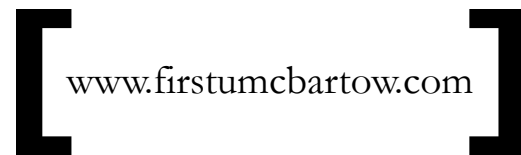




**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
BARTOW, FLORIDA**

455 S Broadway Ave.  
Bartow, FL 33830  
MAY 2024

Phone: 863-533-0904  
E-mail: firstumcbartow@aol.com  
https://www.facebook.com/fumcbartow  
YouTube: First Methodist Bartow  
Instagram: fumcbartow



Building Bridges for Christ in Bartow

**IMPORTANT DATES IN THE FUTURE:**

**JUNE 6-8: ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LAKE LAND AT FSC**

**JUNE 8: CELEBRATION OF PASTOR MISSY'S ORDINATION**

**JUNE 16-27: MISSION TO ARGENTINA**

**JULY 22-26: VBS: Marketplace Nazareth**

**BE IN PRAYER FOR...**

- Our denomination's General Conference through May 4
- Our Florida Annual Conference June 6-8
- All the places and people in turmoil around the world
- Ways to share the love of Christ every day!



Missy Turbeville . . . . . Pastor  
Becky Otten . . . . . Administrative Assistant  
Sylvia Spencer . . . . . Pianist/Accompanist &  
Choir Director  
Will Alderman . . . . . Audio/Visual Technician  
Ernesto Fonseca . . . . . Sanctuary/Annex Custodian

Did you know we have **Facebook** and **YouTube** pages as well as an **Instagram** feed?  
Share with your friends as you "Follow" us and watch services at First United Methodist Church Bartow, Fl on Facebook and First Methodist Bartow on YouTube!



First United Methodist Church of Bartow

**MAY 2024  
Newsletter**

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 5

*"...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." – Acts 1: 8*

*I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!*

This month our Choral Benediction will be the refrain from *We Are the Church* (#558 in the UM Hymnal). Some of you might be wondering why we are singing a children's song as our choral benediction, why we change them monthly, or have one at all. Those are all good and valid questions. The answers to all of your great questions have to do with what it means to live together as the body of Christ in our church family and the world!

*The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,  
the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.*

We have a choral benediction because it is one last opportunity to raise our voices together as we leave worship empowered by the Holy Spirit to share God's love in the world. The strength that we need to live as Christ followers- loving God, others, and self in ways that are whole and healthy- is one of the gifts of worship. To sing corporately, as a BODY, is a reminder that we are not alone as we go forth into the world to witness to the Good News with our words and deeds.

*We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces,  
all colors and all ages, too, from all times and places.*

We change the choral benediction for two reasons: sometimes to reflect a theme that has emerged in the scriptures of our sermons for that month and also to utilize a variety of styles and eras of music and lyrics that reflect the diversity of ages, interests, and musical preferences encompassed in our church family and community. For example, in December we often sing the refrain to *Go Tell It On the Mountain* because it is a Christmas Hymn; many of us know it and find joy in singing a well known and much beloved refrain during that busy time of year; and it reminds us that we are to go and share the good news of Christ to all the world.

*At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit  
and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.*

This month we are singing *We Are the Church* for all the reasons listed above. In May, we remember Jesus' Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday. In different ways, each of our Sundays in May will celebrate who we are as the church, the body of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to live out and share God's redeeming love in the world. We sing a song written for children because we have and welcome children in worship; many remember this song from our own childhoods; and we are all called to a childlike faith in God.

*And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying,  
there's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying:*

From *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*, written in 1782, to *We Are the Church*, from the 1970s, to *All the People Said Amen*, written in 2014, these songs and others remind us of who and whose we are: *All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!* So, empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us go be the church: loving and serving God and the world together!

With Wonder and Love in Christ,



-Pastor Missy

**In this Issue:**

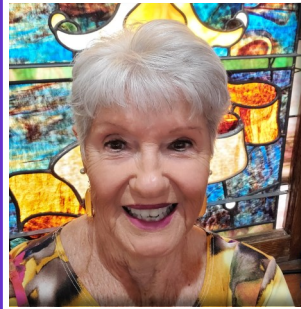
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**CHOIR NOTES**

**CHOIR NOTES**

by Sylvia Spencer, Choir Director

**Five Reasons Why You Should Join Our Choir:**



1. Musicality— singing in the choir improves the way you hear music, it draws out your innate musical ability and intensifies your appreciation of harmony. Choir members soon become aware of how harmonies complement each other.

2. Mental Health— Studies have shown that the mental health of choral singing include enhanced brain function, strengthened feelings of togetherness, and the release of endorphins and oxytocin resulting in reduced stress and depression.

3. Confidence— Unless there's hearing loss, anyone can learn to sing. In the church choir you have permission to make noise as part of the group, and believe me, your confidence will grow.

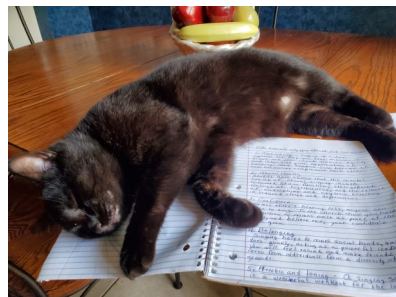
4. Belonging— Singing helps to make social bonds, and it does quickly, acting as a powerful ice-breaker. You will feel valued and make friends from individuals from a diversity of backgrounds.

5. Aerobic and toning— A singing session is a wonderful workout for the lungs. The actions of warming up, breathing deeply, and opening the diaphragm all oxygenate the blood, creating more white blood cells, which strengthens the whole body. The breathing rate slows and deepens, releasing endorphins and increasing a sense of well-being. All this lung action reduces the chance of illness.

Singing also improves your posture and tones your stomach muscles, and a strong core supports your spine so your body will be less prone to injury as you age.

*So what are you waiting for??*

*P.S. My cat (Cash) helped me write this...*



With much love to you all,

*Sylvia* 🎵



Practicing on Easter morning! Thank you all!



It's a blast from the past!  
2016 Wednesday Night Dinner

**MAY 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:30: Crafts with FMS 6 pm: Wed Night Dinner Covered dish & Chicken 6:45: Bible Study Library	2 2:30 pm: Youth	3	4
5 *10:30 am: Worship, and Communion	6 11:30 Women's Bible Study 870 Lila Street 6pm: FMS Argentina BBQ Fundraiser	7 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	8 6 pm: Wed Night Dinner Tacos & Fixings, corn, black beans, tres leches cake 6:45: Bible Study Library	9 2:30 pm: Youth	10	11
12 *10:30 am: Worship	13 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels	14 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	15 6 pm: Wed Night Dinner Covered dish & Chicken 6:45: Bible Study Library	16 2:30 pm: Youth	17	18
19 *10:30 am: Worship  2 pm: Celebrating Bonnie's Ministry	20 9:30-11:10 FMS Chapels	21 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	22 6 pm: Wed Night Dinner Sonny's BBQ w/ mac-n- cheese & baked beans 6:45: Bible Study Library	23 Last day of FMS!	24 Aftercare Closed	25
26 *10:30 am: Worship	27 Church office & Aftercare closed for Memorial Day	28 8 am: Breakfast and Devotions Broadway Diner 9:30 am: Prayer Zoom 5:30 pm: Choir	29 6 pm: Wed Night Dinner Covered dish & Chicken LAST WND until FALL	30	31	

\* in the Sanctuary, on Facebook, and by Monday on YouTube

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BARTOW

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2- Kathy Moss
- 3- Aaron Bruns
- 4- Patti Tuttle
- 5- Marlene Simpkins
- 7- Alyssa Simpkins
- 8- Susan Bergdoll
- Sara Van Hook
- Margie Anderson
- 9- Richard Lake
- 15- Mackenzie Ward
- 16- Janie Robinson
- 19- Kayline Lowe
- 20- Brett Lowe
- 22- Jennifer Daniels
- 29- Jase Clements
- Joan Wright

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

6- Bob & Trish Pfeiffer

23- Lanny & Laura Sheffield

28- Bill & Cindy Etheredge

Don't Forget!

The Newsletter is available in a variety of ways! Printed copies are on the table in the back of the Sanctuary and in the Church Office in the Education Building.

It can be found in digital format in the EMAIL the church sends out with it attached each month AND the website: firstumcbartow.com.

If you wish to receive a newsletter by mail, please contact the church office at firstumcbartow@aol.com or 863-533-0904.

Thank you!

Please remember these in your prayers, visits, and other expressions of Christian love.

The Chronically Ill and Homebound

- |            |               |                       |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Beverly A  | Lyle H        | Patricia W            |
| Diane A    | Pat H         | Z family              |
| Jerry B    | Allye M       |                       |
| Amanda B   | Heath P       | -Leaders everywhere   |
| David B    | Mary Beth P   | to do God's will      |
| Shirley B  | Steve R       | -Everyone affected by |
| Jonathon B | Lynn S        | sickness, repressive  |
| Brian      | BJ S          | governments, gun      |
| Shawn F    | Louise T      | violence, & natural & |
| Karel H    | Jean & Dick T | human caused disas-   |
| Brandon H  | Tom T         | ters.                 |
| Melody H   | Bill & Joan W |                       |

Serving in the Military:

Jeremy B, Victor O, Joseph S, Bryson T

Missionaries and Others:

Pioneer Missions, Indonesia: Christian, Dawn & Joshua William; Sister Church: Iglesia Metodista de Santa Cruz del Sur, Cuba; Missionaries in Angola: Leo & Cleivy Garcia, Kutela Katembo, Serguey and Graciela Espinosa; Iglesia Evangelica Metodista Argentina: UMC Missionary Doug Williams and FMEC Mendoza Pastor Pablo; Our Pastor, Church, and School Staff; District Supt. Emily Hotho, and our Bishop Tom Berlin

Large print bulletins can easily be made!

Contact the church office if you would prefer a LARGE PRINT BULLETIN!

PLEASE NOTE

Information for the April newsletter should be submitted by Friday, May 17th.

Thank You for helping us send out the Newsletter in a timely manner.

The Newsletter is published monthly by FUMC-Bartow 455 S Broadway Ave, Bartow, FL 33830.

Special Events... present, future, and past

Please be in Prayer for our denomination's General Conference that is taking place from April 23- May 4:

- For God's Will to be done
- For safety for everyone there and in their travels.
- For pray for listening, discernment, and grace.

We are a world wide denomination and the issues of one area are not the same in another. Our mission is not to get everyone to agree on everything. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

We will share any major outcomes after May 4. Thank you!

**SAVE THE DATE** We will soon celebrate 2 special events!

**May 19, 2pm**  
We will be celebrating Ms. Bonnie's loving ministry in our church and the Bartow Community.

**June 8**  
Pastor Missy is going to be ordained. We will have a huge covered dish get together. You are all invited!

Holy Week & Easter Events



Our FMS students had an Easter Egg Hunt planned by the older students!



Our Youth toasted with pickle juice, and helped prepare the Love Feast!



The Love Feast is quickly becoming a beloved Holy Week tradition!



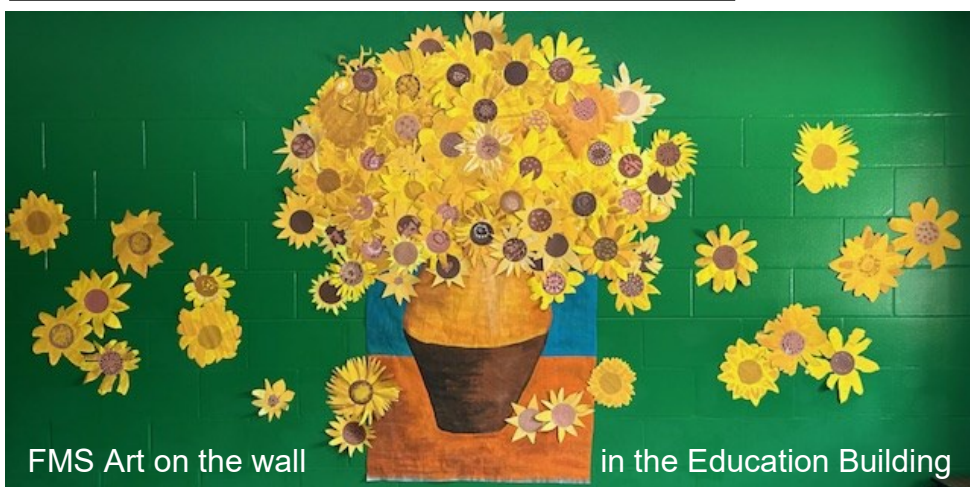
We love the Cross Walk on Good Friday



The Community Easter Sunrise Service is a beautiful gift to all Bartow!



Let's not forget the Flower Cross!



FMS Art on the wall

in the Education Building

### THE UPPER ROOM

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE  
These are available in the back of the sanctuary or in the office.  
Small print \$1 Large print \$2.



**Adult Sunday School**  
9 am in the Library in the Education Building

**Breakfast and Devotions at Broadway Diner Tuesdays at 8 am Everyone is invited!**



Contact Walt Hause  
215-237-7985

**Prayer Zoom Tuesday Mornings at 9:30!!!**

You are invited to join us for prayer via zoom video or voice call. Please call or email the church office for the link/phone number! If you can't join us in those ways, please join us in prayer in one accord.

### Wednesday Night Bible Study

6:45 pm in the Library

We are studying the book of Mark!  
We looked at Mk 1: 1-15 & Ch 1-3 on April 24

Weekly Readings for Wednesday...

May 1: Mk 4: 1-25 & Ch 4-6

May 8: Mk 4: 26-34 & Ch 7-9

May 15: Mk 10: 13-16 & Ch 10-12

May 22: Mk 10: 17-27, 12: 28-34 & Ch 13-15

May 29: Mk 15: 42-47 & Ch 16

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**  
May 6, 11:30  
870 Lila Street

*All ladies are welcome to join us!  
Bring a sandwich or salad.  
We will have soup to share.*

### The Congregational Care Team

An entire Visitation Team keeps up through calls, texts, cards, little gifts, and, you guessed it, visits with our folks who have difficulty getting out.

There are many more wonderful people involved and this team does a lot, but they cannot do what they do without you!

If you could help or know someone who could benefit from a meal, visit, phone call, card, or other help like driving; please contact the church office.



We are thrilled to welcome Mason Pickard as a baptized member of First UMC Bartow!



Congratulations, proud parents, Amy and Brandon!

## SHARING OUR BLESSINGS

### Connectional Giving...

Connectional Giving helps fund ministries like:



**COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME.**

FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - JUNE 6-8, 2024 - LAKELAND, FL

### Conference Services and Administration

- Provides funds for the general operations and administration of the Florida Conference.
- Finance and Administrative Leadership
- Annual Conference Events
- Conference Workbook and Journal
- United Methodist Conference Center
- Employee Salaries and Benefits
- Property Maintenance – Pays for the cost of property and casualty insurance on all conference-owned facilities.

- Dorothy Tucker

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house."*

*"Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."*

-Malachi 3:10

### Looking for Offering Envelopes?

We are using leftover unused offering envelopes that we have from former years.

Because of this AND because it makes less work for our wonderful counters, please make sure that your: **name, amounts, and** what you are **giving toward** are clearly marked **on the outside of your envelope.**  
Thank you!



FMS students used their Spanish skills to write notes to the students in Mendoza at Colegio Albert Switzer.

### Want to give online?

It's easy and free!  
Talk to your bank about how you can

**ZELLE**

your tithe, offerings, and other gifts directly from your bank account to the church's bank account.

Use the email address **firstumcbartow@aol.com** to give!  
**THANK YOU!**



FMS art students used their creative gifts to make presents for our friends at the church and school in Mendoza.



### Argentina Relational Mission

We are excited to be taking a group of 5 people to Argentina to continue to strengthen our ties with the First Methodist Church of Mendoza and Colegio Albert Schweitzer. Please be in prayer as we are continuing to gather supplies and finances.

#### Want to contribute?

**We are collecting:** old laptops that can go on wifi, pens, stickers, erasers, small light weight pencil sharpeners, stretchy string (for stringing beads, plastic beads, tissue paper, pipe cleaners, sticky back wiggly eyes. Thank you!



#### Update from Doug Williams in Argentina:

*\*Please pray for him and some of his church members, as they have had dengue fever\**

Dear Friends,  
I apologize for not being more communicative in the previous months. I had an amazing gathering with missionaries from around the world in Bogota Columbia in February which allowed me to take a week before to visit the near by Galapagos Islands. You might have seen photos. (Wow what a place! It is possible to travel there on a shoe string. Let me know if you want those details!).

Bogota! The salary support you send me actually pays the salaries of all missionaries and after hearing some of their ministry stories of delivering medical support to remote areas, inner city church pastoring, and teaching under-resourced kids in Mexico I am so proud to be a part of this team! We shared stories of attempting to be that frontline link with the Methodist church mission and our attempts to preserve mind body and soul in the process. I got to hang out with three classmates from my missionary school 9 years ago! I also got to meet the volunteer team of directors for the Board of Global Ministries who were able to make time to be with us. Amidst the divisions in the United Methodist Church I have so much hope for where we are heading!

After that bit of travel I came home to pack boxes, clean house and make the big move to Tucuman, my new place of assignment!

Peace, Doug Williams



### FMS Mendoza Mission BBQ Fundraiser: May 6

...orders due by Monday, April 29

Everyone is invited join the FMS Family for a BBQ Dinner to help support the Mendoza Mission team, drop off donations and learn some information about Argentina.

We are taking orders for eat-in and/or to go meals between April 2 and April 29 for the May 6 Dinner.

**When:** Monday, May 6, 2024

**Eat In Meals:** Fellowship Hall

**To-go/Pick-up Meals:** Please enter the circle drive through the back gates from S. Carpenter Ave.

**Time:** 5:30pm to 7:30pm

**Food:** Smoked Pork Butt, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Roll, Dessert, and Water or Tea

**Cost:** \$10.00 per meal

**Bring:** some Extra Cash \$\$\$ for the Table filled with Extra Desserts, juice pouches and Sodas...

**You can find an order form in the back of the church and place it AND payment into the offering plate, or contact the Church OR school office. Thank you for your help and support.**

### REACHING IN AND OUT....

Ways we are the body of Christ as Jerusalem and Judea with Children and Youth!



#### Sunday Morning is for Children!

Sunday mornings mean Acolyting, Children's Moments, and Children's Church!

We have a wonderful group of young gentlemen and amazing volunteers who have a great time together learning about God and Jesus!



#### FUMC in Ministry with FMS: We NOW have a once-a-month Craft Time for Elementary Children

on the FIRST Wednesday of each month from 3:30-4:30 pm!

Looking for a way to be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ? There is a place for you in our church's ministry with FMS!

**Interested? Contact the office, sign up in the Sanctuary, or talk to Pastor Missy!**

#### First UMC Youth Group: Thursdays 2:30-5 pm



We fit in some blind tastings of flavored Peeps



and taught Miss Elsa Up Jenkins.



There is always something to learn and do!

In April, we volunteered TWICE at the BCSC!

*We are still looking for a few more adults for our Youth Team.*

*If you have a heart for young people, a sense of humor, patience, and a free Thursday from 2:30-5:15 pm once a month...*

*Contact the Church Office to know more!*



We also talked about the first Easter and made Empty Tomb Crescent Rolls

# Grace Notes

Have a "Thank you" Grace Note you want to share? Email the church office at [firstumcbartow@aol.com](mailto:firstumcbartow@aol.com)

*Thank you! Thank you!  
to everyone who helped during Holy Week! Together we shared the Good News in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, & beyond!*

Thank you to the Praise Team: Brandon, Bill, Deborah, and Tom for all your hard work week after week!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter Sunrise Service! You gathered up, got up before the birds, set up, led and helped, struck the set, and made sure everything got back where it belonged! Thanks to Richard, Brandon, Bill, Sam, Tom, and Will! You are all phenomenal!

**Thank you to Brandon!** Brandon does a lot around here, and many times it is not mentioned! He is the chair of finance, which means we contact him frequently about... well.. Finances! He also is the contact person for the Praise Team and the one who coordinates those early mornings for Easter Sunrise services, etc. He orders and /or helps pick out a lot of the equipment we use for our services. Here he is on the right installing the new bulb for the projector.  
**Thank you Brandon! And thank you Amy for sharing him with all of us!**



Thank you Carolyn Presnell for all you do and all your beautiful work in Family Ministries!

## Tell Us about Yourself!



**Sheila Farzimarzifar** was baptized and joined the church on World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2023. We have been meaning for some time to introduce her to the church family in these pages and we decided a lovely way to do that would be to ask her to introduce herself!

I was born and raised in Lakeland. I lived in Lakeland my entire life, and I went to First Methodist School in Bartow from kindergarten through eighth grade. I graduated from FMS in 2017, then went to Bartow High School, and I graduated in May 2021. I am in college, getting my associate's degree in liberal arts. After I graduate with my degree, I am going to nursing school to become a pediatric nurse practitioner. I work at Publix in Lake Miriam as a part-time Front service clerk. I have a full brother and a half-brother. I love to bake brownies, cakes, cheesecakes, muffins, and cupcakes. I love to go fishing and swimming. I also love to travel and explore new places I have never seen.

## AND REACHING FURTHER OUT...

Ways we are the body of Christ in the world through **M**ission **O**utreach **E**vangelism!

**Exciting news!**  
The shower bus has arrived at The Bartow Community Service Center.



The bus is equipped with three shower stalls. One is handicap accessible and one stall equipped with a washer and dryer. The bus will travel to various areas throughout Polk County and provide anyone in need the opportunity to get a shower and clean their clothes as well. This is a joint effort by the community center and Bay Care. The bus is currently parked at the service center and they are very happy to show it off!



Our church has a new Mission & Outreach opportunity: **Wahneta UM Mission**

At one point the Wahneta Mission had a tutoring program which ended when the van the mission had to pick up the students was deemed unsafe. The mission would love to restart this ministry as well as their summer program for the kids with a free lunch served through a school system summer program.

The mission dreams of English classes for adults since many of the adults do not speak English.

Unfortunately the Pastors that serve in the mission need to work to support themselves since the congregation is small and poor. That limits the time they have available to work at the mission.

Stay tuned to learn more as we seek ways to partner with Wahneta and witness to Christ in our Judea and Samaria!



**Cuba Luncheon April 7:**

Scrumptious Salad!

Wondrous rice!



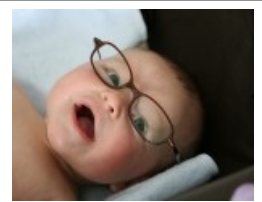
Perfectly lovely pork!  
Crunchy Cuban bread!  
Fabulous flan!

Terrific table companions, AND....

we raised \$1400 for **Santa Cruz del Sur**, our sister church in Cuba!



**May is Eye Health Awareness Month!**  
**We are Collecting Eye Glasses!**



They go to the Lions Club and they share them with people in need.

**There is a collection box available in the back of the church.**

If you are interested in visiting **Santa Cruz del Sur Cuba in October**, talk to Robert or Mary ASAP!



Ways we are the body of Christ Jerusalem and Judea!

Vacation Bible School planning has begun!

# Nazareth Marketplace VBS

July 22-26, 9 am-12 pm

Marketplace VBS is great, but it takes LOTS of Volunteers! Help ahead of time with Prep Work. or... Help for a couple of hours, for 1 or 2 days, or the week. or... Cut out or sew fabric. or... Cut & drill wood  
 Maybe you have something around your house we need to borrow!  
 Look below to see how YOU will participate!

### WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

Shopkeepers: (1-5 days)

- Baker
- Carpenter
- Cloth Shop
- Fisher
- Jewelry Maker
- Leather Worker
- Metal Worker
- Potter
- Rock Quarry
- Synagogue School
- Village Green (games)
- Weaver
- Food Market (possible)
- Tribe Leaders** (small groups)  
MUST be there ALL FIVE DAYS

Other Volunteers:

- Storyteller (5 days)
- Game leader (1-5 days)
- Kitchen Lead (5 days)
- Kitchen Help (1-5 days)
- Folk Dancer (1-5 days)
- Outside Games (1-5 days)
- Registration (1-5 days)
- Photographer (1-5 days)

Prep Work

- Wood worker- cut & drill wood
- Decorating Team
  - plan & collect ahead of time
  - actual decorating is July 20/21 with lots of helpers
- Organizing Supplies
  - mostly July 7-19

### DONATIONS

- 2 X 2 wood (Two 8 ft or 16 ft total)
- .375 in Round Wood dowels (28 ft total)
- Fabric—PLAIN (white, light browns, blue, green, purple, maroon, gray, brown, stripes, or old sheets)
- Fabric—bright any color NO PRINTS, stripes are ok
- Adhesive (sticker) pages
- Air Dry Clay or Model Magic
- Beads— WOODEN -all sizes
- Colored Sand
- Glue Dots
- Jute and string
- Leather pieces
- Leather laces
- Malleable Thick Wire
- Permanent Markers
- Plaster of Paris
- Ribbon— THIN
- Ribbon— Medium
- Sandpaper
- Small stones/tiles— blue & white
- Stretchy String
- Wood glue
- Grains (wheat, rye, oats, etc)
- Dried Herb Plants
- Apple Juice
- Apples
- Apricots— dried
- Bananas
- Canned biscuits
- Cheese
- Dates
- Figs— dried or fresh
- Flour
- Frozen Bread Dough
- Grapes
- Hummus
- Olives— Black
- Olives— Greek
- Olives— Green
- Pita
- Puffed Millet— 2 bag
- Puffed Kamut— 1 bag
- Raisins
- Sesame seeds

### THINGS TO BORROW- Please label CLEARLY with YOUR NAME!

- Potted Palms and Trees (real or silk for decoration)
- Baskets (large or small— for decorating & holding supplies)
- Hammers or Mallets (preferably withOUT claws)
- Old looking clay jars (for decoration)
- Simple wood tables (for decoration)
- Wooden Boxes (to be used in decorating & holding supplies)

PRE-REGISTRATION will begin in MID-April, watch for forms!

**YOU can SIGN UP TO HELP now in the Sanctuary or by contacting the church office.**

### ACROSS THE COURTYARD

by Nadine Waters Robbins, Church Historian

May 2024



On a windy, chilly day in March FUMC had church (yes, the Holy Ghost showed up) at Mary Holland Park. If this “praise picnic” had occurred over 50 years ago, Mary Holland, the park’s name sake and a member of FUMC might have been singing along with the Praise Band and eating grilled hot-dogs and hamburgers. One source stated that Mary had a beautiful, clear voice, like a “bobolink trilling in the sun.”

A photograph of Mrs. Spessard L. Holland (Mary) appears in our 1973 church directory. Spessard’s father, B.F. Holland helped to organize our Bartow Methodist Church, of which their distinguished son became a life long member.

The Hollands split their time between Bartow and Tallahassee (state senator—governor) and later Washington D.C. (U.S. Senator). Whenever they were “home” they managed to attend our church to worship and visit with old friends.

Information about Mary says “Mary Holland was for more than just a Florida First Lady or a Senator’s Wife. As her husband climbed up the political ranks (she) was by his side each step of the way... She has been described as stylish, smart, and sophisticated... She became a part of her husband’s political team. She would sit through legislative sessions on his behalf, taking notes and reporting back to the governor... She remained a force by her husband’s side as he became a U.S. Senator...”

It has been noted that “Mary (was) a one-woman (Florida) Chamber of Commerce... She can tell you all about Flori-

da Citrus fruit, cattle, In-land waterways, sea-shells, fishing, how to cook Florida’s game and how to serve grits, her husband eats them every day of his life.”

In 1969 Spessard Holland announced his retirement and he died less than a year later in 1970. Spessard’s body, with a uniformed honor guard from MacDill Air Force Base in attendance, lay in state in our FUMC sanctuary. Pastor Rev. Lee R. Van Sickle officiated at his memorial service.

In 1974 the City of Bartow dedicated Mary Holland Park in her honor. This gift to the city was located not far from her home at 1005 South Broadway, where she resided until her death in 1975. She too was memorialized at a service at our church. It has been written of the Holland family, “Once in a lifetime one finds an ideal family with their faith intact in a setting as perfect as if it had come from the pen of an imaginative writer.”

### CLASSIFIEDS

***Do you have recommendations of a handy man or other person who you regularly call when you need something? Let us know! We would like to have a list of YOUR go-to people and companies! We will keep a list for you to ask about too! Thank you!***

*Here is the beginning of our list in alphabetical order. Let us know your additions and of course there are more to come!*

- Averett Septic Tank Co
- Bartow Christian and Gifts
- Berendsen Cleaning (Shirley Berendsen)
- Big Computer Guy
- Boring Business Solutions
- Busy Bee Tree Service
- Central Florida Doors
- Church Service Center
- Country Chicken & Fish
- Crown Electric
- Expert Security Professionals (Bill Sheetz)
- Gardner Phone Repair
- Graves Construction
- Graves Plumbing

**\*These are people who we know or have used in the past. Feel free to ask around and see if they are the right folks for you. If you are interested and can't find the number yourself, contact the church office.**

If you have something you would like to have in the Classifieds section, please contact the church office by Friday, May 17th. Thank you!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall  
RSVP by Monday noon each week, THANK YOU!

May 1: Covered dish & Chicken \$2

May 8: Tacos & Fixings, Corn, Black Beans,  
Tres Leches Cake \$5

May 15: Covered dish & Chicken \$2

May 22: Sonny's BBQ w/ mac-n-cheese &  
baked beans \$5

May 29: Covered dish & Chicken \$2  
**\*Last WND till Fall**



### The Silver Saints



Had lots of fun at the Huffs with  
dinner and Bingo!

Our NEXT EVENT will be  
**Coming soon....**



**Mondays at Beef 'O' Brady's.**  
Arrive at 5, Bingo starts at 6.  
Contact Elsa to reserve a table.

### LUNCH BUNCH

Each month we have a time of  
Fellowship at a  
restaurant after church  
(it is usually the first Sunday,  
but not always)

**LUNCH  
BUNCH  
will be  
Sunday,  
MAY 5**



RSVP to the Church Office  
by Wed. May 1st

### May 6-10 is Teacher Appreciation Week!



We will be putting  
together 25 small  
goodie bags for  
the staff of FMS.

If you would like to bake something  
or have something you  
would like to contribute,  
please contact the Church Office.



**Follow us at fumcbartow**  
**We would love to  
connect with you!**

# First Methodist School

It's STEM project time!  
**Science  
Technology  
Engineering &  
Math**



The Preschoolers experience chemical reactions when making "volcanos"!



Our Elementary and MIDs  
work together to design and  
present their ideas!



Then, at the END of April,  
FMS had  
**VPK Graduation on April 23 &  
a Spring Program on April 25th!**



We had 39 VPK graduates this year!



Our Spring Program with our Kindergarten, First, and Sixth  
Graders! There was singing, tambourines, recorders, kazoos, and  
drumming on buckets! What talent!

*Please keep the students and teachers in prayer as they finish up the school year.  
The last day will be May 23rd. Thank you!*

FMS is a ministry of First UMC Bartow.  
If you would like to be more involved with the school through reading to a class, doing crafts afterschool,  
helping with the Youth, or helping with physical projects; contact the church office. You have love to share!