

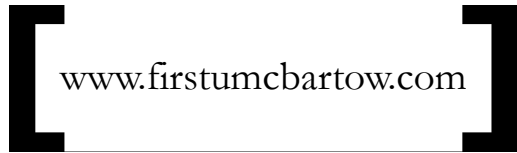


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BARTOW, FLORIDA

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JULY 2023

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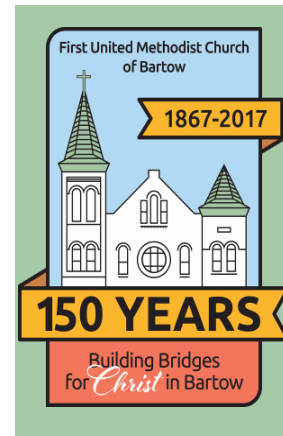
Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE

FMS School returns August 10!

BE IN PRAYER...

- **What is the mystery of God's kingdom that the Holy Spirit is sharing with you to celebrate?**
- **What is the priceless treasure of God that the Holy Spirit has shown you?**
- **What are you laying aside in order to share the yoke of Christ?**
- **How are you responding to God to seek deeper roots for the growth God is leading us all into?**



First United Methodist Church of Bartow

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 7

GOOD NEWS

JULY 2023

The kingdom is God is like...

It is officially Summer! And for much of the Northern Hemisphere the growing season is finally here. Of course in Florida, it's been the growing season for months already! For some time, our church has been in a long season of both preparation and growth. The two go hand in hand. We cannot have healthy, sustained growth without creating the space and sustenance for deep roots.

Individually and together, we have been preparing ourselves for hearing and seeing where the Holy Spirit is calling us through Prayer, Bible Study, Worship, Christian Fellowship, practicing Sabbath, Tithing, Fasting, and celebrating the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion. These *means of grace* are gifts from God which help us to have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to love so that we will be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ in the world. *Means of grace* create the room our spiritual roots need to spread and deepen, readying us for whatever direction our lives rooted in Christ need to go.

This is the beauty of God's grace, love, and empowering. God did not send Christ into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Jesus did not come to be with us to say follow me and then give us an impossible task that we could never achieve. No! God came to live amongst us to give us concrete examples of what God's love lived out looks like. Christ came to not only invite us to participate in that love, but through the Holy Spirit, empower us for the impossible possible work of God!

Jesus talks about and lives out God's loving will for all creation. Time and again, Jesus tells us of the Kingdom of God (or Kingdom of heaven) with parables, using the beautiful and creative language of simile and metaphor to help us understand that which is mystery and has greater worth than we can imagine. Time and again Jesus talks to, eats with, heals, and ministers with those who others see as not worthy of any time, energy, or compassion. Time and again we are shown that the lost, the last, the least are in reality primary and precious in God's sight. Time and again we are given blinding glimpses of God's earth-shattering, life-altering love that light the darkness and clear our sight for seeing the things God is planning and doing.

And yet sometimes the mighty acts of God come to us as a mystery, growing in the background, without any fanfare, until suddenly it is fully leavened flour ready to be bread and life. Sometimes that which is considered insignificant, like a tiny seed, in time becomes refuge and home to many. What might seem as useless as a field choked with weeds and thorns, might be the resting place of wonders, waiting for the investment of our passion, time, and energy to be realized.

What to some looks like a rabble-rousing, itinerant, couldn't-make-it-as-a-carpenter, eats with all kinds of sinners trouble maker, to God is beloved Son, embodying God's loving will in the world. Jesus' words and actions are a sharing of what God's kingdom come and will be done actually looks like on earth. Following that loving will of God causes difficulties. It causes struggles within our minds, our hearts, and sometimes our homes. God's kingdom come and will be done is so different from the day to day status quo that it can feel like our lives are upended when we decided to really live into the transformed life Jesus invites us to accept.

In this Issue:

Choir Notes	2
Grace Notes	3
Across the Courtyard & Miscellaneous	4
FMS Camp!	5
In Reach & Nurture	6
Out Reach & Mission	7
Weekly & Fellowship	8
Annual Conf. Report	9
Birthdays and Anniversaries, Memorials, Prayer List & Miscellaneous	10
Calendar	11

Continued on page 3

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

CHOIR NOTES, by Bonnie Allen



Choir News July 2023

It is very difficult to write the July news in the middle of June. All I can think about is what is happening at this time, so I am going to share my thoughts about now.

This may be old news by the first of July, but all I can think about is our dear friend, Heath Petersen. Right now, he is in the hospital having undergone back surgery. Our entire church family is grieved over this occurrence, and are praying constantly for his healing. He has been such an integral part of this family/body of Christ. His prayers, his voice, his acting, his reading of scripture, his big laugh at Missy's humor, his love of music, his strength to carry anything that was too heavy for some of us, and his help for me personally for all 22 years that I have been here. I love him like a son!! My prayers are constantly going up, and I am believing that whatever the outcome, God has him in the palm of His hand. Please pray!

Another prayer request is for our dear beloved Betty Fitzgerald. The one who is always thinking of others. The one who plans something special each day so that she won't be so lonely after the loss of her husband. The one who is always willing to drive anywhere, anytime. The one who gives gifts to all of us. She is suffering and has been for months. We are praying now that her leg will heal and that she can resume her happy life and come back to choir. We miss her, and love her!

Susan and David Bergdoll are dealing with lots of troubles. Damage from the hurricane has wrecked the roof of their home, which is flat, and now the insurance company says they need a rebuilt roof that is not flat. Inside there is much damage, which has not yet been repaired. David is fighting the good fight against cancer, and holding his own. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Pastor Missy is always reminding us that we are the body of Christ. That we are his hands and feet, and must work together to help each other in Jerusalem (our church) Judea (our town), Samaria (those who are hard to love) and to the ends of the earth (Angola, Cuba, Argentina, and beyond). I think I got that right? This is the mission and we are the workers. May God give us out of His glorious resources, all the strength we need to minister in His name and for His purpose.

I have seen the body of Christ working in our choir last week. We came together to provide a baby shower for Brandon and Amy Pickard, and their baby boy soon to be born in August. It took a lot of preparation to get the fellowship hall all ready. Barbara Hess came up with the idea for a balloon arch against the backdrop of a trellis. It looked very festive, and we can thank Barbara & Gene Whitney, Ken Allen, Tom Tuttle, Sam Hudnell, Margie Anderson and Janet Moshier who was the balloon knotting champion. Gene brought his compressor and for 2 hours blew up balloons. Faye Sarvis, Patti Tuttle, and BJ Simpson were busy hanging up signs for Baby Boy, and lots of other things. We were all having fun working together and laughing at our inability to tie a knot in a balloon.

Sunday arrived, and our church family gathered at the hall to celebrate with our beloved Pickards. Patti Tuttle and Carolyn Presnell got all the food out and what a feast it was. Kathy Wood donated two turkeys which Bill Sheetz baked, and I brought a ham which was carved badly but still tasted good. All in all it was a glorious occasion with lots of wonderful gifts. I told Amy she did not need to write thank you notes. I hope she listened to me. We love you Amy, Brandon, and baby Boy. Can't wait for his birth.

Many of you don't know this, but we have lots of babies being born soon. Roy and Kayline's daughter is having a baby. Aaron Bruns, the son of Diane is having a baby girl, and Valerie and Brad Charbonneau are having another boy soon. This will make 3 boys for them. Jeremy and Lauren Brister have recently added twins, a boy, John, and a girl, Ava to their family.

New life in our church gives us all so much Joy!!

July is the month that we celebrate freedom in our country. We are blessed to live here, but our country is in great turmoil. We know that with God all things are possible. I pray for unity, for love, for hope, and for peace in our community and in the world.

May we all be filled with the love of Christ, and the hope and faith that He is with us and will never abandon us.

Love from your verbose choir director,
Bonnie

JULY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 *10:30 am: Worship & Communion	3 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30 Chapel 11:30 Women's Bible Study 870 Lila Street	4 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner Church Office and FMS Closed	5 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Ruben or Chicken salad sandwich, fresh fruit, chips \$5	6	7	8
9 *10:30 am: Worship 12 pm: Lunch Bunch El Ranchito	10 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30 Chapel	11 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner	12 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Covered Dish & ham \$2	13	14	15
16 *10:30 am: Worship <i>Brandon Pickard will be preaching!</i>	17 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30 Chapel 5pm: Silver Saints Bingo Night Beef 'O' Brady's	18 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner	19 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Baked Spaghetti and meatballs, tossed salad, and garlic bread \$5	20 5pm: David Breton Memorial Service	21	22
23 *10:30 am: Worship	24 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30 Chapel	25 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 4:30 pm: SPRC Mtg in Library 6 pm: Finance Mtg In Library	26 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Covered Dish and rotisserie chicken \$2	27	28	29
30 *10:30 am: Worship	31 9am: Prayer Zoom 9:30 Chapel					

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1-- Sharon Snyder
- 3-- Kaitlyn Gattie
- 4-- Molly Grace Moore
- 5-- Jeff Moss
- 6-- Kiersten Hart
Leah Snell
- 9-- Jack Wyant
- 11-- Emily Hughes
- 13-- Grady Daniels
Mason Daniels
- 15- Chuck Kieseewetter
- 16- Nolan Hartsaw
- 17- Bill Meyer
- 20- Tracy Snell
- 25- Renee Whitehead
- 26- Diane Bruns

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

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

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, Shannon B *healing*, Shirley B & son, Jonathon, Christine- *Barbara's cousin*, Datelyn 4 yr old *healing*, **Betty F**, Ginnie- *Walt's niece*, Scott H, Lavonia H, **Fran L** *healing*, Mack & Lettie Mae *Dorothy's family*, Judi M, **Heath P** *healing*, Riza *Bonnie's friend*, Tanner, Roger W *Nadine's bro*

Those in mourning: friends and family of Cathy, Laura S.'s sister

Ongoing Prayers:

Beverly A, **Jerry B**, **David B**, **Ed E**, Karel H, Brandon H, Pat H, **Keith K**, Allye M, **Mary Beth P**, James P, Lyn R, BJ S, Louise T, Jean & Dick T, **Ken W**, **Bill** & Joan **W**, 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 July newsletter should be submitted by **Friday, July 14th**. 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!

We begin to realize that if we have a problem with loving and eating with sinners, we have a problem with mercy and with Jesus. If we have a problem with being in ministry with people "not like us," we have a problem with our amazing creator God who made us all fearfully and wonderfully in the divine image. If we have a problem with seeing the worth in those who the world would walk by or step around, we have a problem with the kingdom, the *kingdom*, of God and with Christ, our brother, who meets us in the hungry, thirsty, naked, and lonely.

That's why deep healthy spiritual roots are so important. That's why our life together as the body of Christ is so important. The new life and growth that we experience in the Kingdom of God is beyond our mind's comprehension. We need the means of grace, those practices that open us to meeting God, so that in our life together in Christian Fellowship we can work through our struggles. Together in Christ, we are empowered to name and conquer the world's demands for brokenness, self-loathing, and selfishness in our own life and the lives of those around us. We are empowered to repent of our own brokenness, and resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves, even when we find them lurking in our own hearts.

This is what we live and who we are as followers of Christ. We are more than conquerors through Christ! It isn't always easy, but we are NOT ALONE. God is with us, Christ is with us. The Holy Spirit is with us. We are gathered into the loving embrace of our triune God and we are together growing in this life, this kinship, this body in ways that are mysterious, unexpected, and world transforming.

With great love in Christ,
-Pastor Missy

Grace Notes

So much appreciation

for all the sincere inquiries and prayers during my treatment and recovery. It means a lot to me. Love to all of you!

-Ed Etheredge, Jr.
Galatians 6:2

Asbury UMC has been able to move into their own space! Here is a note from their pastor, Meredith McMillan:

"We can't thank you enough for your generosity and hospitality."
Pastor Meredith

We are Grateful!!!

We want to send a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped organize, decorate, and provide food for our baby shower! You all went above and beyond to show your love for us and we are so grateful. Thank you to everyone who showered us with gifts for our little boy; we feel blessed by your generosity and kindness.

Our church truly is a family, and we love you all.

Love,
Brandon, Amy, and
Baby Pickard



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

ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian



July 2023

Looking back at past Florida Methodist Annual Conferences, many of the "concerns" of "old" are still issues today.

"The 1957 Conference received a sobering report on race relations. 'Whether we have made progress in racial cooperation... is a debatable question... The church membership itself is divided in its opinions'... Clerical leaders are not in agreement on practical steps in solving our problems."

Violent incidents of anti-Semitism were deplored in a report to the 1960 Florida Conference... 'This points to the failure of our homes, churches, and schools in teaching basic fundamentals of human behavior.'

Another statement of policy coming from the 1960 Conference stated "The greatest and most challenging task confronting our world today is the establishing of a community of nations in which Peace can be achieved and war outlawed. We believe a warless world is attainable."

A report to the 1964 Conference commented that "Violence is often mistaken for a means of solving problems which arise in human relations. Within a Christian Society, there should be no place for this mistaken practice."

"An alarming increase in drug abuse was reported to the 1969 Florida Conference. "Frightening dimensions of the problem were seen in urban centers of Florida and to a lesser extent in smaller communities.'

"It was reported that from 1964-1969 church school attendance... continued to decline at an alarmingly accelerating rate."

"Major topics of concern during the sessions of 1972-1975 included the need for better treatment of migrant workers. 'The decline in ethical behavior brings scandal to our government at local and national levels... The church must set anew that plumb line in the midst of society.'

Bishop Hunt, in his address to the 1982 Conference remarked "Our church is dedicated to the principle of racial inclusiveness... Perhaps one of the better ways to view the task is to voice a dream that time will come... When we shall be color blind in all our administration of the Lord's work... this will require the conquest of latent prejudice..., and an intentional effort to gather into one fold, regardless of race and... background all sons and daughters of the King"

(Source: Bartow FUMC History)

We have not solved many of the problems that have plagued us throughout the years. We have to continually follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and remember that God has a plan as we work today towards peaceful resolutions.

MISCELLANEOUS



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!

Florida United Methodist Annual Conference 2023 (High Lights) By Nadine Robbins



This year's Conference was held on June 8-10 at Florida Southern College's Branscomb Auditorium.

Elsa Huff and I were your Bartow FUMC Lay Delegates. The theme, "Abound in Hope" resonated throughout the entire three day gathering.

Our new Bishop, Reverend Tom Berlin was given a "rousing" welcome to our Florida Conference. Under his Spirit-filled leadership, the "business" of our Methodist churches was conducted through humor, music, excitement, challenge, laughter, and sometimes even tears and dancing.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, our Co-Lay Leaders Alice Williams and Derek Scott lead us through reports of the work of the Laity. Their enthusiasm and energy was enhanced by the music of the Praise Team with a variety of musical selections.

Molly McIntyre was introduced to us as our Conference Lay Delegate to General Conference in 2024. Our prayers are with her as she participates in this assembly where important decisions will be made.

Our new District Super Intendent, Emily Hotho informed us about "Zoe Empowers", an orphan empowerment project that works to develop self-sufficiency among orphans in Africa and India. At another time, Icel updated the group about the Cuba and Angola Missions. District Superintendents from areas hardest hit by Hurricane Ian shared the work that they have done as the suffered loses of church structures, homes, and lives. United Methodists helped financially and with hands and hearts doing the "dirty work" of disaster relief.

Some of the most exciting presentations were concerning the endeavors of our Campus Ministries. Students experience a safe environment where they can fellowship, study, relax, or just "hang out". Many of our Campus Ministries have been affected by recent budget cuts. Prayers are needed for support of these vital ministries that remain inclusive, supportive, and anti-racist.

An afternoon of certified Lay Ministers reminded us of the importance of Clergy/ Lay Collaborations. At a later time we joined in a musical blessing for friends who have left our Florida Conference. In that vein our Bishop assured us that no apportionments would be raised for churches remaining in our Conference.

The committee on Resolutions presented a humorous video about the process of putting together Resolutions to be presented to the group. (Actual Resolutions can be viewed at the Florida Annual Conference Website.)

A huge emphasis was on our FUMC Justice Ministries and Fresh Expressions, the Bishop reminded us that since 1739 Methodists have served people that "nobody else wanted". He challenged us to follow the early Methodists and meet the people where they are (Fresh Expressions) and love people that are different from us (Justice Ministries).

Our hearts were filled with the blessings of Dr. Carla Works' Bible studies of Romans 15:13 "May the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and Peace in believing so that you may abound in Hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

On Saturday we watched the inspiring service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination. At the conclusion an "altar call" was given to anyone who was feeling the call to become a Methodist minister. We cheered as one young lady raced down the aisle ahead of others. May her call and enthusiasm reach into our souls as we continue to "Abound in Hope" as we carry out the church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Nadine Robbins, Bartow FUMC Lay Member of the Annual Conference

The 2023 Anniversary Banners:
This year we celebrated the second group of 200th Anniversary Churches!



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!

July 5: Reuben or chicken salad sandwich, fresh fruit, chips \$5

July 12: Covered Dish & ham \$2

July 19: Baked spaghetti & meat balls, tossed salad, garlic bread \$5

July 26: Covered Dish & rotisserie chicken \$2

Fellowship Events

Lunch Bunch July 9th



RSVP to the church by Wednesday, July 5th.



Silver Saints will be having another Bingo night at Beef 'O' Brady's Monday, July 17th. Come at 5 to eat. Bingo will start at 6. RSVP to the church by July 16th. Also be looking forward to August 20th. Game night and Charcuterie boards at the Huffs!

Mark your calendars for:

Laity Sunday 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!

First Methodist School

FMS preschool and Summer Camp are having a great time! Field trips everyday for the older ones and plenty of time with friends for everyone!



REACHING IN....

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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
JULY 3, 11-30 AM.
870 Lila Street
 Bring a Sandwich, we will have soup.

The WE CARE Congregational Care Team



The We Care committee will be offering home communion starting the first Sunday of July. Please contact Pat Barber or Walt Hause if you would like to have someone bring this to your home.

In need of a little extra food this summer? Contact Kathy Wood... There will be no Big Food Giveaways at church, but she will still have food available for pickup as needed.



Picture of Lunch with Icel Rodriguez June 18th

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

Connectional Giving...

Connectional Giving helps fund ministries like ...

Ministerial Education Fund

This Fund helps recruit and train effective United Methodist Ministers. It is an essential element of assuring high-quality, well-prepared clergy for the United Methodist Church. The MEF helps men and women respond to God's divine call on their life.

This Fund helps supports our thirteen UM seminaries that lead the way in proclaiming God's word in a world that needs that message desperately. These seminaries are crucial to the future of the United Methodist Church as they partner with the local church to help men and women respond to God's call to full time, vocational ministry.

How Churches Benefit from the Fund

Support of 13 UM seminaries helps keep tuition costs down.

Supports continuing education courses for clergy and diaconal ministers currently serving congregations, as well as course of study schools for training local pastors.

Scholarship aid is available to candidates for ordained ministry.

Ordained and diaconal ministers receive spiritual formation resources to help them be more effective spiritual leaders.

Sponsors regional and national events where people can explore God's call to ministry.

Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry members are trained and supported in their work of approving and evaluating leaders who serve the church.

How the Fund works

General Conference determines the apportioned fund amount each quadrennium (4-year period).

Each Annual Conference retains 25% of the amount received for the MEF apportionment in order to provide direct financial aid for theological training to those in their own Conference.

The remaining 75% goes to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry where 63% is sent to our 13 UM seminaries.

The Division of Ordained Ministry uses the remaining funds to support programs for ordained and diaconal ministers.

-Dorothy Tucker

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?

For 80 years, *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide has encouraged people everywhere to share their stories of faith. Not long after its first issue was printed *The Upper Room* began crossing borders and being translated into Spanish, Korean, and Hindustani. Now, *The Upper Room* is translated into more than 30 languages and can be found in over 100 countries.

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!

We will be helping the Church Service Center, Bounce Boy, and Cricket Wireless with Bartow's 3rd free Back to school event, **July 29th at the historic LB Brown House from 12-3 pm.**



*Watch for more information in the Bulletin, on Facebook, and through the Friday email announcements...



From One Blood: Thank you for hosting a blood drive and sharing your power to save lives! We value our partnership and thank you for all you did to help make the blood drive a success. We are pleased to share with you that the recent blood drive resulted in: **7 procedures.**

Remember, each procedure can save up to three lives so that means 21 patients could benefit from the lifesaving efforts of our blood donors.

ZOE Empowers

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

Our group's name is translated "Togetherness" and it is made up of 76 children in Rwanda.

Over the next three years, they will learn about health and hygiene, business skills, child rights, and more. They will receive help to enroll in school, to be reunified with any existing extended family members, and they will receive spiritual support through student-led prayer and Bible study. Zoe breaks the cycle of poverty and dependency on charity, forming young people for a lifetime of self-sufficiency.



Our children at Vacation Bible School will be helping to kick off this partnership when one of their Mission days will be focused on ZOE. *Our children* will bring in change that will help change other children's lives with the love of Christ. Stay tuned for more ways for us all to be involved!