

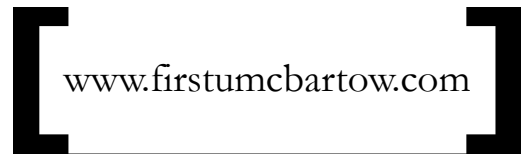


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BARTOW, FLORIDA

455 S Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830

NOVEMBER 2023

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https://www.facebook.com/fumcbartow
YouTube: First Methodist Bartow



Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE:

DECEMBER 3: HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE

4 PM MESSIAH SING-A-LONG

DECEMBER 6: 12 PM SOUNDS AND SILENCES

DECEMBER 13: 12PM SILENT SINGERS,

6PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER & TALENT SHOW

DECEMBER 17: CHOIR CANTATA, MARCH TO THE MANGER,

5PM SILVER SAINTS CHRISTMAS PARTY

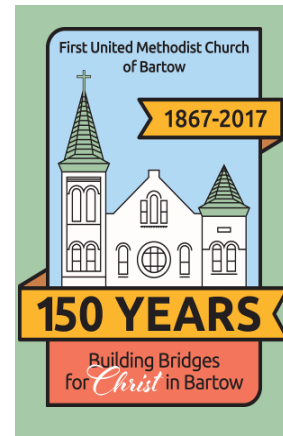
DECEMBER 24: 5PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

BE IN PRAYER...

There is a lot going on in our church family and the world. Please keep those who are going through extra trauma and stress in prayer. Please also keep the helpers and caregivers in prayer.



Did you know we have a **Facebook** page and a **YouTube** page?
Share with your friends as you "Follow" us and watch services at First United Methodist Church Bartow, Fl on Facebook and First Methodist Bartow on YouTube!



First United Methodist Church of Bartow

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 11

GOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2023

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself
You are the body of Christ and parts of each other
When you have done this for the least of these, you have done it for me.*

-based on Luke 10:27; 1 Cor.12:27; Matt 25:40

As many of you are aware, we have a new youth group! Something especially exciting during these early days of the group has been deciding and sharing the scriptural foundation on which this group will rest going forward. In my earlier life working in Christian Education, I would sometimes tweak the direction of a group that I inherited from another, but this is a brand new start. A wondrous serendipity is that in November, the church family will be using or discussing a version of all three definitive Biblical texts we are using in youth group!

The Great Commandment is central to who we are as Christ followers. In Luke 10: 25-27, we are reminded of the importance of loving God with all we are and loving our neighbors as ourselves. Our youth are learning to put God first and love God with every bit of themselves and love others and themselves with compassion. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, Paul is reminding us all that we are all important and have gifts to share in the body of Christ. Like the youth, we need to understand that everyone is important to God and has talents and gifts to share. It is essential for all Christ followers, not just youth, to recognize that we need each other and that we are stronger together and weaker when anyone feels they are more OR less important than others in the group. In Matthew 25: 31-46, Jesus reminds us what behaviors are expected by those who are a part of God's caring kingdom.

The church family will remember the saints of the church and in our lives on Nov 5, All Saints Sunday. As we place butterflies on the branch, we will celebrate the ways others have used their gifts and supported us and strengthened the body of Christ over the years. We will be thankful for the love of God that binds us to each other and strengthens us for this life together. We will consider how we make sure we have the spiritual fuel necessary for what God calls us to with Mary Beth on Nov 12. On the 19th we will thank God for all the gifts we are given to use as we count our blessings and enjoy a fantastic Thanksgiving covered dish luncheon. And on Christ the King Sunday, Nov 26, we will discuss what our youth group is also learning: the kingdom of God looks like us feeding, helping, clothing, welcoming, and caring for those who need us. We do this as an outpouring of God's love that resides in our hearts.

This November is an important month in the life of our church. As we celebrate all the ways God loves us and thank God for all the people, situations, talents, gifts, and resources in our lives, we will be considering how we are in ministry to one another, our community, and in the world (yes, that is Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and the ends of the earth!). We will count our blessings and consider the cost of being Christ followers. What does it mean for this church going forward to share the love of Christ in all these ways? What is the Holy Spirit showing us and are we willing to pay the price to be about this glorious ministry God has called us into?

These are exciting times to be the body of Christ. As we look toward the Advent season, we will be asking some hard questions. Will we know what we need to do, say yes, and do nothing like the son in Matt 21:30 ? OR... will we take up our cross as a church to follow Christ? The choice is ours, how will we answer?

With love in Christ, -Pastor Missy

In this Issue:

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

CHOIR NOTES, by Bonnie Allen



Choir News November 2023
Howard Goodall was the singing ambassador for England in 2007. He published, "The Benefits of Singing". Music puts things in your memory
Physical Benefits:
Boosts the immune system

- Strengthens heart and muscles
- Reduces blood pressure
- Helps breathing (beneficial for Asthma sufferers)
- Therapeutic for speech difficulties (e.g. stammers)
- Releases endorphins that make you feel better
- Produce relaxation and release as laughter does
- Improves Posture

Mental
Stimulates higher levels of concentration & focus.
Accelerates memory and speed of recall

- Improves self-esteem
- Improves behavior in a group
- Enhances ability to work with others
- Teaches performance skills
- Works as an anti-depressant

Social
Connects you effectively to others
Provides social reassurance and support
Gives coherent community in non-competitive ways
Is a powerful and creative form of self-expression.

Does anyone want to join the choir now?
I thought you all would like to know all the benefits we are receiving. Margie Anderson found this on the internet, and I just wanted to share it. **Who knew?**

This I know, Singing is wonderful and brings us all closer to the Lord. We are learning scripture many times when we learn certain songs. We are getting hope sometimes. It is a blessing to sing.

Our choir has become very close to each other. After rehearsal, many go out and eat somewhere. They have so much fun laughing and talking and learning more about each one. Bill Sheetz celebrated his birthday with all of us in October. We met their son and daughter and had a great time. After choir rehearsal, Nadege was showered with gifts for the upcoming birth of her son. Choir has become a very important small group in our larger church family.

We welcome our new members, Nadege Masseus,

Sheila Faramarzifar, Christine Tomlison, and Bette Orwig. They have added so much to our group. It is my joy to be able to direct and be a part of our choir. We welcome anyone to come and join us.

This benediction from Mark Estes was in my devotional :
May the face of the Lord shine upon you
May the glory of the Lord go before you
May He lead you from victory to victory
May the enemy who comes at you from one direction run from you in seven.

I declare that you are the head and not the tail
You are the first and not the last
You are blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out
You are blessed when you sit up and blessed when you lie down
The work of your hands are blessed
The steps of your feet are blessed
You are blessed to be a blessing. Now go and be a blessing to someone.

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE
These are available for you to pick up from the table in the back of the sanctuary or in the office.
The small pocket version is \$1 and the large magazine addition is \$2.

Looking for Offering Envelopes?
We are using leftover unused offering envelopes that we have from former years.
Because of this AND because it makes less work for our wonderful counters, please make sure that your: **name, amounts, and what you are giving toward** are clearly marked **on the outside of your envelope.**
Thank you!

NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Covered Dish & Chicken \$2 6:45 Wednesday Night Bible Study Library	2	3	4
5 All Saints' Sunday *10:30 am: Worship And communion Shoe Boxes due	6 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels 11:30 Women's Bible Study 870 Lila Street	7 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	8 6 pm: Wed Night Dinner Lo mien, fried rice, sweet and sour chicken \$5 NO BIBLE STUDY	9	10	11
12 *10:30 am: Worship Blessing of the shoe boxes	13 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels	14 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	15 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Covered dish & Chicken \$2 NO BIBLE STUDY	16	17	18
19 *10:30 am: Worship Thanksgiving Luncheon	20 FMS Closed 5pm Bingo Beef 'O' Brady's	21 FMS Closed 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	22 FMS Closed NO Wed Night Dinner NO BIBLE STUDY	23 FMS and church office closed Thanksgiving	24 FMS and church office closed	25
26 10:30 am: Worship	27 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels	28 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	29 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Beef tips, rice, green peas, & roll \$5	30		

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Walter Hause
2- Kimberly McMillin
4- Becky Pischke
Louise Taylor
6- Judy Gay
Faye Sarvis
8- Bill Simpkins
10- Simone Gable
12- Allye Martin
14- Bobby Vaughn
17- Diane Allen
18- Cleylan Riders
19- Elizabeth Wright
21- Jennifer Hutto
22- Jeremy Brister
25- Eddie Hartsaw
26- Deborah Brister

SYMPATHY and MEMORIAL GIFTS

A Memorial gift was given for:
Chuck Powell by Pat & Elsa Huff

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

We pray for the chronically ill and homebound:

Beverly A, Jerry B, David B, Karel H, Brandon H,
Pat H, Keith K, Allye M, Heath P at his mom's!, Mary
Beth P, Lyn R Betty's cousin, Steve R, BJ S, Louise T,
Jean & Dick T, 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, gun violence, & 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



Welcome Sheila!

Sheila's decision to be
baptized and join the
church is a testament to
the power of the love of
Christ shown through
our First Methodist
School and the im-
portance of our online
ministry. Sheila grew up
in our school and
stayed in touch with the
church through online
worship during Covid.

Sometimes we wonder about the ways God is at
work in the many ministries of this church family.
Sheila shows us that even when we don't see God
at work, the Holy Spirit is moving and lives are be-
ing changed!

Don't Forget!

The Newsletter is available in
a variety of ways! Printed
copies are on the table in the
back of the Sanctuary, 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 news-
letter by mail, please
contact the church office at
firstumcbartow@aol.com or
863-533-0904. Thank you!

Large print
bulletins can
easily be
made!
Contact the
church office
if you would
prefer a
LARGE
PRINT
BULLETIN!

PLEASE NOTE

Information for the December newsletter should be submitted by Friday, November 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.

Connectional Giving...

Connectional Giving helps fund ministries like:

District Work Fund

The District work fund provides for the opera-
tions of each District. Monies from this fund
support the maintenance of the District Parson-
age and District Office, the salary and benefits of
the District Administrative Assistant (and some-
times other staff), office supplies, office utilities,
office equipment, and the cost of District meet-
ings and/or District training events

The salary, benefits and routine business travel
expense of the District Superintendent are pro-
vided by the Conference through the Clergy Sup-
port Apportionment.

-Dorothy Tucker



RETIRING FLAGS

We are collecting old flags for proper
retirement through the VFW between
now and Nov 5th, the Sunday before
Veterans Day.

Flags may be placed in the labeled basket on the
table in the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you!

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!

Grace Notes

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters of First UMC Bartow,
Receive our Greetings from the Quessua Agri-
culture Center. I do hope that my email
finds you well as you are reading me. I would
like to take this opportunity to say thank you
for your continuous support to my ministry,
your support is blessing for my ministry with
the needy community. I always receive your
gifts toward my salary support of that I am
grateful and pray that God rewards you for
this generous gesture. Unfortunately, I missed
my US visa this time reason why I could not
show up in person in order to share my overall
mission work with the church. I pray that next
time God helps me to make it for in person
itineration.

Please pray for me and for my ministry, In mis-
sion together!

May God Bless you all,
Kutela D. Katembo

Heath sends his love
and thanks

to everyone for your
cards, goodies, gifts
and prayers.
He knows that your
love is surrounding him
and thanks you!

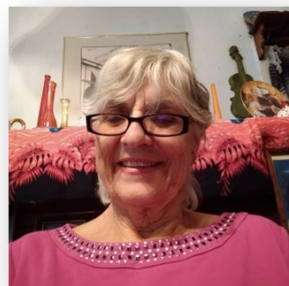
THANK YOU TO ALL
WHO MADE MEALS
for everyone recently.

There have been a lot
of people who have
benefited from this
and it has been a
HUGE blessing!
THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
For your beautiful gifts of love, prayers, and
support during October. I am so very thankful
for all the ways you care for me. Your gifts,
cards and notes mean a great deal to me as
you might notice with so many of them dis-
played in my office! Thank you so much!
In Christ, - Pastor Missy

ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian



“The Annex Revisited” or

“What Lies Beneath”

Last month, our FUMC family was honored to welcome Shiela Faramarzarfar into the membership body of our church. Thanks to some “lovely leading ladies” Sheila was given an

“impromptu tour” of our Sanctuary Annex. The primary tenants of this space currently consist of “The Cheerful CH Churchgoers” (Children and Choir).

Now...as to “What Lies Beneath” our Annex ... In a revisit of information gleaned from our church history and past ATC columns, we will start “At the Top.”

“Planning for an addition to our Sanctuary was begun in 1946. An active fund raising campaign started early in Reverent Paul Redfean’s term (1947-1951). The building, to be known as Fellowship Hall, was completed in 1948 and contained classrooms, restrooms, assembly rooms, a kitchen, dining hall, and Pastor’s study. A landscaped courtyard separated the two buildings.

...During the 50’s and 60’s most of the first and second floors were well-filled with children attending First Methodist Sunday School Classes.

... Now we will venture into “What Lies Beneath...” “The basement, then known as Fellowship Hall was the scene of much activity...When Jesse Waller (1951-1955) was minister...during the Christmas Season a large group of children (anxiously awaited) the arrival of ‘Santa Claus’ (hmmm...who was it?...) with his bag of goodies. These same young ones, not too many years later formed a large active M.Y.F. (Methodist Youth Fellowship), which gave the term ‘social hall’...a fresh coat of paint.”

The basement/social hall, over the years, hosted board meetings, Fellowship meals, exercise classes, special events and several

community group needs. The most noted use of this area was as a multi-church Youth Center.

In the late 1970’s a Board of Directors consisting of representations from several Bartow Churches met to approve the direction of a new Youth Center. The chairperson was FUMC Pastor, Rev. David Woerner (1978-1982). Later on, there was a meeting of youth, from participating churches to sand down and paint 50 folding chairs which would be upholstered for use in the Teen Center. Donations were received for billiard and ping-pong tables. Dave Hallock, of the local Badcock, donated two TV’s on which electronic games could be played (Pong? Atari?). An area for cooking hamburgers and a soda fountain was also an added “perk.”

After much prayer in the “Upper Room” the Center was dubbed “the Lower Room.” At its grand-opening ceremony, the Invocation, Scripture, Prayer, Recognition, and Benediction were shared by pastors from First Baptist, Asbury, A.R.P., McLeod Presbyterian and FUMC. Following the dedication, the U.M.W. (United Methodist Women) served guests in the courtyard.

Presently, we are not sure “what lies ahead” for “What Lies Beneath.” However, we are sure that the “Master Planner” will one day lead us to the best “Lower Room” for its “Highest Purpose.”

FUMC in Ministry with FMS

Our new Youth Group currently comprised of past and present FMS students meets on Thursdays from 2:30 to 5 pm.

And... we are working to create a Craft Time for Elementary children on Wednesdays to start in January

Looking for a way to be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ? There is a place for you in our church’s ministry with FMS. Interested? Contact the office, sign up in the Sanctuary, or talk to Pastor Missy!

UpComing Special Events, Seasonal Services, and Sunday Worship

All Saints’ Sunday is November 5th

Join us as we remember the saints of our lives and church past and present on this day. We will continue the tradition of honoring those who passed in our church family during the last year with our church banner.

We will also celebrate the saints in our lives by placing butterflies on our butterfly tree.

And, it is Lunch Bunch at Mike’s Grill after Worship!

Nov 12

**Mary Beth leading Worship
& Blessing of the
Shoebboxes**

**Shoebboxes are due
the week before, Nov 5**

**Thanksgiving Sunday
& Luncheon
Nov. 19**

**Bring a dish to share and join
us for a time of joyous celebration!
We have much to be
thankful for!**

**Christ the King Sunday
November 26!**

- Who is the King of our hearts and lives?
- What does it mean to follow him?
- What does it mean for our church to follow him?

Advent Decorating

Grab some friends and family , put on some Christmas Carols and help decorate the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall!

Sign up in the Sanctuary or call the office!

December Dates!

**Dec 3: 1st Sunday of Advent- Hope
Hanging of the Greens Service
& Messiah Sing-a-long (Practice-2 pm)
Perform 4 pm**

**Wednesday, Dec 6, 12 pm:
Sounds & Silences- Various Musicians**

Dec 10: 2nd Sunday of Advent:- Peace

**Wednesday, Dec 13, 12 pm
Sounds & Silences- Silent Singers**

**6 pm:
Last WND of 2023 & Talent Show**

**Dec 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent- Joy
Choir Cantata
& March to the Manger**

**Dec 24: 4th Sunday of Advent- Love
& Christmas Eve at 5 pm
Lessons, Carols, Communion & Candlelight**

Dec 31: Worship

WEEKLY REMINDERS

Breakfast and Devotions Tuesdays at 8 am



Broadway Diner
Everyone is invited!

Prayer Zoom Tuesday Morning at 9:30!!!

Every Tuesday morning at 9:30 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! If you can't join us in those ways, please join us in prayer in one accord.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

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

Bible Study at 6:45 pm in the Library

- Nov. 1- Covered dish & Chicken \$2
- Nov. 8- Lo Mein, Fried Rice, Sweet & Sour Chicken \$5
- Nov. 15- Covered dish & Chicken \$2
- Nov 22- NO WND or Bible Study
- Nov 29- Beef tips, Rice, Green peas & Roll \$5

Youth meets Thursdays, 2:30 -5 pm

Interested? Contact the Church Office!

Fellowship Events



Lunch Bunch Nov. 5 after worship

First Sundays of the month, 12pm

RSVP to the Church Office by Wed before 2pm at 863-533-0904 or firstumcbartow@aol.com

Next Month's is Dec 3 at Ruby Tuesdays

Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon Nov. 19 after Worship

Bring a dish to share and join us for a time of joyous celebration!

Any donations received will go toward the General Fund, which is how we fund the ministries of the church!

3rd Monday Fellowship Event for everyone:



November 20th at Beef 'O' Brady's.

Arrive at 5, Bingo starts at 6.
RSVP to the church by Nov. 19th.



Mark your Calendars!

Silver Saints
Christmas Party
Sunday Dec 17, 5 pm
At the Huffs

First Methodist School

The First Methodist School

50th Anniversary Fall Festival Was a huge success!



Games and Auctions and Food Trucks...



OH MY!



Thank you for 50 amazing years
together in ministry!

REACHING IN....

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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
NOVEMBER 6, 11:30 AM.
870 Lila Street

*All ladies are welcome to join us!
Bring a sandwich or salad. We will have soup.*

The **WE CARE** Congregational Care Team



You may have noticed that we have had a lot of people for whom we have been in prayer recently. Many times these individuals or their families could use a meal, visit, or someone to help with transportation to appointments. **This team is awesome, but we can not do it all without you!** If you could help or know someone who could benefit from any of these ministries, please contact Pat Barber or the church office. Thank you!

BABIES!

Our little men are so sweet!



Josiah Charbonneau



Mason Pickard



Neal Masseus



Our remodeled Nursery!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Sunday Mornings



Children's Church is a fun time of learning!

Wednesday Night Bible Study 6:45 pm in the Library



First UMC Youth Group Thursdays, 2:30 -5 pm

Our group is constantly growing and changing! With David B's help, they are creating a space to call their own!

Interested? Contact the Church Office!

AND REACHING OUT...

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



ARGENTINA MISSION:

Our friends in Mendoza could put the following items to use in their ministries:

- +Thumb drives
- +Used Laptops or Tablets (or new- we aren't picky)
- +Useful and fun school supplies (such as pens, erasers & stickers) for neighborhood children

Drop donations in the basket in the church.

SHOEBOXES DUE Sunday Nov 5

Blessing of the Boxes is Nov 12



Watch for the Blessings Booklets On Nov 19, **Thanksgiving Sunday**



The Booklet is a great resource to keep all year long to read about many of the Mission and Outreach Ministries of the Church.

Our church has a strong desire to use our gifts, talents, and resources to help others experience the love of Christ. In fact, we do this in so many ways, it can be hard to keep track of all we do! This booklet can help!

You are invited to read through your booklet to remind yourself of many of our Missions and Outreaches, be in prayer for these ministries, and listen for any other ways the Holy Spirit might be calling you to respond.

Missions Outreach & Evangelism



Thank you to our MOE team for helping us witness to Christ in Judea, Samaria, & the ends of the earth!



Our 3rd Quarter Mission Luncheon for East Angola

Exciting news from The Community Service Center!

The Service Center in association with Bay Care is in the process of obtaining a mobile shower unit. This trailer will be equipped with 3 shower stalls, one of which will be handicap accessible. It will also be equipped with a washer and dryer. The unit will be parked at The Community Service Center and will travel throughout Polk County as needed. We are aware that good hygiene helps to contribute to good health, so this is a giant step in helping those that might not have had access to these basic needs. Hopefully the unit will be available in January or February 2024.



Coming In January!

Kathy Wood will have a yard sale. Money raised goes to purchase food to feed hungry folks. Donations can be left in the screened in porch at her house.