

# The Monthly Message



JUNE 2022  
VOLUME 48 ISSUE 6



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

*Greetings, beloved, in the name of our gracious Lord!*

This will be the final newsletter article I offer to you. I wanted to go out on a high note and say something profound or wise or worth remembering, but the more I struggled to find the right words the less any words seemed to be available. So I'll simply say thank you. Thank you for receiving Kristy and me with warmth and eagerness four years ago, and the variety of ways you helped us to feel at home in this community. Thank you for placing your trust in me as I sought to lead the best I knew how. Thank you for your patience and openness to converse when we came to places at which we disagreed. Thank you for your perseverance as we navigated, together, the perils of a pandemic—and for your willingness to explore and engage new ways of doing ministry. But most of all, thank you for inviting me into your lives and allowing me to come alongside of you in your faith journeys; through the celebrations and the sorrows, the times of strength and those of brokenness, I feel I've gained not only friends but family. And for that, I'm grateful indeed.



Our last weeks together will look like this: on **June 5**, we'll celebrate Pentecost with a single worship service at 10:15 as has become our custom on special Sundays; we'll share Communion and Pastor Bernardo will offer his final message. On **June 12**, we'll have regularly-scheduled worship services and Pastor Andy will offer his final message. Then, on **June 19**, we'll have another single worship service (10:15) as this will mark for all three of us our last day as your pastors; I will offer the sermon that morning and we'll observe a farewell liturgy.

On **June 26**, Dr. Ron Johnson will bring the word in both worship services; on **July 3**, the Rev. Fred Morton will do the same.

On **July 10**, you'll be led in worship by your new senior pastor, the Rev. Dean Emerson, and new associate pastor, the Rev. Donna Spencer. That too will be a single service at 10:15, with a celebration liturgy and a welcome reception afterward. Starting in next month's newsletter, you'll hear from Dean in this space.

Again, I'm deeply appreciative for each of you, for relationships formed, for lessons learned, and for your consistent witness to the Gospel of Jesus. His light shining through you has encouraged and inspired me in ways I'll never be able to adequately convey. Even so, I pray for that light to shine ever more brightly in the days and seasons ahead as you continue to know Christ and make Christ known. And now:



*May the Lord bless you and keep you;*

*may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you;*

*may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

*Amen.*



So unspeakably proud of and grateful for our 2022 confirmands! You are the church, the hands and feet of Jesus, and you will do extraordinary things. God's blessings be with you today and always.



*Rev. Bernardo Zapata*  
Associate Pastor  
[bzapata@bartlettumc.org](mailto:bzapata@bartlettumc.org)

## MULTI-ETHNIC MINISTRY

As most of you may now know, after seven years serving in ministry, I have asked our District Superintendent not to appoint me to any church for at least the upcoming Annual Conference calendar year. Although it's been a tough decision for me to make, I believe that taking this time off will help me refocus my energy on the type of ministry and service to the Gospel that God has imbedded in my heart.

You have heard me speaking about the way I understand that the Good News need to be proclaimed, which is seeking justice for the poor and the destitute, reaching out to the broken and to the outcast, embracing the immigrant and the foreigner; in a few words showing Christ love and mercy to our neighbors. Throughout my ministry at BUMC and thanks to the church's outpouring of support for the Multi-ethnic ministry, our congregation has put words into action to follow Christ's command. Every Sunday when I present our offerings to God, I thank the Creator for every perfect gift, and ask the Lord to multiply those gifts and for the Word to be proclaimed in our midst and to the ends of the earth. Because of God's abundant and perfect provision, we reached out to and served our neighbors in multiple ways, today I want to present you with a few examples of how those perfect gifts have been used:

- The Rice and Beans ministry delivered close to 3 tons of grains and other foods to communities in need.
- We worked with young African refugees and provided them with opportunities to gather together, play, eat, and learn from role models in their own community.
- We supported the Memphis African community at large and helped them buy a piece of land in Binghampton, where they planted a garden to help feed their community.
- LUCES has been an integral part of our ministry. These families with children with special needs found a sanctuary in BUMC and in this sanctuary the parents could learn how to cope with their children's conditions. But above and beyond that, many in our church spent hours serving as volunteers, taking care of the children while their parents gathered to learn. I have not enough words to thank Perry Martini who was always there, caring and cheering for these kids.
- What began as a support group in our church for Spanish speaking immigrants who were facing emotional distress, ended up becoming a formal counseling ministry through the Church Health and Alliance. Because of BUMC commitment, this community now has access to professional counselors who work with them, providing help to cope with their emotional and mental issues in their own language.
- Over the last few years, more than 30 children have received scholarships to participate in our Dayshore program. One cannot imagine the impact that this wonderful program has made in the lives of these children. Until their parents tell you how eagerly their children are looking forward to the upcoming Dayshore week, to meet new friends and to hear of Christ teachings.
- Golden Cross Seniors ministry is a ministry associated to Wesley Living that serves the needs of seniors residing in affordable housing retirement communities in Memphis and Shelby County. Thanks to God's provision, the multi-ethnic ministry has been able to support Golden Cross and to help our most vulnerable citizens.



The list can go on and on. My sole purpose here is to bring to the forefront of the congregation, that when we go beyond the walls of our buildings, there are so many opportunities to show our Christian love and commitment to Christ. Friends, be always mindful that we serve the One God, the Lord of Mercy and Compassion; the Redeemer, the Prince of Peace. My invitation to you is to continue supporting any effort to reach out to the ones at the center of Christ's heart. You will be amazed by how much love God has for God's children.

Finally, I want to thank each and every one of you for your support to this ministry and for the love and care you have shown to me and to my family. Words are not enough to express how deeply this community has touched my life and the life of my loved ones. Please don't ever forget to love God and love your neighbors as yourselves. I'll be listening from my pew.

Peace and grace†,

Bernardo





Rev. Andy Thompson  
Associate Pastor  
athompson@bartlettumc.org

As you can probably imagine there are so many mixed emotions washing over me as I write this newsletter article. The excitement and opportunity to continue to live into the calling that God has placed on my heart is somewhat tempered by the realization that I will be leaving a place that has been my church home for 37 years and the source of so many special friendships and memories. I got married to the love of my life in this church; my children were baptized and raised in and by this church; they would later be confirmed and grow in their faith and discipleship as part of this church and I would have the great joy, as the Associate Pastor, of baptizing my grandchildren in this church. The friendships made in the church are so special and mean so much to me and the opportunities to participate in the various ministries and missions of this church have been both life-giving and life-changing.

It should go without saying that this church has had a profound impact on my personal life, my faith life and my ministry calling. Nine years ago I came to the realization that God doesn't always call the equipped but that He equips the called. I also began to understand that God had been equipping me for ministry a long time ago and Bartlett United Methodist Church, with all of the opportunities granted me to serve the church, was key to being able to give God a yes to His call on my life to serve the church as a pastor. There are so many people I could thank for the way you have guided, nurtured and encouraged me during my faith journey but to do so in this article would take up too many pages. Let me just offer a heartfelt thanks to all of the pastors, staff and entire congregation of this church for the many ways you have loved me, for the many ways you have allowed me to love you and for the many ways you have taught me how to love God and be loved as a child of God. I love you all more that you will ever know and you have made me a better person and a better pastor. However, with that being said, I do want to take the opportunity to say that without the support, encouragement and love of Lynn and my family I would have never grown to be the person that God intended me to be. Words can never express how much their love has meant to me and there has been no greater example in my life of what true love, God's love, is and should be. I would also like to give a shout out to Dr. David Lewis, Dr. Steve Shapard, Rev. Jason Jones, Rev. Bernardo Zapata, Rev. David Horne and the great staff of Bartlett UMC, all colleagues and dear friends who have shaped and informed my ministry. I will be forever grateful for your teaching and example of what it means to serve God and Church.



I give God thanks for the many blessings in my life and I have been blessed beyond measure. While there may be a little separation anxiety about leaving what is known, comfortable and safe, I am truly excited for the new opportunity that God has put before me. There is something special about being called into ministry and in being sent to serve. Much like my experience here at Bartlett, I know that God continues to equip me for ministry and that serving Capleville United Methodist Church will be a great time of personal and spiritual growth. I pray that God will indeed help me be a loving and effective partner in the ministry of mission of Capleville UMC. As we seek to serve God and the community together, I will love them and look forward to them loving me as we grow together in knowing Christ and making Christ known. I believe that God has great things in store for Capleville and Bartlett. It is after all, God who is at work in both churches, leading and guiding them in their faith journey and calling the people of the church to go into the world and make disciples. I pray that God will continue to bless Bartlett United Methodist Church, Rev. Emerson and Rev. Spencer and all of you! I give God thanks for you all and for the way you have impacted my life!

Love, grace and peace,

Andy



Much love and gratitude to Andy for over 30 years of sharing his love of cooking with a servant's heart.  
Thank you!



# OUTREACH MINISTRY



June 7 Room in the Inn-409 Ayres, 5:00pm until 6:30pm  
 12-17 Service Over Self Week- *See Article*  
 27-30 Project Transformation Week- *See Article*

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

Summer is important for Outreach. This June we return to our favorite and most important projects. We need commitment to carry out these programs. Please text Perry at 901-634-0804 or email pmartini@bartlettumc.org to sign up.

## Service Over Self (SOS) Week

SOS is back! SOS will host about 125 staff and campers each week this year, so get ready for a fun week. Here is the schedule:

Sunday, June 12- Picnic for arriving campers, 8-10 volunteers, 5:30pm until 7:15pm, 2505 Poplar

Monday, June 13- Popsicles, 2 or 3 cars, 1pm-2pm; Dinner, 6-8 volunteers, 5:30-7:30pm

Tuesday, June 14- Popsicles, 2 or 3 cars, 1pm-2pm; Dinner, 6-8 volunteers, 5:30-7:30pm

Wednesday, June 15- Popsicles, 2 or 3 cars, 1pm-2pm

Thursday, June 16- Popsicles, 2 or 3 cars, 1pm-2pm; Dinner, 6-8 volunteers, 5:30-7:30pm

Friday, June 17- Facility clean up, 10:30am, 2505 Poplar

## Project Transformation Reading Week

PT is returning to in-person reading at Centenary UMC, 584 East McLemore.

Monday, June 27 through Thursday, June 30- We need 8-10 readers per day.

We start at 9:15am Monday morning with a short orientation and read until Noon.

Orientation is only needed once, so any other morning you volunteer, you will start at 9:50am.

Volunteers must be 13 or older. Those over 18 will require a background check. If you have participated in youth or children's ministry events in the last 3 years, you should already have done the background check.



Outreach would like to offer thanks to Coach Courtney Rhodes, the teachers and staff, and especially the students at Bon Lin Middle School for their food drive that gave BUMC a donation of over 1200 items.

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

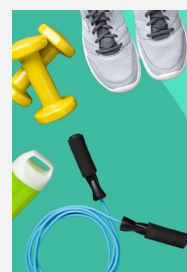
**Stretch Class**--Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays, 9:00am, 201L

**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.





# CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY

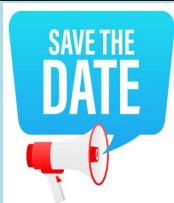
*Karen Strawhecker  
Assoc. Dir. of Music Ministries  
karens@bartlettumc.org*

Our children's music year end rehearsals and "parties" were last night. (It's the middle of May as I write this.) We had such a great time! A couple of weeks ago, one of our children asked if we could visit Elizabeth in the hospital. We couldn't do that, but last night during our party, we decided to make a recording of our last song used in worship to send to her. Our children have such loving hearts! Also, a wonderful surprise for Wanda and me as their leaders was their desire to "play" with the hymnal. I thought they might want to mix and match hymns and tunes as we did with one at the hymn sing. Instead, they wanted to call out random hymns to sing! We explored hymns we have never done, and a few familiar ones – this time in German, Japanese, and Spanish! We had no clue how to say those words, but it sure was fun trying!

I am excited to tell you that all of our incredible children's choir leaders are returning next year to teach our children about music and worship! We are looking forward to another exciting year! Plan now to bring your children to music on Wednesday evenings in the fall! Music a great way to serve the Lord whether you are a child, youth, or adult!

We would like to get a summer handbell group together to ring on July 10th to welcome our new pastors. Please let me know if you are interested in ringing, so I can plan appropriately for the day. It will be something that we can put together in hopefully one rehearsal.

There are a few openings in the handbell choirs in the fall. If you are interested in ringing, please let me know, and we will get you into a group. We always have a wonderful time in fellowship and learning music in our rehearsals. BUMC has choirs on all levels of difficulty, beginning, intermediate, and advanced, so there is a place for you.



The Summer Music Day Camp on July 27th from 9am to 3pm, will be for children who have completed 1st - 5th grades. The campers will sing in worship on Sunday, July 31st. Please have your children bring their own lunch. We will provide a snack. There is no charge for this event. Pre-registration is required by July 13th. Registration forms will be available in Oaks Hall and the office by June 1st. Come and join us for a fun day of music!!

## Joys and Concerns

**Sympathy** is expressed to June Peterson upon the death of her sister, Nan Green; to Jean Wilson upon the death of her mother, Peggy Massey; to Alisa Rhodes and the Rhodes family upon the death of her niece, Mallory Morgan; to Bettie Malone upon the death of her husband, Floyd; to Jim Martin upon the death of his wife, Suzanne.

## Our Gifts

<u>Operating Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need: \$26,788</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Weekly Need: \$5,623</u>
April 24- <b>\$10,959</b>	May 1- <b>\$12,630</b>	April 24- <b>\$3,063</b>	May 1- <b>\$3,140</b>
April 30- <b>\$5,840</b>	May 8- <b>\$13,994</b>	April 30- <b>\$1,400</b>	May 8- <b>\$3,365</b>



### **Fun Club Meeting is Tuesday, June 21 at 10am in the LEC.**

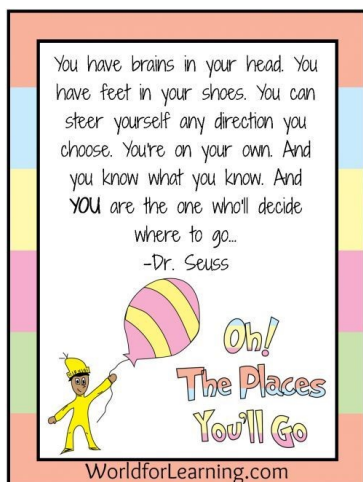
All those ages 50 and older are invited to a program and luncheon the third Tuesday of each month. Participants are not required to be members of our church. For more information please call Sandy Dunn 901 486-5776.





# YOUTH MINISTRY

Lynn Thompson  
Director of Youth Ministries  
[lthompson@bartlettumc.org](mailto:lthompson@bartlettumc.org)



Oh The Places You will go! Our Seniors have graduated. Our youth have finished school with an upperclassmen title being reached and summer has begun! WOW! It seems like it has gone soooo fast! So in the liturgical calendar, we are in the Ordinary Days. Ordinary in the idea that the big church holidays - Advent and Lent have come and gone with celebration and now its simple ordinary days. What are we supposed to do? Well, I remember when my kids would come to me and say "mom...I'm bored" and I would say "GREAT"! They would look at me and just shake their head. I would tell them to go and find something to do...figure it out. So I guess Ordinary days are like that in our Faith journey. We have had all the celebrations and festivities concentrating on the birth of Christ and then His death and resurrection - now we need to figure out in our faith what they have taught us and how we can grow and share God's love because of these big events that make us who we are as a Christian.

So here are a few things maybe you could do ...start your own personal growth reading the scriptures or finding a great devotional to read. Start something new like game night with friends and then don't cancel but make it a great night to fellowship and relax. How about making dinner for your family...and have dinner together. Or how about calling a friend you haven't heard from and just talk or Facetime. Or maybe just stop and give hugs where hugs are needed or do a good deed. It's really up to you! You see you are on your own...kind of like those disciples were when they didn't have Jesus to help direct them and keep them on the path. Well....now you have the Holy Spirit to nudge you on your faith journey - to comfort and give you peace as well. Don't forget we have a lot of work to do as followers of Christ and it all begins with us figuring out what God wants us to do. He's not going to shout it from a mountain top ...it may simply be a still small voice nudging you in the right direction. The trick is to always be looking for what God is showing you...even in the Ordinary days! Because our ordinary days can become extraordinary days - I'm sure you will figure it out!



Congratulations to our Class of 2022 High School Graduates! They are Brayden Cloud, Luke Freeman, Caroline Hasty, Connor McCarthy, Connor McCaslin, Jenevive Omollo, Mallory Orman, Brady Porter, and Chase Wolverton. We are so proud of you!

Senior Scholarship recipients:

Connor McCaslin - Dean Muklevicz Memorial Scholarship  
Luke Freeman - Discovery Class Scholarship  
Chase Wolverton - David Haggard Memorial Scholarship  
Jenevive Omollo - Guardian Angel Scholarship  
Brayden Cloud - Sam Bulle Memorial Scholarship  
Mallory Orman - James Bell Memorial Scholarship



DAYSHORE – July 11-15 from 8:00 am – 5:30 pm, cost is \$125 per camper. This day camp is open to completed Kindergarten to completed 5th grade. Lakeshore United Methodist Assembly will provide camp leaders to lead breakout sessions, crafts, games, recreation and more! BUMC will provide a facility, meals, extra hands (youth & adults), host homes, and hospitality. You may register by emailing Staci at [shissong@bartlettumc.org](mailto:shissong@bartlettumc.org) and she will send you a copy of the registration form. You can also register on our website, [www.bartlettumc.org/connect](http://www.bartlettumc.org/connect).



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*Staci Hissong*

*Director of Children's Ministry*

*shissong@bartlettumc.org*

You may be checking out this article to see what is going on here in Children's Ministry. And believe me, there are things going on, but I really want to share with you all one of my favorite Bible verses. It is one that comes to mind so very often for me and has helped me find peace amongst my anxiousness. It is the first part of Isaiah 30:15. It says "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength," I love this verse because my self-doubt and unrest get the best of me at times. I forget to rest in the Lord, too many times to admit. I let my own plans and ideas run away with me. Which most times, causes uneasiness in my soul. This world we live in teaches us to depend on no one but ourselves. How wrong we are! To remember to depend on the Lord is so counter-cultural. But isn't that what we are called to do? Be counter-cultural? We know. Don't we?

When I began the process of interviewing for Children's Director, I had to lean immensely into the Lord. I came from a sister Methodist church, so I had an idea of how things might go, but I knew that the only way to lead this ministry is if I depend on God, daily. And honestly, I have failed to call upon His name daily. I, once again, got ahead of the Lord. So, today, I seek repentance and rest for my salvation. Salvation from myself and my own plans. The Lord has given me the gift of your children; to direct, to guide, to love, to create environments where everything points to the Lord. That is my heart's desire, always. My plans may be good plans, but the Lord's plans are the best plans. And I commit to seek Him for His plans; to seek Him for His plans in regards to your children and grandchildren. To seek Him for His plans for activities, for quiet times, for reflection, for teaching, for loving, for relationships, for His GLORY!

Pray for me, as I also pray for you; to let the Lord lead us to be counter-cultural and to find repentance and rest in His salvation.



## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR VBS!

*Food Truck Party: On a Roll With God!*

Our party will take place **June 20-24, from 6 pm to 8 pm**. VBS is open to children ages 3 and potty trained through completed 5th grade. We will have daily snacks, crafts, science, games, songs, Bible stories, and more! Register online at [www.bartlettumc.org](http://www.bartlettumc.org) then click "Connect" and look for the Food Truck Party Logo or use the QR code on this page.



**VBS 2022 Volunteers**, the kids need you! If you believe that teaching children about Jesus Christ is important, here is an opportunity for you! Register today online to serve at [www.bartlettumc.org](http://www.bartlettumc.org) and click on the "Connect" tab or by using the QR code on this page.

## BUILDING UPDATES



*Eddie Lindsey*

*Maintenance/Facility Supervisor*

*elindsey@bartlettumc.org*

If you have been to church lately and noticed wires hanging over some of the doors, Larry Bailey and I are wiring the doors for handicapped openers.

The doors that we are installing the openers on are the LEC entrance, Sanctuary Oaks Hall Stage Rd., both right doors into Oaks Hall, Sanctuary basement Stage Rd., Hannah's Hope entrance door, the bathroom doors in Oaks Hall, and the Sanctuary basement.

This should be completed in July depending on delivery of the openers.

Hopefully, this will make it easier for our congregation members, that may need assistance, with the entry to the building.

Have a blessed week,

Eddie Lindsey

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



[www.bartlettumc.org](http://www.bartlettumc.org)

BARTLETT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

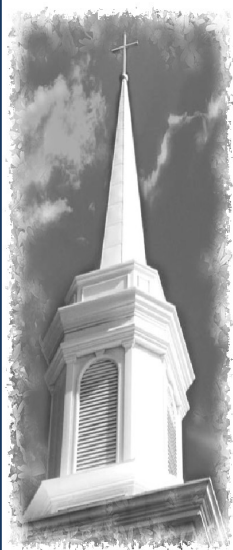
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## MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

**Saturday, June 11 at 8:00am**

**Cook Fellowship Hall**

Join us for a light breakfast, fellowship, and speaker, Andy Thompson. 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!**

## 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](mailto:preschool@bartlettumc.org)