



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BARTOW, FLORIDA

455 S Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830

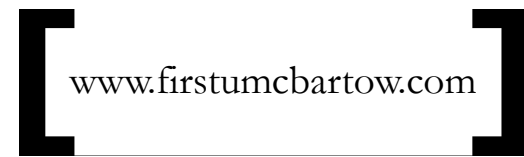
SEPTEMBER 2023

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https://www.facebook.com/fumcbartow



Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE

It's Budget time!

Administrative and Ministry Chairs, budgets will be due by Oct 2. Watch for budget planning information to be sent soon from Finance. Thank you!

Charge Conference is Oct 8.

We are a host church!

First Methodist School's 50th Anniversary Fall Festival is October 7th 4- 6:30 pm!

BE IN PRAYER...

We have had many people hospitalized recently.

Please be in prayer for all who are recuperating. Also, please watch for and pray about how God has gifted you to be there for our siblings in Christ during these times of need for calls, visits, food, and other methods of loving support. TOGETHER as the body of Christ we can make sure all needs are met!



First United Methodist Church of Bartow

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 9

GOOD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023

...*"But who do you say that I am?"*

-Matthew 16: 15b

There is an old saying, "Sitting in a hen house, doesn't make you a chicken." Likewise, sitting in a church doesn't make us a Christian. Jesus makes it clear that we will be known as his followers by our love for each other. And by love for each other, Jesus means our love for everyone. This love for everyone takes many forms and can show itself in as many ways as there are people to love and be loved. Our God is creative and revels in our ingenuity to participate in the body of Christ.

Of course that ingenuity of ours can sometimes seek to wiggle out of the great and glorious commandment to love God with all we have and love our neighbors as ourselves. Sometimes we try to find a loophole and ask, "Just exactly who is my neighbor?" and Jesus holds us accountable and says, "Everyone. Yes, even the one you perceive as enemy." The truth is it is hard to love everyone. It is hard to love like Jesus loves.

In the past, we have discussed that Jesus calls us to impossibilities only made possible in and through him. And this sometimes difficult loving of others is no different. Again and again Jesus shows us the way through words and actions. When the religious leaders chastised Jesus because his followers were eating with unclean hands, Jesus pointed out that it is not what we put in our mouths that makes us unclean, but what we say (and do). "What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart" It is the habits of heart that show the reality of whether we are living in relationship with God or not.

By healing the daughter of a faithful (but non-Jewish and therefore "unclean") woman whom he at first seems to be turning away, Jesus gives a life lesson to his disciples and us: God's love and redemption is meant for all people. Our God is not like the unjust judge who must be harangued into doing the right thing. Our God has a heart that is so loving and has a sense of righteousness and forgiveness that is so far beyond the understanding and ways of the world that it can be a stumbling block to many, including us!

The disciples were no different. When Jesus asked who others said he was and who they thought he was, Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Yet, Peter didn't really understand what that meant. Just a little later when Jesus told the disciples that he would be killed and rise after three days, it was Peter who did not want to hear of this reality realigning love and pulled Jesus aside to get on to him for saying such things!

Jesus had to remind Peter that such talk was a hindrance because Peter was setting his mind on human things and not divine ones. As Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus' mind was set on God's thoughts. Jesus' life, will, and heart were aligned with God's loving will. Through justifying grace through faith we can also be aligned to God's will and follow Jesus' loving example.

To follow Jesus means knowing who he is: Christ, Redeemer, Son of the living God, our God with us who on the cross asked for forgiveness for those who were crucifying him. To follow Jesus means knowing the Jesus stories so we can recognize when our lives converge or diverge from his. To follow Jesus means living a life of accountability with other people who follow Christ so that we can more fully be the love of Christ in the world.

So, yes, we gather in the sanctuary and other places for worship, prayer, study and spiritual nourishment, but we don't stay there. Being a Christian isn't a label, it is a life. Messy, inconvenient, wondrous, priceless, and worth sharing!

With love in Christ,
-Pastor Missy

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

CHOIR NOTES, by Bonnie Allen



Choir News September 2023

It has been very exciting this month as the choir returned from vacation. We have been blessed with new energy! Some of our returning members who were not able to come during the pandemic

for health reasons are back. Marsha and Gene Whitney, Deborah Brister, and Judy Gay are back in full force; and have added so much talent to our choir. Christine Tomlinson has sung for us some special events, but now will be a regular member of the choir. She is the daughter of Mary Tomlinson.

Our brand-new members are Sam Hudnell who has been playing guitar with the Praise Team, and has become a beloved member of our choir in just a few short weeks. He and his mom moved here from Ohio after the death of his father. He and his mother are both wonderful singers. Nadege Masseus has moved here with her husband from Haiti. They are both pastors, and she has a beautiful voice and spirit. They are just getting settled since they have only been here 6 months. They have a daughter and will have a son in 6 months. Wishing them lots of small miracles as they make the U.S. their home.

This always feels like a new season to me as school is starting, and everything has the hope of newness. As a former teacher, it is an exciting time. Pastor Missy and I are planning the next months leading up to Christmas. We will be starting early to learn our Cantata for December 17th, and also planning for our Christmas Talent Show on December 13th which has been a tradition for many years. (Always a barrel of fun) The Sounds and Silences will return this year in our beautiful sanctuary. These are planned for the first two Wednesdays in December. Always at noon, always wonderful.

As I am getting older, sometimes I feel unsure of myself. I read something that I thought was wonderful today. The story was about two eagles who had been injured and were unable to fly. They were in a bird sanctuary and were just perched on a stump and a branch. They were stuck just sitting. Did you know that an eagle can fly up to 10,000 feet high and can see their prey two miles away? They can descend 100 miles per hour to catch their prey. They are the masters of the skies. What captured my attention was that I was feeling tired and not wanted to get to work. Then I thought about sitting on a stump, and I got myself up and going real quick!!

This scripture came to mind: "He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on WINGS LIKE EAGLES. They will run and not get weary. They will walk and not faint.

Just think about this promise. God knows what we need and when we need it. It is His strength that we can draw on as we progress in age. It is His will for our lives that gives us Help to trust His will in our lives, and to keep going!

Love, Bonnie
P.S. Don't forget to pray for Heath and his recovery. We are praying for him to walk again. Also praying for Betty Fitzgerald as she recovers from a broken leg. They are both terribly missed in our choir.

Grace Notes

Thank you to everyone who has been visiting, chauffeuring, taking meals and running errands for people lately! You are a great example of how the church is called to be!

Acts 2:44-45

We greatly appreciate your generosity...

We received a letter from Elizabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. She tells the beautiful story of one of their residents and how her life has been changed since she came to live there. She finished by saying "We greatly appreciate your congregations gift. Your generosity is making an impact in the lives of our children."

*If you would like to read the entire letter, it is in the church office.

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

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 *10:30 am: Worship & Communion 12 pm: Lunch Bunch Broadway Diner	4 9 am: Prayer Zoom Church Office and FMS closed Labor Day 11:30 Women's Bible Study 870 Lila Street	5 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	6 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Covered dish & chicken \$2 6:45 Wednesday Night Bible Study Library	7	8	9
10 *10:30 am: Worship 9 am- 1 pm One Blood Blood Drive 390 E. Parker St.	11 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels	12 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	13 10 am MOE meeting Annex 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Pizza & Salad \$5 6:45 Wednesday Night Bible Study Library	14	15 Newsletter information DUE	16
17 *10:30 am: Worship East Angola Mission Luncheon	18 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels 5pm Bingo Beef 'O' Brady's	19 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	20 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Covered dish & Chicken \$2 6:45 Wednesday Night Bible Study Library	21	22	23
24 *10:30 am: Worship Shoebboxes arrive	25 9 am: Prayer Zoom 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels	26 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 5:30 pm: Choir	27 6 pm Wed Night Dinner Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and green beans \$5 6:45 Wednesday Night Bible Study Library	28	29	30

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2- Marcia Brooks
- 3- Pat Poe
- 4- George Ogden
- 9- Cathrine Pfeifer
- 13- Larry Walker
- 16- Alex Rogers
- 19- Amy Fort
- 20- Heath Petersen
- 21- Marion Harrison
- 22- Laura Sheffield
- 26- Charlotte Rogers

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2nd- Steve & Tula Richardson
- 5th- Eric & Carolyn Presnell
- 10th- John & Clarice Roth

SYMPATHY and MEMORIAL GIFTS

Memorial gifts were given for:

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

We share our concerns: John B- tests, Amanda B- healing & wholeness, Shirley B & son, Jonathon, Kristi D & family, Betty F. cont. healing, Mike H, Melody H Faye, Pat, & Kelly's friend, Kayline L- knee replacement, Mary- Bo & Sandy's granddaughter, Riza Bonnie's friend, Jackie S healing, Greg & Kathy W- healing, Wright Family, Hawaii

Those in mourning Ongoing Prayers: 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, Steve R, BJ S, Louise T, Jean & Dick T, Bill & Joan W rehab, Patricia W, Johnny & Hilda Z -Leaders of OUR COUNTRY & everywhere to do God's will -Everyone affected by COVID, other sickness, repressive governments, & natural & human caused disasters Serving in the Military: Jeremy B, Victor O, Joseph S, Bryson T Missionaries and Others: Pioneer Missions, Indonesia: Christian, Dawn & Joshua William; Sister Church: Iglesia Metodista de Santa Cruz, Cuba; Missionaries in Angola: Leo & Cleivy Garcia, Kutela Katembo, Serguey and Graciela Espinosa; Iglesia Evangelica Metodista Argentina Pastor Doug Williams; Our Pastor, Church, & School Staff; District Supt. Emily Hotho, and our Bishop Tom Berlin

You have a story of hope someone needs to hear! Please be in prayer as to whether God is nudging you to share a story about your faith during Worship. Sign up in the Sanctuary or by contacting the church office.

PLEASE NOTE

Information for the October newsletter should be submitted by Friday, September 15th. 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 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 newsletter by mail, please contact the church office at firstumcbartow@aol.com or 863-533-0904. Thank you!



We are working on our membership rolls. If anyone has a correct address for any of the following people, please contact the church office with the information. Thank you! Amanda Bosch Cindy Padgett Vicky Wampole

Connectional Giving...

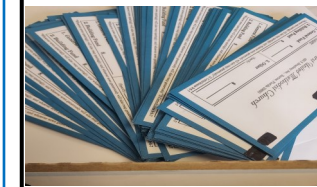
Connectional Giving helps fund ministries like ...

Africa University Fund This apportionment helps fund the development of a United Methodist university located in Zimbabwe, Africa.

Africa University is the only degree-granting university on the continent of Africa - serving young men and women from all over Africa. This university provides opportunities for students and includes schools of theology, agriculture, and education. Welcoming students from a variety of back grounds, languages, traditions, values and lifestyles, the university's mission is to "provide higher education of high quality, to nurture students in Christian values, and to help the nations of Africa achieve their educational and professional goals."

Students coming from Burundi, Kenya, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Tanzania, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Batswana, South Africa, Ethiopia, Sudan, Liberia, Cameroon, Mali, Uganda, Benin, Rwanda and even America to the Africa University will play a critical role in education of the new leaders of African nations.

-Dorothy Tucker



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 financial resources and help the environment!

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!

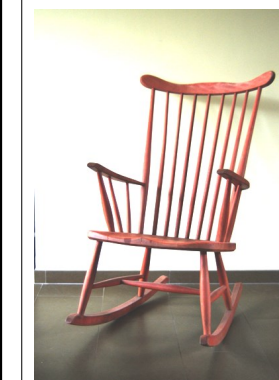


RETIRING FLAGS

We will be 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!

We've got BABIES!!!



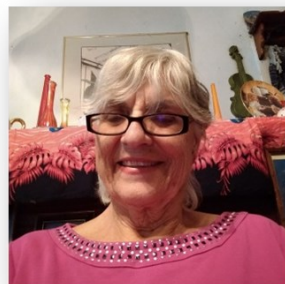
With at least one more on the way!

And we need ROCKING CHAIRS for our NURSERY!

If you have a rocking chair that you could donate to the church nursery, let us know by contacting the church office! Thank you!

ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian



September 2023

Some of our “well seasoned” FUMC members recall the days when they didn’t have to fight the “bustling” Broadway traffic to attend church Fellowship events. The “gathering destination” was located just a few steps below our annex

ground floor. In this basement Fellowship Hall one might attend a wedding or baby shower, an MYF meeting, a covered– dish luncheon, etc, etc.

At a recent church committee meeting an “inquiring mind” wanted to know if our basement had ever been utilized by groups outside of our “in– house FUMC” organizations.

According to our church history “On November 24, 1975 the Administrative Board gave tentative approval to Reverend Floyd’s (1975-87) plan that the old Fellowship Hall (basement) be used as a Teen Center. It would be a Key Club project with the Kiwanis members as adult counselors.”

A few years later, Rev. J. David Woerner (1978-82) “an excellent and enthusiastic” carpenter persuaded the Board to complete renovations to convert the basement into a City-wide Teen Center.

Admission to the Teen Center was by a church identification card. Several couples from seven participating churches rotated as chaperones and cooks. Junior High students had the facility on Friday nights and Senior Highs used the area on Saturdays. Rev. Woerner was often a part of the “Teen Center Renovation” work crew. (Note” My dad, Wendell Waters repaired one of the “game rooms” pinball machines.)

The “Youth Center was enjoyed by many people in Bartow, some of whose parents remembered their “Teen Center Days” in the “now abandoned” Bartow Civic Center on Wilson Avenue next door to the “Girl Scout Little House”.

Other projects serving “Christian ends” also once operated in the old Fellowship Hall. United Child Ministries, a group which provided leadership for child day care facilities at Gordonville and Wahneta had headquarters in the building.

Drug counseling sessions were held there after the Polk County Juvenile Court moved to a building in the 200 block of the South Broadway just north of our sanctuary. At the request of a state agency, office space to counsel with “youths in need” and their parents was provided in the old Fellowship Hall.

Presently “repairs, renovations, and regulations” are hindering the revival of this of this “hidden treasure”. However, in the near future, with a lot of prayers and preparations this “subterranean setting” may arise to serve our congregation and open its doors for the betterment of the Bartow community.

FUMC in Ministry with FMS

Our School has a lot going on! This year we are celebrating 50 YEARS of ministry with FMS and we are just getting started!

We continue to have weekly chapels for the Preschool, Elementary, and Middle School groups *and* are adding a new 2 year old chapel time also. (Prayers for Pastor Missy appreciated!)

This summer, we also had chapel with the summer campers whenever it was possible.

The highlight of the summer was Bethlehem Marketplace VBS that included the rising kindergarten through 5th grade campers as participants and older campers as youth helpers. Besides some of our church grandchildren, family, friends, youth, and members. We also had FMS students who weren’t campers come especially to participate and help!

AND We are in the midst of starting a small Youth Group that will meet on Thursdays and are working to create a Craft Time for Elementary children on Wednesdays.

If you are looking for a way to be the hands and feet of Christ that will use your gifts, keep you wondering, and grow your faith in surprising ways, 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 Missy!

UpComing Special Events, Seasonal Services, and Sunday Worship

Sundays in September

Lunch Bunch- Sept 3, noon
Broadway Diner

Blood Mobile Sept 10, 9 am-1 pm
Park St Parking Lot

Angola Luncheon Sept 17, noon
Fellowship Hall

Shoe Boxes arrive Sept 24

October 1 is World Communion Sunday and we will be baptizing Sheila Faramarzifar

who grew up in our school and has been joining us for Worship online!

Following this special Worship Service, Jahan, Sheila’s mother, is making us all lunch! We hope you can join us!

50th Anniversary FMS Celebration & Fall Festival

Saturday
October 7
4-6:30 pm

All are invited
to celebrate
50 years
of ministry
together!

CHARGE CONFERENCE is Sunday, October 8

We are a host church and will be welcoming 5 other churches to our Education Building and Fellowship Hall that day!

3 churches will meet from 2-3 pm,
3 will meet from 4-5 pm
and ALL are invited to stay
or arrive early
for a fellowship time from 3-4 pm

We will be providing refreshments for the Fellowship time. If you would like to help with food, decorating, or greeting, please contact the church office or sign up at the tables in the back of the Sanctuary

All Saints’ Sunday is November 5th

We will 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 remember the saints in our lives with our butterfly tree.

Blessing of the Shoeboxes is Nov. 12

Shoeboxes are due
the week before, Nov 5

Thanksgiving Sunday and Luncheon is Nov. 19

We have
much to be
thankful for!

Mark your Calendars for these December dates!

First Sunday of Advent:
Dec 3: Hope Candle

Hanging of the Greens Service
Messiah Sing-a-long (Practice-2 pm)
Perform 4 pm

Wednesday, Dec 6, 12 pm:
Sounds & Silences

Second Sunday of Advent:
Dec 10: Peace Candle

Wednesday, Dec 13, 6 pm:
Last WND of 2023 & Talent Show

Third Sunday of Advent:
Dec 17: Joy Candle
Choir Cantata

Fourth Sunday of Advent:
Dec 24: Christ Candle
& Christmas Eve
Lessons and Carols Evening Service

WEEKLY REMINDERS

Monday Morning Prayer Zoom & Call

Every Monday morning at 9 am you are invited to join us for prayer via zoom video or voice call. Please call or email the church office for the link/phone number! Even if you can't join us in those ways, please join us in prayer however you are able each Monday at 9 am.

Breakfast and Devotions Tuesdays at 8 am



Broadway Diner

Everyone is invited!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

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

Sept 6: Covered Dish & Chicken \$2

Sept 13: Pizza & Salad \$5

Sept 20: Covered Dish & Chicken \$2

Sept 27: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes & Green Beans \$5

Bible Study at 6:45 pm in the Library

Fellowship Events

3rd Monday Fellowship Event for everyone:



September 18 at Beef 'O' Brady's.

Arrive at 5, Bingo starts at 6.
RSVP to the church by Sept 17th.

Lunch Bunch Sunday September 3, 12pm

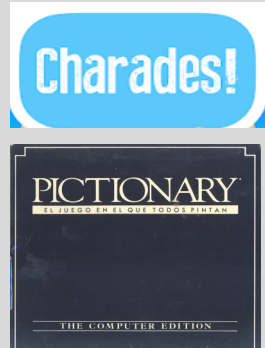


RSVP to the Church Office by
Wed before at 2pm 863-533-0904 or
firstumcbartow@aol.com

October Lunch Bunch is a church
luncheon on Oct. 1

Silver Saints

Be looking forward to the end of October,
exact date to be announced.
Game night and Charcuterie boards at the
Huffs! Charades and Pictionary.



First Methodist School



Before summer could end, we had a few last minute things to do... help Mr. David put away LOTS of VBS boxes and have a (paper) SNOWBALL FIGHT! Then it was time to transition BACK TO SCHOOL!



Before we knew it, it was time for ORIENTATION! Afterwards, the Church welcomed the staff back with pizza, salad, and a beautiful CAKE made by Mrs. Barbara!



We are excited to welcome back 164 students and their families for the 2023-24 School Year. From 2 years old to 8th grade, our students are amazing people! We can't wait to see what this year holds!

As we celebrate 50 years of Educational Ministry in Bartow, we see what great things God can do when a few people catch the Holy Spirit's vision to share God's love and follow Jesus' call to "Let the children come to me."

Mark your calendars for:

FMS 50th Anniversary Fall Festival

October 7, 4-6:30 pm.

Games, Food Trucks, and Silent Auction

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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
SEPTEMBER 4, 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



visits people, sends cards, makes phone calls, brings meals, and delivers home communion to those who need it. These are very important ministries in the body of Christ.

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.

If you could help or know someone who could benefit from any of these ministries, please contact Pat Barber at 1-443-900-2520.

In need of a little extra food?

Contact Kathy Wood...



She has food available for pickup as needed.

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

Wednesday Night Bible Study
Is back beginning
Wed, Sept. 6,
6:45 pm in the Library

We are taking a few weeks to study various topics as the Spirit moves us as we decide on our next Study.

Interested? Join us!
It is a wondrous time of conversation, learning, and growth.

THE UPPER ROOM

WHERE THE WORLD MEETS TO PRAY
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Did you know that the United Methodist church has it's own daily devotional guide?

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.

If you would like to take one and pay later, please do so!

They are printed bimonthly.
September– October edition available now!

TheoEd Talks Orlando

An ecumenical speaker series where leaders in the church and the academy share “the talk of their lives” in 20 minutes or less. The next round of TheoEd talks will be held at 4pm at St. Luke’s UMC in Orlando.

Speakers will be: Jacqui Lewis, Brain McLaren, Lydia Munoz, Luke Powery, and Clay and Cliff Price.

Register to attend online for free, in person for \$15. A table of 8 is \$75.

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



Next Bloodmobile
Sunday, Sept 10,
9 am– 1 pm

In the
390 E. Parker St. Parking Lot

You can sign up at: oneblood.org/donate-now
use sponsor code 35745

Thank you! Your donation saves lives!



SHOEBOXES
will be here
Sept. 24!

Watch for more information on how to participate in this ministry that spreads the Good News of Christ around the world!

They are due Sunday Nov 5.
Blessing of the Boxes is Nov 12

EAST ANGOLA
Mission LUNCHEON



Sunday, Sept. 17
After worship

Join us for an “as authentic as we can make it” East Angolan menu including:

Moamba de Galinha Chicken Stew, **Black Beans, Cachupa** Sausage Stew, **Rice, Bolo** a flan-like dessert, and Beverages.

Donations will go toward East Angolan Missions

Kathy Wood needs drinks!

As most many of you know, Kathy cooks and supplies simple food and necessities to many people in the area who do not have a place to call home.

Because of the extreme heat, Kathy is concerned about folks keeping hydrated. Donations of bottled, water, sports drinks or juice boxes can be placed in the **RED** Bucket in the back of the Sanctuary. **THANK YOU!**

We are now officially partners
with the “Togetherness” group in Rwanda!

Our group is made up of 77 orphans in Rwanda who represent 25 families of children

With our Vacation Bible School children, our church raised the \$125.00 necessary to become partners with other UM Churches in the Gulf-Central District with this new ZOE group.

They will be together for the next three years, growing and learning. We have been asked to pray for these families of children as their older siblings embark on this important journey. Over the next few weeks, you will be given opportunities to take a prayer card with a family on it to pray over.

Please consider taking a card and covenanting to be in prayer for the family on it. These children are amazing people who have been raising younger siblings the best ways they knew how. Now they have an opportunity to grow in Christ, be self-sufficient, and become contributing members of their communities. Our prayers can help them to flourish. Watch for ways to pray for a family coming soon!

