

The Monthly Message



The mission of Bartlett United Methodist Church is to know Christ and to make Christ known to all people, through worship, education, and service in our community and throughout the world.



BEWARE THE DANGER OF WELL INTENTIONED IDOLS

I shared this on Facebook but I know not everyone does social media. This captures perfectly my heart's desire to follow Jesus and Jesus alone.

"I have and owe no allegiance to a political party, ideology, state, or religion. I will fashion no idols of golden donkeys or elephants. My allegiance, 100% of my loyalty, my energy, my creativity, even my life, is committed to one thing: the kingdom of God. Period. Empires come and empires go. Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall. Political parties come into and go out of power. The only thing worth staking my life on is Jesus and I will not wade into the tumultuous waters of partisan politics, religious fanaticism, ideological pedagogy or any other thing that ultimately distracts and deflects from the work of that kingdom. This moment will pass. Where will God's people be? My hope and my prayer is that we will be found binding up the wounded, caring for the needy, loving the unloved, bringing hope to the hopeless. Everything else is pure vanity." - Nat Turney

As I write this, we are days away from the General Conference of the UMC and in the midst of a presidential election. Both are important and will make a significant impact. However, neither are the ultimate source of the world's salvation. Never forget Jesus did not come to save a church or a nation. He came to save the world.

Grace & Peace to All,

Dean

GENERAL CONFERENCE REPORT - Some of you are aware the General Conference of the United Methodist Church is meeting April 23 - May 3 in Charlotte, NC. This is the global gathering of the UMC which meets every four years. Sometimes, the media struggles to cover the Church well because the media wants drama to capture their audience's attention. Plus, we have endured an intentional misinformation campaign for several years. Therefore, in hopes to make it abundantly clear what did and did not take place in Charlotte, Dean will provide a report on the highlights of this year's General Conference on three separate occasions:

- **Sunday, May 5** immediately following the contemporary service
- **Saturday, May 11** at 8 a.m. at the UMM's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
- **Tuesday, May 14** at 10 a.m. at the UWF meeting in the Fellowship Hall

STAFF

Rev. Dean Emerson
demerson@bartlettumc.org

Rev. Donna Spencer
dspencer@bartlettumc.org

Jennifer Demetriou-Communications
jdemetriou@bartlettumc.org

Rachel Hasty-Accountant
rhasty@bartlettumc.org

Cindy Lamb-Children's Ministry
clamb@bartlettumc.org

Eddie Lindsey-Facilities/Maintenance
elindsey@bartlettumc.org

David McDonald-Administrator
dmcdonald@bartlettumc.org

Perry Martini-Outreach/Recreation
pm Outreach@bartlettumc.org

Jennifer Steadman-Kid's Day Out/
Preschool Dir. kdo@bartlettumc.org
preschool@bartlettumc.org

Helen Stillwell-Reception/Calendar
hstillwell@bartlettumc.org

Karen Strawhecker-Assoc. Director of
Music karens@bartlettumc.org

Lynn Thompson-Youth/Young Adult
lthompson@bartlettumc.org

Donia Rachele Wade-Director of Music
dwmusic@bartlettumc.org



Youth Events

Joyful Noise Coffeehouse

May 11 @ 7:00pm

May 12 @ 2:00pm

Tickets on sale soon!

Youth Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 6:00pm in the LEC Youth Room.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) meets every Sunday at 5:15pm in the LEC. All 7th-12th graders are invited! Bring your friends!



PENTECOST SUNDAY

We will have **ONE WORSHIP** on **Sunday, May 19** for Pentecost. We will also be accepting our confirmands into membership on this day. **Sunday School begins at 9:00am and worship at 10:15am.** Congratulations to our Confirmands!

Youth Ministry (Lynn Thompson/lthompson@bartlettumc.org)

Wow! Can you believe it – Spring has sprung and so many great things are and have been happening with the youth! Our Seniors will be graduating and we are SOOO EXTREMELY proud of them- they are AMAZING! We had our Holy Week breakfasts and our Seniors got to ring the cowbell! HA! We sang and worshipped together on Easter morning! So what now? Here we are in a new month - Easter has come and gone...and it gets me to reflect on my faith walk - maybe you do too. Because Easter is HUGE for us as followers of Christ...but then we go about



our busyness...right??? I often try to reign my faith walk in as to think about those disciples a few weeks after Christ was crucified. I wonder if this is what the disciples were thinking. I mean, their friend, confidant, and teacher is now absent from their lives. I wonder what their conversations were when they realized it was just them...in the forefront of continuing the work of the kingdom of God. Did some of them want to bale?...were some angry that Jesus left them in this predicament?...were any of them organizing this great mission with charts as to who goes where and with whom? Were they thinking "oh lawd! - this "odd lot" of guys are supposed to change the world?" I'm wondering if it feels something like when life serves you and I up something difficult...like 2pm on a Tuesday afternoon when news of tragedy in your life knocks you over. I wonder if it felt like someone had gut punched you to your very core...I wonder if it felt like there was no way they could carry on...did you ever wonder? I mean it was up to those mighty disciples to continue the work of Jesus. I wonder if they thought they were up to the task...or did they, in disbelief, think that Jesus said - it's up to you and me to step up!?

As a follower of Christ – I wonder sometimes that maybe Christ should have had a Plan B. Here were fishermen, tax collectors, workers...average Joe's that were to keep the good news of Christ alive forever. You would think God would have another option as to how He carried out His plan. But the beauty of it, the real beauty of it, can be seen by Easter people. We see now that no other plan was needed. God knew exactly what and whom He needed to carry out Christ's ministry. Do you ever think about it...I do all the time – God didn't need another plan! Because of those disciples – as ordinary as they may have seemed – are the reason you and I know Christ! Because of these ordinary people doing extraordinary works...we share their love of God and desire to preach the Good news! Because of these disciples, who were a lot like you and me, took up Christ's cross and preached His word.

I will leave you with this. My 98 year old grandma used to say: "You know Lynn – every Christmas little baby Jesus was born in that manger...every Good Friday Jesus gives up His last breath crucified on the Cross...and every Easter Jesus rises again. Every year...the story is the same...but WE are not." Every year, as followers of Christ, we have experienced something new, horrific, exciting, unexpected and special. This year is different from last Easter – we are not the same people. Easter is the reminder of that constant hope!

Life and its experiences have changed us in some way over the last time we met at the tomb. That is what we need to realize – our experiences as a person of faith and how we get through them with God’s grace and Christ’s promise is what we can preach to the world. I pray you realize that YOU are God’s plan for His kingdom...let’s get busy sharing His love!!!

In Christ,
Lynn Thompson

BUMC IT Corner

BUMC Family,

I hope you all are doing well and getting out and finally enjoying some spring weather. I have taken on an IT role with our church this past January. While Lane, Eddie, and the rest of the church staff have managed the church network for decades, I have been able to fill in some gaps with my experience. I’m grateful and privileged to now be working with the church staff. With the monthly newsletter, my goal is to keep you informed on our current status and give some IT insights. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me in person or by email: cwise@bartlettumc.org with any concerns or questions.

I would like to personally thank Mr. Keith Burns for getting the church network equipment last summer. We were able to replace some network switches that were damaged in a storm. Within the past six months or so, Mr. Burns has also obtained a new server for our network as well as getting us an updated router and installing it! So please pass along thanks to Mr. Burns if you can. Over the next two months, I will be updating our server and deciphering how Microsoft wants to define “non-profit.”

Don’t Default to Defaults

This month’s insight is based on default device credentials. Whether your home router, gateway, IOTs, (thermostats, garage door openers, etc.) **NEVER** use the default credentials. Updating default credentials is an often overlooked security measure that’s easy to do and can save you...mentally and most importantly, monetarily. Along with updating your credentials make sure you have updates turned on for all devices automatically. Outside the frustration of updates with Microsoft Windows, all pieces of technology that can be updated should be updated. These updates could be major operating system updates, security flaws, or new functions pushed to the respective device. If you have any questions or need help in this area, please reach out to me, I actually enjoy doing what I do!

Caleb Wise

BUMC IT Admin
cwise@bartlettumc.org
1 Peter 4:10-11



Tuesday, May 7 will be our outing to Pillow State Historic Park. The park ranger will provide a museum tour and video followed by a guided bus park tour of the park. We will go to a restaurant in the area afterwards.

Tuesday, May 21 we will meet at 10:00am in the LEC.

Sharon Fryman, Senior Program director for active healthy seniors with the YMCA will be our speaker. An optional lunch will follow for \$10. Please call Charlotte White at 381-4954 or 568-3002 to make reservations.



United
Women
in Faith

All women are invited to our meeting on **Tuesday, May 14** at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. Rev. Dean will be our speaker and will be discussing decisions made at General Conference. Lunch will be served afterwards. Bring a friend!

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Saturday, May 11 at 8:00am in Fellowship Hall

All men are invited to the Men's Prayer Group for a light breakfast, fellowship, and a speaker. This month we will have Rev. Dean speak to us about General Conference. Breakfast is \$5 and first timers eat for free! Call the church office at 386-4563 to reserve your spot.



If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in celebration of someone, as an honorarium or a memorial please call Helen at the church office at 386-4563.

We have May 5, 12 (Mother's Day) and every Sunday in June, including Father's Day, available.

Music Ministry (Donia Rachelle Wade/dwmusic@bartlettumc.org Karen Strawhecker/karens@bartlettumc.org)

Hey church! Coming up very soon is our annual "Hymn Sing," a beloved tradition more than 20 years in the making. This is a time when Kingdom Chorale will sing their chosen hymns to the congregation, many of them unknown even to Ms. Donia and Ms. Karen! This is also a special event for our 5th graders as we present them with a personalized hymnal and they "graduate" from Kingdom Chorale, preparing to join Crossroads Youth Choir next year! Come in ready to sing, and ready to yell out your favorites for us to sing! We hope to see you on **Wednesday, May 8th, at 6:00 p.m.** as we raise our voices and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

The end of another season is too quickly approaching. To finish our year, Bartlett Bells will ring a concert at Hearthside on Thursday, May 2nd at 10:30am. Chancel Bells will ring a concert at Robinwood on Monday, May 6th at 6:30pm. The last date for the choir year will be Sunday, June 30. Our rehearsals are currently from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. If you've ever been interested in joining the choir, now is a great time to jump in! Crossroads Youth Choir is currently preparing for their tour to the big apple this June! We will leave Saturday, June 1, and return Saturday, June 8. The youth will also participate in worship on Sunday, June 9, for their "homecoming" concert. We have so many fun excursions planned, and we are SO EXCITED to "preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15, our scripture for the trip) through service and music! If you feel so led to contribute for our trip, we will have the travel bags information in Oaks Hall beginning on Sunday, May 5! We will also happily accept drinks, snacks, and breakfast items for the group!

SAVE THE DATE: MUSIC CAMP!!!

When: July 22nd – 26th

Time: 9am to 1pm every day

Music camp is for children who have completed the 1st through 6th grades. Participants will bring a sack lunch Monday through Thursday. We will provide snacks every day, and a pizza lunch on Friday. More detailed information will come next month! We are so excited!

Don't forget to follow our Spotify playlist for the praise band's favorite contemporary Christian music! This playlist is filled with all of our favorites, many we have performed and many we are hoping to bring to service soon!

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/22hhJDK1ijjayb0jowL70s?si=5c85b55c96234479>

Donia and Karen



Children's Ministry (Cindy Lamb/clamb@bartlettumc.org)

If you are AMAZED with all the good things going on in our Children's Department, we like you to volunteer for any or ALL of the fun happenings coming up!

May 26: Our last "Celebrate Sunday School" party of the year. This celebration is called "Water Wonder" where we will learn all about baptism.

The month of June and July, our children's Sunday School (K-5th grade) will all meet together as a group in Room 208C where we will explore the Superbook Series of exciting Biblical video lessons.

June 10-13: Kid's Camp EXTREME. Kids will choose to learn the Bible through sports, cooking, drama, cheerleading or arts and crafts. (Preschool will have their very own learning experience.)

July 8-12: Dayshore Summer Camp (for K-5th grade) Join us for a fun filled week of summer camp provided by Lakeshore staff. (We will need volunteers for meal preparations. If you are interested, please let Cindy Lamb know.)



Thank you so much for your continued support of this exciting ministry!

Love,

Miss Cindy

Within Our Church Family

Sympathy is expressed to Shawn Boyd upon the death of his aunt and our church member, Lillian Boyd; to Ann Moser upon the death of her sister, Pat Cole; to Paul Russenberger upon the death of his father, Frank Russenberger; to the family of our church member, Elizabeth Sudbury, upon her death.

Our Gifts

Operating Budget	Building Fund
Weekly need: \$27,076.00	Weekly Need: \$5,623.00
March 24- \$17,036	March 24- \$3,094
March 31- \$21,888	March 31-\$7,459
April 7- \$22,011	April 7-\$6,114
April 14- \$23,702	April 14- \$4,620
	Easter \$10,012

Recreation/Outreach
(Perry Martini/
pmoutreach@bartlettumc.org)

Join us each week in the LEC Gym for fun and recreation!

Advanced Pickleball—
Every Tuesday at 7:00pm (*follow Pickleball-BUMC on Facebook*)

Beginner Pickleball—
Every Wednesday at 7:00pm

Zumba—Every Thursday at 5:30pm (\$3 per class)

Volleyball— Every Thursday at 6:30pm

Stretch Class—
Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 9:00am

Walking Group—
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday at 4:45pm

Volunteer Opportunities

WOW Meal Delivery—
Wednesdays at 5:00pm
LEC (*May 8 & May 15*)

Pantry—Last Thursday of each month 9:30am
Shelby Street

Bartlett United Methodist Church

5676 Stage Road
Bartlett, TN 38134

Phone: 901-386-4563
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



MIDWEEK PRAYER AND COMMUNION

Wednesdays @ noon

You are invited to
Evan Engbretson's
Senior Cello Recital
on **Saturday, May 18**
at **4:00pm** at Trinity
United Methodist
Church (1738 Gallo-
way Ave.)



You don't want to miss
the fun at our Youth
Joyful Noise Coffee-
house on **May 11** at
7:00pm and **May 12** at
2:00pm. Tickets on sale
soon!



Pictures from the Men's Prayer Group's trip to Ripley, TN on April 16th where approximately 25 men enjoyed fellowship, fun and food consisting of delicious barbecue and an unimaginable table of homemade pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, puddings, etc. all made by the women of Ripley First United Methodist Church.

