

#### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BARTOW, FLORIDA

455 S Broadway Ave. Bartow, FL 33830

**JUNE 2023** 

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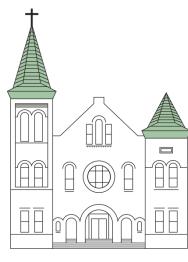
Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

#### IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE

FMS School returns August 10!

#### BE IN PRAYER...

- Where do you feel the Holy Spirit leading you and the
- What are you feeling called to be a part of?
- Who is the neighbor God is calling you to befriend?
- Is there a burden you need to give to God?





"... I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams ... on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days..." - from Acts 2:17 and 18

We are entering a new season. Yes, summer will officially be here June 21st and most of us probably feel that summer has arrived weeks ago, but I am talking about a different season... Pentecost. This is the time in the church year that we sometimes call Kingdomtide or Common Time. The liturgical color in our churches changes from Red on Pentecost to White on Trinity Sunday to Green for Common Time. Green is a color symbolizing growth and the creative work of God.

You may have noticed that we have been focusing for some time now on both of those things... the creative movement of God in our lives and the growth, the transformation possible, when we accept the love of Christ into our lives. Remember how we talked about the freedom and power we have through God in Christ to identify our need for change and to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? That is also part of what we are talking about in this Pentecost season.

When we ask for and receive the forgiveness Christ offers us, we are opened to growth and transformation with the help of the Holy Sprit in ways we just weren't able to access before. Like much growth, there is a lot that is happening in places we can't see easily. Just like roots are busy stretching and seeking new space and nutrients underground, in Christ the love in our hearts is unfurling and being led into new places emotionally, spiritually, and physically. We find ourselves caring for others in ways we never have before. We discover a willingness to try experiences or speak to people we never thought we would.

Before the first step is taken or word is uttered, before anything that can be seen, heard, touched, or tasted happens, there is much happening in our hearts. And what is coming to life is not just in our hearts, but in the heart of the church as Christ's body as well. This growth and transformation is happening both personally and corporately. We are reminded that the gifts the Holy Spirit gives are for the common good and the upbuilding of the

church so that the church will act, and live, and be the loving action of God's will in the world. That means each of us is being transformed into the image of Christ to be Christ's body in our community and world. Each of us. You. Me. Together, all of us.

What starts deep within each of us is also a corporate experience. This church is experiencing a Pentecost season. And right now we are allowing the time and space for our roots to go deep. We are allowing for prayer, listening, and discernment. The Holy Spirit is stirring in so many ways in the individual lives and corporate heart of this church

Recently, I asked the congregation to be in prayer as to where each person was feeling the Holy Spirit affirm or nudge them and this church. I am still asking that. During June, please be in prayer as we look at how the early church readied itself for their mission to share and be the embodiment of the good news of Christ in the world. Please be in prayer as we experience how God's loving will was made manifest in Jesus' calling of the disciples and healing of two very different females. Please be in prayer as Icel brings us a message of the good news of Christ from the ends of the earth.

Please take some time to rest in God and make time and space for your roots to go deep. Allow the Holy Spirit to be at work in you and us because we are being prepared and we want to be ready to go where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

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With love in Christ, - Pastor Missy

#### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

#### CHOIR NOTES, by Bonnie Allen



Choir News June 2023

We have been in a drought for several weeks, and although the rains began, they stopped. It is so difficult for agriculture when it

does not rain. Then there is lots of rain – too much rain- in some places, which is also a problem. I think that life is full of challenges for each of us, but all taking a different form. Beverly Etheredge gave me a gift that I treasure. It is a plaque that reads, "Don't wait for the rain to stop. Learn to dance in the rain.". I witnessed this at the Golden Girls luncheon last month.

Karel Hammer has headed up the committee for Golden Girls since before the pandemic. She was feeling pretty good at the beginning, and was able to bring so much joy to so many of our ladies that have passed on. The last meeting was her farewell as leader. In spite of many ailments caused by a stroke, chemo therapy, and other problems that she has, Karel was again able to WOW all of us with her ideas, her generosity, her planning, her decorations which consisted of a table for Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter with a flower arrangement for each corresponding table. The food was excellent and all provided by Karel. Not only were there golden balloons with a giant balloon that was two capital GG's, but she had gifts for all of us depending on the table where we sat. I received a dish towel with pictures of candy hearts all over it. Of course, this commemorated Valentine's Day. She also gave me an angel which said remembrance. This was for our time working together.

Karel had many helpers to pull this off, since it is very difficult for her to walk. Trink Spangler was her shopper, pushing Karel in her wheelchair. Trink is only 87 years old, and an amazing and energetic giver!

Allye Martin, Sally Kendrick, and Faye Sarvis helped to get everyone served and to clean up. Candy Grubbs and her husband gave up their afternoon to help with set up and take down. It truly was a wonderful occasion.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Marvin Hammer. He has been a great husband to Karel in the good times and in the bad times. He has taken excellent care of her, and his generosity cannot be overlooked. He has given and given to help with repairs, he has supported the church financially, and given Karel anything she needed to buy the gifts and food for the Golden Girls. These are two people that have learned to dance in the rain!

I sat with Beverly Albritton, Becky Kloster, and Mary Tomlinson. Becky was there to honor her Mother, June. Karel provided a time for remembrance of those who have passed on to Glory. Adele Durrance, Shirley Pittenger, Shirley Hickman, Alvena Newport just to mention a few. I was so impressed with Mary Tomlinson who is 87 years of age. She volunteers at the Chamber of Commerce, makes valentines for veterans, and who knows what else she does. It was exciting to see the women older than me, setting the example of giving all of their lives and talents as they are able. I remembered Adele Durrance inviting all the Golden Girls to her home for Christmas Dinner. She was 96 years old at that time. After dinner, she read a story to us for a devotional time. Such an awesome woman!!

Sometimes age or the number has an affect on us mentally. For instance, should I really be doing this at 81 years old? The answer is to keep giving all of your life however you are able. Dance in the Rain. Give thanks for all your blessings, Be aware of the needs of others, and just keep going! ADAPT! It is through God's strength and his power that we are able. I thank God for all the wonderful women who have gone on before me. I hope to always dance in the rain.

Love, Bonnie

P. S. So glad to have Sam in the Praise Band We welcome him and his mother, Lyle to our church family.

If you are interested in coordinating Golden Girls
Starting in the Fall, please contact
Karel Hammer!

# **JUNE 2023**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Trinity Sunday *10:30 am: Worship & Communion 12 pm: Lunch Bunch Broadway Diner	5 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30 Chapel 11:30 Women's Bible Study 870 Lila Street	6 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 10 am Children's Church planning meeting 5:30 pm: Choir	7 6 pm Wed Night Dinner	8 FUMC Annual Conference	9 FUMC Annual Conference	10 FUMC Annual Conference
11 *10:30 am: Worship Noon: Baby Pickard Baby Shower Covered Dish	9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30 Chapel 5pm: Silver Saints Bingo Night Beef 'O' Brady's	8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	14 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Covered Dish \$2	15 Children's Church Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon 11:30-1:30	16	17
18 *10:30 am: Worship Guest Speaker: Icel Rodriguez Noon: Ruby Tuesday lunch with Icel!	19 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30 Chapel	20 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	21 6 pm Wed Night Dinner	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
*10:30 am: Worship	Bethle 9 am: Prayer Zoom	hem Marketplace 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	Vacation Bible School 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Covered Dish \$2	ool Daily 9 am to	12 pm	

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

## **VOLUME 27, ISSUE 6**

#### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

#### **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

- Dorothy Tucker Lauren Layton Jason Coil
- 10- David Brooks 11- Samuel Pell
- 14-- Pat Barber Sandy Tuttle
- 15— Debbie Draper 17-- Betty Fitzgerald
- 17-- Steve Richardson

- 18- Ken Allen 20- Tom Tuttle
- 23- Heather Hart
- 24- Bill Hess 28- Jeff Fitzgerald
- 27- Lily Hicks 29- Erin Higgins
- Kathy Wood 30- Taylor Clements

#### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 7- Chris & Tracy Snell
- 10 Marvin & Karel Hammer
- 15 David & Jenny Brooks
- 19 John & Linda Hutto
- 20 David & Susan Bergdoll
- 24 Robert & Brenda Vaughn

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 vou!

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

#### **Ongoing Prayers:**

Beverly A, Jerry B, David B, Ed E, Karel H, Jim H, Brandon H, Pat H, Keith K, Allye M, Mary Beth P, James P (positive), Lyn R (Betty's cousin), Betty R (Missy's stepgran), Brenda R (Missy's Mom), BJ S, Louise T. Jean & Dick T. Ken W. Bill & Joan W. Patricia W

-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.

It's time for the required review of our membership rolls. If we haven't seen or had contact with you in a year, you may receive a letter from us this July.

#### PLEASE NOTE

Information for the July newsletter should be submitted by Friday, June 16th.

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!

# Grace Notes

#### Thank You to:

Everyone who makes this publication a success! Ps. Missy for writing the cover letter and many other parts, and designing pretty much everything; Bonnie, Nadine, and Dorothy for writing articles every month; Elsa, Walt, Pat B, Andrea and Barbara for blurbs, dates and pictures, etc.; Joan for proofreading and Margie for pinch hitting; and all the others who step in and do so many things to help! It doesn't go unnoticed!

#### We are Grateful!!!

Thank you to Joan for proofreading the bulletin every week and to Margie for doing it when needed...

Thank you to Cynthia, Dorothy, Pat B, and Betty for volunteering their time in the office.... Thank you to David Brooks for all the time spent answering calls, talking to service providers. organizing and putting things away, and fixing random things around the properties.

#### We've heard from our friends in ministry around the world:

Dear Partners of Bartow First UMC,

Receive our warm greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for being the light and salt in my ministry with the vulnerable. I serve in an environment that requires our support to the needy communities. Hunger, poverty, malnutrition, have become an everyday song in the lives on many households. With the economical hard ship in the country, the poor get more poorer because they have no way to stand for their living. Thank God, you always be the light and salt in their lives by bringing hope and joy in their faces if they receive any support from our farm that you always support tremendously. We don't give away food but at least what is needed for them to cultivate the land and have food.

We thank you so much and we pray God to give you more strength and the heart to support the needy, Blessings,

Kutela D. Katembo Agriculturist, UMC Quessua Mission/ East Angola kkatembo@umcmission.org

#### **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Donations from our church have been able to help feed people through the First Methodist Church of Mendoza feeding ministry in Argentina during their time of astronomical inflation.







#### As a church we raised enough to purchase a generator for our sister church in Cuba!

**From Ps. Jose:** It is a great joy for us, the Methodist people in Cuba, to have you as brothers in mission. And see the prayer covenant magnifying the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Once again our cry has been answered, God has used them for our good and now we will have electricity in times of crisis. Services of our church will be unlimited. Food aid to those most in need. Thank you very much on behalf of all, including those who receive without knowing. Blessings to all. We continue to pray for each other.

Yours, Pastor Jose Luis Vizoso Garcia.

#### Your generous support helped to bless the Colegio Albert Schweitzer in Mendoza in February and March!

Fabian D. Ponce from the school wrote a letter of appreciation to share how together, with several other churches, we were able to provide them with a much needed laptop and scholarship money.

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

**VOLUME 27, ISSUE 6** 

#### ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian



June 2023

Over the years our FUMC congregation has shared services and fellowship with our neighboring Bartow area Methodist churches, Asbury and Alturas. Recently we have been honored to

open our Sanctuary on Sunday afternoons to our Asbury neighbors as they are establishing a permanent House of Worship for their members.

Our FUMC history relates that Reverend Jessee E. Waller arrived at Bartow FUMC in 1951. "Under his leadership, the official Board took the initiative in forming a 'new' Methodist Church in Bartow. The intentions, after members of (our) congregation spent several weeks visiting non church members throughout the city was to form a missionary (less traditional) church with a (more informal) worship setting..."

"However, as the mechanics of setting up a 'new' church progressed, a decision was reached to divide Methodist membership on a geographical basis with Stuart Street to be the dividing line. The result was that many of the most active members of First Church voluntarily left to help build a congregation for Bartow's second Methodist church."

When Rev. Elliot Ritch arrived at FUMC in 1955, he was left with a congregation much smaller then he had anticipated. Even though the two churches remained on "cordial and cooperative" terms during this time Pastors Ritch (FUMC) and Herbert Bowdoin of Asbury did not encourage collaborative church activities.

By the early 80's Asbury had grown to a membership of 335 with an active Sunday school, children's and youth programs and United Men and Women's Groups. The

church plant included a beautiful sanctuary, fellowship hall, and parsonage valued at \$522,000. Asbury's youth choral group "The Brothers and Sisters", which included Young People from several local churches had traveled widely in the Eastern United States and Canada carrying the Christian message in song. This group was under the direction of Earl King, who founded the group in 1973.

Today after almost 70 years of ministry, our Asbury "Brothers and Sisters" are facing new challenges as they discover God's plan for their future. Our prayers and support are with them along their journey.

"The church is not a building.

The church is not a steeple.

The church is not a resting place. The church is a people"...

We Are The Church.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

BABY **PICKARD BABY SHOWER** 



Sunday, June *11 NOON* 

**Covered Dish!** Music ministry is providing meats. *Please bring an* appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert to share.



Amy and Brandon have registered at Baby List. To see their registry and make a purchase, go to

https://www.babylist.com/list/babyreg-amy-pickard

#### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PAGE**

# Marketplace Bethlehem VBS JUNE 26-30, 9 am-12 pm

We are going back in time to Bethlehem to hear about Jesus' birth! Available for a day or the week? There is a place for you in Bethlehem! You can volunteer or pick up Child and Youth Helper Registrations on the sign up table outside the Sanctuary on Sundays or by contacting the church office.

#### **Donation List:**

See something you would like to donate? Let us know on the sign up list at the sign up table outside the Sanctuary or contact the church office

#### PLEASE **DROP OFF**

Non-perishables by SUN., JUNE 18 and Perishable FOOD by SUN, JUNE 25! THANK YOU!!

Flax Seeds Wool

YARN- Fluffy white, Sesame seeds Wheat berries grey, or black especially

Large Nails

Spices-various

Cheddar cheese

Goat cheese

**Puffed Millet** 

**Dried Fruit-**

**Puffed Kamut** 

**Green Olives** 

**Black Olives** 

Hummus

Frankincense

Tiny bottles

Apple juice

Grapes

**Apples** 

Pita

myrrh

Oats Kamut Millet

Wheat stalks Other grain stalks

Raisins

Wooden Craft Sticks Two by Fours (approx. 2 feet long)

FABRIC- solids and stripes, NO OTHER PRINTS Fabric that doesn't ravel Light weight fabric Bright fabric

Shiny fabric

Fiber fill stuffing

Gold Wire Thin Ribbon A LOT

Leather thong Self drying clay Tacky Glue

Permanent markers Pens

Watermelon Frozen bread dough Canned biscuits

Figs, Dates, Apricots

Greek/Kalamata Olives

Flour Yeast

#### **Borrow List:**

To be borrowed by us and returned (please mark with your name)

Let us know on the sign up list at the sign up table or contact the church office if you are going to let us borrow something! Thank you!

#### **DROP OFF SAT, JUNE 24th!**

Fake potted plants Needle nose pliers

**Baskets** 

Old looking clay or wooden vases

Wooden bowls

Trays

Mortar and Pestles

Do you have a young person in your life who would like to participate?

We have Registration forms for children going into kindergarten thru fifth grade

...And ALSO for **YOUTH HELPERS** Going into 6th grade and up!

Find them at the Sanctuary, church office, or we can send vou one via email!

#### **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



**Everyone is invited!** 

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

\$5 donation full meal. \$2 covered dish + Meat

For the Summertime Family Night Dinners, Linda and John Hutto will handle and coordinate the plans for June, July and August 2023.

These will essentially follow the same format and schedule as present. Volunteers will be asked to share in some of the tasks to make our dinners successful—(set-up in kitchen, serving, clean-up (dish washing), program, etc)

Linda and John will plan the Special Meals (open to suggestions) and coordinate the entire project.

Church office will receive reservations, as is presently done, for proper and efficient planning.

Wednesday Night dinners provide a mid-week opportunity for all of us to come together for a good meal and fellowshipping with one another. More information will be provided at the next dinner. Please plan to attend as many of the Summertime Dinners as possible (and maybe bring a guest!)

Any questions or comments you may have are welcomed.

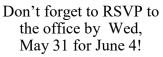
Linda (863) 608-0459, John (863) 608-0454)

## **Fellowship Events**

## Lunch Bunch is JUNE 4 at Broadway Diner

Pictures from May Lunch Bunch at Sonny's Barbecue









## Silver **Saints**



Monday June 12th at Beef 'O' Brady's.

Come at 5 to eat. Bingo will start at 6! RSVP by email or call the church office by Sunday June 11th.

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

June 14: Covered Dish \$2

June 21: Special Meal to be announced \$5

## FMS END OF THE YEAR ACTIVITIES!



Field Day was hard work, but the fun was worth it!



Thank goodness there was lot's of water and... ice pops!

Even while celebrating







Don't forget the bounce houses and food truck!



Our amazing students helped paint backdrops for VBS

What a wonderful vear it has been!

See some of you this summer for VBS and Summer Camp!

See the rest of you in the Fall!

Have a safe summer!

Blessings on our newly graduated 8th graders: Jacob, Tavian, and Jack



June 7: Special Meal to be announced \$5

June 28: Covered Dish \$2

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES** 

**JUNE 5, 11:30 AM**.

**870 Lila Street** 

Bring a Sandwich, we will have soup.

The WE CARE

**Congregational Care Team** 

Congregational Care visits, sends cards, is involved

with bereavement, and many others ways of showing

love and care to members of our church.

They are currently assembling a team of people to

deliver communion to those who need communion in

their homes.

If you are interested in being a part of Congregational

Care, sign up on the porch or contact the church office.

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.

#### AND REACHING OUT...

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

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

Connectional Giving helps fund ministries like

#### **Episcopal Fund**

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

copal Fund provides salaries, moving expenses, pension, disability coverage, medical insurance and professional travel expenses for bishops.

**Episcopal Office and Residence** – This fund helps support the cost of the Episcopal residences, as well as, operating expenses for the Episcopal Office.

This fund was established in 1939. All monies collected for the Episcopal Fund are sent to the General Council on Finance and Administration on a monthly basis and are then distributed back to the bishops and Episcopal offices on a regular basis.

#### JUNE 15 11:30-1:30

As we are transitioning from using Trackers to One Room Sunday School, we will have a Children's Church Appreciation and Planning Luncheon for

# Want to give online?

It's easy and free! Talk to your bank about how you can



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!

#### **Connectional Giving...**

**Bishops' Salaries and Benefits** – The epis-

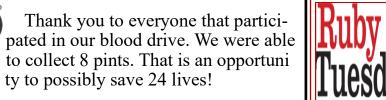
-Dorothy Tucker

our volunteers who work with the children.



## **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!



## The Big Red Bus will return for your next opportunity to give on June 11.

https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive\_schedule/1362910

My goal is to double our last collection. Won't you please help? - Barbara H



Noon, June 18th

Lunch with *Icel* Rodriguez

Everyone is invited!

**RSVP** to church by Noon Wed, June 14th



oneblood 💭

#### Kathy Wood Yard Sale June 2 and 3rd 1430 Hackl Blvd Bartow

I'm planning for this sale to (hopefully) be great. Every penny I make goes for items needed for my soups and other items. Please leave donations in the screen room at my house. Thank you!

#### We are STILL Collecting Eye Glasses!

**May was National Eve Health Awareness** month and we will continue collecting eve glasses through the month of June.

We are collecting eye glasses to provide to the Lions Club so that they can share them with people in need.

There is a collection box available on the back pew.



#### Ice Cream!



The First UMC Church Family hosted an Ice Cream Social for the "graders" at FMS during their last week of school. Everyone appeared to have a great time!





## **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.

