

The Monthly Message



APRIL 2021
VOLUME 47 ISSUE 4



Rev. Jason W. Jones
Senior Pastor
jjones@bartlettumc.org

Greeting, friends, in the name of our Risen Lord!

It's probably safe to assume that the images of the Easter story are deeply entrenched in us: the women at the tomb, a stone that's been moved, an empty cave, shining angels, and bumfuzzled disciples. These we are invited to encounter every year as we proclaim the resurrection of our Lord. Indeed, many who are only peripherally connected with the Church or passingly familiar with its scripture are nonetheless often able to reference these points. Such was true for me; even before I regularly attended worship or knew how to locate chapter and verse, I could identify the major elements of the narrative.

Less broadly-known, perhaps, is the passage that regular worshipers in many traditions have come to expect on the *second* Sunday of Easter—one that, in lots of ways, I look forward to hearing just as much as the story of the vacant tomb: the story (in St. John's version of the Gospel) of Jesus' friends gathered in a house, mourning their loss, and huddled in fear. Then Jesus appears to them, standing among them, speaking a word of peace.

And there's all kinds of things I adore about this scripture; there are pages of sermons that have been and could be written from these few verses. But one of the most striking images, for me, has always been Jesus holding forth his hands to reveal to his disciples his nail-riven wrists and showing them the spear wound in his side. His doing so is comforting because Jesus comes near and identifies himself to those who were so afraid. It's challenging because Jesus follows this display which hearkens to his self-giving by saying, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."



Still what intrigues me most is simply that the scars are there. Of course this emphasizes Jesus' humanness and reiterates the ways in which he relates to us. But it also demonstrates the startling truth that life as God gives it isn't about things being perfect. It isn't about everything being just so. It isn't about situations being as we'd prefer them, or even as they used to be (something for which we creaturely beings frequently long, especially in times of duress). Jesus was resurrected, but life would never again be what it was for him—or for his followers.

No, life as God gives it isn't about being wound-free. But it is about recognizing the divine grace that imbues our moments and making even our wounds beautiful, as we're reminded of the One whose faithfulness has sustained us at every step and in every season. May these reminders be near for you, for me, and for all of us this Easter and always.

Joys and Concerns

Sympathy is expressed to the family of our church member, Joann Hines Garner, upon her death; to Loring Porter and family upon the death of her mother, Cathy Turner; to Charles Shaw and family upon the death of his brother, Harvey Draper; to the family of our church member, Ellen K. Jordan, upon her death; to Mike King and family upon the death of his mother, Betty Lienhart.

Our Gifts

Operating Budget Weekly Need: \$27,643.00

February 28-\$27,746.00 March 14-**\$19,907.50**

March 7-**\$24,463.50** March 21-**\$16,596.50**

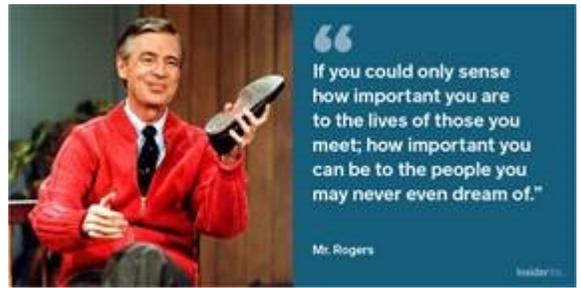
Building Fund Weekly Need: \$5,623.00

February 28-\$10,695.00 March 14-\$10,118.50

March 7-\$6,067.50 March 21-**\$4,418.50**



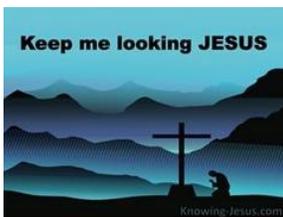
YOUTH MINISTRY



Lynn Thompson
Director of Youth Ministries
lthompson@bartlettumc.org

I grew up with watching Mister Rogers on the TV when I was younger. Here is the funny fact – I also grew up where Mr. Rogers was my neighbor....yes! actual neighbor. The house next to my mom and dad’s home was owned by Mr. Bob Rogers...not Fred but Bob. The truth is everytime I would see the show and Mister Rogers would sing – “won’t you be my neighbor?” I would always say... “you kinda are!” HA!

I loved watching the show because it instilled a sense of understanding about being truthful to our own emotions and it was ok if we struggled or were confused about some things in our life or in the world. I remember when 911 happened how the idea Mister Rogers set within me in the midst of all of this distress was “ look for the helpers...you will always find people who are helping” and I did and as an adult it brought comfort to my soul.



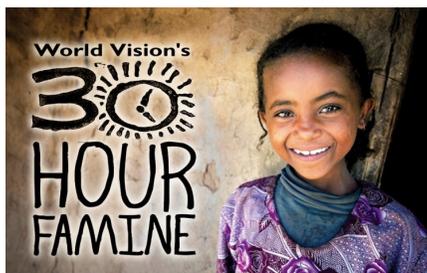
I think that is important during Lent, during a pandemic, during well...life- that we put our sights on the good in the world when trying to understand our own selves. In life when you don’t know what to do for yourself- when it seems so muddled or unclear, stop and do something- large or small -for somebody else. Wouldn’t that be great if we all could stop when we are tired, cranky, upset, pre-occupied with what is going on our little world – to stop and show kindness, be present, practice compassion for someone else.

I know that Mister Rogers was a great influence on my understanding of this world...because I could see him – sing with him and he let me into his life and neighborhood. But I know that there is a bigger influencer as I have grown up that I can’t see necessarily but I can feel His presence... that I can sing with Him and He has let me into His life and His world so that I can look to His example and try to be a light into the world for Him. It is Jesus. It says in Colossians 3:12 “Therefore as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” The apostle Paul was giving us the groundwork for how to be disciples of the church. In Matthew 25:40 Jesus assures His disciples “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Soooo...if you are looking for the helpers...Jesus and His example is the one to always look to. If you need someone to do something for...do something for someone else in the name of Jesus. This Easter season show your faith – extend your faith, compassion and understanding – because we are Easter people and we have seen the extended outstretched arms on our Savior on the cross, the forgiveness of our sins and the understanding of what unconditional love towards others really means.

I pray this Easter season – I pray that you and I will be neighborly to ALL of our brothers and sisters in Christ. I also pray that you are living the life your heart and faith calls you to live.

In Christ,

Lynn Thompson



Next Step
April 22
30 Hour Famine
April 9- 10
Joyful Noise Coffeehouse
April 30, May 1-2

Every year, hundreds of thousands of students in the U.S. and around the world unite to do the Famine. This year our Youth will be doing the famine on April 9-10. They will learn about hunger, raise funds to help the hungry, and then go hungry yourselves for 30 hours. Through the Famine, our youth will grow closer to Christ and each other -- all while helping to save the lives of hungry kids. Please pray for them and consider making a donation for this event. You can designate the funding to particular youth sponsorship. All funds will go directly to World Vision to help our brothers and sisters in Christ in need.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



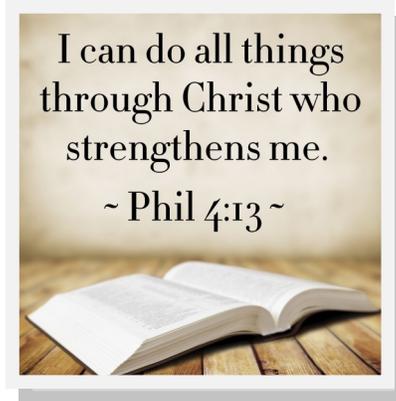
Hey friends!

Shari Russenberger
Director of Children's Ministries
[srussenberger@bartlettumc.org](mailto:srusenberger@bartlettumc.org)

I hope you had the most amazing Holy Week and used the Holy Week in a Box as a devotion to share with your family. I pray that it helped center your thoughts around the miraculous week we just experienced, providing you with a different view!

On my office wall, I have a large painting of the following:

- Listen to the MUSTN'TS, child,**
- Listen to the DON'TS**
- Listen to the SHOULDN'TS**
- The IMPOSSIBLES, the WON'TS**
- Listen to the NEVER HAVES**
- Then listen close to me –**
- Anything can happen, child,**
- ANYTHING can be.**



Shel Siverstein

Sometimes I sit and stare at those words and wonder how often we allow ourselves to be convinced that we aren't: good enough, big enough, old enough, young enough, smart enough.... To do whatever it is that we want to do. I know I am guilty of feeling that way, and I am sure I am guilty of making others feel that way as well. Today, I want to change that, I want to remind YOU: that YOU are exactly who YOU are supposed to be and that YOU are capable of doing whatever YOU want to do.

I challenge you this month to focus on the positive side of things, to find the ways to build others up, encouraging them and helping them to know that ANYTHING is possible. I want you to tuck Philippians 4:13 into your heart, knowing that YOU can do all things through Christ who gives you strength. I want you to also know, that if you get to a place in the road where you feel like your faith or your strength is crumbling, I am right here, cheering you on and reminding you that ANYTHING can happen friend, ANYTHING can be. I believe in you, I love you and I am right here if you need reminding!

I hope you have a wonderful month and I look forward with great anticipation of sharing some of our summer programming options next month in the May Newsletter!

Until then, stay safe, stay healthy and know I love and miss you!

KDO registration for 2021 Summer and Fall is now available!

Our Kid's Day Out program is open to babies and toddlers (ages 6 months to 3 years old). KDO is open on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9-2:30. Children can come one or two days a week. Tuition is \$80/month for 1 day a week or \$160/month for 2 days a week. There is a \$40 non-refundable registration fee.

If you would like more information or would like to come and check out our program, you can contact our KDO Director, Cheryl Phillips by email (kdo@bartlettumc.org) or phone (901-388-1698).



Also, **we are in need of substitute teachers and teachers for our summer program.** If you or someone you know would be interested in working at our KDO please come by the KDO office to pick up an application. This is perfect for parents who have school aged children that just need a little something during the day while their children are at school. We are here on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:00-2:30. If your child attends KDO they will come free on the days that we need you to sub. If you would like more information you can reach Cheryl Phillips at 388-1698.



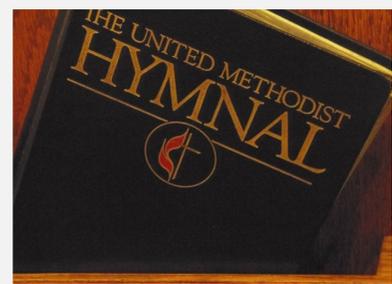
*Karen Strawhecker
Assoc. Dir. of Music Ministries
karens@bartlettumc.org*

MUSIC MINISTRY



I grew up in a church in which we sang about 12 hymns per week between Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening services. Repetition of hymns could be more frequent, so more hymns were familiar. At Bartlett UMC we were singing three hymns every Sunday, not counting the Gloria Patri and Doxology, which were done every week. If you were in the habit of attending Wednesday evening services you were able to enjoy singing an additional 2 or 3 hymns each week.

Covid has really had an impact on our congregational singing, forcing us to limit our singing to 1 hymn before leaving the sanctuary. It's becoming more evident through your comments that hymns that used to be familiar or somewhat familiar are forgotten and moving to the unfamiliar list. There wasn't much repetition with three hymns per week, and now even less with one hymn per week. Even though I realize this is totally out of my control, it still makes me incredibly sad.



About 20 years ago, I began tracking our hymn usage. I know how many times and on what dates we have used hymn tunes and hymn texts. I do check the hymns to make sure that they should be familiar, or somewhat familiar before scheduling them for worship.

Choosing hymns for worship is one of the most difficult things I do each week. There are some criteria that I have for choosing congregational music. The first is always, does the hymn fit with the pastor's sermon scripture for the day? Then, does it go along with the theme of the day, or season of the church year? Lastly, is it familiar to the congregation? I often pass by many good hymns that would be perfect selections for the day because our congregation doesn't know them.

The issue of familiarity isn't new and what is familiar to you may not be familiar to the person sitting near you. Years ago, I remember one of my professors saying that we should have congregational rehearsals before worship each week to make sure the congregation knows the hymns, and can therefore sing them more confidently. This is a wonderful idea, but I have never worked in a church where the schedule could actually allow that to happen.

In 2002, we did a hymn survey of Bartlett UMC. Only 273 people responded. 197 different hymns were turned in as favorites. There was not a limit to how many hymns a person could submit. The point is that we could not sing all of the favorites in a year. 52 Sundays with 3 hymns per day is only 156 opportunities.

I may have an idea to help with our hymn review and retention, but it's going to take some thought to see if I can actually make it happen. Until then, look through your hymnals and try to rediscover your hymns. I would love to hear from you about how many hymns you know! I am still counting...are you? In the meantime, remember that our Virtual Hymn Sings are still online. Of the 576 hymns in our hymnal, BUMC has sung 369 of them at least once. So many great hymns and so little time!!



Fun Club Meeting
 Tuesday, April 20
 10am, Sanctuary
 Speaker will be Lindsay Haynes and she will be discussing Polypharmacy. If you are 50+, join us on April 20!



MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Saturday, April 10 at 8:00am in Cook Fellowship Hall

Can you smell the bacon? The Men's Prayer group is back! Join us for a light breakfast, fellowship, and devotion. *Please call the church office to reserve your spot. All men are invited! Bring a friend!*



OUTREACH MINISTRY

Perry Martini
Director of Outreach Ministries
pmartini@bartlettumc.org



April 8 & 22 Room in the Inn

April 24 Holy Chow

*Volunteers needed!
Contact Perry if you can help!*

Room in the Inn is back!

Beginning on April 8 we will be back at Room in the Inn. We will serve on the second and fourth Thursday nights each month, so there will be lots of opportunities to volunteer. There will be several changes this season. RITI will take place at 409 Ayres Street, across from Carnes Elementary, near St. Jude. There are two sections, one houses homeless recuperative care patients the other houses families. There will typically be about 5-6 families and 10-14 recuperative care individuals. We will be assigned one or the other, not both. A RITI staff person will be there at all times. The start time is 5pm. Outreach will provide the meals since we cannot cook at their kitchen yet. We will need 3 or 4 volunteers each night. We will serve meals and assist the guests much the same as we did before. We do not provide medical care. Most volunteers will leave around 7-7:30pm, but we will need 1 or 2 to stay until about 9pm. I will be staying until 11pm when the overnight group takes over. Mark your calendars and set some time aside.

Holy Chow

On Saturday, April 24 we continue our monthly food delivery. The plan is to have enough meals for our shut-ins plus extra meals to be taken to the migrant workers on Jackson Avenue and homeless in that neighborhood. These will be good, home-style hot meals.

We expect to serve about 100 meals, but we also welcome input from the congregation on others they know that are in need. Volunteers will pick up the food at the LEC at 11am on Saturday. If you would like to help or know someone that can benefit from the hot lunch, email Perry at pmartini@bartlettumc.org or send a text to 901-634-0804.

Gallery News



Private reservations of the Gallery can be made for one hour, self-guided tours of up to six people. The Gallery is open from 11:30 to 3:00 and is located next to the church at 2945 Shelby Street. The gallery provides masks, gloves and hand sanitizer and is cleaned after each visit and again at the end of the day.

On April 10 from 2-4pm, you are invited to attend the opening reception of 4 Sights, an exhibit of American and European artists, each on permanent exhibit at Christian Brothers Collection, one on permanent exhibit at the Chrysler Museum and the Louvre, major award winning artists presenting their debut creations of 2021. Catered reception to follow.

Free weekly drawing classes are starting again but at a new time 11-12pm on Tuesdays at the Art Gallery. No need to bring anything but yourself.

The baby blanket team meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 11 to 12pm and every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 10 to 12pm.

Yarn donations are always welcome or come join us to make baby blankets. The hospitals are always so happy to receive them.

Contact Morris at 901-409-8705 if you have questions. All are welcome!

foursights
virtual/reality
the art of frederick lyle morris, sandra horton,
becky ross merae, and jon woodhams
april 1-30, 2021



Come and join our new walking group! We meet Monday-Thursday from 4:30-5:30pm at the LEC. Don't forget to bring your mask and water! Email Jon Woodhams at woodhamsco@yahoo.com for more information.



Bartlett United Methodist Church
5676 Stage Road • Bartlett, TN 38134
Phone: 901/386-4563
Fax: 901/386-9927
www.bartlettumc.org

BARTLETT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

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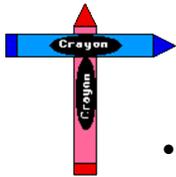
Bartlett United Methodist Church, 5676 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN

Periodicals postage is paid at Memphis, TN



Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is available!!

Enrollment packets are available now in the pre-school office. If you are interested in having your child attend Bartlett United Methodist Pre-School next year, please turn in your registration paperwork and payment soon. Some programs will fill up quickly so register early!



PRE-SCHOOL

Entrance Requirements:

- Child must be of age by August 15 for class placement.
- A child must be completely toilet trained by the first day of school. If not, written notification to the director must be on file for fee reimbursement.
- Immunization records must be received by the pre-school office no later than August 1.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Steadman in the pre-school office at 386-4651 or by email at preschool@bartlettumc.org.



JT Forrester
Director of Recreation
jtforrester@bartlettumc.org

Join me on Facebook every Monday at 3pm for a virtual workout!

