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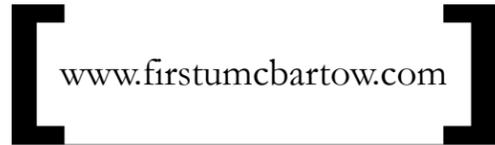
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BARTOW, FLORIDA

455 S Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830

MARCH 2023

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<https://www.facebook.com/fumcbartow>



Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE

Sun, Apr 2: Palm Sunday!

Maundy Thursday, April 6: Love Feast and Tenebrae Service

Good Friday, April 7: CROSS WALK

Holy Saturday, April 8: help with Bartow CSC Egg Hunt

Easter, April 9: 7 am: Sunrise Service, place TBA

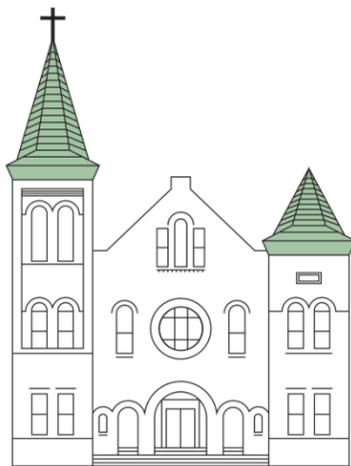
10:30 am: Easter Worship in Sanctuary

AND...

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, JUNE 26-30 in the mornings
Marketplace style. We are going back in time to Bethlehem!

BE IN PRAYER...

Would you be willing to share a story about your faith? This Spring we will be asking for volunteers to share brief witnesses along certain themes as part of our Worship. You have a story of hope someone needs to hear. Please be in prayer, as it might need to be heard this Spring in Worship!



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. —Acts 1:8

A little over a month ago, I really thought I knew how our current sermon series was going to play out. We were going to talk about living out our Baptismal vows (being the love of Christ in the world) through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. It was going to be great and pretty straightforward.

Then Mike Williams from Lighthouse Ministries added depth to the story of the Good Samaritan and made many of us look at who we considered the Samaritans in our lives and how good a neighbor we were being according to Jesus' reckoning. Ok, that would mean looking more closely at how we serve others and witness to the love of Christ to our neighbors. Two weeks after Mike shared, Pastor Doug from Argentina spoke to us of Acts 1 and being empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. We were confronted with loving each other and witnessing to the love of Christ within our own church; the Bartow area; to the others we would really prefer not to consider neighbors, but who are; and then to places so far flung we can barely imagine them. This begs the question: how do we prepare ourselves and open ourselves to the empowering of the Holy Spirit to be such a witness?

How do we pray in a way that prepares us for witnessing to the love of Christ in such varied circumstances? It takes more than simply asking for guidance. That is a wonderful place to start, but we need individual and corporate time with God, we need to meditate and pray over the scriptures.

How can we be present to God so we can then be Christ to others? To be present means more than just simply showing up for worship or a small group. To be present means being willing to be open to what God is doing in that time and place and how the Holy Spirit might be moving in and through us. Instead of passively waiting to have an experience, we can actively expect to meet God in the moments, seeking God in the people, music and lyrics, liturgy, quiet, scripture, discussion, and prayers.

How can our giving be a form of witness? We often think of giving as a material matter. It isn't. It is a personal and corporate spiritual discipline. How we give is part of our relationship with God as much as our prayers, presence, service, and witness. How we expend our resources shows what our priorities are.

Did you know that service is meant to be joyful? For many of us serving is a matter of doing that thing we see needs doing. God wants more for us! God has gifted us to be a gift to the body of Christ, and through the body to the world! What gifts and talents are in your treasure box to share?

Our witness is shaped by how we relate to God and others. In word and deed, by telling the stories of Jesus, and by telling the stories of what God, in Christ, has done in our lives, we share the good news of Christ. In all this we are informed and formed by our prayers, presence, gifts and service. It's all connected.

Both of our guest preachers challenged us to deepen our understanding of living our life in Christ. And, our current sermons are helping us to see how we are strengthened for this life through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We have many challenges ahead and we need to avail ourselves of all the help God offers. We have a command to love and commission to witness, may we do both led and empowered by the Spirit of God in Christ!

In the Empowering Love of Christ,
-Pastor Missy

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

CHOIR NOTES, by Bonnie Allen



Choir News March – 2023

March is a time of reflection about the Lenten season, and what we are supposed to do about

it. My job and Brandon’s is selecting music that compliments our Pastor’s message. Over the past 22 years, I have collected many anthems that talk about the suffering of Jesus. Sometimes it is very difficult to sing about.

I have never been able to watch the “Passion of the Christ” because it is so graphic. It hurts to think of the torture and pain that He experienced, and yet, He overcame death, and we have the great promise that if we believe, we will be in heaven with Him again.

Our choir is singing many wonderful songs during this holy time.

“How Beautiful” talks about the beauty of the hands that served, the feet that walked that long dusty road to the cross, and how beautiful is the body of Christ.

“With All My Heart” says

*In this quiet place with You,
I bow before your throne.
I bare the deepest part of me
to you and you alone.
I keep no secrets for there is no
thought You have not known,
I bring my best and all the rest
to You and You alone.*

“The Lord’s Prayer” is beloved by all of us. There have been many times in my life when I would say it over and over to receive the gift of peace that it can bring.

“Majesty” Sometimes, I wonder if we fully understand the power of almighty God. The awesome power that He gives us as we go in His name. The humility to bow down before him every day of our lives. Sometimes, I wonder!

Our Anthems for March are:

*Majesty
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
We Will Serve Him
Fill My Cup, Lord*

Each one is selected to accentuate the message each Sunday, The words are powerful!

I know that our congregation loves to hear all the beautiful music for which we are so blessed in this church. But, I will tell you that it is much more powerful when you sing or play it. Being in the choir from the tender age of 11, I have experienced some glorious music.

I would encourage any of you that would like to be in the choir, to please come and join us. We sing to the glory of God. We laugh, and joke, and have fun, but the dedication is to Sunday morning and what we can do to enhance worship. This is our gift!

May we all be brave enough to give all our secrets to Almighty God. May He hear and answer as He sees fit. May He bless this church and our mission to do His will. May we look forward to the Easter Morning with great anticipation.

Love to all,
Bonnie

Mark your Calendars!
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 26-30 in the mornings
Marketplace style
We are going back in time to Bethlehem!

MARCH 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 am: Coffee Talk Choir Room 6 pm: Fellowship Dinner Soup & Sandwiches 6:45: pm Bible Study	2	3	4
5 Living Out Our Baptismal Vows through Presence *10:30 am: Worship & Communion 12 pm: Lunch Bunch at Mike's Grill	6 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30-11 am: FMS Chapel Services 11:30 am Women's Bible Study 870 Lilla Street	7 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	8 6 pm: Fellowship Dinner Soup & Sandwiches 6:45 pm: Bible Study	9 Men's Emmaus Walk	10 Men's Emmaus Walk	11 Men's Emmaus Walk Spring FORWARD one hour tonight!
12 Living Out Our Baptismal Vows through Gifts *10:30 am: Worship Men's Emmaus Walk Daylight Savings Time begins	13 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30-11 am: FMS Chapel Services	14 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	15 6 pm: Fellowship Dinner Soup & Sandwiches 6:45 pm: Bible Study	16 Women's Emmaus Walk	17 Women's Emmaus Walk	18 Women's Emmaus Walk
19 Living Out Our Baptismal Vows through Service *10:30 am: Worship Women's Emmaus Walk	20 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30-11 am: FMS Chapel Services	21 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	22 9:30am: MOE meeting in annex classroom 6 pm: Fellowship Dinner Soup & Sandwiches 6:45 pm: Bible Study	23	24	25
26 Living Out Our Baptismal Vows through Witness *10:30 am: Worship 9 am -1pm: Bloodmobile 5pm: Silver Saints Bingo at the Huffs	27 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30-11 am: FMS Chapel Services	28 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	29 6 pm: Fellowship Dinner Soup & Sandwiches 6:45 pm: Bible Study	30 6:30 pm: Bartow High School Choir in Sanctuary	31	

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

- 1- Greg Wood, 3- David Moore, 4- Beverly Etheredge, 5- Evan Presnell, 9- Nadine Robbins, Donna Kiesewetter, Pat McMahan, 10- Tim Brooks, Ina Ogden, 16- Troy Whitfield, 17- Joanne Crum, 18- Chad Johnson, 19- Brady Draper, 20- Elizabeth Roth, 23- Phillip Petote, Hunter Snell, 24- Greg McMillin, Brandon Pickard, Cadence Van Hook, 27- Amanda Bergdoll, Betsy Draper, Marvin Hammer

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 11- Ken and Bonnie Allen, 26- Keith Krueger and Mary Beth Packard

SYMPATHY and MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Loving Memory Of Harold Wagner and In Honor Of Donna Wagner To Iglesia Evangelica Metodista Argentina By Ps. Missy Turbeville

PLEASE NOTE

Information for the March newsletter should be submitted by Friday, March 17th. 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 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!

Our Concerns:

Josh A, Mike A, Shirley B & Jonathon (son), Harriet C - healing, Sarah C (Harriet's daughter), Beverly E, Judy G, Jennifer & Liz, Colin L- healing, Matt & Lettie Mae (Dorothy's family), Betty R (Missy's stepgran), Lynn R (Betty's cousin), Mary S, Dick & Wilma T & Family (peace), Kathy W, Johnny & Hilda Z (wholeness)

EARTHQUAKE in Turkey & Syria

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 (healing & safety), 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

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

UpComing Special Events, Seasonal Services, and Sunday Worship

Sun, Mar 5, 10:30 am: Worship & Communion

Living out our Baptismal Vows- Presence

Sun, Mar 12, 10:30 am: Worship

Living out our Baptismal Vows- Gifts

Sun, Mar 19, 10:30 am: Worship

Living out our Baptismal Vows- Service

Sun, Mar 26, 10:30 am: Worship

Living out our Baptismal Vows- Witness

HOLY WEEK begins

Palm Sunday, April 2, 10:30 am: Worship & Communion

Living out our Baptismal Vows with our entire lives in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 6 pm: Love Feast

In the Fellowship Hall, followed by Tenebrae Service In the Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 7, 12 pm: CROSS WALK

Join us as the churches of Bartow start at the four compass points to gather to worship at Fort Blount Park in the heart of the city.

Holy Saturday, April 8, time TBA: Egg Hunt

We are helping Bartow Church Service Center with their Egg Hunt!

Easter, April 12: Sunrise Service 7 am: Place TBA Sanctuary Worship, 10: 30 am

Grace Notes

Thank You!

to everyone who helped with the Missions' Valentine Luncheon and Dessert Auction.

THANK YOU

to all who cooked to the dessert makers to those who bid

and to the MOE Team for dreaming such beautiful dreams of sharing God's love in creative ways!

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

Special Thanks

to the Congregational "We Care" Team for... the cards and visits to our beloved members who find it necessary to keep close to home; caring for our staff; and sending birthday and anniversary cards to all of us!

A HUGE THANK YOU

to everyone who submitted devotions for our church's Lenten Devotional. What amazing and beautiful ways you each shared your faith!

ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian



Across the Courtyard
March 2023

At last month's FUMC Planning Retreat, "Going to Homeland" was brought up. A twice yearly Sunday at Home land , followed

by "dinner on the grounds" with fresh corn on the cob has been a long- standing tradition among our congregation. One of the "casualties" of the Pandemic was the cessation of this gathering.

"Post- Pandemic Parishioners" were not quite clear as to the "attraction" of Homeland Sundays. Why Homeland? In an ATC article around 15 years ago, I related our Methodist connection to Homeland.

"The first Methodist building in Polk County, located about half a mile west of the present Homeland Methodist Church was a small church named Bethel. But long before this Bethel Church was built there was a Methodist organization established in 1859 which worshipped at the old Peas Creek Campground, a mile or so southeast of the present church. Before the Bethel church was built Methodists held services in the Schoolhouse on the first and third Sundays of each month and at the campground on alternate Sundays. In 1894 nineteen years after Bethel Church was built, a permanent campground of 40 acres was donated to the church by James B. Crum, however no deed was made and the land was later sold to various parties. Also around this time the name "Bethel" was changed to Homeland. A young Irish peddler named McCormick came to the area from Georgia. The beauty of the place so reminded him of his native Ireland that he called it "Homeland" and the name was immediately adopted. The

construction of the present church building was begun in September of 1887. An item about Homeland in an old Bartow newspaper dated September 14, 1887 read, "Arrangements have been made to begin the erection of a Methodist church at once. The building will be similar to the Presbyterian Church in Bartow, only considerably larger and will cost around \$2,000. This will be the finest church in the county." The church was not completed until 1889.

Services continued to be held in the sanctuary throughout the years. In the Bartow paper published in September 1930, we find an account of a "Joyful Occasion" at Homeland. This was a homecoming of the families who in some cases represented the three generations who helped to build this church and community."

Although an FUMC revival of this "Joyful Occasion" is "off the table" for now (due to new park regulations, etc.) perhaps we may be able to "gather round the table" at Homeland sometime in the "not- so- distant" future.

First Methodist School

Read-A-Thon Fundraiser!

Do you care about children?

Do you care about reading?

Do you care about children reading?

Then this is the Fundraiser for you!

Support the children of our very own First Methodist School as they raise money for various school needs by reading!

Our children will be reading at home and extra time at school all during the month of March!

Pick up a pledge card from the church and sponsor a specific child or in general.

Have a business? There are special business pledges for t-shirt sponsors also!

Using our Gifts and Talents..

Our Church Planning Retreat was a HUGE success!



We have many ministries and activities we are hoping to implement soon, as well as some ideas and dreams for the future.

A new Church Directory? Why yes! We DID talk about it! Excited? Great! Watch for the sign up sheet to volunteer!

Small groups? We currently have six, but we know we need more. What are you interested in?

Do you notice a theme? Participation? Yes!

TOGETHER we support the body of Christ, we *ARE* the body of Christ, through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness... so that we will share the love of Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Living the love of Christ starts here & empowered by the Holy Spirit we go everywhere!

Empowered to Witness

This month we are focusing on how we grow in our relationship with God and others to better open ourselves to the Spirit's empowering to witness to the love of Christ. Below are some of the ways we support the body of Christ AND grow individually and together in our love of God and others. Next month we will have an opportunity to commit ourselves to who we strive to be as followers as Christ. We want your help. What are we missing?

Prayers

- Daily Prayer at home
- Daily Devotion at home
- Daily Scripture Reading/
- Meditation at home
- Mon. Prayer Zoom
- Other _____

Presence

- Weekly Worship
- Sunday School
- Tues. Devotion & Brkfst
- Tues. Choir
- Wed. Bible Study
- Praise Team
- Women's Bible Study

Other _____

Gifts

- Begin giving
- Begin giving regularly
- Setting a goal of ___%
- Tithe (10%)
- Tithe as starting point
- Other _____

Service

- Usher/Greeter
- Praise Team
- Choir
- Worship Team
- Make & Take Food

- Calls, Cards, and Visits
- Congregational "We Care"
- Decorating
- MOE Missions Outreach Evangelism
- Discipleship Team
- Wed Night Dinner Help
- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Small Group Leader
- Office Volunteer
- Counter
- Other _____

Witness

- By Word
- In Deed

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

Wednesdays at 6 pm
in the Fellowship Hall

During Lent, (every Wednesday, March 1-29) our Wednesday Night Dinners will be **Soup and Sandwiches** with NO dessert as a way to practice the Spiritual Discipline of simplicity.

Sign up to bring a soup or sandwiches in the Sanctuary or by contacting the church office.

Also, we need help with set up & clean up (just arrive 15 minutes early or stay 15 minutes after) Thank you!



Ash Wednesday, Feb 22 with Alturas UMC guests.

First Methodist School



Pastor Doug from Argentina in elementary chapel.



Pastor Doug teaching the MIDs about being bridges



1st grade Listening and Learning with Mrs. Herrin



Celebrating Valentine's Day in VPK



3 year olds eating yummy snack for Valentine's Day



8th grade boys playing chess



Mrs. Stoltz returned to visit with 2nd grade



Middle school girls with their beautiful artwork



Kindergarten at lunch

Fellowship Events

**Lunch Bunch
Sun, March 5
Noon: Mike's Grill**



Join us monthly for food, fun, and fellowship!
RSVP to the church by Wed. Mar 1!!



Broadway Diner February 2023

SILVER SAINTS!

Watch for announcements about visiting Lighthouse Ministries, and our next planned event is...



at Pat & Elsa's Sun, Mar 26, 5 pm

MISCELLANEOUS

EASTER LILIES!!!



In Mid March we will be ordering our Easter lilies. Be on the lookout for our order form with pricing. You can purchase lilies in honor of someone, in memory of someone, or to the glory of God. The order deadline will be Wednesday March 22nd.

REACHING IN....

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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
MARCH 5 11:30 AM.
870 LILA STREET
 WE WILL HAVE SOUP. BRING A SANDWICH.
 ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

A Disciple's Path Bible Study
 Will continue through March
 Wednesdays at 6:45 pm
 In the Church Library

How do we live as followers of Jesus?
 How do we faithfully witness to Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth?
 How do we live a life filled with both personal and social holiness, a life of loving God and loving others?
 It's a journey made up of prayer, being present in God's presence, responding to God's gifts, being of service to others as God calls, and sharing the witness of our lives and stories of Christ in our lives

If you are interested in being on this path, talk to Pastor Missy immediately!!

What does it mean to be a witness in Jerusalem?

The WE CARE
 Congregational Care Team knows!
It's all about love, service, and caring.

We have entered Lent and that means Easter is not far behind! The We Care Team is already thinking about Easter and sharing the good news of our risen Lord in a special way with those in our church family who are not able to be out and about as much.

If you know of someone who could use a little lift from a card or call please let the team know!

Also, if you would like to be a part of the joyful work of witnessing to the love of Christ with the We Care team, you are certainly invited!

Sign up in the Sanctuary, call or email the church office, or talk to Pat Barber or other team member.

Connectional Giving...

Connectional Giving helps fund ministries like...

Conference Benevolences:
 This apportionment provides funding for Florida Conference program, mission and benevolent endeavors.

Connectional Ministries and the Conference Equipping Network
 Archives and History, Board of Lay Ministry, Multi-Cultural/Justice Ministries Communications, including Knowledge & Information systems, Conference website

Board of Camps and Retreat Ministry
 Camp and retreat facilities located in Fruitland Park. Includes summer camp for children and youth

Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries
 Pays salaries for our campus ministers & the operating expenses for Wesley Foundations at colleges & universities throughout the conference.
 Support for United Methodist-related Florida Southern College and Bethune-Cookman College

Congregational Vitality
 Supports the starting of new ministries & strengthening existing ministries.
 Cover the expenses for Fresh Expressions ministry

Missional Engagement
 Funding for the Conference Missional engagement ministries & programs: Disaster Response, Volunteers in Ministries, Summer Mission Interns Emerging Ministries, Global Ministries, Outreach Ministry

Walk to Emmaus
Men's March 9-12
Women's March 16-19

Please be in prayer for all participants as the pilgrims take this very special faith journey!

AND REACHING OUT...

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

The Bloodmobile Is Coming!
Sunday, March 26, 9 am - 1 pm

Sign up to donate on the 26th by using the QR code to the right or the following link:
https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1335333



We are helping with an Easter Egg Hunt!!!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 8
 to help with the Bartow Church Service Center's Easter Egg Hunt!

AND we will be collecting plastic eggs and non chocolate candy
 needed by Sun, April 2.

Watch for more info as we have it!
Thank you for witnessing in Judea!



BLESSINGS SHARED

Last month, besides sending money to UMCOR for Earthquake Relief in Turkey and Syria, we sent...
 to Mendoza, Argentina

273 zippers, 18 LARGE spools of thread, And over 20 yards of fabric
 to the First Metodista Evangelica Iglesia sewing group in Patron de Santiago neighborhood and
15 thumb drives and 1 laptop
 to Albert Schweitzer School and

With other area churches, we helped with Pastor Doug's travel costs and the ongoing ministries in Argentina and other UM missionaries around the world!

We ALSO sent...
18 jackets and 158 food items
 to Bartow Church Service Center

These are just a few of the ways we witness in Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth!



Our suitcase of donations at the church in Mendoza!

Thank you to everyone that helped make the **Valentine's Day Potluck and Dessert Auction** a success!

Due to your support and generosity at the luncheon and during the worship service, we were able to send **\$586.00** to aid the earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria through UMCOR

