

The Monthly Message



MAY 2022
VOLUME 48 ISSUE 5



Rev. Jason W. Jones
Senior Pastor
jjones@bartlettumc.org

Greetings, friends, in the name of our everlasting Lord!

I assume it's widely known by this point—but for the benefit of those who weren't present for or tuned into our April 24 service of worship, significant changes are coming for the Bartlett United Methodist Church.

That morning, Pastor Bernardo—our Associate Pastor for Multiethnic Ministries—shared that he will not be accepting an appointment this year. Paraphrasing his words, he needs this season to reflect on his calling and to determine whether he's best living it out as a clergyperson. We're inexpressibly thankful for Bernardo, his willingness and ability to see all the people, and his efforts to connect our congregation to the wider mission field.

But it was also announced that Pastor Andy and I are both projected to receive new appointments this year. In some ways, I'm surprised (and also very grateful!) that we've been fortunate enough to have Andy among us as Associate Pastor for nine years, especially when the average appointment is just four or five. But it goes without saying that the church has been enormously blessed by his leadership, his caring, and his heart for ministry.

Perhaps nothing surprised me more, though, than news of my forthcoming move. To say it was unexpected doesn't begin to approach my feelings. But, as most of you know, our clergy live and work in an itinerant system—which means moves (even unforeseen ones) are inevitable. What you may not know is that ordained United Methodist clergy, like myself, vow to go when and where we're sent. In light of that, and dedicated to the covenantal relationship I hold with all of my colleagues, I give myself unreservedly to the journey in front of me.

All of this said, it isn't lost on me that this will be a challenging season for our congregation. Any sort of change in any area of life can be difficult if not disruptive for myriad reasons; this is especially true when the change is significant or far-reaching. And for a church, an entire turnover in pastoral leadership is both. But one of the reasons it challenges us so is simple loss of familiarity; with such a change, we've no recourse but to step into something unknown. And that, to put it mildly, is scary.

But as persons of faith, the whole of our journey is—when you get down to it—stepping into the unknown. As you've heard me say before: the opposite of faith isn't doubt; the opposite of faith is certainty. And the reality is, there's very little concerning anything in life about which we can be certain. Which is why we need faith, and why we cling to faith. Because faith assures us that even though we don't know precisely where we're going, there's a destination awaiting us. And even more, it assures us that the One who made us accompanies us on the journey—encouraging us to take just one mile, one yard, one inch at a time.

So pray for Bernardo and his family as he navigates his unknown. Pray for Andy and for me, and our families, as we venture into our unknowns. Pray also for Rev. Dean Emerson, your new Senior Pastor, and Rev. Donna Spencer, your new Associate Pastor, and their families, as they make their way to Bartlett and their unknowns. And be well assured that we all are praying for you in your unknowns. But most importantly, together may we give thanks and praise to God for whom there's *nothing* unknown—and who's ever present to guide our steps, guard our hearts, and gift us with grace enough to be who we're called to be, wherever we are.

Please know that Pastor Bernardo, Pastor Andy, and I are available to you should you want or need to talk or if we can help to answer any questions. May our final weeks together be fruitful and blessed, for the glory of God and the growing of the kingdom! Much love to you all.

Peace,

Pastor Jason



CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY

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

It's hard to believe that another season is about to end! This year has once again flown by so quickly. This year our handbell groups have participated in worship, and made a Christmas video to take to assisted living facilities. The children have also participated in worship, a Christmas program, and are preparing for the hymn sing.

To finish our season, Bartlett Bells and Chancel Bells will be going on their end of year outings. It's been a long time since we have been able to spread God's love through music – in person out in the community! All three children's choirs will be singing in worship on May 1st at the 10:50 service. Littlest Angels and Wesley Choir will sing on May 15th at the 8:20 service.

On Wednesday, May 4th at 6pm in the Sanctuary, the Kingdom Chorale will lead our annual Hymn Sing. It will be a fun night to sing several of your favorite hymns. We will have a few children sing solos, but most wanted to participate in groups, singing the hymns turned in by a few Sunday School classes and Pastor Jason. The only hymns that will be programmed are the ones the children chose to lead. After those, the remainder of the hour will be spent calling out your favorites. Join us for a great time of singing praises to the Lord, and bring lots of friends!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

What a glorious Easter weekend! The weather was iffy, but your hearts were not! It was my first event and I knew that I would have to lean hard into the Lord and all of you. I hate to admit it, but I was questioning how the logistics and set up would go. I knew the Lord would sustain me like He always does, but the “boots on the ground” sort of things, I was worried. But you guys! I think I may have struck gold!! You showed up in such a big way. And I am so thankful for all of you. You have taken every opportunity to be so warm, welcoming and so very helpful. You settled my nerves and assured me that you were there with me. THANK YOU! The best part of my day was watching the children play, laugh and enjoy all the things to do. Several children didn't want to leave, if that doesn't equal success, I'm not sure what does.

My goal for every event and activity is to be sure to show the children how important and loved they are. Through activities and learning in creative ways the kids can see that it is FUN living in the Lord; and that the Lord has a good plan for their life. My prayer is that church will be a place of security, acceptance, and learning. We have so much still to do and I need you. You are the heart and soul of this place. You are the faithful who can make a great impact on these little souls. If you would like to be a life changer and serve along with me, please reach out anytime via email at shissong@bartlettumc.org or call/text me at 901-215-4426.





OUTREACH MINISTRY

Perry Martini
Director of Outreach Ministries
pmartini@bartlettumc.org



May 3 Room in the Inn, 407 Ayres St. 5:30-6:45pm,
need 2 or 3 volunteers

31 Takeout Tuesday need drivers at 5:00pm
LEC kitchen

Project Transformation June 27-30

Outreach is pleased to announce that PT is in full reading mode this summer. We will read to students from Monday, June 27 through Thursday, June 30. The times are from 9:15am for orientation (just once) until about 12:15pm. If you do not need orientation because you volunteered multiple days, start time will be 9:50am. All reading will be at Centenary UMC, 584 McLemore Ave. Volunteers can be 13 or older with 18+ requiring a background check. If you have volunteered with VBS or other youth related activities in the past 3 years you probably have already done this. Look for sign up sheets soon in Oaks Hall and the Sunday school classrooms. We will need 10 volunteers per day.

Joys and Concerns

Sympathy is expressed to Brenda Shelton upon the death of her father, Robert Corey; to Jerri Stevenson upon the death of her mother, Kathyryne Johnson; to Dewey Price upon the death of his wife, Jean Price; to the family of Pam Barton upon her death; to Don Gear upon the death of his sister, Ann Hunter.

Our Gifts

Operating Budget Weekly Need: \$26,788 **Building Fund** Weekly Need: \$5,623

March 27-\$11,275 April 10-\$16,754 March 27-\$2,154 April 10-\$5,100

March 31-\$2,855 April 17-\$32,529 March 31-\$505 April 17-\$3,819

April 3-\$19,246 April 3-\$4,035



Vacation Bible School

will be Monday, June 20-Friday, June 24 from 9-12pm.

More information including volunteer opportunities coming soon!





YOUTH MINISTRY

Lynn Thompson
Director of Youth Ministries
lthompson@bartlettumc.org

NOW WHAT??

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? I'm wondering if it feels something like when life serves you 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.

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...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 the last Easter – we are not the same people. Life and it's experiences has 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. It's time for us to step up and lead and share Christ's teachings...it's up to US -just like the disciples who had to regroup, and find confidence knowing that Christ is counting on them- He is counting on us! I pray you realize that YOU are God's plan for His kingdom...let's get busy sharing His love!!!



Friday, May 6 at 7:00pm

Saturday, May 7 at 7:00pm

Sunday, May 8 at 2:00pm

Join us in Cook Fellowship Hall for music, desserts, and FUN!!



MUSIC MINISTRY

Jon Steadman
Director of Music Ministries
jsteadman@bartlettumc.org

The Crossroads Youth Choir has 2 fundraisers this month in preparation for our Choir tour in June. We would love your support!

Join us for a night full of fun and basketball in the LEC! Watch as our youth take on the adults in a basketball game Sunday, May 1st! Ladies will play first and the Guys will play second. Admission is only \$10, and it includes drinks and popcorn! We hope you will join us and help us raise money for our annual Choir Tour!

The Annual Crossroads BBQ Chicken Fundraiser is coming up again! Please see our table in Oaks Hall (on Sunday mornings) and in the LEC (on Wednesday nights) to purchase dinners! Each meal is \$15 and includes a chicken half, beans, potato salad, slaw, and a roll! We will be smoking the chicken early in the morning on Saturday, May 14th, and each dinner will be available for pick up from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm that day!

WE NEED YOUR RECIPES!

For the new BUMC Cookbook

Recipes can be dropped off at the church office by May 15.

Contact Helen Stillwell at 386-4563 or hstillwell@bartlettumc.org if you have recipes or would like to purchase a cookbook.

GETTING BACK ON THE GREENS

GOLF IS BACK AT BUMC!!

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR A FUN DAY OF FELLOWSHIP AND GOLF!
\$60 PER PERSON INCLUDES COURSE AND CART.
SIGN UP INDIVIDUALLY OR AS A TEAM OF 4 BY EMAILING JT FORRESTER AT JTFORRESTER@BARTLETTUMC.ORG OR AT THE CHURCH OFFICE (386-4563) BY MAY 20. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE SAM BULLE SCHOLARSHIP.

SUNDAY, MAY 22
Tee time: 2:00pm

QUAIL RIDGE GOLF COURSE BARTLETT



Rachel Hasty
Senior Accountant
rhasty@bartlettumc.org



Many thanks to all who gave generously to this year's Easter offering. As of this writing, we have collected over \$9000, \$2500 of which will go to Project Transformation to sponsor a summer intern, and the remainder to be split between Asha's Refuge and Hannah's Hope. Well done!

Last month I had a question about apportionments—what are they and how are they calculated? Good question and I'll do my best to answer it. When I first began work at Bartlett UMC I was a little unclear on this my own self having grown up in a church of a different denomination. As I understand it, one of the things that make United Methodists united is the way we support the ministries of the larger United Methodist Church. We do this through apportionments, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the church-wide budget to conferences and local churches. When we send our apportionments in to the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference each month, we are giving a fair share toward the larger church's work, much like your monthly tithe helps support the work of the local church.

The formula for calculating apportionments has changed over the years. The formula that has made the most sense for our church and the one we have adhered to most successfully is sending in 10% of our giving to the Operating Fund. We are committed to continuing to strive to maintain this level of connectional commitment.

I hope that answers the question. Keep the questions coming!



Fun Club Meeting is Tuesday, May 17 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.



Do you love to travel? Meet new people? See new sights? Join the Fun Club in 2022 for a new adventure!

Croatia and Its Islands--September 23, 2022

Brochure for this trip is available in the church office. For further questions, contact Treva Jolley (490-8030).



Join Ross Hamilton for the **Splendors of Egypt**, in the footsteps of Moses, Joseph, and the Holy Family, November 1-11, 2022. Contact Ross (605-6887) for more information on this once in a lifetime trip.



We as Christian disciples are called to do God’s work. We are called to be His hands and feet. We are called to welcome new faces, greet friends and loved ones. We are asked to embrace each other with open arms. Most importantly, we are called to do all of these things to reach more people through the love of Christ.

The Hospitality Ministry at BUMC is a vital part of the life and growth of this church. It has the opportunity to witness to countless amount of people. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry. If you are hesitant whether this ministry is the right fit for you, refer to the Scripture.

Hebrews 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Each and every day, we all have an opportunity to share the love of Christ. We have the opportunity to connect on a much deeper level with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please consider being a part of this ministry to continue what we are all called to do.

If you have any questions about what this ministry does and looks like reach out to Shannon Park, JoLaine Wyatt, or Pastor Jason.

KID'S DAY OUT



Our Kid’s Day Out program is in need of teachers for the summer and fall program. The summer program runs from June 6-July 14 on Mondays and Thursdays. Our fall program is on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, and occasionally a make up day on Wednesdays. Free child care is provided for our teacher’s children that are KDO age and half price for pre-school age. This is a great opportunity for someone who wants to earn a little extra money while their children are in school. You may call 388-1698 or drop by the KDO office and talk to the director, Cheryl Phillips, if you would like more information.



Bartlett United Methodist Pre-School is accepting applications for lead teachers in our 3-year-old and 5-day programs. A Bachelor’s Degree or higher in Early Childhood Education or Elementary Education as well as experience with young children are required. Some experience teaching at the preschool level is preferred. Please submit resumes to Jennifer Steadman at preschool@bartlettumc.org



RECREATION MINISTRY

JT Forrester
Director of Recreation
jtforrester@bartlettumc.org

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!

On May 22nd at 2:00PM at Quail Ridge Golf Course there will be a Sunday Golf Outing that is filled with fellowship, fun and golf! For only \$60 per person, you or your team can play and get ready for the big Sam Bulle Golf Tournament that will be in the Spring of '23!

Bartlett United Methodist Church
5676 Stage Road • Bartlett, TN 38134
Phone: 901/386-4563
Fax: 901/386-9927



www.bartlettumc.org



BARTLETT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

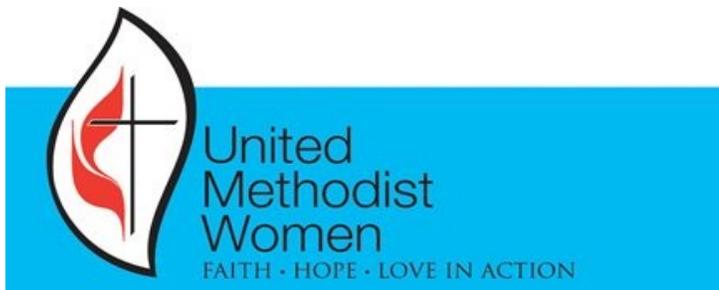
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Saturday, May 14 at 8:00am

Cook Fellowship Hall

Join us for a light breakfast, fellowship, and Ross Hamilton speaking on the BUMC Endowment Fund. 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!

Tuesday, May 10 at 10:00am

Cook Fellowship Hall

All women are invited! We will have a speaker from Ark Farms and Service Animals and a potluck lunch.

Need a breather? A few moments to rest in God's presence? Join us every Wednesday at noon in the Chapel for prayer and communion. How can we pray for you today? If you cannot attend, let the pastors know your joys and concerns and we will pray for and with you.

