

# The Monthly Message



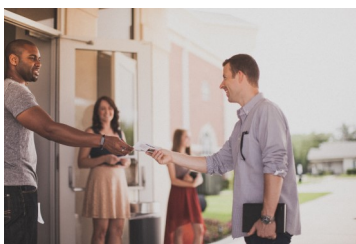
## ARE WE UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Imagine with me, if you would, that you are looking for a church home. This being the South, there is no shortage of churches for you to visit to see if one is a good fit for you. One Sunday you visit Bartlett UMC. You have been a part of the UMC in the past and you are somewhat optimistic. It is a beautiful facility that is well cared for which you take as a good sign. You enter through Oaks Hall and make your way into the sanctuary. The music is divine. The Children's Message energetic. The preaching...tolerable. But what you remembered most about your visit was that no one talked to you.

If this happened to you, how many chances would you give to a church where not one single person talked to you? I wish this were only a hypothetical example. Unfortunately, it is not. This happened here at Bartlett recently. Remarkably, the individual did indeed give us a second chance; only to have the exact same experience of no one talking to them. I mentioned in the January newsletter that we have planned a weekend event with Dr. Cherry Collier to assist us in developing a culture of "radical hospitality." We listened to those who said the weekend of Spring Break in March was not a good time. We have rescheduled for **Saturday, April 20th and Sunday, April 21st**. I implore you to put this weekend on your calendar and keep it clear.

I suspect that some of you are wondering why we need an event to help us be more hospitable. We know what to do. We just need to do it. We are not alone in this. As I said in January, every congregation I have ever served thought they were "friendlier" than they actually were. Our visitor who was ignored on two separate Sundays proves that is true for us as well. As with many things in the church, often we are better at talking about an issue than honestly dealing with it. It is time for Bartlett UMC to start addressing how to practice "radical hospitality" and not just talk about it. It begins on April 20th and 21st. I hope to see you here.

Peace,  
*Dean*



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.

## STAFF

Rev. Dean Emerson  
[demerson@bartlettumc.org](mailto:demerson@bartlettumc.org)

Rev. Donna Spencer  
[dspencer@bartlettumc.org](mailto:dspencer@bartlettumc.org)

Jennifer Demetriou-Communications  
[jdemetriou@bartlettumc.org](mailto:jdemetriou@bartlettumc.org)

Rachel Hasty-Accountant  
[rhasty@bartlettumc.org](mailto:rhasty@bartlettumc.org)

Cindy Lamb-Children's Ministry  
[clamb@bartlettumc.org](mailto:clamb@bartlettumc.org)

Eddie Lindsey-Facilities/Maintenance  
[elindsey@bartlettumc.org](mailto:elindsey@bartlettumc.org)

David McDonald-Administrator  
[dmcdonald@bartlettumc.org](mailto:dmcdonald@bartlettumc.org)

Perry Martini-Outreach/Recreation  
[pmoutreach@bartlettumc.org](mailto:pmoutreach@bartlettumc.org)

Jennifer Steadman-Kid's Day Out/  
Preschool Dir. [kdo@bartlettumc.org](mailto:kdo@bartlettumc.org)  
[preschool@bartlettumc.org](mailto:preschool@bartlettumc.org)

Helen Stillwell-Reception/Calendar  
[hstillwell@bartlettumc.org](mailto:hstillwell@bartlettumc.org)

Karen Strawhecker-Assoc. Director of  
Music [karens@bartlettumc.org](mailto:karens@bartlettumc.org)

Lynn Thompson-Youth/Young Adult  
[lthompson@bartlettumc.org](mailto:lthompson@bartlettumc.org)

Donia Rachelle Wade-Director of Music  
[dwmusic@bartlettumc.org](mailto:dwmusic@bartlettumc.org)



## Youth Events

### **Next Step** (College & High School Seniors)

March 7 @ 7:00pm  
Lynn's house

### **Dinner Club**

March 14 @ 6:00pm

### **Crafts Fair**

March 22-23

*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)

30 Hours! - little over one day - but in that short time, more than 7,000 children will die of hunger related causes. The question is always - will you care enough to let their hunger move you to action. This weekend 29 youth and adults were moved INDEED- raising \$15,632.23. World Vision will then multiply our funds with grants and matching gifts X17 making our total given to bring hope to \$265,847.91 - over a quarter of a million dollars! We are blessed beyond measure bubbled up and overflowing for this donation to provide hope- hope where the world is a better place and our brothers and sisters in need are fed! GOD IS GOOD! ALL THE TIME! What an AMAZING group of youth! We are blessed with young disciples who fasted for 30 hours only drinking water, juice and Gatorade and chewing gum with World Vision's 30 Hour Famine! We had a blast getting to know each other better, learning why they are needed to make a difference in the world, learning about life in need in 3rd world countries and see how God has called us to do justice! In the midst of that we made blankets for Appalachia Service Project, put together blessing bags for our congregation to pass out to those in need and filled 10,000+ eggs for My Town Miracles ...oh yea! we slept as snug as a bug in freezing cold and wind in our box city for the night. We cooked lunch for first responders, picked up Rummage treasures, packed over 500 cookies for Service Over Self, challenging games with Timmy, enjoying a wonderful speaker from My Home Miracles. We also broke our fast in the best way to break our fast - COMMUNION - what a blessing to be satisfied from our hunger with the bread and juice and the understanding that He will fill us when we come to Him first! We soooo would like to thank our congregation, friends and families who responded to our youth's call to Do Justice by donating and supporting them monetarily and in prayer! Words cannot begin to tell you how grateful we are for you! God is Good! All the Time!!!



In Christ,  
Lynn Thompson



## Finances (Rachel Hasty/rhasty@bartlettumc.org)

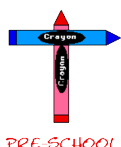
I started working part-time for Bartlett UMC in February of 2011. At that time, our SunTrust (now Truist) building loan had a balance right at \$4,000,000. We refinanced that loan in 2013 and then, again, in 2017. The 2017 refinance was going to be the final one with a maturity date of October of 2027. Since that time, we have made 3 extra principal payments totaling \$305,000, shaving off approximately 1.5 years from our maturity date. That means that right now we're looking at finally paying off our building loan in the spring of 2026—2 years away! Our current balance is \$716,000.

Pretty exciting to be so close to paying off this building, isn't it? But we're not there yet. Since our last refinance in 2017, the amount contributed each year to Debt Retirement has decreased steadily from contributions of almost \$350,000 in 2018 to almost \$260,000 in 2023. Our loan payments total \$292,500 each year and we have begun to come up short on a regular basis. Fortunately, before COVID, we had a healthy cash reserve in our Debt Retirement account, enough to cover 5 months of payments should we need it. Today, our reserve will only cover 1.5 months of payments and that cushion is getting smaller and smaller.

For 2024, we received pledges to the Debt Retirement fund of \$207,000. Already for the month of January we received a little over \$5000 in unpledged giving—if that level continues we should receive about \$60,000 in unpledged giving for the year (we only received \$48,000 in 2023). That would still put us over \$25,000 short for the year which means our reserve will be wiped out by the end of this year and we will have to start "borrowing" money from our Operating fund to cover loan payments.

As usual, I've thrown a lot of numbers at you and you might have already quit reading. Here's the short version: we need to see an increase in giving to Debt Retirement. If 105 families could give an additional \$20 a month to Debt Retirement, our shortfall would be covered. If more than 105 families could give or if those families could give more than \$20 a month, then that would just be icing on the cake! I've said it before and I'll say it again, it doesn't take much but it does take all of us! As always, if you have any questions please let me know—I'd love to hear them.

God bless,  
*Rachel*



The Bartlett United Methodist Kid's Day Out and Preschool are registering for the 2024-2025 school year! This registration is also for the summer program which serves ages 6 months through preschool. If your child turns 3 on or before August 15, they will be eligible for the preschool program. Registration packets are available at the Kid's Day Out and Preschool offices. Please email Jennifer Steadman at [preschool@bartlettumc.org](mailto:preschool@bartlettumc.org) if you have additional questions regarding either of these programs.



### Recreation/Outreach

(Perry Martini/  
[pmoutreach@bartlettumc.org](mailto: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*)

Beginner Pickleball—  
Every Wednesday at  
7:00pm

Zumba—Every Thursday  
at 5:30pm (\$3 per  
class)

Volleyball— Every  
Thursday at 6:30pm

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

Pantry—Last Thursday  
of each month 9:30am  
Shelby Street



## MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

**Saturday, March 9 at 8:00am in Fellowship Hall**

Join Men's Prayer Group for a light breakfast, fellowship, and speaker.

Breakfast is \$5 and first timers eat for free! Call the church office at 386-4563 to reserve your spot. All men are invited! Call David Dunn at 212-4649 for more information.



**Tuesday, March 12 at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall**

All women are invited! The meeting will start with breakfast treats and coffee and we will have Rev. Dean as our speaker.



**March 22-23 9:00am-5:00pm**

Come and shop until you drop with over 75+ AMAZING crafters! Buy some yummy treats from our bake sale and concessions will be available.

## Music Ministry ([Donia Rachelle Wade/dwmusic@bartlettumc.org](mailto:dwmusic@bartlettumc.org) [Karen Strawhecker/karens@bartlettumc.org](mailto:karens@bartlettumc.org))

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 work on those pieces first in our rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-7:30 pm and would love to have you sing with us! The Holy week schedule is listed below.

We had a blast at Crossroads Youth Choir's rehearsal lock-in. We selected music for Easter and tour, went bowling, and had a special viewing of Wonka and The Greatest Showman, all while seeing who would fall asleep first or who could stay up all night! No surprise, Lynn outlasted all of us! The Kingdom Chorale is working on tour music for their trip to Little Rock. We will stay at Pulaski Heights UMC (where former youth music director, Trenton Teegarden, and former music director, Frode Gundersen are now serving), and participate in both their traditional and contemporary worship services. On Saturday morning, we'll sing for the residents of Briarwood Nursing and Rehab. After singing we will enjoy lunch and then time at the Museum of Discovery!

After our weekend choir tour, the Kingdom Chorale will begin preparations 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. It has become one of our favorite activities of the year! Please plan to come and participate with us!

### Holy Week Services:

Sunday, March 27 @ 10:15 a.m. - Palm Sunday (**one service**)

Thursday, March 28 @ 7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday service

Friday, March 29 @ 7:00 p.m. - Good Friday service

March 31 @ 6:30 a.m., 8:20 a.m. (with Brass and Timpani), 10:50 a.m.-Easter services



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

Our children are CELEBRATING SUNDAY SCHOOL! At our last party, we had a blast with Mr. Perry as we made Valentine bags for folks at Room In the Inn.

Our next Sunday School celebration is "Shamrock Sunday" which will be held on Sunday, March 17. We'll all meet together for the lesson on the Holy Trinity.

According to Christian beliefs, Saint Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to Irish Christian converts. He used each leaf to represent the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



After the lesson, we will be in full party mode! We're going to:

Make green slime (ohhh...it's going to get messy)  
Play Shamrock Bingo  
Make a craft to take home

I can't think of anything I'd rather be doing than CELEBRATING Sunday School at Bartlett United Methodist Church!

Love,  
*Miss Cindy*

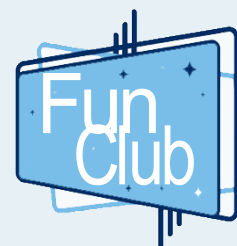
## Within Our Church Family

Sympathy is expressed to the family of our church member, Patt Mathes, upon her death; to Brian McAfee upon the death of his mother, Donna Cunagin; to Andy Pesce upon the death of his mother, Ruby; to the family of our church member, Joan Shelby, upon her death; to Karen Thompson upon the death of her mother, Katherine McWilliams.

## Our Gifts

Operating Budget	Building Fund
Weekly need: \$27,076.00	Weekly Need: \$5,623.00
January 21 (snow day)-\$3,494	January 21-\$1,099
January 31-\$29,661	January 31-\$7,105
February 4-\$15,455	February 4-\$4,125
February 11-\$26,961	February 11-\$4,799
February 18-\$17,358	February 18-\$4,861

**\*\*If you ordered personalized offering envelopes, they are available to pick up in the Narthex.**



The Fun Club outing for March will be to Calvary Episcopal for the Lenten lunch and speaker. Since they no longer have lunch or devotions on Tuesday please check your email or bulletin for the day we will go.

All ages 50+ are invited to join us for our meeting on **Tuesday, March 19, at 10 am in the LEC.** The speaker will be Daniel Irwin with the Better Business Bureau. Reservations are required for lunch (\$10). The menu will be meatloaf, baked potatoes, salad, roll and dessert. For more information or to make a reservation please call Sandy Dunn(486-5776) or Charlotte White (381-4954 or 568-3002).

## Well on Wednesdays

Join us for dinner at 5:00pm in the Life Enrichment Center followed by children's music, devotion, youth Bible study, and Chancel Choir. Come and be fed!

**Bartlett United Methodist  
Church**

5676 Stage Road  
Bartlett, TN 38134

Phone: 901-386-4563  
[www.bartlettumc.org](http://www.bartlettumc.org)



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**Join our Chronic Disease  
Self Management Program (CDSMP)!**



We will have free classes to discuss techniques to help people who have chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, asthma, diabetes, arthritis, and lung disease. Caretakers are also eligible to attend. Classes start March 5 and will meet once a week on Tuesdays for 6 weeks. There are two time slots: 10:00am-12:30pm or 1:30pm-4:00pm. Each class is limited to 16 people. Use the QR code on the left for the 10:00 class or the QR code on the right for the 1:30 class.



# Holy week

**NOONDAY DEVOTION AND LUNCH**  
March 25-March 29 @ 12:00pm/  
Chapel

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
March 28 @ 7:00pm/ Sanctuary

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
March 29 @ 7:00pm/ Sanctuary

**EASTER**  
March 31 @ 6:30, 8:20, & 10:50am/  
Sanctuary