



The Monthly Message

IT IS STILL NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY

Two years ago I asked each family to give 10% of what they spent on Christmas to the Bartlett UMC Christmas offering. Last year I asked us to give 25%. This year I am asking us to give 50%. Next year I will ask for a dollar for dollar match. I will leave it to each family to decide what counts as Christmas spending.

I have asked every congregation I have served to do this since attending a Missions Conference at Ginghamburg UMC. A few years earlier, their pastor at the time, Michael Slaughter, had written the book entitled "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday" in which he challenged the massive consumerism that dominates the American celebration of Christmas. If you are like me, for decades I have heard Christians complain about the commercialization of Christmas. Remember the Charlie Brown Christmas special or How the Grinch Stole Christmas? Unfortunately, that is all most of us did, complain. Rev. Slaughter challenged the congregation to do more than just complain. Over the years Ginghamburg has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to dig wells in the Sudan. By the way, if you go to the Ginghamburg UMC website these are the first words you are likely to see: Love Jesus...And Do Something About It.

This year Bartlett UMC is going to do something about loving Jesus and celebrating his birth by splitting our 2024 Christmas Offering to two ministries, one local and one global and approved by the Finance Committee. The first recipient is Alpha Omega Veterans Services located in Memphis. This is from their website. "OUR MISSION: Alpha Omega Veterans Services aims to assist military veterans in reintegrating into society. Our motto is helping veterans help themselves." A couple of their leaders spoke at a UMM Prayer Breakfast and I was very impressed by all they were doing to help Veterans in our community.

The global recipient is Heifer Project International. This is of course the ministry supported by our children through their offering given during the Children's Message. This is a great opportunity for families to remind their children about where the money goes that they bring each Sunday. Their mission as described on their website is the following. "We work to end hunger and poverty in partnership with the communities we serve.

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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

Rev. Donna Spencer
dspencer@bartlettumc.org

Jennifer Demetriou-Communications
jdemetriou@bartlettumc.org

Rachel Hasty-Accountant
rhasty@bartlettumc.org

Eddie Lindsey-Facilities/Maintenance
elindsey@bartlettumc.org

David McDonald-Administrator
dmcdonald@bartlettumc.org

Jennifer Steadman-Kid's Day Out/
Preschool Dir. kdo@bartlettumc.org
preschool@bartlettumc.org

Karen Strawhecker-Assoc. Director of
Music karens@bartlettumc.org

Lynn Thompson-Youth/Young Adult
lthompson@bartlettumc.org

Donia Rachele Wade-Director of Music
dwade@bartlettumc.org

OFFICE HOURS

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



United
Women
in Faith

Tuesday, October 8
10:00am in Fellowship Hall

After an informative meeting we will enjoy a delicious meal with a baked potato bar. Our speaker will be Tammy Howard, director of Roots, a non-profit organization helping women coming off rehabilitation. All women are invited!



Saturday, October 12
8:00am in Fellowship Hall

All men are invited to the Men's Prayer Group for a light breakfast, fellowship, and speaker Kevin Quinn, Bartlett Alderman. Breakfast is \$5 and first timers eat for free! Call the church office at 386-4563 to reserve your spot. Call David Dunn at 212-4649 for more information.

Our programs support entrepreneurs around the world, creating lasting change from the ground up. It begins with a seed investment of livestock or agriculture, followed by mentorship to help project participants build a business, and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets. These families are able to earn a living income and continuously lift up their communities as they train the next generation of leaders. By supporting and training the world's farmers, ranchers, and female business owners, we're investing in a new breed of success."

I know we have talked an awful lot about money this year at Bartlett UMC. But this challenge goes deeper than just a way to raise money for some good causes. I hope we will take a long hard look at how we celebrate Christmas this year. I love the Advent and Christmas seasons; a love I inherited from my mother. However, if you are like me, when I first started doing this I was surprised by just how much we spent celebrating Christmas. So instead of complaining about the commercialization of Christmas, let's do something about it.

Peace,
Dean

BUMC IT Corner (Caleb Wise/cwise@bartlettumc.org)

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. I'm going to share two links:

<https://www.cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month>

<https://www.cisa.gov/secure-our-world>

These links will take you to the Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Security Agency's website. CISA is a branch of Homeland Security and specializes in securing anything and everything online. Please take some time to become familiar with the website and try to personally implement the ideas taken from "Securing Our World."

Caleb Wise

BUMC IT Admin
1 Peter 5, 8:10

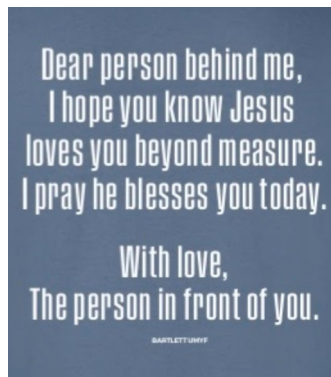
Within Our Church Family

Sympathy is expressed to Jackie Johnson and Lara Weaver upon the death of her husband and her father, Jim Johnson; to Marshall and Drew Willis upon the death of their mother, Pody Willis; to Robbie Parsons upon the death of her brother, Matthew Uselton; to the family of Kevin Ireland upon his death; to the family of Diane Evans upon her death; to DeDe Nelson upon the death of her mother, Margaret Bellamy Payne; to Julia Archer upon the death of her brother, Jim Henry; to Hannah and Curtis Scott upon the death of their father, Russell Scott.

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

You may have seen a new Youth shirt on our youth and counselors around the church or on Facebook. Just wanted to share a little about them. You see - years ago one of our church members at the time, Craig Thompson, was beginning to design "cool Christian shirts". His son and my son were best of buddies so I thought we could get our youth some great designs from him - so we could be the "cool Christians". What began there became somewhat of a t-shirt ministry and what a journey we have enjoyed! You see the shirts are not just about being "cool" - they are about shirts that our youth can wear wherever they are to share the love and promises of God. I can't tell you how many times I get stopped wearing my God is Good shirt that someone says "all the time!" I love it! The youth have now taken ownership of the shirts that we produce. I tell them when they design them to ask themselves...while you are sitting in your seat in class at school - what do you want to share to the person behind them that will read it...because they will. So they design with something that will provide God's love, understanding, encouragement and peace.

This year's shirt didn't look like would happen because of cutbacks to finance...but the youth were surprised that one was gifted to them! What a blessing! The shirt idea is for others - could be anybody from a group of folks they know or random folks waiting in the line at the Kroger...to know that someone is seeing them. Yep! Even when a student is bored in class and it's something to read on the back of the shirt of one of our youths sitting in front of them. How funny that turning with our backs TO (not on) someone - we still can share Christ! Kind of like what Rev. Dean spoke about on the Celebration last month. Everything comes from



God...now who are we going to share that with! We are Blessed Beyond Measure. Yep, even on the days it doesn't feel like it...God is still there in the midst of it...and that is how we

BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE

are Blessed Beyond Measure! And we are called to share those blessings! Over 35 years ago we set out to change the direction of how our youth could be a witness to others and use words only when necessary - and our t-shirt ministry began and flourished. So proud of our youth who took the creative approach to share Christ wherever they were and hopefully made a difference in those that are around them. Just like the t-shirt says GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME!

Hope you have a blessed day!

In Christ,

Lynn Thompson



Youth Events

Next Step

(HS Seniors & College Age)

Thursday, October 3

Lynn's House

Dinner Club

Tuesday, October 8

Huey's

Pumpkinpalooza

Sunday, October 20

Breakfast Club

Tuesday, October 22

Fall Festival

Sunday, October 27

Crafts Fair

Nov. 1 & 2

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!

Contact Lynn Thompson for additional information.



The Fun Club will visit the Memphis Zoo on **Wednesday, Oct. 2** during "Senior Safari Day" and admission is free for seniors. Following the zoo adventure, participants will enjoy lunch at Central BBQ. Bus transportation is available.

The Fun Club monthly meeting and lunch on **Tuesday, Oct. 15**, will feature Dr. Chris Cooper, the host of The Family Plot on Channel 10, the UT Extension Horticulture Agent and Coordinator for the Master Gardener Program in Shelby County. Lunch will include pork tenderloin, rice pilaf, salad and dessert for \$10.

The "Fifth Tuesday Lunch" on **Oct. 29** will be held at the Olympic Steak House in Arlington at 11:30. Bus transportation is not included.

Contact Charlotte White for reservations (required for all events) at 381-4954 or 568-3002.

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

Discover the Joy of Making Music Together!

Are you ready to elevate your worship experience? Our ensembles have been rehearsing diligently for a month, and we'd love for you to join us... it's NEVER too late! Whether you're a seasoned musician or new to music, there's a place for you in our choirs or handbell groups.

Join Our Christmas Cantata Choir!

If you can't make a year-long commitment to a music ensemble, the Christmas cantata is the perfect way to be involved for a short time! We're kicking off our cantata rehearsals in October, and we need your voice! Join us for our Saturday retreat from 10am-12pm and Wednesday evenings from 7-7:30pm. No experience necessary, just a love of music!

Yours in prayer and song,

Donia & Karen

BELL GROUPS		Rehearsals
Campanella Ringers	Grades 2-5	Wednesdays @ 5-5:30 p.m.
Youth Bells	Grades 6-12	Wednesdays @ 5:30-6 p.m.
Bartlett Bells	Adult (Intermediate)	Thursdays @ 10 a.m.
Chancel Bells	Adult (advanced)	Mondays @ 6:00 p.m.

VOCAL ENSEMBLES		Rehearsals
Littlest Angels/Wesley	Ages 3-1 st Grade	Wednesdays @ 6:00-6:45 p.m.
Kingdom Chorale	Grades 2-5	Wednesdays @ 6:00-6:45 p.m.
Youth Choir	Grades 6-12	Sundays @ 4:15 p.m.
Chancel Choir	Adult	Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.



Finances (Rachel Hasty/rhasty@bartlettumc.org)

I am writing this the day after our glorious Debt-Free Celebration! What a wonderful day of fellowship, reflection, celebration, and digestion! Watching the wide-eyes of the children as Vicki Vinson told them they would be setting our mortgage on fire was, for me, the highlight of the day—they just couldn't believe they were actually going to set something on fire!! It was wonderful that the children got to participate in the activities in this way and I hope it's something they'll remember for a long time. Who knows? Years from now some of those very children might have families of their own who attend Bartlett UMC and the very pictures that were taken yesterday might wind up in a slideshow about the history of BUMC. We have a real opportunity here. We've talked about retiring the debt for a long time and how much "easier" things will be once that happens. It's here—the debt is retired. Will things get "easier"? I don't know—only time will tell. But I do know we can't let up now. Let's keep on keeping - on, Bartlett!

God bless,

Rachel



Recreation

Join us each week in the LEC Gym for fun and 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

Stretch Class—Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 9:00am

Walking Group—Monday & Tuesday at 4:45pm



October is breast cancer awareness month.

In 2024, more than 360,000 people will be diagnosed with breast cancer. But there is hope. Advancements in early detection methods and support continue to increase the chances of survival. When caught in its earliest, localized stages, the 5-year relative survival rate of breast cancer is 99%.

Bartlett United Methodist Church

5676 Stage Road
Bartlett, TN 38134

Phone: 901-386-4563
www.bartlettumc.org



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Mark your calendars for our annual Blessing of the Animals! **Saturday, October 5 at 10:00am** in the church 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 pet supplies such as Purina/lams dog/cat food, dog/cat treats, Pine Sol, bleach, blue Dawn dishsoap, martingale collars, leashes, and Kong toys. Donations will be given to the Bartlett Animal Shelter.

FAMILY FALL FEST
and
Trunk or Treat

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 27

FREE
ADMISSION

GAMES, CONCESSIONS (CASH & CARD ACCEPTED), TREATS, AND FUN!

4:00PM LEC/GYM
5:30PM TRUNK OR TREAT