

The Monthly Message



OCTOBER 2022
VOLUME 48 ISSUE 10



Rev. Dean Emerson
Senior Pastor
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NEWSFLASH: CHRISTMAS IS NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY

You would never guess this given the bounty that most of us will give and receive throughout the Advent/Christmas season. Last year it is estimated that the average American spent \$886 on Christmas gifts. This does not include the money spent on decorations, food, travel, cards etc. Americans spent slightly more than \$6 billion on Christmas trees alone. Turns out when it comes to "A Charlie Brown Christmas" that so many claim to love, Snoopy is our true hero.

Ten years ago I took the Mission Team leaders from Camden FUMC to a conference at Ginghamburg UMC in Ohio. Much to my children's chagrin, it was there I first heard "Christmas is not your birthday." Each worshiper at Ginghamburg is challenged to match every dollar they spend on Christmas with a dollar donation to the Christmas offering. The result has made a tremendous difference in the lives of people around the world including Darfur and Haiti through wells being dug to provide safe drinking water.

When we returned to Camden I extended that challenge to the congregation. I did the same thing when I was appointed to Concord in Paducah and I do it now here at Bartlett. I realize this is a big ask and for those ready to go all in, great. But if you need some time to absorb this, then this year start out with 10%. For all that you spend on Christmas gifts this year, give 10% to our Christmas offering. Next year hopefully you would give 25%. The following year you will be asked to give 50%. And in 2025 you will be challenged to give 100%. Now I suspect some of you have already started purchasing Christmas presents for this year and I know many will start fairly soon. Keep track of how much you spend and set aside 10%. I think some of you will be surprised by how much you actually spend on Christmas gifts. Then bring your 10%, or whatever the Lord leads you to bring, to the 2022 Bartlett Christmas Offering.

Now let me explain my take on a church's Christmas Offering. It should never go to the budget, the building or something for the church. If our Christmas offering is truly meant to be a gift, then it should go to those in need, not just back to ourselves. This year, your Church Council has adopted two recipients for Bartlett's Christmas offering. One-half of all undesignated gifts will go to Hope House Ministries. Here is their vision statement: "Hope House will be a catalyst for life-long change in the lives of those affected by HIV and poverty." The recipient of the other half of undesignated giving to our Christmas Offering will be the Shulov family. Most of you are aware of the traumatic year this family has endured. They are our sisters and brothers and they are in need.

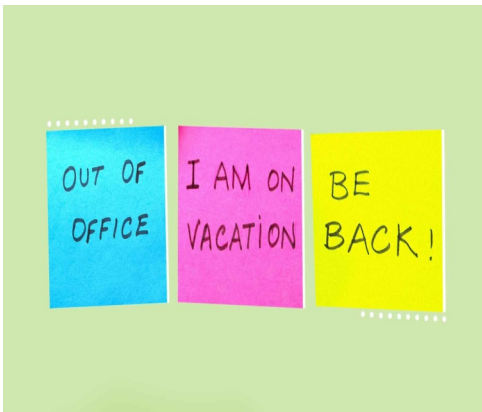


In keeping with the Discipline of the UMC, you may designate your gift to one or the other of the two causes and 100% of your gift will go to that cause. However, if you just write a check to Bartlett UMC marked Christmas Offering but with no designation, your gift will be divided equally between Hope House and the Shulovs.

I hope you will accept my challenge to tie your offering to whatever you spend on Christmas because it really is NOT your birthday.

Grace & Peace,

Dean



Nan and I will celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary in August of 2023. Because of the high number of retirements amongst United Methodist Clergy, I was afraid I wouldn't get a 7th year in Paducah and did not want to risk taking an extended trip in year one of a new appointment. So last October I booked a 17-day trip to Scotland and Ireland for this fall and surprised Nan by telling her at Christmas. Little did I know I would not even get a 6th year at Concord. So, Nan and I fly out of Memphis for Edinburgh on October 26th and return from Dublin on November 11th. I know it is not ideal and I do apologize. I hope you can understand. But I also know I am leaving you in very capable hands with Donna and a great staff. - Dean



OUTREACH MINISTRY

Perry Martini
Director of Outreach Ministries
pmartini@bartlettumc.org



October 1 Flu/Covid shots at BUMC 10am-2pm
4 Takeout Tuesday 5:00pm
27 Pantry 10am-Noon

Takeout Tuesday returns!

On October 4th we will resume Takeout Tuesday. We will have a revised list of recipients. We will still need 6-8 delivery volunteers. All deliveries will be local to the Bartlett area as the days become shorter. We will offer lightly seasoned (very little or no salt) meals based on what we hear from our people. Volunteers would need to be at the LEC kitchen by 4:50pm. We still would like you to spend a few minutes at your delivery point to visit and share some fellowship. We do ask that volunteers contact Perry at least 1 day prior, if possible, by text or email.

email: pmartini@bartlettumc.org
cell: 901-634-0804



For more information contact **ARISE2Read** at 901-347-5545
or visit us at: arise2read.org



- **ARISE2Read** is a nonprofit organization that focuses on 2nd grade literacy skills.
- **40%** Memphis children are living in poverty and are an average of THREE grade levels behind their more affluent peers in reading.
- **66%** of children not reading on grade level by the 4th grade will likely end up living on government assistance or in prison.
- **BUT THERE IS HOPE!** Children living in poverty that are reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade have a graduation rate of 89%!!!

**YOU can make a difference by giving just
ONE hour a week!**

Joys and Concerns

Sympathy is expressed to Kathy King upon the death of her husband, Cliff.

Our Gifts

Operating Budget Weekly Need: \$26,788

August 28-\$28,630 September 11-**\$21,341**

August 31-\$10,955 September 18-**\$21,631**

September 4-\$40,556 September 25-**\$17,145**

Building Fund Weekly Need: \$5,623

August 28-\$9,061 September 11-**\$4,805**

August 31-\$965 September 18-**\$3,120**

September 4-**\$4,063** September 25-**\$2,645**



Fun Club Meeting is Tuesday, October 18th 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.

JOIN US FOR

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 @ 10:00AM
IN THE BARTLETT UNITED METHODIST
PARKING LOT

Join us as we give thanks to God for our pet friends!

All creatures great and small are welcome!

We welcome donations of money and/or pet supplies. All proceeds will go to Bartlett Animal Shelter and Street Dog Foundation.



BUM!

FALL FESTIVAL AND TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 30, 2022 | 4:30-6:30PM
(TRUNK OR TREAT STARTS AT 6PM)





Rachel Hasty
Senior Accountant
rhasty@bartlettumc.org

A couple of people have approached me recently about ideas they have had to help make giving to the church a little easier, especially for those who still might not be joining us in-person. The first is our online giving option available on our church website. If you would like to take advantage of this option, follow these easy steps to set up a recurring or one-time gift:

--Go to our church website at www.bartlettumc.org

--Click on the "Give" tab at the top of the home page--Click on "Online Giving" in the orange box. This will redirect you to ServiceU, our online giving platform

--Create an account in order to manage your giving and cut down on the number of time you'll have to enter your information (you cannot set up recurring payments unless you first create an account)

--Don't forget to write down the password you choose for yourself!!

--Complete the online giving form. You have options to give to Operating, Debt Retirement, Capital Improvement, and/or other (designated giving such as Music, Youth, Outreach, Children, etc). When entering the dollar amount, only enter numeric values—you don't have to put a \$.

--Select "Give now" to make a one-time payment or "Schedule Giving" if you want to make recurring payments

--If you selected "Give now" you will be taken to a page where you will select your method of payment—either credit/debit card or ACH transfer from a checking/savings account. Simply enter your account information and click "Submit Gift"

--If you select "Schedule Giving" you will be directed to a page where you will determine when and how many payments you would like to make. You can even select what day of the month you'd like your payments to be made. You'll be asked when you would like your first payment to begin and when you would like the payment schedule to end. Then click "continue" to get a detailed schedule of your upcoming payments. Be sure to follow the screens all the way through until you get the message that your payments have been successfully scheduled.

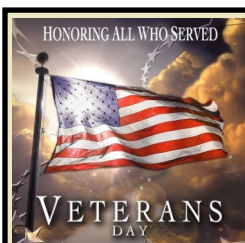
If any of this process gives you trouble, simply give me a call in the church office and I'll be happy to walk you through it. I've even had members stop by my office and, using my computer, I've helped them set up their payment schedules. Many find this a more convenient way to give to the church than bringing cash or writing a check each week. It really is a matter of preference.

Another simple way to give to the church is through a program called "Amazon Smile." By selecting Bartlett United Methodist Church as your charity to support, Amazon donates .5% of your eligible purchases to BUMC. Especially with the holidays just around the corner, you would be surprised how much that could add up to for the church. If you are interested in supporting the church through this program, go to www.smile.amazon.com.

I appreciate the reminders from Randy Allen and Ann Foster about these two ways to help support the church. Keep the ideas coming!

God bless,

Rachel



To honor our Veterans, we will display military uniforms, plaques, and other memorabilia in Oaks Hall on Sunday, November 13th. If you have items to display or questions about the display, please contact Larry Bailey at 674-3164 or Eddie Lindsey at 386-4563.



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

MUSIC MINISTRY

First of all – a HUGE thank you to all of the participants in Littlest Angels, Wesley Choir, Kingdom Chorale, Crossroads Youth Choir, Worship Band, Chancel Bells, and Chancel Choir in the mass choir on September 11th! The blending of the generations is always an incredible sight! You were wonderful! Thanks to Rev. Dean for blessing the music ministry and our new 5th octave set of chimes as we begin this new season. It was such a beautiful way to start the year of BUMC's musical offerings.

All of our ensembles have now been in rehearsals for about a month practicing to bring our musical gifts to the Lord in worship. If you are not part of an ensemble, now is a great time to join. Of course, you can join at any time. It's never too late to join a music ensemble.

Much is coming as we look forward. The Children's Christmas program is Dec. 11th. The 2nd - 5th grade children's Christmas program auditions are October 3rd – 6th. Look for sign-up sheets outside the music suite. If these dates are not good for your schedules, please contact me. We will find a time that will work. We need children to sing solos, speak, and possibly play a few instruments. I always encourage children to audition for all the options. I will place the children in parts where they can be strong and succeed. Every child who wants a part will receive a part.

As we continue to make intergenerational connections within our congregation through music, we will combine the adults and youth for the Christmas program on Dec. 18th. This singing opportunity is also open to anyone who would like to participate, but can't make a year round commitment to choir. Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the music suite. I hope to see you there!

Something new in the newsletter will be the inclusion of our Sunday music offerings. Thanks to Alice Farina for the suggestion! Look for what we have so far for October in this newsletter. I am hoping to add a few solos, or small ensembles to the list. Jennifer Demetriou will also be sending this information out in the weekly email.

As always, if you have any questions about participation in the music program, please feel free to contact me.

Sunday Worship Music Offerings

Oct 2nd – World Communion Sunday
Bartlett Bells, Campanella Ringers,
Chancel Choir @ 10:15 (One Service)

Oct 9th – Chancel Bells @ both services
Chancel Choir @ 8:20

Oct 16th – Laity Sunday
Chancel Choir @ 8:20

Oct 23rd – Chancel Choir @ 8:20
Littlest Angels & Wesley Choir @ 10:50
Crossroads Choir - Youth Sunday @ 10:50

Oct 30th – Chancel Choir @ 8:20
Kingdom Chorale - Children's Sunday @ 8:20



Lynn Thompson
Director of Youth Ministries
lthompson@bartlettumc.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hey Gang!

Can you believe it – OCTOBER! We've got Pumpkin spice lattes, leaves trying to change colors, candy corn and all the new fall flavors of milkshakes at Steak and Shake (but where is the Cookie Butter shake.....AAGH!!!) It's kind of funny that as I am writing this article, it is supposed to get up to 93 degrees and sunny this



week! But as it is summer heat outside - all of the commercials and stores I am seeing have Fall, Halloween and Christmas decorations out at the same time! That's kind of like life isn't it? Sometimes we are so adjusted with the routine on things – whether seasons, events and mind set on the changing of the season that we really forget to be present- today! Don't get me wrong – I love me some candy corn but it sometimes transforms me into wanting to wear sweatshirts and drink cocoa. That's kind of crazy when I am “glowing” in a short sleeve shirt and a skort! HA! I think the message for October should be – enjoy the present – don't be the person that “just can't wait until...” but be the person that is excited about THIS day...remember... THIS day is the day the Lord has made and we should rejoice in it. Sometimes we get settled and content with our routine that we think of what's to come to get us refreshed and excited about the day. We should get refreshed and excited every time we get out of bed to see what great blessings and lessons God has for us. So that's my challenge to you...not how many days until “oh lawd” black Friday and Christmas but to stop and think of this day as a new clean slate from God saying – do with it ANYWAY you want – What a Gift! So maybe start a new tradition of a day – maybe a random day in October – call it BLESSINGS day and write someone who has blessed you – or make cookies for someone because it's the day you set out to be your “just because” day. If we can stop looking forward to what's to come in days ahead – maybe we can look forward to this day and what God has in store for us in it...Amen? AMEN!

Have a blessed day!

In Christ,

Lynn Thompson





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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

I love that the cool weather is just around the corner! We have gotten a little relief at the time of writing this but 100 degree days are still in the forecast. Ugh. But nonetheless, it makes me think of fall; leaves changing, pumpkins, cooler weather and family get-togethers. Even as 100 degree days are not gone yet, take a look around at the stores, Halloween and Christmas items are out on display. Can we slow down a little bit?? Before we get lost in the holiday hustle and bustle, let's focus on a great community event we will be having here at Bartlett UMC – FALL

FEST! It's on October 30th and begins at 4:30pm. This is a well-known event here in Bartlett, and we need to take advantage of this fact. We need to invite everyone we know; neighbors, co-workers, and strangers at the store. Everyone! My dream is to have a HUGE event! I believe that we all are still rebounding from the COVID pandemic and this is a perfect opportunity for this event to be a big success. But it can't be done without you!

How can you help? We need game booths, we need candy, we need folks to dress up in costumes (non-scary please), we need folks to mingle, we need people to give directions to concessions and restrooms, we need you to decorate your trunk. There is a way for everyone to participate! I put a sign-up sheet in your green Sunday School folders, in case you missed it. Please sign-up and get those back to me as soon as possible. I have also asked that the congregation donate candy, preferably with NO PEANUTS. There is a basket in Oaks Hall to drop candy off. I am counting on you to spread the word to your community and invite kids and adults to join us for this fun evening. The success of this night depends on your willingness and enthusiasm.

The Fall Fest has always been an event that is non-threatening to the un-churched. It's a safe place to bring your child to have some fun without the traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating. They will begin the evening inside with games, refreshments, and candy. Then at 6 pm, trunk-or-treating will begin outside. What a better opportunity to share the love of Jesus with someone you may not otherwise meet? Come, share, and have fun with us at this great community event.

Hey Church! We Need Your help!

We would like to make a collage of masks worn by our congregation during the Covid-19 pandemic. By no means are we saying you don't need them anymore, but with all of the vaccines and boosters - we are hoping you will feel confident to spare one or two! So we need your help. If you could drop off one or two of your CLEAN cloth masks that you grew fond of during 2020- we would love to make them into a collage so that we as a congregation can capture this time in our history as the church family as well. It is important to show how Bartlett UMC maneuvered and survived during the pandemic as a congregation.

We will kick this off on October 1st and continue through the month of October. We will have a box to place them in the Narthex by the welcoming table, the LEC Control desk and also in the Church office. Won't you be a part of "documenting" this time in the history of our church!?!

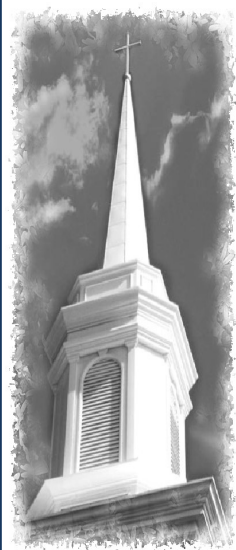


Do you know a church member who is unable to come to church but would love a card or a visit? Do you know someone that is in the hospital or an assisted living that would like a visit from our pastors? We want to know! If you have information to share, please call Helen at the church office at 386-4563.

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



www.bartlettumc.org



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MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Tuesday, October 11 at 10:00am

Cook Fellowship Hall

Join us for our meeting which will include speaker
Leslie Caza discussing healthy eating and recipes.

Lunch will be served afterwards.

All women are invited! Bring a friend!

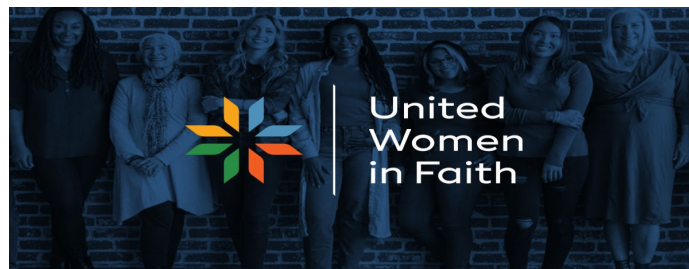
Saturday, October 8 at 8:00am

Cook Fellowship Hall

Join us for a light breakfast, fellowship, and a special
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!



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!

