

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.



In our Gospel passage this past week (John 12:20-33), one of the first disciples, Philip, was approached by Greek gentiles requesting to meet Jesus. It appears from the text, Philip didn't know what to do, so he decided to ask Andrew, another of Jesus's disciples. (In Philip's defense, he may have been reluctant to introduce foreigners (the Greek Gentiles) to Jesus, because Jesus had indicated that he had been sent solely to the lost sheep of Israel—see Matthew 15). While Andrew also seemed uncertain about introducing these Greek Gentiles to Jesus, he at least had the wherewithal to say, "lets ask Jesus."

As current day disciples we are either:

- Like Philip, we don't know whether or how to introduce people to Jesus;
- Like Andrew, we don't know either, but we have the foresight to ask Jesus; or
- We are people who take the initiative to boldly introduce others to Christ.

As 21st century disciples with the rich heritage of the church— Scripture, tradition, experience and the ability reason—we have all the tools necessary to introduce people directly to Jesus, without asking the opinion of others. However, we could all use a refresher, a honing of our skills to impact our communities for Christ: skills in the area of building meaningful relationships, listening to understand and connect with people different from us, having genuine, honest, and open conversations with others, and much more.

On **April 20 through the 21**, we will have the opportunity to unleash the power of our ability to relate and connect with others through "...a groundbreaking journey that opens the door to a world of deeper understanding, empathy, and unity through the lens of Relational IQ (an innovative way of connection through the blending of scientific rigor with compassionate understanding)" led by Dr. Cherry Collier, a renowned expert in the field of relational dynamics.

This is an opportunity for our entire church to become effective disciples and expand our reach in building Christ's beloved community. And it is Rev. Dean's and my hope that each of you will take a seat at the table for this priceless opportunity.

I ask in closing, who do you choose to be Philip, Andrew or one who takes initiative?

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
pmoutreach@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

Next Step (College & High School Seniors)

April 4 @ 7:00pm
Lynn's house

Dinner Club

April 11 @ 6:00pm
On the Border

Adult vs. Youth Volleyball

April 14

Breakfast Club

April 16 @ 5:45am
Fellowship Hall

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!



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

This Easter- which was earlier this year than most- I am reminded of the amazing trip I was able to take to visit the Holy Lands with Ross Hamilton and members of our church including my sweet husband Andy. If you know me - I have never traveled outside of the country so this was an EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME. It was a trip that I have described before as where words could not express how much my journey to the walk where Jesus walked meant to my own personal faith journey. I remember distinctly the almost still Sea of Galilee that I had heard so many stories about in the scriptures. Andy and I walked hand in hand on the path where Jesus began His ministry - through beautiful lush land. The beginning of our trip was quite the contrast to the entrance into Jerusalem with its stone and dry land. The contrast from the beginning of Christ's ministry in the beginning of our trip until its end was the backdrop of Christ's journey. From sharing the love of God for ALL to dying out of that same love for ALL. I think of this pilgrimage that I was so blessed to be

able to make and each year especially at Easter time I have a new perspective of the Easter story. The main thing is that WE ARE EASTER PEOPLE. Because we know that Christ rose from the grave and gives us our place in heaven for all eternity because of it - we are saved. As I was in Jerusalem - the stories of those that spat on Him, mocked Him and denied Him were felt as I would travel His footsteps. Sometimes I think about how so many today do not know the story we know- sometimes I think about how others really need to have the knowledge and assurance of a God of grace, forgiveness and love. Seeing the sites I was able to see His journey with those around Jesus not really knowing or understanding the magnitude of His life and death. If they would have been more grace-filled - more understanding and more forgiving - if they could have had a glimpse of the whole story of Christ. It's something I think of often- because I know not only of Good Friday but of Easter morning. It is me and you that Christ forgave on the cross because "they know not what they do". But here's the thing- you and I DO KNOW now and it is our journey to share that news with everyone we come across. It is not for us to pick and choose who gets to know - because Jesus chose ALL He came into contact with. We are called to share the grace, the unconditional love, the forgiveness that WE were given to all who Christ sacrificed His life for. I hope that you have taken the gift of being an Easter people into your own faith journey - because you and me- we can make a difference in this world!



Have a blessed day!
In Christ,
Lynn Thompson

Finances (Rachel Hasty/rhasty@bartlettumc.org)

I see you.

Earlier this week, someone dropped off a contribution from her Sunday school class to the Debt Retirement Fund. I thanked her for the generous gift and she thanked me for my "begging newsletter article" last month. We laughed about it but it reminded me that I would definitely be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the financial support that so many of you have given to Debt Retirement recently. I see that you've added a little extra each week to go towards Debt Retirement. I see that big gift you made. I see what your Sunday school class did. I see that you added extra to your online payment. I see that you made an extra online payment. I see what you're doing and I, along with your church staff, am grateful! Thank you!!

Facility Update (Eddie Lindsey/elindsey@bartlettumc.org)

With all the freezing weather we have had in the last two years, you may have noticed a bunch of shrubs have either died or just little has come back. Mother Nature took its toll on them. This week our landscape company removed all the bushes around the Sanctuary entrance and also out front. They replaced them with 34 cleyeras and white encore azaleas on the ends for a little added color. They planted some fountain grass around the irrigation cover.

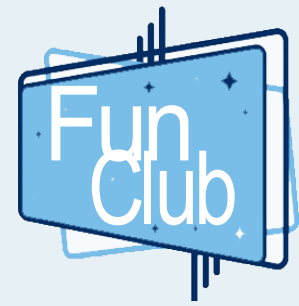


If you use the hearing assist in Oaks Hall but haven't tried using the Listen Everywhere app on your phone with your own ear pods yet, you should give this a try. Our church member, Alan Higdon, used the Listen Everywhere app and said that it helped him hear a lot better. I'm around if you need help with downloading the app, you just need to know your Apple password for that.

I have started to replace 2 old HVAC package units this week for the gym and 3 for the KDO classrooms. They just don't last as long as units built in the 80's.

Megan Freeman had her senior project to do and she chose to paint stepping stones leading from the outside preschool classroom doors to the front parking lot. She has painted different pictures on each one. Great job Megan!!

Have a blessed week,
Eddie Lindsey



The Fun Club outing on Wednesday, April 3, will be lunch at Hagy's Catfish Restaurant in Shiloh, TN and then tour the Buford Pusser Museum.

The regular meeting on April 16 at 10 am will feature Susan Woods from the Bartlett Senior Center as the speaker. Reservations are required for lunch (\$10). Please call Charlotte White (568-3002) or Sandy Dunn (486-5776) for more information.

IT'S SIMPLE



Download the Free Listen EVERYWHERE App

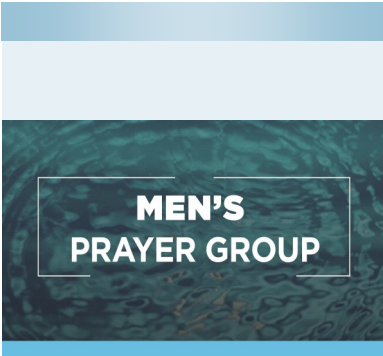


Connect to the venue's wireless network



Choose your desired channel





Saturday, April 13 at 8:00am in Fellowship Hall

All men are invited to the Men's Prayer Group for a light breakfast, fellowship, and a speaker from the YMCA discussing the new partnership with the Bartlett Rec Center. Breakfast is \$5 and first timers eat for free! Call the church office at 386-4563 to reserve your spot. Call David Dunn at 212-4649 for more information.



Tuesday, April 9 at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall

All women are invited! We will have a speaker from Hannah's Hope followed by a homemade potluck lunch. Bring a friend!

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

March was full of wonderful, musical adventures, and we could not feel more blessed! Donia's first tour with Kingdom Chorale was a smash hit (pun intended, if you know about the slight mishap with the bus and the sprinkler), Palm Sunday saw all of our choral ensembles join together, and we celebrated Easter with three beautiful services.

Kingdom Chorale went to Little Rock this year and stayed at Pulaski Heights UMC, where Fred Gunderson and Trenton Teegarden both work! We had five children go, and while they were small in numbers, they were mighty in voice! They gave beautiful offerings for both the traditional and the contemporary services and sang a beautiful concert at Briarwood Nursing and Rehabilitation center. We also enjoyed our time at the Museum of Discovery, running around the riverside park, and eating a lot of good food!

Kingdom Chorale is now preparing for our **hymn sing**, which will be on **May 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary**. For this event, the children will choose hymns to lead. The Hymn Sing is a time for us to gather and sing as many favorites as we can in an hour. If you have a specific hymn to request, contact Donia or Karen! Please plan to come and participate with us!

Crossroads Youth Choir is currently preparing for their tour to the big apple this June! We will leave Saturday, June 1 (Donia's birthday!!), and return Saturday, June 8. 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 to our trip, we will start collecting information for the travel bags and have that ready in mid-April, and we will always happily accept snacks and breakfast items for the group!

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 perform soon! <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/22hhJDK1iijayb0jowL70s?si=5c85b55c96234479> Thank you SO MUCH to all of our volunteers and supporters. Our music department thrives because of your work and generosity!! WE LOVE YOU!

Donia and Karen

Upcoming events:

Hymn Sing - May 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.



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

The Children's Department has some MEGA news...

VBS is coming up soon! The dates are June 10-13 and boy, are we EXCITED to announce that this year's theme is called MEGA Sports Camp. Kids will pick two sports areas that they want to concentrate on. The sports that kids will choose from are basketball, soccer, cheerleading, flag football, cooking and crafts. Needless to say, if you have an interest in any of these activities, we welcome your help! Text me (Cindy) with your name and which area you would like to help with. It's going to be MEGA MAGNIFICENT!

Dayshore Camp is scheduled for July 8-12. DayShore is a day camp partnership between Lakeshore and churches across the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference. The goal is to share the joy of camp with local communities. By partnering with churches, together we can reach children who might not have the means to attend sleep-away camp or who might not be connected to a faith community. Lakeshore staff will pack up a truck and trailer with everything needed for a week of camp, including curriculum and exciting activities. Registration will be open on April 1. Contact Cindy at 615-713-7025 for more information.

Please be in prayer for ways that you can help and support our children's ministry. We are looking for some teachers/substitutes/assistants for Sunday School for next year. Working with kids is God's fountain of youth! Come join us!



A big thank you to our congregation for supporting our confirmation class and food pantry with your generous donations of food. God is good!

Our Gifts

Operating Budget	Building Fund
Weekly need: \$27,076.00	Weekly Need: \$5,623.00
February 29- \$19,335	February 29-\$5,957
March 3- \$11,845	March 3- \$2,980
March 10-\$28,587	March 10-\$9,789
March 17- \$26,556	March 17-\$16,279

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*) (*will not meet 4/23*)

Beginner Pickleball—
Every Wednesday at 7:00pm (*will not meet 4/24*)

Zumba—Every Thursday at 5:30pm (\$3 per class) (*will not meet 4/25*)

Volleyball— Every Thursday at 6:30pm (*will not meet 4/25*)

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 (*no delivery on 4/24*)

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



United
Women
in Faith

Spiritual Growth Event
Saturday, April 27 9:00-11:00am
Emmanuel United Methodist Church
2404 Kirby Rd., Memphis, TN

Have you ever been overwhelmed by life and feel like you are the only one facing the challenges in front of you? You are not alone! Come join women from all over the Memphis area for a time of spiritual growth. Rev. Tondala Hayward will share insights and encouragement unique to women. Together, we will continue to grow gracefully in to sisterhood, so that we can transform lives in churches, communities, and beyond. All women are invited to the FREE event. **To register, please call or email: Lauren Boswell/901-848-0373/laurenboswell@icloud.com**



All men are invited to join the Men's Prayer Group as they travel on the BUMC bus to Ripley, TN for The Gathering of United Methodist Men of Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024**. Enjoy a **free meal** of BBQ and all the trimmings plus the "Wall of Desserts". The speaker will be Randy White, UMM President for the TWK Conference and special music from The Peacemakers (from the Memphis Police Dept.). The bus will be leaving BUMC at 4:00pm. Dinner is served beginning at 5:00pm. **To reserve your spot on the bus, call David Dunn by April 9th at 901-212-4649.**