



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.

The Monthly Message

I Am a Beloved Child of God

You Are a Beloved Child of God

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of God's grace.

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.

As we begin a new calendar year in 2025, it is a good time to reflect on and renew our commitment to the Church and the world to help bring the Kingdom of God in full to all the earth. For me, all that we do as disciples of Jesus, the Christ, is based upon the twofold truth that serves as the title for this article. "I am a beloved child of God. You are a beloved child of God." Absolutely everything else in life proceeds from this reality.

I am convinced we must embrace both of these realities for genuine transformation of us and the world to take place. Understanding that I am a beloved child of God enables me to see and treat others as the beloved children of God that they are. Once we begin living out of this fundamental reality, it changes the way we view ourselves and others and guides our actions toward one another. We cannot demonize or belittle or discount those who may have a different skin tone, speak a different language, support a different political party, worship God in a different way, experience sexuality in different ways, make decisions different than what we think we would do in a similar situation. No matter what someone does, no matter how disturbing, horrible and wrong a person's actions may be in our opinion, as disciples of Jesus, I do not believe we should ever treat anyone, ourselves included, as anything less than a beloved child of God.

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OFFICE HOURS

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



**Saturday, January 11
8:00am in Fellowship Hall**

All men are invited to the 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. Call David Dunn at 212-4649 for more information.



**Tuesday, January 21 at
10:00 in the LEC Gym**
Join the Fun Club (ages 50+) for their meeting and special speaker followed by lunch for \$10. Call Charlotte White at 381-4954 or 568-3002 to make reservations.

I know not everyone is a parent and even the parent-child analogy falls far short in capturing the depth of God's love for us. But I think most parents would admit they are incapable of not loving their child. No matter how frustrated or hurt a parent may become with their child, the love is still there. This is even more true when it comes to God.

My challenge for Bartlett United Methodist Church in 2025 is to live out this truth. I am a beloved child of God. And always will be. You are a beloved child of God. And always will be. To help us remember this throughout the year, during worship on Sunday, January 12, 2025, when we reaffirm our baptismal vows, everyone will be invited to take a bracelet with the title of this article etched on it. The wording faces both ways intentionally. I want us to wear our bracelet so as we look at it, "I am a beloved child of God" is right side up for us to read. Reminding us of who/what we are. But upside down, facing away from us is the second half which reminds us that every person we will ever meet is also a beloved child of God and should be treated with love, mercy and grace. And maybe, just maybe, we will help someone we meet this year to understand that they too are a beloved child of God.

Blessings to all of us throughout 2025.

Dean

BUMC IT Corner ([Caleb Wise/cwise@bartlettumc.org](mailto:cwise@bartlettumc.org))

Happy New Year!

From an IT perspective, the start of the new year would be a great way to update account passwords. Most smartphones and Internet browsers today have options to generate complex passwords and save them. The accepted practice of reusing passwords is unfortunately a high security risk. Additionally, cancelling unneeded accounts and subscriptions would also help your sanity and bank account. Please reach out if I can help!

Caleb Wise

BUMC IT Admin
Isaiah 40:31

Within Our Church Family

Sympathy is expressed to Lynn Thompson and Glen Lee and Families upon the death of their mother and our church member, Mildred Lee. We also express our sympathy to the family of our church member, James Young, upon his death.

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

So can you believe it!?! - the holiday season has come to an end...decorations are put up and the mall is less crowded. Gifts have been unwrapped and the diet from all those Christmas goodies has begun. But I do want to remind you that the Wise Men were still traveling to find Jesus. I know our nativity scenes show everyone at the manger on Christmas Day but in actuality the wise men met Jesus as a toddler. Remember the task for these wise men, they were



inspired to go and find the son of God. "After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the Child who has been born to be King of the Jews? When we were in the east, we saw His star. Now we have come to worship Him." - Matthew 2:1b-2"

So where am I going with this? Well...while most of us have packed up our nativity scenes, I am reminded that the journey is still in motion to find Jesus. If I have learned anything over this holiday season it is that faith is a constant journey. We just don't find it -put a bow on it- and then we are good. It's a forever journey! Have we stopped looking in our own faith journey- have we packed up the gift of God and the amazing Christmas story nice and neat in the attic? Do we think since we go to church or we simply have God in our lives that the journey is complete? I know that for a fact - that our faith journey can hit a snag, find ourselves in a dizzy, feel loss and also can be crystal clear. I am encouraged by the wise men to keep searching. If we continue to travel in our faith, we CAN find Christ in ALL THINGS...not just the holidays. We can find Him in everything. So, as you are reading this - may your days be filled with keeping your path guided always to find Christ. Maybe you have found Him but have packed Him up nice and neat - it's time to unpack and keep traveling just as the Wise Men kept seeking the King! ...and don't forget that when it seems like it's just you and God who get it...treasure that but keep on going even if it seems different- and it will be different sometimes indeed but...remember even the Wise Men didn't go back home the same way to proclaim the Good News! Have a blessed day!

In Christ,

Lynn Thompson



Christmas
Coffeehouse
Fun



We need a volunteer to coordinate the schedule for acolytes on Sunday mornings. Karen is preparing a packet with all of the participant contact information, and instructions that you will need. If you are interested in helping with this very important ministry, please contact Dean for more information.

Van Driver Needed!

Do you have availability one Monday morning a month for 2-3 hours? If so, we need you! The Northlake Van Ministry assists residents at Northlake that do not have transportation. We take them to Kroger and Walmart near Methodist North Hospital. After they have shopped for approximately one hour, we take them back and help carry their purchases to their homes. Drivers need to be 21 - 69 years old. You must be physically able to carry and deliver packages to the resident's homes. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Marcia Kerl (901-482-9738).

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

As we reflect on the Christmas season, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated volunteers. Your time and talents truly made our services shine.

The Christmas Cantata was a resounding success, filled with beautiful voices and moving music. And our children's Christmas program was simply heart-warming! Bartlett and Chancel Bells visited Robinwood to help the residents ring in the Christmas cheer, and our Christmas Eve services were truly special, filled with joy and the spirit of the season. My favorite part is looking into the sea of candlelight as your voices envelop me during "Silent Night."

There are several articles published about how music helps with brain health as we age. A great way to participate in music is to learn to ring bells by joining the children on Wednesday evenings at 5pm. No prior handbell experience is needed. We will teach everything – how to hold the bells and read the music. Joining the children also gives the opportunity for the children and adults to create lasting relationships within the church body. Many fond memories exist of those who have influenced in the past.

As always, it's never too late to join an ensemble. All of our groups enjoy fellowship while practicing to present our best gift in worship. These are our practice times:

Youth Choir – Sunday afternoons at 4:15

Chancel Bells – Monday evenings at 6

Children's bells – Wednesday evenings at 5

Youth Bells – Wednesday evenings at 5:30

Children's choir - Wednesday evenings at 6

Chancel Choir - Wednesday evenings at 7

Outreach



A note from Steven Baade, principal of Bartlett Elementary:

We at Bartlett Elementary School would like to give a huge thank you and shout out for your generosity. It was a great help having items donated for our Christmas market that students were able to select from to give to their family members. Your partnership in making this possible is appreciated!

We also want to thank the congregation of Grace Memorial Baptist Church on Elmore Rd. for their donation to our food pantry! Their generosity brightened so many lives in our community!



Finances (Rachel Hasty/rhasty@bartlettumc.org)

Happy New Year! Just a couple of administrative reminders to start off the new year...

--Personalized offering envelopes will be ordered on February 1 and available for pick-up in March. If you would like personalized offering envelopes, please call or email Rachel in the church office to have your name added to the list. These are strictly a matter of your preference and not needed by the church office to make sure your contribution is correctly recorded. Once the order is turned in on February 1, however, I cannot add to it.

--Year-end contribution statements will be emailed on Tuesday, January 14. If we have no email address on file for you, a paper copy will be mailed on Friday, January 24 or placed in your Sunday school packet if you are a regularly attending member of a class. Please allow until January 31 to receive your statement.

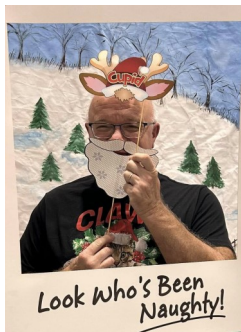
As always, your church staff and I are so very appreciative of your continued support. I can't wait to see what 2025 brings for Bartlett United Methodist Church!

God bless,

Rachel

Sunday, January 12 is Baptism of the Lord Sunday when we will also be reaffirming our own baptismal vows. Included in these vows is our promise "faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness." While it might not be the "gift" we like to think about, your financial commitment to the church is incredibly important as it enables your church staff to plan and carry out meaningful activities "to know Christ and make Christ known to all people, through worship, education, and service in our community and throughout the world." So, on January 12 we ask that you come prepared to share your "estimate of giving" for 2025. Cards will be provided before service that Sunday or can be found online and baskets will be available for their collection. Please remember no gift is too large or too small and all are appreciated!

'Twas
the
Night
Just
for
Christ-
mas



Recreation

Join us each week in the LEC Gym for fun and recreation!

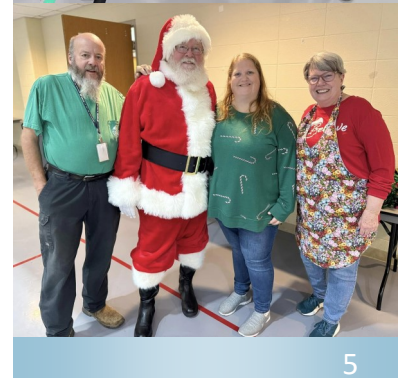
Pickleball— Every Tuesday at 6:45pm (*follow Pickleball-BUMC on Facebook*)

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



Bartlett United Methodist Church

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Join us for WOW (Well on Wednesday) beginning January 8! Come to fellowship dinner in the LEC Gym at 5:00 followed by children's choirs, six @ six (6th grade group), devotion, youth bible study (7th-12th grade) at 6:00, and adult chancel choir at 7:00! Adult dinner is \$8, children \$4, and family max. is \$24. No reservation required. Join us!



PRE-SCHOOL



2025-26 Registration

Bartlett United Methodist Church Preschool and KDO programs will hold registration for summer 2025 and the 2025-2026 school year beginning in January 2025.

Church members - beginning on January 27.

Currently enrolled students - beginning on February 3.

Registration open to the public - beginning on February 10.

Preschool Open House - Thursday, January 30

Contact Jennifer Steadman at preschool@bartlettumc.org if you have further questions.