Missy

Inside this issue:

Choir Notes	2
Reminders	3
Across the Courtyard	4
Local & Global Missions	5
Birthdays and Anniversaries, Memorials, Prayer List	6
Calendar	7

CHOIR NOTES, *by Bonnie Allen*

A new beginning for First United Methodist Church of Bartow starts today. Our Pastor Missy Turbeville will be with us starting July 3rd. She told me that she was called at age 10 to the ministry, and has spent her life in the service of the Lord. She was raised in First Methodist Church of Lakeland, and participated in choir, bells, and loves music. I am looking forward to many years with this dedicated woman. She loves children, and will do chapel at our school. She has presided over two churches in North Florida for 6 years. Her brother is head of the Light House Ministry in Lakeland. I think her parents really taught their children about the Lord, and set the example before them. May God bless her as she takes on a new challenge.

Our choir is blessed with what I call the faithful few. We seem to make beautiful music even though we are small in numbers. It is a joy to have Brandon, Heath and Tom singing with us each Sunday. They make a big difference with their voices, and their wonderful personalities. It is double duty for them and Bill Sheetz and Olivia as they, also, have rehearsals for both the Praise Team and Choir. Thank you all!!

We can't forget Janet Moshier who has taken over for Bill Wright at the organ. She hasn't played for many years, but stepped right in as though she had been there forever. Many thanks, Janet. Playing the organ is very difficult. Can you imagine using both hands, eyes, feet all doing something different at the same time? It is an art that is slowly dying out in many churches. We have been able to keep the organ alive for which we are all grateful. Janet and Dorrance have really been a great help in the short time they have been with us. Dorrance is in charge of the camera for our Facebook service, and Janet sings in the choir. They will be returning to their home in New York for 2 months. We will definitely miss them, but are very thankful for all they have done for us. God speed to you, two. Come back soon!!

The time is getting close for our beloved secretary, Cynthia Lee, to retire. She has been so faithful for 16 years, and has gone way beyond her job description. It is time for her to be free to visit her grandchildren, and her daughters, one who lives in Georgia, and one who is a traveling nurse. We have grown to love her children and their children over these 22 years. Bruce Lee was a powerful force in our church family. He loved the Lord, and served him passionately as a paramedic, a husband and father. He was very active until his untimely death. God has helped Cynthia to keep going in spite of all her grief and loneliness. There are no words to express our deep love and gratitude to you, Cynthia. May God bless you and keep you in this next chapter of your life. We love you!!

One of the hymns in our hymnal is, "This is a Day of New Beginnings". The fourth verse fits so well for us. It says, "Christ is alive and goes before us to show and share what God can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new." Let us rejoice in newness.

Love,

Bonnie

JULY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
+ = Each Sunday 10:30 am Worship service						2 2 pm Visitation for Alvena Newport at Whidden McLain Funeral Home
3 + Holy Communion 10:27 am Worship service on Facebook or in Sanctuary Noon: Lunch Bunch meet at Ruby Tuesday	4 Happy 4th of July	5 5:30 pm TOPS Meeting	6	7	8	9
10 + 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook or in Sanctuary	11	12	13 6 pm Welcome Dinner for Pastor Missy (F Hall)	14	16	16
17 + 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook or in Sanctuary	18	19 5:30 pm TOPS Meeting	20	21 6:30 pm Finance Meeting (Library)	22	23
24 + 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook or in Sanctuary 31 +	25	26 6:30 pm Church Council (Library)	27	28	29	30

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 7

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Sharon Snyder
3 - Kaitlyn Gattie
4 - Molly-Grace Moore
Jeff Moss
6 - Kiersten Hart
Jacob Klins
Leah Snell
9 - Jack Wyant
11 - Jeff Agnew
Emily Hughes
Bella Jones
13 - Grady Daniel
Mason Daniels
15 - Chuck Kiesewetter
16 - Nolan Hartsaw
17 - Bill Meyer
18 - Donna Wagner
20 - Tracy Snell
21 - Mary Wyant
23 - Ann Plunkett
25 - Renee Whitehead
26 - Diane Bruns

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

5 - Armando & Icel Rodriguez
7 - Greg & Maegan Neely
10 - Josh & Renee Whitehead
17 - Chuck & Donna Kiesewetter
23 - Greg & Kathy Wood
26 - Mike & Diane Bruns
27 - Dennis & Andrea Croom

SYMPATHY and MEMORIAL GIFTS

Sympathy of our church goes to the Family of Alvena Newport who passed on to eternal life June 18.

Memorial gifts were given in memory of
Bob Sarvis
by
Beverly Etheredge for Music Ministry
Pat & Elsa Huff for Library carpet
Marvin & Karel Hammer for Library carpet
Margie Anderson for Angola Mission
Wayne & Leah Snell
Bill & Joan Wright for Music Ministry

Memorial gifts were given in memory of
Harold Wagner
by
Margie Anderson for Angola Mission
Wayne & Leah Snell

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

Not at home:
Mary Grose (New Horizon, WH);
Carol Schreck (Sunrise Brighton Gardens of Tampa)

With medical issues:
Diane Allen, Ken Allen, Dolly Ambrose, David Bergdoll, Jerry Barber, Charles Colvin, Tina Green, Karel Hammer, Brandon Hess, Pat Huff, Keith Krueger, Alice Martin, Brandon Pickard, Steve Richardson, Faye Sarvis, Donna Wagner, Barbara Weaver, Ken Wetherington, Bill and Joan Wright, Pat Wright.

Please pray also for all the caregivers that serve unconditionally for our loved ones and friends.

In military: Victor Orem, Jeremy Brister

Others needing prayers:
Pastor & Staff, new youth director
District Supt. Emily Hotho, Bishop Ken Carter
Pioneer Missions, Indonesia: Christian, Dawn & Joshua Williams
Sister Church: Iglesia Metodista de Santa Cruz, Cuba
Missionaries in Angola: Leo & Cleivy Garcia, Kutela Katembo, Serguey and Graciela Espinosa.
FUMC-Bartow in the upcoming pastoral transition

PLEASE NOTE

Information for August newsletter should be submitted by **Friday, July 15th.**
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.

THANK YOU!

Thank you everyone for your thoughts, memorials and prayers. You are a very special support group, thank you for being there with us. Bob loved you and so do I.

God's Goodness, Mercy and Grace be with you all.
Faye Sarvis

WEEKLY REMINDERS

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

All are welcome, ladies and gentlemen! We meet in the fellowship hall on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. We share a program and tips to encourage and support each other to reach our goals.

Laity Report of 2022 FAC

by Nadine Robbins
Lay Member of the Annual Conference

The 2022 Florida Annual Conference convened on June 9-11 at Branscomb Auditorium in Lakeland. Elsa Huff and I attended as your Bartow FUMC Lay Representatives. On the Sunday immediately following the Annual Conference Pastor Armando aptly described it as "Intense but the Holy Spirit was moving."

Elsa and I were energized by the enthusiasm of the Presenters as they gave us information about the Spirit Filled Programs, Missions and Ministries of our Florida Annual Conference. 2022's 4 Pathways of Emphasis included Congregational Vitality, The Continuing UMC, Clergy Card and Anti-Racism. Laity was challenged by the 4 Ps of Leadership: Purpose, Presence, Partnership and Passion. As Methodist Youth or Young Adults some of us participated in Campus and Campus Ministries. These programs continue to be Alive and Vital.

For many years Bartow FUMC had an active Women's Group (WSCS). This organization has adopted a new name United Women of Faith and continues to actively carry out their Missions and Visions.

Throughout the 3 days there was a renewed emphasis on Anti-Racism, FLUMC has a dynamic Anti-Racism Task Force. We were invited to join in the Conference Anti-Racism pledge.

The Fresh Expressions Initiative (taking your church outside the building—stepping out of the box) continues as a FLUMC Conference Emphasis. Fresh Expressions should be inclusive, accessible, transformative, and connectional. Congregations were challenged to Launch or Revitalize one Fresh Expression by next years Conference (Ideas, anyone?)

The "business" aspect of the Conference included reports from the Committees on Resolutions and Standing Rules and "Money Matters" such as Equitable Compensation, Budget, Credit Union, Scholarships, etc. Many areas of Clergy Care Opportunities were also shared. An Update and Thoughts on the Future of the UMC were very thought provoking. To quote one of the Speakers, "Hard Experiences invite Hard Conversations." Someone once said, "For Opinions Let Us Not Destroy the Work of God."

The 2022 Conference Brochure states that "Members of the Conference Spiritual Formation Team are pleased to support FLAC 2022 work of Re-building the Church, Re-membering the Body, and Creating a Spiritual Home for All" … "What Does it mean to you to be a United Methodist? … No matter the challenges we face, God is with us and we continue to have opportunities to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

Note: Special Thanks to Dorothy Tucker, who gave her time as an Annual Conference Volunteer. If you would like to serve next year, see Dorothy for details . . .

Note: To view FLAC2022 events download the WHOVA APP or go the FLUMC website.

Note 2: Any questions? See Nadine, Elsa, Dorothy, or your Pastor!

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 7

ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian

When I was a "kid" many of us didn't enjoy the luxury of air conditioning or backyard pools to "beat the heat" of our Florida summers. Around the Bartow area were numerous lakes, springs, public pools, "pits," etc. that offered temporary relief from the "summer swelter". In "those days" the majority of us were seemingly oblivious to the threats of alligators, snakes, fertilizer runoff, flesh-eating bacteria, etc. With the exception of an occasional earache or blistering sunburn most of us emerged unscathed from our treks to these various "swimming holes."

My ATC predecessor, (Mom) wrote of church picnics located at some of the aforementioned bodies of water.

"In rereading ***Peace River Pioneers*** by the late Louise K. Frisbie, wife of Loyal Frisbie, on page 45 there was the most interesting account of a Sunday School picnic back in 1887. Quoting Louise: 'A procession started from the Methodist Church on West Church St. at 8 am headed by the town band. It moved to the Episcopal, Baptist and Presbyterian Churches, joined at each one by their respective schools then proceeded to Hills Park south of town.'

The next year's picnic was held at Eagle Lake. A special train was chartered and more than 500 persons from Bartow attended. A few weeks later, an excursion train was run from Bartow to join a big Sunday School picnic planned by groups in Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor… some 500 tickets were issued from Bartow, Homeland and other points along the line.

Some 60 years or more later we enjoyed a picnic at Eagle Lake. It was on a pavilion overlooking Eagle Lake. I think it was our Methodist church's choir picnic. Our church had several picnics at interesting locations near by, like Bonny Lake. The picnic facility at that time was owned by Davidson Chemicals, later W.R. Grace. The lake provided a good swimming area and a woodsy area with tables. We also picnicked down at I.M.C. Park at Mulberry that had a cool swimming pool fed by artesian water. One of the last picnic facilities I recall out of town was south of Mulberry on the Alafia River. I recall some of the younger ones enjoying the shallow winding river for wading, preferring it to the swimming pool. Some of the church groups picnicked at Lithia Springs and perhaps Crystal Springs. Nearer town was the Peace River Park, where the Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa is now located, and of course Mary Holland Park."

Some of these favorite destinations have disappeared due to urban development or other factors. However, The Bible promises … "The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring where waters never fail." (Isaiah 58:11 NIV)

Note: Due to increasing cost and time to produce the printed newsletter, in the future we will only have it available in the usher's room and it will be sent as email. If you wish to receive a newsletter by mail, please contact the church office.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

NEW MISSIONARIES IN ANGOLA

Serguey and Graciela Espinosa are missionaries of the Methodist Church in Cuba assigned to the East Angola United Methodist Conference. After months of preparation, they just arrived at the Quessua Methodist Mission.

Dr. Serguey will provide preventive dental care and treatment to an impoverished community where the lack of regular dental services too often leads to death.

Dr. Graciela, an optometrist, will set up the ophthalmology unit of the hospital where cataract surgeries are schedule to begin this fall.

Please consider supporting the Espinosas with your prayers and gifts as they serve the least of these.

RETIREMENT OF FMS PRINCIPAL

Sunday, June 12th was a wonderful celebration for the retirement of Jackie Stoltz. Jackie has been the kindergarten and first grade teacher and principal at the First Methodist School. David Bergdoll did a special history to let us know how his mom, Betty Bergdoll had a vision of a way to help Gordonville migrant children to have a Christian education. First United Methodist Church agreed and Jackie Stoltz agreed to be the principal and kindergarten teacher. She has been a special principal for 49 years. She was born to teach.

A dinner for 60 people followed the church service. The dinner was prepared by Carolyn Presnell. Casseroles were made by Bonnie Allen, Margie Anderson, Betty Fitzgerald, Jahan Faramarzifar, Elsa Huff, Barbara Hess, Nadine Robbins, and Janie Robinson. A beautiful themed cake was made by Melissa Hicks.

Mrs. Jackie Stoltz shown here with her family is retiring as Principal of First Methodist School after 49 years of service.