

# The BUM News

APRIL 2020  
VOLUME 46 ISSUE 4

Bartlett United Methodist Church



Rev. Jason W. Jones  
Senior Pastor  
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*Greetings, friends, in the name of our living Lord!*

The world in which we live continues to be a strange place, with health concerns and questions stemming from coronavirus continuing to be at an elevated level. The illness has caused fearfulness on an expansive scale, and has shaken our community and nation in profound ways.

Even so, hardship is nothing new to any of us. Individually, in our families, as a nation—we've faced terrors before. We've wept. We've wondered. We've been bitter and afraid and heartbroken. That we come into tumultuous times is nothing new; this one simply wears a different mask than the one previous or the one before that. And so, we address it in different ways.

But what undergirds us—what sustains us—as we face this challenge is the same as it's always been and as it ever will be: the faithfulness of a loving and life-giving God.

As we make our way through the waning days of Lent, we're aware that the road which winds before us is one that leads us toward Jerusalem and to a cross: to a place of humiliation, of disgrace, of pain, of death. We know that as we reach that destination we'll once again encounter the image of a thorny crown pushed into an innocent scalp, of nail-riven wrists and ankles, of blood-streaked hair and skin, of an emaciated figure struggling to breathe. We see this, and we may find it difficult to locate God's faithfulness—as it seems to have been for the crucified one, who through tears and gasps wondered why he'd been forgotten.

But the psalm that Jesus recites on the cross doesn't end in defeat. It ends in jubilation, its author praising God—because he knows that God has heard him. The psalmist knows that, in faithfulness, God will respond. (As God did for Jesus, three days later, when the tomb was found empty.)

The point, dear ones, is that while we usually can't guess how any calamity in our lives will turn out, we can trust that God's present with us in the midst of it, offering peace and hope and reassurance. There's a lot that we don't know in this season, but there's always been a lot that we don't know. Still the first thing that we ought to know—and that we *can* know—is that God's love endures forever, God's faithfulness to all generations.

This may not answer every question or remove every care. But it's the best starting place I know of.

Peace,  
Pastor Jason



## MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Cancelled for April



**Fun Club Outing**  
Cancelled for April

**Fun Club Meeting,  
Program & Lunch**  
Cancelled for April



*Rachel Hasty*  
Senior Accountant  
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Many heartfelt thanks to those who answered the call for help for the middle Tennessee tornado victims. At the time of this writing, we have collected over \$5100 to send to UMCOR to help with their efforts in those areas affected by the disaster. Once again, my belief that we have one of the most generous congregations is affirmed. Thank you!

We are definitely going through some interesting times right now with COVID-19. I suspect by the time this newsletter goes out there will be new protocols, new recommendations from the CDC and the WHO that will create even more difficult challenges than what we now face. Who knows? But please know that your church staff is praying for you and with you and nothing is more important to us than your safety and well-being during this time. Once again, I have been so grateful for the generosity shown by you, our congregation members, who have reached out to me to ask what you could do financially since you know the work of the church still goes on. Online giving has increased and people have offered to pay ahead on their pledges to get us through what could be lean times. Your generosity never ceases to amaze me and make me all the more grateful that I work where I do and get to witness such acts of kindness all the time.

**Please note that the times and dates of activities listed in the April newsletter are subject to change. Please stay connected by checking our website, Facebook page, and your email frequently. If you are not receiving emails from the church, please email Jennifer Demetriou at [jdemetriou@bartlettumc.org](mailto:jdemetriou@bartlettumc.org)**

## Joys and Concerns

**Congratulations** to Nic and Bretta Farina upon the birth of their son, Oscar. The proud BUMC grandparents are Mike and Alice Farina.

**Sympathy** is expressed to the family of our church member, Larry Nelson, upon his death; to the family of our church member, Edith Bowman, upon her death; to Tracie Easterwood upon the death of her brother; to Sandy Allen upon the death of her mother, Marguerite Kirksey; to Nathan Hasty upon the death of his mother, Mary Hasty; to Don and Mary Collier upon the death of their daughter, Kim Collier

## Our Gifts

<b>Operating Budget</b>	<u>Weekly Need: \$27,387.00</u>
March 1-\$23,055.75	March 22-\$15,213.50
March 8-\$16,248.50	March 29-\$12,676.50
March 15-\$20,385.25	

<b>Building Fund</b>	<u>Weekly Need: \$5,623.00</u>
March 1-\$4,845.00	March 22-\$2,969.50
March 8-\$4,551.50	March 29-\$1,752.50
March 15-\$3,259.50	



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

April

### Meetings for April have been cancelled

UMW Service Circle's February project was to donate women's t-shirts, underwear, and socks for the Room at the Inn Ministries. Over 120 different items were collected.



Our new Blessing Box, filled with food and hygiene products, envisioned and brought to us by high school senior Sophie Demetriou! Passersby are able to take what they need and encouraged to share what they can, as a means of caring for our neighbors. The bright yellow box (formerly a newspaper box) is located in the front of the church on Stage Road. Feel free to stop by and take a look and even make a donation!



Thanks to all of my church family who have sent me notes and cards of encouragement. I appreciate every one, especially the Sunday School classes. I'm walking but very slowly. Having both hips broken will surely get your attention. Thanks to everyone!

Dixie Carpenter



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



*Shari Russenberger*  
*Director of Children's Ministries*  
*srussenberger@bartlettumc.org*

Happy April Friends!!!

As you know, it takes time for the newsletter to be assembled every month, so it is March 18th, as I write this newsletter article. At this time, we have made the very difficult decision to suspend in person worship/activities through 3/30, but only time will tell where we stand when the newsletter hits your mailbox. As a staff, we communicate daily about changes and updates to local and national recommendations, as things are changing hourly. With that in mind, it is becoming increasingly difficult to plan ahead, as I don't know what is to come.

What I do know...

- is that every single feeling that we have is valid. We can feel confused, sad, anxious, mad, frustrated, happy... All of these feelings are real and valid, regardless of age! Some of these feelings are hitting our children even harder than us, as they are even more unsure and uncertain. They know they can't go to school or church, and are afraid of what that means. I also know that God is walking through these feelings with us, and will be with us today and tomorrow, just as he was yesterday and the days before that.

- is that Prayers are not always enough, and action is needed by ALL of us. I am praying that a flattening of the curve happens, and that normal routines can resume quickly. I am also taking action to ensure those things - I am staying in, spending extra time in scripture, preparing for summer activities, working ahead for children's messages and children's church. I am using my non work time to play games and build Lego challenges with Wyatt, listening to him play his ukulele and making BIG plans for when we aren't trapped inside or the weather decides to give us some nice days!

- is that I miss my little friends! I miss seeing smiling faces down the Sunday School hallway, I miss chattering voices and big hugs on Wednesday evenings. I miss a full preschool and KDO hallway where the smiles, laughter, and little voices remind me that God is so very Good. I am excited and anxious to all be together again soon, as soon as Church Staff following guidelines from the CDC and W.H.O see fit. I know that this may be soon, or it could be later. I just know, that I am so ready for hugs, smiles, laughter, and the chance to see God in action through my favorite disciples!

- is that no amount of planning or contingency plans can prepare us for what is happening. I know that flexibility is going to be the name of the game in Children's Ministry for the next month or more as we navigate these uncertain times. I have already had to reschedule the silent auction, the confirmation retreat has been rescheduled, there are programs being rescheduled or cancelled and that there are more to come. I know this will lead to more feelings of disappointment or confusion. I go back to faith and prayer that the decisions being made and the plans changing are doing so in a manner to protect our congregation and community. I know I need prayers of peace and discernment as I look at the Children's Ministry calendar and try to make these tough calls.

- is that this "season" will pass. I don't know how long it will last or how it will look while it passes, but I do know, eventually it will pass. When that day comes, I will be waiting ready to play, learn, rejoice and praise with YOU and your family! I also know that when we come out the other side of this, we will be stronger than we were before.

In this moment things are changing so rapidly, I hesitate to even put dates out there! I will list the "looking ahead" dates - but I do want to make sure it is noted that EVERYTHING listed is TENTATIVE at this point. As the church staff makes decisions in the coming weeks regarding worship, activities, ensembles, these children's events will be discussed as well. We will communicate through as many methods as possible, however, your best sources for information will be the weekly update sent on Mondays by Jennifer Demetriou, the church Facebook page: [facebook.com/BartlettUnitedMethodist](https://www.facebook.com/BartlettUnitedMethodist), and the church website.

## Looking Ahead...

- April 4th - Easter Eggstravaganza has been CANCELLED - The children's council has made this difficult decision, taking into account the CDC recommendations and the layout of the Easter Egg Hunt, and have determined it is in the best interest of the community to cancel this event. We are already looking into other opportunities to have a community event when it is safe and appropriate to do so. We appreciate your understanding and support of this decision, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask.

- May 2nd - Outreach and Children's Ministry Silent Auction 8:30 - 12:00

- May 17th - Confirmation Sunday

- June/July - Summer Programming - Select Monday and Wednesday Mornings - on and off campus activities

- June 15-18 - Camp Serve - 6-8pm - Get EXCITED for a Mission based Vacation Bible School!!

- July 6-10 - Dayshore

Friends, I am praying for and with you as we are apart at this time. I look forward to worshiping and praising God for bringing us together again. Hug your little ones and tell them Ms. Shari misses them and can't wait to see their smiling faces again soon!

Finally, THANK YOU to all those who give of themselves to serve within the Children's Ministry. From Children's Council, Sunday School Leaders, Children's Church Assistants and those who pray and love on these young disciples, Thank You. We are a very blessed community of faith, and I am so thankful to be a part of it.

In Christ,

Shari



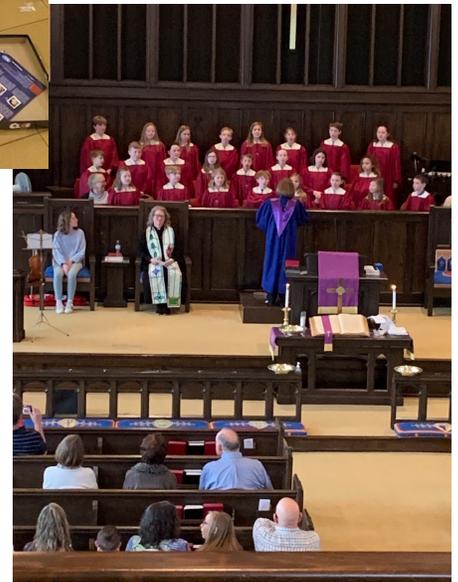


*Karen Strawhecker  
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# CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY



The Kingdom Chorale enjoyed a great weekend of learning, service, and singing for our yearly weekend tour. We stayed two nights in the gym at First UMC in Fulton, KY. On Saturday morning, we sang at Park Terrace Assisted Living in South Fulton. Our fun activity was to Discovery Park of America in Union City, TN. Singing and ringing in worship was a highlight of our trip. Their congregation was so appreciative of our children's efforts. This was our second time to stay in their facility. They always welcome us and make sure we are comfortable. Enjoy some pictures from our trip.





# OUTREACH MINISTRY

Perry Martini  
Director of Outreach Ministries  
pmartini@bartlettumc.org

## FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

### Pantry needs are increasing!!!

We need pasta, sauce, cereal, peanut butter, crackers, macaroni & cheese, and canned vegetables. Contact Perry Martini if you would like to make a donation.



# MUSIC MINISTRY

Jon Steadman  
Director of Music Ministries  
jsteadman@bartlettumc.org

For the past few weeks, churches all over the city have closed their doors to corporate worship and stepped up their online worship presence. Social media provides us with an unprecedented opportunity of staying connected during a time of physical separation. Bartlett UMC has been using social media to do this very thing for the past year, so the recent efforts to provide our congregation with a vibrant online worship music presence came natural. We may have suspended all programs/activities for the time being, but we felt that continuity is incredibly important in this time of uncertainty. By now you've no doubt seen many musical offerings on Facebook. This was all done in an effort to provide this congregation with the best possible worship experience at home. With various recommended safety structures in place, we may have had to limit the size of groups that gather for these recordings, but as social distancing continues to affect us, we will continue our efforts to bridge the physical divide with the connective tissue in order to help sustain us through this time. We love you all, and my prayer is that these songs fill your hearts, and you join your voice with ours praising our steadfast, faithful God!



## PSALM 100

A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

*Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.*

**KNOW THAT THE LORD IS GOD.**

It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;*

**GIVE THANKS TO HIM AND PRAISE HIS NAME.**

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.



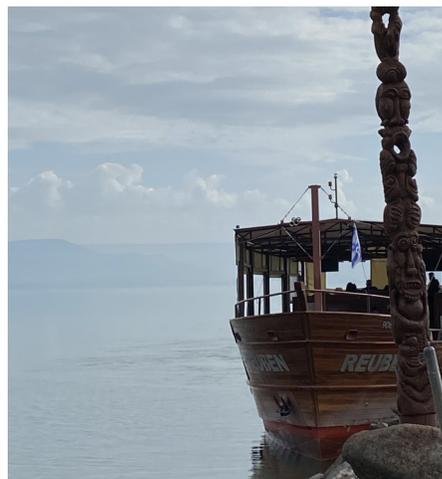


# YOUTH MINISTRY

Lynn Thompson  
Director of Youth Ministries  
lthompson@bartlettumc.org

Wow! Just Wow! These past weeks have been a crazy ride don't you think? I pray this newsletter finds you healthy and feeling loved! I've been

thinking what to share in this newsletter and these two stories keep coming into mind. Recently, our Holy Land folks and a few from last years trip, came back to share a meal and chat about what has still remained instilled in us by our visit. It was obvious to many of us that our boat ride on the Sea of Galilee was something we will never forget! On our trip the water was placid - so calm- almost still actually. Everyone commented what a calmness our souls felt out there on the boat. Something, while looking out of the boat, overwhelmed me into tears. Jack Coleman, who had gone two years ago, commented that when they went on their boat ride to the Sea it had been rocky, choppy and everything BUT still. His memory was while he was on the boat was thinking how the disciples must have felt when the waters were crashing and Jesus was sleeping. Jack said he understood why the disciples wanted Him to wake up and calm the waves. I've thinking a lot about both stories and both perspectives of our boat rides.



What I think God is trying to instill in me -especially during these times of uncertainty that first and foremost Jesus is in the boat with us! It is easy to see Him there during the easy peaceful times and He soothes our soul BUT Jesus is also in the boat with us when life becomes rocky or a bit uncertain - He is there to calm us - His presence is there- maybe waiting for us to ask for His help to calm us. And just like the disciples on the sea that day - once they called on Jesus - He gave them peace!

I pray during these "unchartered waters" during our lives - like the ones we have been facing globally, that we remember Jesus is in the boat with us! We simply need to call on Him and He will give you rest and comfort.

Praying you find Him in the still and quiet as well as the rocky and uncertain- He is awaiting your call to Him to help calmed in your faith journey with Him!



In Christ,  
Lynn Thompson



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Our famine donations totaled \$9,758.01 - AND WORLD VISION QUADRUPLES IT with grants TOTALING \$39,032.04 from our 38 youth and adults! WOW!!!!!!!

Just wanted to share with you also the great discipleship our youth did during famine for our community as well:

- Made blankets for ASP families.
  - Made snack bags for Room in the Inn and congregation to put in their cars.
  - Made lunch and also delivered it to migrant workers.
  - Hosted First Responders lunch.
  - Took premie hats to the Med.
  - Made hats for Room in the Inn occupants.
  - Made 500 chocolate chip cookies for SOS ministry.
  - Made 500lbs of rice and beans bags for Guatemalan families in Memphis.
- along with:
- challenging games and devotion for famine awareness.
  - only chewing gum and drinking water/ juice or Gatorade for 30hrs.
  - cooked bacon and communion bread for breaking the fast.
  - slept in box city to be more aware of homelessness in our city.
  - shared the life of a child in 3rd world country through World Vision devotions.



THIS IS THE DAY  
THAT THE LORD  
HAS MADE; LET US  
**REJOICE**  
& BE GLAD IN IT  
PSALM 118:24

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[www.bartlettumc.org](http://www.bartlettumc.org)

**The Fun Club has an exciting trip scheduled for 2020. If you like new adventures and traveling with fun loving friends come join us!**

**Discover the Highlights of Norway, Sept 11-19, 2020**

Highlights: Overnight flight to Oslo, Norway, city tour including the Viking Ship Museum. Leaving Oslo enter the fjord region with majestic landscapes. Visit Borgund Stave Church built in honor of the Apostle Andrew in 1180. To arriving into the fjord of Flam, cross the terrain on the renowned Flam Railway, one of the steepest train rides in the world and be captivated by waterfalls, mountains and valleys.

Leaving Flam transverse the Briksdal Glacier in a traditional "troll" car (the park's open air vehicle). This glacier is considered to be the most awe-inspiring in all Norway. Enjoy an exhilarating Geirangerfjord cruise to discover Norway's mightiest waterfalls and homesteads built along steep mountain sides. Bergen, founded by Viking warriors, offers old world charm. Learn details on a guided walking tour of Bergen along the historic and iconic Bryggen harbor front.

**Brochures available in the church office. Register early and take advantage of the early booking discount. Questions? Contact Treva Jolley, 490-8030**