

The Monthly Message



MARCH 2023
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Rev. Dean Emerson, OSL
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Bartlett UMC will be sponsoring another 14-week gathering of GriefShare beginning on Sunday, March 26th from 5 to 7:00pm. A nursery will be offered. Grief is a painful process and GriefShare is a weekly video seminar featuring some of the nation's foremost experts on grief recovery topics. Each seminar is combined with support group discussion time to allow group participants to talk about the content of the seminar and about how they are dealing with the death of their loved one. The sessions will be led by Jim Knight and Karen Morrisse with support from Emily Elliott. Other team members are Debbie Horton and Jennifer Steadman. Donna or myself will be present each session as a pastoral resource, if needed. Please contact Debbie Horton at duhorton@bellsouth.net or Karen Morrisse at klmorrisse1973@outlook.com or go online at griefshare.org and search by Bartlett or zip code 38134 to locate the Bartlett UMC group to register.



Rev. Dean Emerson and friends at BUMC,

Our ministry, Crosspoint of India, received a generous gift in memory of Brother Brian Clement. We were honored to be chosen as a ministry that was dear to his heart. Thank you for including our ministry in your giving.

We stop in to share at the Seekers Class when we are in the U.S. and often attend the craft fair for our ministry. We would love to meet you sometime and share what God is doing in India.

Amol and Rachel Pawar



The Spring Craft Fair will be Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25 from 9-5:00pm. Bring your family and friends and shop handcrafted items and enjoy concessions and our home-made goodies at the Bake Sale. All proceeds from the Craft Fair support ministries at BUMC.



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 Assoc. Dir. of Music Ministries
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MUSIC MINISTRY



Exciting things are always happening in the Music department! Now is a great time to join us if you are a youth or adult interested in singing with the Chancel Choir for Holy Week and Easter. We will be singing during the Maundy Thursday service on April 6th, the Good Friday service on April 7th, and Easter Sunday morning at the 8:20 service. We will work on those pieces first in our rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. We would love to have you sing with us! Contact Donia Wade or Karen Strawhecker for additional information.

After our weekend choir tour, the Kingdom Chorale will begin preparations for our hymn sing on May 10th at 6pm in the sanctuary. For this event, the children will sing hymns requested by YOU. If you have any favorites, please email your selections to me at karens@bartlettumc.org. The Hymn Sing is a time for us to gather and sing as many favorites as we can in an hour. The children will learn your favorites to sing the first stanza as a solo or small ensemble, then the congregation will join on another stanza. It has become one of my favorite activities of the year! I hope you will come and participate with us!



Thank you to all of the youth and adults that played and our congregation that supported the Crossroads Youth Choir basketball fundraiser.



We love
 BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US

Thank you to the UWF Tabitha Circle and our youth for hosting the Valentine's Dinner and Dance!



OUTREACH MINISTRY

Perry Martini
Director of Outreach Ministries
pmartini@bartlettumc.org



March 1	Kickoff, WOW Share! 5:45, LEC Kitchen
7	Takeout Tuesday, 5pm, LEC Kitchen, Volunteers needed
10	LUCES 10th Anniversary, 6pm, LEC
14	The Best Times Senior Expo, 9am-1pm, LEC

WOW Share!

You may have noticed a new calendar item called WOW Share. Beginning March 1 we will have a list of church members that need some assistance with meals due to health or mobility issues. That night we will start delivery service of the Wednesday Night Dinners. We will need 10-12 people to take meals out. Please let me know before hand if you can help. If you know someone that needs the meals let me know. This service is in addition to the Takeout Tuesday meals we do the first Tuesday of each month. Outreach gives a shout-out to Jan Lindsey for approaching us with this idea. We also appreciate Tami for preparing additional meals each week to make this possible. Do not hesitate to drop an extra dollar or so in the Wednesday night till to help offset costs.

The Best Times Senior Expo

The expo is returning again this year with booths designed toward our seniors (like me). Join us on Tuesday, March 14th. It is open to the public.

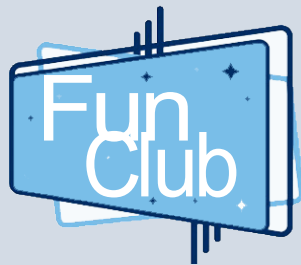
The future of BUMC Outreach

We know that we cannot continue to do things the same ways we have for the last couple of decades. It is time for us to focus on our local community. I do not mean Bartlett only, but rather the neighborhoods on all sides of this establishment. With that in mind, we have suggested ending the recreation ministry as it is, and moving programs to BUMC Outreach. Other ministries usually have their own recreation activities, but Outreach will focus on using our facilities for community events and occasionally for shelter or service. Picture block parties, health fairs, open-gym basketball, and back to school events for starters. We are also looking at other ways to serve the community that may require more expansion. These opportunities will require more volunteers but involve less travel to other sites. Look for more on that in April.

Finally, I wish to offer condolences again to Susan, Rebecca and Matt Johnson on the loss of Herman. We have lost many good volunteers in the last 2 years. Herman was involved in several missions. When you travel with someone through 5 airports to Nome, Alaska you get to know them better. That trip was one that Herman really wanted to go on and it showed all week. His fellowship with the Inupiat people, his willingness to work hard, and his sense of humor were all on display. He also was well loved by the sled dogs in a visit to a local musher's home. Dogs know good people. Last, but not least, he was the driving force in the rise of pickleball in this facility. Rest in Peace, our friend.

Pantry needs are increasing! We need: pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, cereal, canned meats, canned vegetables, crackers, and instant potatoes. You may bring items to the church office or leave them in Oaks Hall.





Fun Club Meeting is Tuesday, March 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. In March, our speaker will be our Collette representative, Patrick Kensella. He will give a slide presentation of upcoming trips and talk about travel in general. Participants are not required to be members of our church. For more information please call Sandy Dunn 901 486-5776.

The BUMC Fun Club outing on **March 8** will be to Calvary Episcopal Church for lunch at their Waffle Shop and the Lenten devotional that follows in their beautiful sanctuary.

In February, the Fun Club traveled to Reelfoot Lake to see the eagles. Below are a few pictures taken by a member of the Fun Club, Tommy Towery.



Holy Week

Sunday, 4/2 Palm Sunday

10:15am in the Sanctuary (ONE WORSHIP)

Monday-Friday, 4/3-4/7 Noonday Devotion and Lunch

12:00pm in the Chapel; lunch following in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, 4/6 Maundy Thursday

7:00pm in the Sanctuary

Friday, 4/7 Good Friday

7:00pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday, 4/9 Easter

6:30, 8:20 and 10:50am in the Sanctuary

Joys and Concerns

Sympathy is expressed to Susan, Rebecca, and Matt Johnson upon the death of her husband and their father, Herman Johnson; to Chris Hartman upon the death of her mother, Ruth Felten.

Our Gifts

Operating Budget Weekly Need: \$26,788.00 **Building Fund** Weekly Need: \$5,623.00

January 29-**\$20,644**

February 12-**\$23,955**

January 29-\$10,995

February 12-\$6,610

February 5-**\$16,848**

February 19-**\$18,322**

February 5-**\$4,585**

February 19-**\$4,995**

Thanks to those who have returned their 2023 pledge card. To date we have received 164 of 368 cards mailed out (45%). Our current pledges to the Operating Fund meet 58% of our annual need while our pledges to Debt Retirement meet 73% of our annual need. If you haven't turned in a pledge card yet, it isn't too late! Remember, every bit helps whether it's \$5 or \$5000!



It's time to order your Easter Lilies in honor or memory of friends and loved ones! Lilies are \$15.50 each and will be sold until March 12th. Cash or check will be accepted in the church office or order online at www.bartlettumc.org/connect. Contact Helen Stillwell at 386-4563 if you have questions.



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.





YOUTH MINISTRY

Lynn Thompson
Director of Youth Ministries
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WOW! Just WOW! 30Hour Famine 2023 was ON! Our youth spent this weekend learning how to “Be the Change” in our world. In this event our youth fast for 30 hours with nothing to drink but juice, water and gatorades and can have only gum.

DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN,
BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN,
AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN,
TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN,
AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN.

- JOHN WESLEY -

They were busy! They made and delivered lunches to pass out to migrant workers and made blankets for families we will serve in the Appalachia mountains and blessing bags for our congregation to share with our brothers and sisters in Christ. They built benches for our labyrinth area and also for our sister church at Capleville UMC where the youth helped clear debris and also to gave ideas to their volunteer youth leader for ideas to grow their program. They served our first responders who were so appreciative and even showed off their basketball skills with some of our youth- so much fun! Our youth also cooked 14 dozen chocolate chip cookies for Service over Self mission of Memphis. Lunch deliveries to some of BUMC shut-ins were also such a blessing .They did all of this and more while having slept outside in a box city on a very cold below freezing night!

The 30 HR famine is a way of opening our youths and my own eyes to the needs of our church, our community-those living near and far. It also teaches our young people the reality of global poverty. The funds they raised will bring hope to hungry kids: our brothers and sisters in the family of God.

But these youth meant business about “Being the Change in the World” and we give thanks to you for all of your support and prayers! They raised \$16,004.90. This is the largest amount raised in 23 years!!! AND WAIT THERE IS MORE! ...Government grants and corporate partner sponsorships will multiply their funds raised by 14 - which will end up being \$224,068.60 through World Vision! God is Good All the Time! Thanks be to God!

In Christ,

Lynn Thompson





Rachel Hasty

Senior Accountant

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What follows is an article I wrote back in 2018. I've changed the numbers to reflect where we ended up for 2022. I was reminded at our last Finance Committee meeting that a lot of people really have no idea of all the expenses that the church has. So, this archived article provides a good answer to two very important questions: "Exactly how DOES the church spend its money?" and "Why can't we just cut back on our spending?" Good questions.

How does the church spend its money? On my desk I keep a log of all of our standard monthly bills—things we pay **every single month**. This list includes garbage pickup; utilities including gas and electric, phone, internet service, and water; property insurance; copier lease payments; pest control; workman's comp insurance; grounds contract services; apportionments; church management software hosting; fees paid for online contributions and registrations; website hosting and many more. Most of these have a fixed cost; all of them happen every month. For 2022 these expenses averaged \$36,650 per month.

The church currently employs 8 full-time staff members (32-40 hours weekly) and around 10 part-time (this includes nursery workers). Right now we have 2 vacancies to fill (Director of Music and Director of Children's Ministry). Full-time employees have the opportunity to take advantage of insurance and pension benefits. Program staff are budgeted a small amount each year for continuing education. Pastors are budgeted an amount for continuing education and an amount for professional expense reimbursements (set by SPRC). Our monthly payroll expenses including salary/wages, health insurance, pension, payroll taxes, continuing education, and professional expense reimbursements averaged \$57,600 per month for 2022.

$\$36,650 + \$57,600 = \$94,250$ in fixed monthly expenses for 2022

Our monthly giving to the Operating fund for 2022 averaged \$91,672. This doesn't include any memorials or honorariums or any miscellaneous income received—just plain old giving. We're running behind in our giving to the Operating fund and it has the following effect:

$\$91,672 - \$94,250 = (\$2578)$

Now, take into consideration all the programs that this church offers that we have all come to love and to expect: music groups and programs, both as a part of and separate from the Sunday worship experience; outreach programs such as Moriah House, LUCES, Project Transformation, and Takeout Tuesday; children's and youth activities far too numerous to list; recreation activities for all ages and abilities; adult programs such as Bible studies and Griefshare. None of the expenses for these programs is included in that \$94,250 listed above.

So, where exactly do we cut back on our spending? Do we drop some program activities? Do we drop some programs altogether? Do we drop program staff? Do we cut back on staff hours? Do we cut back on staff benefits? **Or** do we dig just a little bit deeper and rise up to meet the financial needs of a church that provides us with meaningful opportunities to fellowship with one another and grow in our faith? I keep saying that it doesn't take much, **but it does take all of us.**

In the past few weeks I have seen incredible generosity and love for this church through your pledges of financial support. Many of you have answered the call for help and for that I am incredibly grateful and inspired. **But it does take all of us.** Can we cut back on our spending? Sure. We could probably do any of the things mentioned above and save some money but at what cost to our church? It's definitely something to think about.

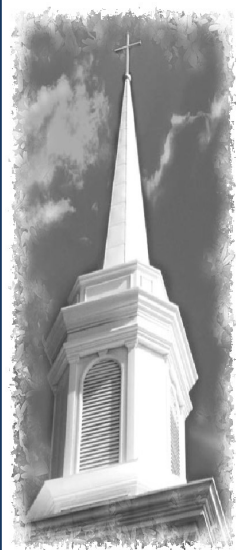
Correction:

Last month I reported that \$80,000 of the Clement Fund had been committed to the John Light Food Pantry to be disbursed equally over the next 8 years. The amount committed is correct but the disbursements will be made over the next 10 years. Sorry about the miscommunication.

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MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Saturday, March 11 at 8:00am **Cook Fellowship Hall**

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

United Women in Faith

Tuesday, March 14 at 10:00am **Cook Fellowship Hall**

Join us for our meeting and lunch.
All women are invited! Bring a friend!

A HUGE THANK YOU to our amazing congregation who helped our Youth raise over \$750+ on Super Bowl Sunday! Our SOUPer Bowl collection benefits our Food Pantry and Outreach here at BUMC!!! GOD IS GOOD! ALL THE TIME!

