

The Monthly Message



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Rev. Dean Emerson
Senior Pastor
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William Dean Emerson – let's begin with the basics for those who don't know. I am starting my 35th year of ministry in the United Methodist Church. I am the youngest of four and the only son of Jimmy and Ethel Emerson. My parents still live in the home where I was raised in the tiny community of Como two hours from here halfway between Paris and Dresden. (My father is 90 and spent the weekend in the ICU with Sepsis and is almost certainly drawing near to the end of his earthly life.) I graduated from Henry County High School and received my bachelor's degree in secondary education from UTM. I was certified to teach math and history. Nan and I met at the Interfaith Center, the joint Methodist and Catholic campus ministry at Martin. (Nan is Roman Catholic.)



We married on my 23rd birthday in 1988 and we have three daughters. Eileen graduated from George Washington University in 2016, lives in Knoxville and works for Second Harvest. Maggie graduated from Rice in 2019, lives in Richmond and is a software engineer for Kohl's. Ailsa (pronounced Elsa) graduated from UTK in 2021, lives with us and is looking to put her Political Science & History degree to work. Elliot is a sophomore at Murray State, majoring in digital design and is living with my sister and brother-in-law in Murray. (My brother-in-law, David, is also a United Methodist pastor.) My other two sisters and their husbands live in Trenton and Como.

Nan was raised in Memphis and attended St. Louis School and graduated from White Station. Her parents, Dr. Jack and Joan Beifuss, were teachers at Memphis State. They died about four months apart from cancer in 1994 and Eileen was born in between their deaths. Nan has three sisters and a brother. John, lives on Mud Island and has been the film critic for over 25 years for the Commercial Appeal. Her sister, Kate, lives in midtown. Joellen lives in Texas and is battling incurable breast cancer. Jill lives in northern Virginia.

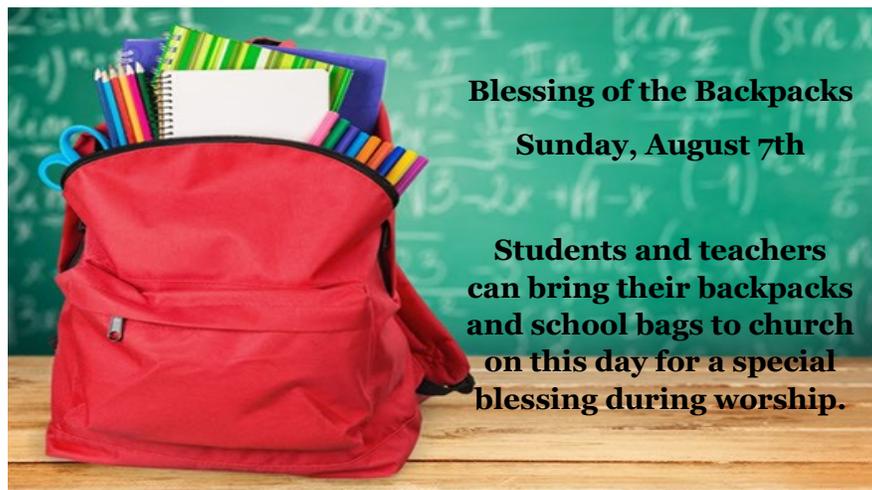
Finally, here are three random fun facts.

- 1) I spent five weeks in the Philippines with the Peace Corps following my graduation from college
- 2) Three of our four children have red hair which they get from great grandparents on both sides
- 3) Shorts and a T-shirt are acceptable dress for 20-degree weather; especially if you are working the concession stand at a football game

I look forward to getting to know some fun facts about you as well.

Grace & Peace,

Dean



Blessing of the Backpacks
Sunday, August 7th

Students and teachers
can bring their backpacks
and school bags to church
on this day for a special
blessing during worship.



Meet our new Associate Pastor, Donna Spencer, who was born and raised in England and is the youngest of three girls. She attributes her passion for Christ and the things of God to her selfless, resilient mother, who raised her and her siblings on her knees and in the Moravian and Anglican Churches.



Rev. Donna Spencer
Pastor
dspencer@bartlettumc.org
901-848-8311

Donna has completed a Master of Divinity and a Master of Christian Education. Prior to this, she completed a Bachelors of Science in Architectural Technology and a Master of Urban planning, in her pursuit of a career in Architectural design and development. However, God had other plans—plans that have not yet reached full maturity, plans that have led Donna to serve in various areas of ministry.

Prior to her appointment to Bartlett UMC, she served as a Licensed Local Pastor at New Bethel UMC. In this new season, she is excited to serve Christ alongside the faithful, warmhearted people of Bartlett UMC and is grateful for the opportunity to be nurtured and mentored by one of TWK Conference's, and more importantly, one of God's favorite sons, Rev. Dean Emerson, who she will serve alongside as Associate Pastor. In her words, "I consider it an honor to have been called and appointed to serve BUMC and I look forward to all God is, and will be doing, in and through us as people committed to His mission in the Bartlett area and beyond."



Congregation –

I am Jay Estes your Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair. I wanted to take a few moments to update you on some of the work your Lay Leadership has been doing in this busy time of Pastoral transition. BUMC is experiencing the unique situation of a total Pastoral staff turnover. With this unique situation comes its own set of challenges. BUMC Lay Leadership and the District Office's goal is to make this time of transition as seamless as possible.

To ease this transition the district has developed an Onboarding process for the new Pastors. This is a two-part process: one Staff Onboarding and one Lay Leadership Onboarding. These onboardings took place Monday, July 11th, with Staff and Lay Leadership respectively. Both meetings were each roughly 3 hours in length and hosted by Mary Beth Bernheimer, Dyersburg First United Methodist Senior Pastor. The Lay Leadership in attendance were all SPRC members, all members of Trustees, all members of Finance Committee, and all members of the Church Council.

Items discussed in the Onboarding were: getting to know the new Pastor, the DNA /culture of BUMC, future hopes and dreams for BUMC, what is wanted most of the new Pastor's leadership, and what can the congregation do for the new Pastors. The forum felt very open and honest, as the format promoted such an environment. Even with the sometimes heavy subject matter and difficult material, I for one had fun and enjoyed getting to know both Dean and Donna on a deeper level.

We are at a crossroads in the life of BUMC, not only coming off the back end of the pandemic but dealing with so many other internal and external concerns that are not all totally unique to BUMC's congregation. The Onboarding presented an opportunity for Lay Leadership to voice perspective on the past, present, and future direction of the Church. It also allowed a window into the leadership style of the new Pastors.

I left the evening feeling energized about the future of our Church, I felt the Holy Spirit in the room as we communicated. I believe we are armed with the right tools to successfully turn the page on to the next chapter in the rich history and tradition of BUMC.

If you have any additional questions regarding the Pastoral Onboarding, feel free to contact me or another member of the Lay Leadership we are happy to share our perspectives or field any concerns.

In Christ,

Jay Estes

(901) 331-4018

Joys and Concerns

Sympathy is expressed to John Burns and Keith Burns upon the death of his wife, his mother, and our church member, Alice Burns; to Daniel Roberts upon the death of his brother, Kelby Taylor.

Our Gifts

Operating Budget	Weekly Need: \$26,788	Building Fund	Weekly Need: \$5,623
June 26-\$12,472	July 10-\$16,638	June 26-\$3,102	July 10-\$3,765
June 30-\$9,000	July 17-\$25,436	June 30-\$1,345	July 17-\$3,195
July 3-\$16,496	July 24-\$14,882	July 3-\$6,227	July 24-\$13,547



Fun Club Meeting is Tuesday, August 16 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.

Friday
August 5
9AM-3PM

KIDS' OPEN GYM

FREE EVENT!

Kids from 1st-8th grade are invited for a day of fun and games! Registration is required! For registration and information, contact Jt Forrester at jtforrester@bartlettumc.org

Bring your sack lunch, sunscreen, and ENERGY!

Join us Wednesday, August 17th at 5:00 in the LEC for a...

CHURCH POTLUCK

We would love for you to cook your favorite dish from the new BUMC cookbook! Don't have a new cookbook? Cookbooks are only \$10 and on sale in the church office. Buy one for you and one to give as a gift!

This will also be the evening we kick off Children's Music, Youth Bible Study, Six at Six, Devotion with Ross Hamilton, and Chancel Choir!

You don't want to miss it!





*Jon Steadman
Director of Music Ministries
jsteadman@bartlettumc.org*

MUSIC MINISTRY

As members of the United Methodist Church, we make public professions of faith. We both profess our intent to live into our faith as disciples of Christ, and we promise to faithfully participate in the life and ministries of our church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. There are many ways to live into this promise. You could join the United Methodist Men or Women, participate in Appalachian Service Project or Service Over Self, or you could volunteer to help teach a children's Sunday School class. These options are all incredible ways to live into our commitment vows, but I invite you to consider another option. Join a music ensemble!

When you learn what is involved in participating in an ensemble at Bartlett UMC, you find that you are living into all aspects of your membership vows. Each of our ensembles is dedicated to having a vibrant prayer life. We as fellow members want to know what is going on in your life, and we will continually lift you up in our prayers both at church and at home. We are dedicated to being present at worship, rehearsal, and in concerts throughout the community. We give the gift of music to all who may want to hear, and we faithfully serve others in our community (and throughout the country) through our various choir tours and many other activities. And lastly, one of the most powerful ways to spread the good news is through song – And since we are called to praise our God, we have the opportunity to both connect with God and to help others connect with God through the medium of music!

We have so many avenues to serve! If you like to sing, we have choirs of all ages! If you don't like to sing, but can count to 4 and keep a steady beat, come ring in one of our 4 handbell ensembles! If you play an instrument, we have plenty of opportunities for you to share your gift! If you have a good ear for music but don't necessarily feel like an ensemble is for you, we have need of sound techs and video operators! There are dozens of ways to participate in the music ministry! All you have to do is contact me: (901)491-4563 (jsteadman@bartlettumc.org), and I'll gladly help to find a home for you!



We are looking for ushers at the 10:50 worship service. Individuals will be needed in the lobby to hand out bulletins before service and conduct offering. An usher can return to the sanctuary for service on a normal Sunday. On communion Sunday the ushers will be required to assist with communion. If you are interested in serving as an usher please contact the church office.

The Altar guild is currently looking for individuals to serve communion during service. At this time communion is the first Sunday of each month. If you are interested in helping with this important program please contact the church office and let them know which service you would be available.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Where will you volunteer in a few weeks? The music department is open to all who would like to participate. In most groups, no experience is necessary, so come and try us out. The only requirement is a love for God and music.

*Karen Strawhecker
Assoc. Dir. of Music Ministries
karens@bartlettumc.org*

Wednesday, August 17th at 6pm is the beginning of our Children's Music season. Please come and bring your children to turn in registrations forms, get robe assignments, and practice. It will be a busy, exciting night! Littlest Angels will be in Room 012S. Wesley Choir will be in Room 013S. Kingdom Chorale will be in the Music Suite.

Children who are 3 years old by August 15th are eligible for Littlest Angels, the 3-4 year old choir. The leaders are Rebecca Jacobs and Janet Wiens. Children in Kindergarten and 1st grade are in Wesley Choir with leaders, Jennifer Proseus and Laura Engbretson. 2nd through 5th grade children are in Kingdom Chorale with Karen Strawhecker and Wanda Cheatham.

Monday evening, August 15th at 6pm in the Music Suite will be the first rehearsal for Chancel Bells, BUMC's advanced handbell choir.

Thursday morning, September 1st at 10am in the Music Suite, Bartlett Bells, the intermediate handbell choir will begin rehearsals. There are still some openings in this handbell choir, so if you are interested in playing with us, please contact me.

Wednesday, August 24th at 5:30pm in the Music Suite is the first rehearsal for Campanella Ringers, the children's handbell choir. This choir is open to 2nd through 5th graders.

Registration forms for Children's Music will be available in Oaks Hall, the church office, the Music suite, and in Sunday School. The evening of August 17th, parents will receive a calendar for the year, and an overview of our programming. If you ever have questions about any of our programs, please feel free to contact me.



OUTREACH MINISTRY

Outreach would like to thank all those volunteers that were there for SOS Adoption Week and Project Transformation Reading Week this summer.

*Perry Martini
Director of Outreach Ministries
pmartini@bartlettumc.org*

As some of you know, we have stopped serving Room in the Inn indefinitely and have ceased Take Out Tuesday until September. We will re-evaluate RITI in the fall for both volunteer numbers and costs. Take Out Tuesday will resume in September with a hopefully updated list that accurately reflects our shut-ins and those that need the service.

Outreach thanks the congregation for their response to the request from Rev. Goyo for backpacks for the Hispanic and indigenous community. We were able to provide more than 60 backpacks to children in the Memphis area. Truly, a need was met with the appropriate response.





Lynn Thompson
Director of Youth Ministries
lthompson@bartlettumc.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Wow! Summer is still here but it seems like everyone is hurrying because school will start soon...fall activities are gearing up...but it still is Summer. I guess this might be one of my pet peeves of our world. Hello! I know schools fixing to start but I have some days left of the summer! Why is it that we begin

fretting over getting everything organized for something when we could be enjoying those days we dreamt about when school was letting out. "I can't wait until Summer" mentality seems to end abruptly when Walmart ships out the school supplies into the aisles of their stores. I know - I get it - I am not an organizer and I probably make a lot of folks crazy because I am not. And I will be the first to say I wish I could be more organized. But this is more of the thought of how the world wants us to be busy - be organized - get anxiety of getting everything done instead of breathing in each day. And if I am not busy or organized - does this make me wrong or lazy...wouldn't it be amazing to stop and breathe. I challenge you to this thought that I shared with my youth at a recent Bible Study. The devotion mentioned that sometimes - just sometimes we should think about how we live our lives - are we ones that need to be busy or have something to do that makes us feel important because we do not have any time to rest. Think about it - if someone asked you how your day and week is going - do you fill them in on all of your itinerary and how you are so busy? Do you add that you are exhausted and there is not enough time? is it a "whoa is me" conversation. In the devotion, it mentions that we are a self-centered society...wanting everyone to know about what WE are doing. Wow! that is pretty rude! But yet, I never thought about how sometimes it really is true... I am sometimes unaware that I fall victim of that.

We have really got to stop making it about US and making it about the God that goes before us. He has placed so many great things for us to be blessed by - He has made each day for us to be present to share His love and care for others.

Soooo... how about when someone asks you how are you doing - you tell them about what God has been showing you. Or tell them how you're really just trying to be present in the moment. Or maybe that you took time out to have lunch with a friend or in my case just enjoyed the day fishing with my mom. I suppose others will think we are lax - we are unorganized or we just are unaware of all the things they think we "should" be doing because they are running around hectic in their own lives. But I GUARANTEE it will change us and make us better disciples if we keep it simple - bringing God in our every day knowing He's got us...things will be OK...trust in Him!

Isaiah 26:3: "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

Understand I am not saying organized folks are in the wrong.

"Take a deep breath.
Get present in the moment
and ask yourself
what is
important
this very second."

- Gregory McKeown

bemorewithless.com

Women's Bible Study "It's All Under Control" by Jennifer Dukes Lee begins August 11 at 6 pm in the Parlor room in the LEC/Gym. To join, please contact Staci Hissong. Open to women of all ages. A suggested donation to cover the cost of books (book and workbook) is \$22.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Staci Hissong
Director of Children's Ministry
shissong@bartlettumc.org

Wow! What a summer!! I know it's not quite over but, man have we had fun! I am so grateful VBS and Dayshore happened so soon after my arrival because it has given me the chance to get to know your children better. I love the relationships that are blooming.

Your children have shown me what an awesome job you are doing at home! They are kind, loving, respectful, & responsible and they love the Lord!! I applaud you.

My favorite thing about your children is when they call my name and share whatever is on their minds. It's important to them, so it's important to me.

With the next school year fast approaching, please consider volunteering with us. It takes so little of your time but the reward is exponential. Not only for you, but for them. They need you. They need your wisdom, they need your compassion, they need to know you care about their spiritual future. You can be someone that changes their relationship with God forever. How can you deny the calling, to impact the young spiritual lives of our children?

Contact me to answer your call of serving in Children's Ministry. We will find the right spot for you. We can do this together.



Children's Ministry

HELP WANTED

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- **instant hero status**
- **all-you-can-eat Goldfish crackers**
- **unlimited high-fives**
- **free exercise program**
- **onsite craft supplies**

Contact Staci Hissong @
shissong@bartlettumc.org



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Saturday, August 13 at 8:00am

Cook Fellowship Hall

Join us for a light breakfast, fellowship, and our speaker, Bartlett Police Chief, Jeff Cox. Breakfast is \$5 and first timers eat for free!

Please call the church office to reserve your spot.

All men are invited! Bring a friend!

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! Contact Jt Forrester if you have any questions.

