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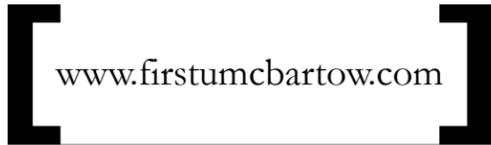
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BARTOW, FLORIDA

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Bartow, FL 33830

OCTOBER 2022

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Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

IMPORTANT DATES

- Sunday, Oct 2 World Communion Sunday
9 am Adult and Children's Sunday school
10:30 am Worship
Noon—Lunch Bunch meet at Mike's Grill
2 pm Charge Conference
- Sunday, Oct 9 9 am Adult and Children's Sunday school
10:30 am Worship
- Sunday, Oct 16 9 am Adult and Children's Sunday school
10:30 am Worship
- Sunday, Oct 23 9 am Adult and Children's Sunday school
10:30 am Worship
- Sunday, Oct 30 9 am Adult and Children's Sunday school
10:30 am Worship



If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. -1 Cor 13: 1-2 NLT

What a glorious way to start the month— at Christ's Table together on World Communion Sunday! With our siblings in our church family in the Sanctuary and in our homes, we will join with our siblings around the world—not just remembering Christ in the bread and cup, but meeting Christ together at HIS table.

Who is invited to the table? Everyone. All of us. Every. Person. On. Earth. All may not respond to the invitation, but scripture is clear: God loves us so much that God sent Christ to save the whole world, all of us (Jn 3: 16-17). ALL. Even the sinners. (Rom 5:8) Jesus seemed to especially like to eat with sinners. He must have done it a lot because the Pharisees and other religious muckity-mucks were constantly harping on Jesus' poor choice of dining companions.

And thank our gracious God for Jesus' poor taste in lunch buddies: the humble repentant sinner, the arrogant religious authority, the yearning wanderer, the unclean, the unfit, the hopeful, and the hopeless. Jesus who is God's loving nature living in the world unfurls the largest table cloth ever imagined times a billion and invites us all to partake of a life of love, joy, sacrifice, and grace. We especially celebrate that world sized table and universe-and-beyond sized love and grace on the first Sunday of October each year.

Last month we learned about Spiritual Gifts. This month we start by learning a better way from 1 Cor 13, a way that helps us meet others with wonder and welcome at the Christ's table. Why? Because despite how amazing all our gifts are, there is a still more perfect way to live in Christ and meet at the table.

Because the answer to the partisan backstabbing and infighting of the church at Corinth was love: ⁴Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.

Because the answer to the arrogance and pride that church members were living in as if only their experiences in God were worthwhile was love: ³If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

Because even the most spiritually mature among that church were just babies compared to what they would experience when finally confronting Christ's love face to face: ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. ¹²Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.

Because sadly the church at Corinth was repeating some of the mistakes of the past, thinking like other religious people before them that their answers were the most complete. And Paul needed to remind them of this truth: *All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.*

With the gorgeous words of the Love Chapter, Paul reminded the Corinthians that they were forgetting something- that God's love in Christ was the answer—not their gifts, as magnificent as they might be. As we begin October at Christ's very big table, may we not forget. May we look to Christ, the perfecter of our faith, who perfects all things in love as our example of compassion and mercy, humility and grace. May we remember that although we follow Christ, we are not God and still see through a glass dimly and that with all our knowledge, all our service, all our gifts of various types... ¹³Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

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In the Love, Grace, and Peace of Christ, -Pastor Missy

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

CHOIR NOTES, by Bonnie Allen



Dear friends, I have Unity on my mind today. I am thinking of several issues that affect our unity in families, churches, country, and world.

It has been beautiful to watch the unity in England as they grieve the loss of their beloved queen who gave 72 years of faithful service, and welcome her son to be their king. It is so rewarding to see the two estranged brothers unite in their love and respect for their grandmother.

As we celebrated and grieved 9-11 last month remembering exactly where we were and the impact of that fear we experienced, our country came together as never before in my lifetime. Totally unified. No black, white, red, or yellow; only one people under God and ready to do whatever we could to help. My initial feeling was to gather my family to protect them. To bring us all together— united! Our music was dedicated to the power of our Eternal God who is our rock in times of trouble.

**God of mercy, grant us courage. Give us peace.
 When evil draws its angry sword
 and seeks to sever freedom's cord,
 When death and darkness shake our faith
 in God's unfailing power to save,
 Eternal Father, ever be
 our courage in the time of need.
 When war is waged by faceless foes
 who battle peace with fiery blows,
 when storms of hate and fear assail,
 our Father's mighty arm prevails,
 Eternal Father, ever be
 our refuge in time of need.
 There is no tyrant who can stand
 against our sure Defender's hand.
 No threat or danger can defeat
 the strong and righteous Prince of Peace.
 Eternal Father, ever be
 our fortress in the time of need.**

Fortunately we live in a free country where we decide the future. We have to be aware of dangers that corrupt, but, honestly, we are not able to detect or defeat anything. Our hope lies in our faith in God to protect and deliver us. Our church is in a dilemma at

this time, our country is struggling with opposing views, our families each have their own troubles and crises, but we are not alone. Our strong and mighty Savior is always with us working for our good.

**When you feel like giving up,
 keep on fighting the good fight.
 When you want to quit the race,
 keep on running toward my grace.
 When you've faced all you can face, keep on.
 When you feel you are all alone,
 keep on knowing I am there.
 When you're suffering through a storm,
 keep on trusting in my care.
 When the music starts to fade,
 when it's all a masquerade,
 even though you are afraid, keep on.
 When life is tough, keep on.
 When you don't know what to do,
 keep on climbing toward the light.
 Like the flame that never dies,
 lift my light to empty eyes.
 Keep on trusting, keep on trying, keep on.
 Keep on my child, keep on.
 You can make it by my grace,
 keep your eyes upon my face.
 With my strength, you'll win the race, keep on!**

More words from an anthem that we will sing this month. Our beloved choir is blessed with singing these words many times which builds our faith and determination. I hope that we will unify as a church family to help as we are able, and to trust God with all our hearts, minds, and souls. To love God and love our neighbor.

I am sending lots of love to all of you, and especially, all that I don't get to see anymore. Know that you are greatly missed.



OCTOBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 World Communion 10:30 am: Worship on Facebook or in Sanctuary with Communion Noon: Lunch Bunch meet at Mike's Grill 2 pm: Charge Conference. We are hosting	3	4 5:30 pm Choir- Choir Rm TOPS Mtg- FH	5 6 pm Fellowship Dinner Covered Dish + Chicken	6	7	8
9 10:30 am: Worship on Facebook or in Sanctuary	10 Columbus Day	11 5:30 pm Choir- Choir Rm	12 6 pm Fellowship Dinner Meatloaf, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Rolls	13	14 Kathy Wood's Support Food	15 Yard Sale to Ministry
16 10:30 am: Worship on Facebook or in Sanctuary	17 FMS Closed	18 5:30 pm Choir- Choir Rm TOPS Mtg- FH 6:30pm Congregational Care Meeting	19 6 pm Fellowship Dinner Covered Dish + Chicken 6:45 pm Bible Study	20	21 Friday Fest	22
23 10:30 am: Worship on Facebook or in Sanctuary	24 9:30-11 am FMS Chapel Services	25 5:30 pm Choir- Choir Rm TOPS Mtg- FH	26 6 pm Fellowship Dinner Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Salad 6:45 pm Bible Study	27 4-8 pm Bartow Halloween Parade & Carnival	28	29
30 10:30 am: Worship on Facebook or in Sanctuary 5th Sunday offering for Children's Home	31 9:30-11 am FMS Chapel Services					

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

- 1- Suzanne Orem
- 6- Dick Thompson
- 7- Mary Claire Miller
- 12- Becky Kloster
- 14- Diane Alderman
- 15- Sylvia Spencer
- 17- Olivia Brister
- 21- Emory Moore
- 22- Victor Orem
- 23- Amy Pickard
- 24- Leeann Layton
- 25- Brad Charbonneau
- 27- Ken Wetherington

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3- Jeff & Kathy Moss
- 13- Gene & Linda Dolan
- 16- Kris & Melanie Chancey
- 18- Bill & Joan Wright
- 19- Tom & Patti Tuttle
- 25- Blake & Sara Van Hook

SYMPATHY and MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Sympathy of our church goes to the Families of those whose loved ones have passed on to eternal life .

Memorial gifts were given in memory of

Fina Green by Unanimous

And

Dolly Ambrose by Dorothy Tucker

Not at home:

Mary Grose (New Horizon, WH);
Carol Schreck (Sunrise Brighton Gardens of Tampa)

With medical issues:

Beverly Albritton, Jerry Barber, David Bergdoll, Charles Colvin, Ed & Dee Dean, Olivia Driscoll, Jackie Ewing, Karel Hammer, Brandon Hess, Pat Huff, Keith Krueger, Susan Melson, Steve & Tula Richardson, Dick & Joyce Sarvis, Lynn Sheetz, BJ Simpson, Louise Taylor, Jean & Dick Thompson, Donna Wagner, Ken Wetherington, Kathy Wood, Bill Wright, Johnny & Hilda Ziefel Family

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

In military: Jeremy Brister, Victor Orem, Joseph Szlezak

Others needing prayers:

Pastor & Staff
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 as we continue to be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ in the world.

PLEASE NOTE

Information for November newsletter should be submitted by **Friday, October 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 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

WEEKLY & Other 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.

Heart of Florida Emmaus

Please be thinking of someone that would like to experience the Walk to Emmaus retreat. Women's walk Oct 27-30
Applications have gone from \$175.00 to \$200.00. Our Emmaus fund can help with this by paying half per person. Either you or your pilgrim is responsible for the remaining.

Everyone needs Jesus right now, and what a great way to experience his presence!
Thank you,
DeColores,
Faye

Lunch Bunch

Join us monthly for food, fun, and fellowship after church!
Contact Elsa H 863-632-2133. Thank you!

Sun, Oct 2, 12 pm at Mike's Grill
Sun, Nov 6, 12 pm at Sonny's

UpComing Special Sundays & Events

November 6

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

While keeping our beloved tradition of carrying in the banner with the names of the Saints in the church family who have gone to be fully present with our Savior, we are also going to remember that great cloud of witnesses who supported us, were examples, and in so many different ways lived out their faith and helped to mold and shape ours.

To celebrate these amazing people, we will create a butterfly tree! On November 6 you will be invited to choose a butterfly made by our school children, share a name or names of people who helped shape your faith, and clip the butterfly on a branch in their honor and memory. *We will have volunteers available to help share names and place butterflies if needed.*

Who was a witness to a life of faith and an example of the love of Christ poured out in your life? You are invited to remember and rejoice on this very special Sunday.

November 13

Honoring our Veterans and Blessing the Shoeboxes in Worship

November 20

We are celebrating..

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

And we are having a CHURCHWIDE, invite-your-friends-enemies-neighbors-family-and-hungry-strangers THANKSGIVING Luncheon after church!

So bring your favorite dish to share, invite others, join us in worship, and gather with us in the Fellowship Hall for a Thanksgiving meal that pulls out all the stops!

November 27 (and before)

HANGING OF THE GREENS

It's not just a catchy name that means we are decorating the church for Advent and Christmas. There's a special Service, too!

To decorate for Advent, we are trying something new! We are inviting individuals and teams to sign up to decorate during Thanksgiving week. Love to decorate on the Sunday before Thanksgiving like you've always done? You still can! Or decorate at another time that fits your schedule!

THEN on Sunday, the 27th we will celebrate the beginning of Advent with a gorgeous, interactive service of scripture, music, and remembering the Christian meaning behind so many of our beautiful decorations

ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian



Whenever there is a “changing of the guard”, it usually involves a “cleansing of the guard-house.” While Cynthia and her successor Becky were jointly laboring at this task, they shared with me a cardboard box of

“historical items”. I took the box home to peruse it’s contents before I returned them to our Bartow FUMC “archives”.

The aforementioned container held many “interesting and dated” materials, among these was a rotary slide tray and some “loose” slides (Not rotary club or sandals). Within the slide tray were slides of an Alpalit presentation (possibly a WSCS study). Also there were numerous clippings from the Polk County Democrat (when it was Bartow’s local newspaper) featuring FUMC members in assorted areas of local and community service.

(Note: My 11 year old grandson asked me how we found out about anything before the internet. He lost interest before I finished my multifaceted “reply rant”.)

(Now back to the “etc. These usually featured a full page or more of upcoming church events. (Challenge: How many “outdated” terms can you spot?)

*1963 (Pastor Ben Rider)

*WSCS meet in Tate Hall

*MYF Subdistrict Banquet

Cost \$1.00. Rev. Warren Willis (of camp fame) will speak

*Junior, Primary, Senior High, Adult Program

*October 10, 1971

*Rose on the altar in honor of Mary Claire (Elsa’s daughter) born Oct.7 in Lakeland. She

is named for her great-grandmother Mary Claire Frazier.

*Methodist Men will meet Tuesday at 6:30pm.

Guest speaker will be acting Bartow Chief of Police, Marvin H. Pittman

*Mr. C.C. Corbett, who is with the FEA will teach an orientation class for volunteers interested in helping with the tutorial program at Gordonville Mission (started by Betty Bergdoll, David’s mom)

*1972– Feb. 13, Baptism of Mary Claire

Our “methods of communication” and opportunities for service have changed over the years. As we discover more about our spiritual gifts, (per Pastor Missy) while supporting our existing ministries perhaps we will “step out of our box” and find innovative ways to use our gifts “within The Body of Christ”.

Congregational Care

Would you like to be a ray of *SON*shine in someone’s life? Are you looking for a way to share the love of God? Do you enjoy talking on the phone OR writing a note OR sending an email or text OR visiting with friends?

Congregational Care has some wonderful opportunities for YOU! Talk to or email Pat Barber, pabarber14@verizon.net about how YOU can be a part of our amazing *WE CARE congregational care team!*

Jesus calls us *salt and light!* Join in this glorious way to help add flavor to lives and share that life-giving *Sonshine* that changes everything simply by touching base and reaching out!

Honoring our Veterans!

If you are a Veteran, or have a Veteran in your life that you would like to have remembered by name in our Sunday, Nov. 13 Bulletin, please contact the church office at 533-0904 or firstumcbartow@aol.com and share their name and branch of service (if possible).

REACHING IN.... AND REACHING OUT!

Ways we support the body of Christ and are the body of Christ in the world!

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

Wednesdays at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Fellowship dinners are Wednesday nights at 6pm with Bible Study following at 6:45pm, Except 10/5 & 10/12

If you would like to help, we could use you! Please call Carolyn at 863-712-8885.

October 5th:

Covered Dish + fried chicken

October 12th:

Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls

October 19th:

Covered Dish + fried chicken

October 26th:

Spaghetti, garlic bread, salad

DISASTER RECOVERY KITS (Flood Buckets)

The church is assembling flood buckets as one of the ways we can help our neighbors near and far with the clean-up from Ian. Please bring these items to church on Sunday or drop them at the church office from 9 am-2 pm during the week. You may complete a bucket and bring it or bring some of the components. Perhaps work with others to create a bucket as a group? Thank you!

- One five-gallon round bucket with re-sealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d) No screw lids may be used, but must be free from all residual product Advertisements on the outside acceptable
- One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner- No spray cleaners
- One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap
- One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener (liquid, not gel)
- One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable)
- Pump spray bottles must have protective covers
- One scrub brush With or without handle
- 18 re-useable cleaning wipes- No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels Remove from packaging
- Five scouring pads- No stainless-steel pads with soap in them, Remove from packaging
- 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45-gallon sizes)
- Remove from packaging
- Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness)
- No surgical masks
- Two pairs kitchen gloves—Durable for multiple uses, Remove from packaging
- One pair work gloves- Cotton with leather palm or all leather

THE SHOE BOXES ARE HERE!

Shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child are here. They can be picked up in the Sanctuary or Church Office, *OR* you can buy a plastic shoebox, fill it and get a label from the church or online! More information will be shared on Sunday mornings or you can google Samaritans purse occ to find out more!

Shoe boxes are Due Sunday, November 6!

Message from BARTOW CHURCH SERVICE CENTER

Monday night, September 20, 2022, Bartow’s Church Service Center suffered major damage! While in the process of replacing our old roof, we experienced an unforeseen torrential rainstorm. The Center was flooded, ceiling tiles collapsed, flooring & furniture are ruined. Repairs will not be an easy fix. We are in the process of assessing the damage, cleaning up what we can, and waiting to see what God has in store for us. – Romans 8:28 tell us “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Many are asking “How can we help?”. PRAY! God hears and answers our prayers. 1 John 5:15 - "And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him."

Bartow Church Service Center and our mission to Empower People and Inspire Change continues! In spite of all, God is good and we are still serving lunches to our clients Monday - Friday. We are still having Feeding Bartow every 2nd & 4th Thursday. We are still assisting our Clients with emergency food, shelter, ACCESS (food stamps / Medicaid) and with service referrals.

Thank you First Presbyterian Church for lending us office space and allowing us to use other areas for ministry.

Please keep Bartow Church Service Center, our staff, and our clients in your prayers.

— Rusty Music, Executive Director