

The Monthly Message



JANUARY 2023
VOLUME 49 ISSUE 1



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Happy New Year and blessings to all. I am grateful to Janet Wiens and Donna Spencer for prompting Bartlett UMC to a time of intentional prayer in the month of November 2022. One of the things that came of this of discernment for me was a need for a means of sharing joys and concerns within the family of faith here at Bartlett. I know that some of our Sunday School Classes and United Women in Faith Circles do a good job of keeping their classes and circles informed about concerns within their groups. However, we currently do not have a format for sharing congregational prayer concerns in a timely manner.



Donna and I do receive the prayer requests left in the bowl in Oaks Hall during worship each Sunday but usually these are at most two or three requests and often they are dated already. We do have a prayer box for the community near the Stage Road entrance. So far Donna and I have received zero prayer requests through this. This is not surprising because pen and paper are no longer the default means of communication. (Lamenting or complaining about this fact will not change reality.) The primary means of communication for our society is digital.

Starting this month, we are launching a CONFIDENTIAL Bartlett UMC Prayer Page on Facebook. I would have loved to have had this when my father died. I had such pages at Camden and Paducah and found them to be an excellent means of spreading the word quickly in our faith community. I assure you we are going to take precautions to respect people's privacy by maintaining the following standards.

1. Only people approved by Bartlett UMC will be able to access the page. In other words, it will be a private page but we understand nothing on the internet is 100% guaranteed private.
2. All users of the page agree not to share anything posted with other social media platforms. Sharing a post will not be possible and by using the page you agree not to cut and paste.
3. Users agree to exercise great discretion in posting specific medical situations.
4. The administrators of the page have authority to remove any posts they feel cross a boundary.
5. If there is any doubt, users will obtain permission from families before posting.
6. Posts will be archived after a couple of weeks.

I encourage you to request or accept an invitation to our Prayer Page as long as you are willing to abide by the conditions stated above. My intention is to start my daily prayer time by checking this page and I invite you to join me.

Grace & Peace,

Dean



Mark your calendars! Commitment Sunday will be Sunday, January 8, 2023. More information coming soon!



OUTREACH MINISTRY

Perry Martini
Director of Outreach Ministries
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Jan 3 Takeout Tuesday, 5pm LEC kitchen
13 LUCES, 6:30pm LEC
26 Pantry, 10am-Noon

The John Light Food Pantry

As of this moment we are near the end of the biggest pantry year excluding Covid 2020. Through 11 months we have seen 575 families. That is 95 more than our previous non-Covid high. After December, we will be just below our 2020 level. The increase occurred during the summer months when we are normally slower.



We are pleased that local groups have helped supply our pantry. First, we thank our congregation at BUMC and Troop and Pack 255. We thank the folks at St. Ann Catholic Church, Cordova Presbyterian, Ellendale UMC, Troop 459 and Pack 439 out of Ellendale UMC, and various individuals outside this congregation that bring us food on a regular basis. We have also had food drives this fall from Kathie Wright and Guaranty Bank and Trust and from Susie Nicely and The



Dance Parents Club of Dance Dynamics Memphis. These groups and individuals have kept us afloat.

There is one more important step we have taken to secure the stability of the pantry. The special committee for the Brian Clement Fund has approved \$80,000 to go to the John Light Food Pantry. The money will be distributed up to \$8,000 per year. This gives us at least a 10-year supplemental support fund. When we do not use the full amount in a year, it will roll over to year 11 and so on. Through October 2022, we have spent \$8,200 even with the donations mentioned above. November pantry is fully funded through the Thanksgiving donations since we use Thanksgiving boxes. We will probably spend \$1,000 or more in December. The pantry cannot exist without the continued support of the congregation through monetary or product donations. Outreach thanks you for your time and efforts. We also ask that you take a moment to thank the late Brian Clement. He was a friend, a travel companion on mission trips and a dedicated servant.



WOW (Well on Wednesday) will resume on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Come and be fed! Join us for dinner at 5:00 in the Life Enrichment Center followed by Children's Music, Devotion with Ross Hamilton, Youth Bible Study, and Chancel Choir. Dinner is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children with a \$20 family maximum. No reservation is required! Call ahead to the church office and let us know if you are vegetarian. Chef Tami will prepare a meatless dish for those who have dietary restrictions.

Our Gifts

Operating Budget Weekly Need: \$26,788

November 20-\$17,062

December 4-\$18,963

November 30-\$13,024

December 11-\$28,587

Building Fund Weekly Need: \$5,623

November 20-\$9,272 December 4-\$4,280

November 30-\$2,125 December 11-\$11,825

Within Our Church Family

Sympathy is expressed to Charles Horton upon the death of his brother, Thomas Horton; to Carol Ann Shrein upon the death of our church member, David C. Cook; to Rev. Dean Emerson upon the death of his father, Jimmy "Sally" Emerson; to Teresa Yarwood upon the death of her mother, Betty Jean Hammons; to the family of Shirley Wickliffe upon her death; to Ed Kinnison upon the death of his brother, Robert Kinnison; to Stephanie, Lily Beth, and Hutch Norris upon the death of her father and their grandfather, Jim Pickens.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Saturday, January 14 at 8:00am

Cook Fellowship Hall

Join us for a light breakfast, fellowship, and special speaker. Breakfast is \$5 and first timers eat for free!

Please call the church office to reserve your spot.

Praying with a Labyrinth (located behind the house by BUMC)

- Be still and gently pray: *I place myself in your presence O Lord, my God.*
- When you are ready... walk into the labyrinth or on a finger labyrinth slowly trace the path with a finger, use a finger on the hand that you do not write with, just let your thoughts come to the surface and let them flow... Jesus is with you every step of the way, you are never alone. You are always loved by God.
- When you reach the center...consider your thoughts...
- ...stay in the center for a while and spend some time in prayer and reflection receiving God's love and blessing.
- When you are ready... return along the same path... return gratefully, prayerfully ...
- As you exit the labyrinth give thanks and praise to God: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.*





Rachel Hasty
Senior Accountant
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Happy New Year! Just a couple of administrative reminders to start off the new year...

--Commitment Sunday is January 8, 2023. You should be receiving a letter and a 2023 pledge card in the mail soon. Please remember that your pledge expires at the end of each calendar year so completing a new pledge card helps us to ensure your pledge goes where you want it to go. It's also a great opportunity for us to update your contact information in our system so please take just a moment to complete the card in its entirety and return to the church. You can also complete your pledge card electronically by visiting our website at www.bartlettumc.org.

--Personalized offering envelopes will be ordered on February 1 and available for pick-up in March. If you would like personalized offering envelopes, please indicate so on your pledge card. These are strictly a matter of your preference and not needed by the church office to make sure your contribution is correctly recorded. Once the order is turned in on February 1, however, I cannot add to it.

--Year-end contribution statements will be emailed on Wednesday, January 11. If we have no email address on file for you, a paper copy will be mailed on Friday, January 20 or placed in your Sunday school packet if you are a regularly attending member of a class. Please allow until January 31 to receive your statement.

As always, your church staff and I are so very appreciative of your continued support. I can't wait to see what 2023 brings for Bartlett United Methodist Church!

God bless,

Rachel



Donia Wade
Interim Director of Music
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MUSIC MINISTRY

As I am writing this it is currently 10:00 p.m. on the night of the cantata (thanks for the extension, Jennifer D!) and I am sitting in my living room watching the livestream so I can fully enjoy the fruits of our labor. The choirs, Chancel, Crossroads, and Chancel Bells, worked so diligently over the past three months to bring a truly beautiful and moving offering to the glory of God, and once again I just feel so blessed to be a part of this beautiful community. I'm sure you can imagine that during the cantata my mind was in overdrive and I could not fully be appreciative of what was happening, but I will tell you when I was fully present. Every time the congregation joined their voices with the choir and orchestra and I was enveloped in the beautiful harmonies... that's when I felt the Spirit of God touching my very soul and making His presence known. To the choirs, to lovely Karen, encouraging Jennifer Proseus, and especially to the church, thank you for your contributions and your support! I am now eagerly planning music for the Easter season, which is right around the corner.

Chancel choir will begin rehearsals in the new year on Wednesday, January 4th at 7:00 p.m. and Crossroads will begin rehearsals the following Sunday, January 8th at 4:15 p.m. If you feel called to join the choir we will enthusiastically welcome you!

Yours in prayer and song,

Donia Rachele Wade





*Karen Strawhecker
Assoc. Dir. of Music Ministries
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MUSIC MINISTRY

It is always such a joy to work with our BUMC children! I have learned that they like to be helpful in meaningful ways. They began working on our Christmas program, "Light of the World" by Mark Patterson, in September. So many thanks to them for presenting a wonderful message about the birth of Christ for all ages to hear!

Thanks also to our dedicated leaders, Rebecca Jacobs, Janet Wiens, Jennifer Proseus, Laura Engbretson, Wanda Cheatham, and Rachel Hasty for your help each week. We can't make these worship offerings without you. Thank you to Margaret Soles for making some beautiful, new costumes, and making repairs on others; to Lane O'Daniel for sound; and to you parents for bringing your children to practice every week.

If your children are not currently involved in the Children's Music program, January 4th is a great time to start. Campanella Ringers (2nd - 5th grades) meet at 5pm in the Music Suite. At 6pm, Kingdom Chorale (2nd - 5th grades) will meet in the Music Suite, Wesley Choir (K - 1st grades) will meet in room 013, and Littlest Angels will meet in room 012 near the music suite.

It is never too late to join one of our music ensembles. Bartlett Bells still has a few openings for ringers. They rehearse on Thursday mornings at 10am. Crossroads Youth choir meets on Sundays at 4:15pm. Chancel Choir meets at 7pm on Wednesday evenings. All of these groups meet in the music suite. We would love to have you join us!

If you have any questions about the Children's Music Program, Handbells, Chancel Choir, or Crossroads Youth Choir, please contact me or Donia Wade through the church office 386-4563, or by email karens@bartlettumc.org.

Our children always work hard, so when the Christmas program is finished, it's time to party. Enjoy these pictures of our program and Christmas party!





Lynn Thompson
Director of Youth Ministries
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YOUTH MINISTRY

Hey Gang!

Can you believe it! The New Year is here with all things possible! Wow! We go from TV commercials of lavish desserts and indulgences to a quick exercise equipment and gym membership sales. (and by the way – really! That’s not cool!) But I guess the world has it somewhat right – the holidays gives us time to indulge and then in January we have to face the consequences. There is no fun in that – but there is the hope of redemption if we simply pursue our goals though – right!?! Whether we write them down or say them out loud – our intention is to be better.

I remember going to a Christmas program once and in the bulletin it said “Good intentions, like crying children, should be carried out immediately.” Wow! Now that one was as clear as day! I don’t know how eloquent or politically correct that might be in a program but intentions are something to be recognized. We all have good intentions to do better, act nicer, work harder because we know it will make us a better person – be a 110% person. It is all about me and how my intentions would help and affect ME. But it wasn’t until I had a parent of a youth give me this quote from the book *The Noticer* a while back and it has been staring me from the wall I taped in on right in eyesight every day. It says “intentions without actions are a disappointment to those who care about you.” HMMM... I had to think about that one. It was saying that intentions are not always about yourself but those that surround you as well. Sometimes we don’t realize that when we fall through on our intentions...others are disappointed, saddened and hurt as well. Think about the things that you always have the intentions on doing – being a better listener, being patient with family, forgiving someone, being more in the scriptures and talking to God more. Can you see how your intentions...when not met...really do affect those around you and unfortunately it usually is in a disappointing way. Has someone ever promised you something or promised they would change or promised they would be better and didn’t...I think all of us have had a taste of that feeling. I know God has been disappointed in me and my intentions to be closer to Him many times in my life. In Proverbs 20:5 it says: “The purposes of a person’s heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out.” God can give you that insight on how to draw out those intentions to make them happen. Soooo this year let’s make good on our intentions whether big or small so that we can be a witness to God’s grace and forgiveness that will NEVER disappoint but always encourage others to be the best they can be.

Have a Blessed Day!

In Christ,

Lynn Thompson





Staci Hissong
Director of Children's Ministry
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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Happy Birthday Jesus!

What an exciting time we had at the Happy Birthday Jesus party! In a nutshell we worshipped, we fellowshiped and we heard the Word of God. But it was so much more than just that. The children brought gifts to share with Parea Preschool, and with the offering we have been collecting for Heifer International, we chose to "buy" 2 buffalos to provide to families to help make their farm productive for themselves and their community.



Ms. Dorothea Darby played the piano as we sang "Away in a Manger" with all the sweet little voices being lifted up to worship our God. We sang Happy Birthday to our Jesus as Santa James brought out a Jesus baby doll and told us that Santa loves Jesus and the season is about Jesus and not about Santa. Then we had some good, clean, fun with silly games. And let me tell you, it was a room busting at the seams with laughter and joy. It was loud, chaotic, and WONDERFUL! We had a total of 38 kids with several new faces! I was so THRILLED to see them all. We finished up reading the Christmas story from Luke chapter 2 as we felt what real hay feels like. I believe that it gave a real life perspective of what it was like to sleep on hay.

The objective was to mix a modern-day birthday party with the Gospel, and to share the idea that Christmas is so much more than to receive gifts. It was about worshipping our Savior and giving the love of Christ in a tangible way through toys and farm animals.

I want to say a special thank you to all those who volunteered to help with the Birthday Party. You are amazing!



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www.bartlettumc.org

BARTLETT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

USPS#087-010 published semi-monthly by

Bartlett United Methodist Church, 5676 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN

Periodicals postage is paid at Memphis, TN

POSTMASTER, send address changes to Bartlett United

Methodist Church News, 5676 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN 38134



**Fun Club Meeting is Tuesday, January 17th at
10am in the LEC.**

All those ages 50 and older are invited to a program and luncheon the third Tuesday of each month. Participants are not required to be members of our church. For more information please call Sandy Dunn 901 486-5776.

The following activities take place in the LEC Gym each week (excluding holidays):

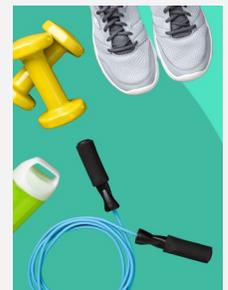
Stretch Class--Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays, 9:00am, 201L

Pickleball--Tuesdays, 7:00pm (join the *Pickleball-BUMC* on Facebook for weekly updates)

Zumba--Thursdays, 5:30pm ((\$3/class)

Volleyball--Thursdays, 6:30pm

All adults are invited to come to the gym for some exercise and fun!



Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, January 2 and Monday, January 16, 2023