



THE MONTHLY MESSAGE



TENNESSEE-WESTERN KENTUCKY CONFERENCE

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.

Visioning Update

The team appointed by the Church Council is currently working with the Ministry Leadership Center assessing the culture of Bartlett UMC. In particular, we are looking at the bonds within the congregation and our willingness for adapting to a changing culture in the world. In January we will do a deep dive into the Bartlett community which is our primary mission field.

The team is also developing a survey for the entire congregation. We considered using one from the Ministry Leadership Center but concluded we prefer to develop our own for Bartlett UMC. Our expectation is the survey will be completed online primarily, but there will be hard copies available for those who prefer pen and paper. We want to make it succinct in hopes of getting a good response rate. We hope to send the survey in December with a cutoff date for submissions to be determined.

Obviously, one of the purposes of a survey is to solicit your opinion. That inevitably brings your personal preferences into play. As your pastor, I am challenging us to focus on what we feel God is calling us to do and to be. Sometimes, these may align with "what I like." Other times that may not be the case. We must never forget that we are seeking GOD'S VISION for BUMC. It is far more important to answer the question "What does God want for us as a congregation serving the Bartlett community and the world?" than it is to answer the question "What do you or I want?" Please prayerfully keep this in mind as you respond to the survey.

Grace & Peace,



Rev. Dean Emerson, OS�

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OFFICE HOURS

- Monday-Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm
- Friday 9:00am-12:00pm
- Phone: 901-386-4563



Saturday, December 13
8:00am in Fellowship Hall
 All men are invited to the Men's Prayer Breakfast for a light breakfast and fellowship. Breakfast is \$5 and first timers eat for free!



United Women in Faith

Tuesday, December 9
9:00am in Fellowship Hall
 All women are invited to join us for a wonderful morning of Christmas music, fellowship and delicious food.



Tuesday, December 16 at 10:00am in the LEC Gym
 Join the Fun Club (ages 50+) for their meeting with a special speaker. The meeting is followed by lunch. Lunch is \$10 and requires a reservation.
 Call Charlotte White at 381-4954 or 568-3002 to make your reservation.

Youth Ministry (Lynn Thompson/lthompson@bartlettumc.org)



Luke 2:19 "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

PON-DER -verb: ponder; to think about (something) carefully, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion.

Synonyms: think about, contemplate, consider, review, reflect on, mull over, meditate on, muse on, deliberate about, dwell on, brood on, ruminate on, chew over, puzzle over, turn over in one's mind

This is my favorite verse of the holiday season – always has been! It is about how Mary stopped and pondered how all things, the difficult, unbelievable and joyful, and treasured the WHOLE journey. Our story is that we have been given this same gift – this Christmas. It is up to us not to shuffle this Christmas story off in a fleeting moment only to brush it off and make it shiny for Christmas Day. But to take this story – a story of a gift for us – that didn't arrive here easily but arrived perfectly. Look at the synonyms listed above & ponder how God loves you so much that He sent His Son for YOU!

In Christ,

Lynn

Bartlett United Methodist Preschool/Kid's Day Out (preschool@bartlettumc.org)

Pray for our Pre-School

- God's protection - safety for the children families and teachers.
- We could provide the best possible growth and development experience for the children who attend our school.
- More families would hear about us, and we could increase enrollment.

Teacher Appreciation

The Teachers work so hard, with an amazing attitude, they are truly here for the children and families!!!

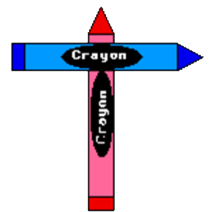
- You could provide a note of appreciation, healthy treats occasionally, or a simple catered lunch 1 time a school year.

Volunteer

- Chapel & Cheer – Provides a time where parents can gather for coffee to get to know one another and support one another Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Tuition assistance

- We want our school to be a place where any child can attend no matter the family's financial situation. It has been my passion for more than 30 years to give children a good lasting foundation to set them up for success in school and life.
- We have 2 funds where you can donate
 - ⇒ Karen Liles – Tuition Assistance
 - ⇒ Annette Stokes – Emergency Assistance Fund



PRE-SCHOOL

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

The Children's Choir, Crossroads Youth Choir, and Chancel Choir have all been working hard to prepare for our upcoming Christmas programs! We have so many different events throughout the month of December, and all our different music groups have been "sleighting it" (forgive the silly pun!) in their attempts to learn the music and prepare for their performances.



Outreach

Thank you for your generous donations for the food pantry in November! Our wonderful volunteers braved the rain to hand out many food boxes to bless families in the area for Thanksgiving.

For December, we are collecting items for Christmas food boxes. **Here is a list of the items we are collecting: pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, and canned meat.**

Items can be dropped off in the church office or narthex. Thank you for supporting our food pantry and community with your donations!



Within Our Church Family

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Nancy Fultz upon her death. Sympathy is also expressed to Cindy Winkler and her family upon the death of her mother, Edith Jenkins as well as to the family of Patsy Houghton. Please keep the Fultz, Winkler, and Houghton families in your prayers during this difficult time.

The BUMC family would also like to extend congratulations for the birth of Bodie Dean Blackburn, son of Max and Courtney Hughes Blackburn. Proud grandparents are Linda and Dean Hughes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7

Christmas Cantata
(during worship at 9:00am)

December 7

Bartlett Area Chorus Concert
3:00pm

December 14

Breakfast with Santa
(5-7:00pm in the LEC)

December 24

Christmas Eve Worship
6:00pm in the Sanctuary
11:00pm in the McCarter
Chapel

December 28

Happy Birthday Jesus Party
(during Sunday School @
10:15am)
One Sunday School class to
celebrate Jesus' birth.

RECREATION

Pickleball— Every
Tuesday at 6:45pm
(*follow Pickleball-BUMC
on Facebook*)

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

Volleyball— Every
Thursday at 6:30pm

Walking Group—
Monday & Tuesday at
4:45pm

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www.bartlettumc.org



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Our website has gotten an overhaul!

If you haven't visited **bartlettumc.org** lately, you need to check it out! We have a brand new website, redesigned for a cleaner, more modern look!

The new site makes it super easy to keep up with church happenings, sign up for our newsletter, donate, or make payments towards things like Pre-K tuition or tickets to church events.

