

Circuit Writer

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... and you shall call his name
Jesus for he will save his
people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21, ESV



Special Dates:

- First Sunday of Advent - December 1
- Christmas Fellowship Meal - December 8
- United Methodist Women - December 10
- Sister Friends Coffee and Chat - December 12
- Birthday Party for Jesus - December 14
- Christmas Cantata - December 15
- Breakfast - December 15
- Caroling - December 18
- Christmas Eve Service - December 24

Blountstown United Methodist Church

Happy Birthday Jesus

Blountstown Methodist Church will host a birthday party for Jesus on Saturday, December 14, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 pm. There will be games, crafts, surprises and Cake. This party is open to children 1–12 years old.



Volunteers are needed to help with the event. Contact Beth Herndon if you are able to help with the party.

Hope - Christmas Cantata

The Chancel Choir will present their cantata on Sunday, December 15 during the morning worship hour. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to this musical service.

This year's cantata is "Hope" composed and arranged by Joel Raney, orchestrated by Ed Hogan. Join us as we celebrate the unfading, undying, and unbroken Hope. The hope that came in the form of a promise that God's love and grace is ours forever. The Hope of an expectant world that was fulfilled in Bethlehem on that wondrous, holy night.

Christmas Calendar of Events

Mark your calendars: Our fellowship meal is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 8, at noon. The United Methodist Women to meet on Tuesday, Dec. 9, and the Sister Friends' Coffee is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 12. On Saturday, Dec. 14, we will host a birthday party for Jesus, between the hours of 1: 00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Christmas Cantata will be Sunday, December 15 at 11:00 a.m. The choir are going caroling on December 18, everyone is welcome. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be Tuesday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m. Hope you can join us for all or most of these events.



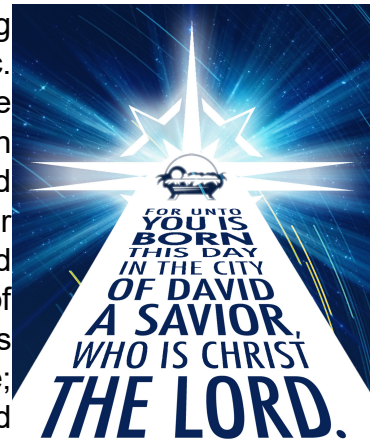
Eternal Light

Christmas occurred when God invaded Earth in a strange and marvelous way. A special child was born to improbable parents in an unlikely place at an inconvenient time and in an unwelcoming world. Yet heaven's light pierced the darkness and shone through the life of that unique baby. That light was and is an eternal light. God's light in Christ is a saving light that can keep the world from total destruction, from the ultimate darkness. The message is always true: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV). And it never will.

-Charles Ferrell

**Join us on
Tuesday, December 24
at 6:00 p.m. for our
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**

It's started again, immediately following Thanksgiving; the innocuous Xmas music. I say Xmas because for the most part, the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, has been completely purged from the season, and constantly inserted is a vapid message for some warm fuzzy feeling, generated by colorful lights and the cacophony of commercialization. Drowned out in all this noise is the greatest message of all time; that God became one of us so that we could become one with him.



LUKE 2:11, ESV

As incredible as it sounds. God did become a human being, a living baby boy, born in Bethlehem, in Judea, in Israel, during the reign of Herod, king of Judea. These facts are confirmed by historical records, with far more accuracy than the facts about Julius Caesar or Cleopatra. Anyone who wishes to deny the historical fact of Jesus of Nazareth refuses to accept the validity of the records of ancient history.

It all began somewhere in the courts of heaven where the eternal decisions are made. Even before the world was created, the plan was laid out that Jesus, the Son of God, would come to earth to redeem humans for their rebellion against God's plan. When the time came for the Son of God to be born, the angel Gabriel came to announce the news to a young girl living in Nazareth, a virgin, named Mary. You are going to have a baby, a boy. "I don't get it," Mary said. "I am a virgin, no sexual relations with anyone." "The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35 [NLT] The same angel, Gabriel, appeared to Joseph in a dream when he was wondering about Mary and her pregnancy. "As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Mat 1:20-21 [NLT] The mission of Jesus Christ was predetermined before He came into this world. His sole reason for coming was to redeem us, humans, from our sins, and restore our relationship with God. In His mercy, God has forgiven us when we confess our wrongheadedness and accept Him as our Savior. God adopts us into His family, as His daughters and sons. That adoption is only the beginning. As with all parents, God has plans for us, his kids. Plans for our good, for our health and well-being, and joy. Ultimately,

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Continued from Page Two

His plan is for us to be with Him throughout eternity. He is getting the place ready in heaven for His kids.

This Christmas, accept the best gift of all, a relationship with the greatest dad of all times, God the Father, the creator of heaven and earth. He so badly wants to be our father that He became one of us so that we can be like Him and with Him throughout all eternity.

He gave His life so we can be forgiven and adopted into his family. Be careful. Don't let the commotion of the season and the busyness of the holiday drown out the message of God's love for us. Take time to reflect on this truth. "See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure." 1 John 3:1-3 [NTL] That's a gift too good to pass up. Accept it. Unwrap it. Use it every day. It makes all the difference in the world in our life. I guarantee it.

Bro. John King

Look Upon Love

Let us then meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify people. Inexpressible majesty will crush them. That is why God took on our human flesh and blood, that God should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor God would console and comfort us.

—Martin Luther



A Glorious Hope

Let us today go down to Bethlehem, and in company with wondering shepherds and adoring Magi, let us see him who was born King of the Jews, for we by faith can claim an interest in him, and can sing, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Jesus is Jehovah incarnate, our Lord and our God, and yet our brother and friend; let us adore and admire. ...



Let us reverently bow before the holy Child whose innocence restores to [humankind] its ancient glory; and let us pray that he may be formed in us, the hope of glory.

—C.H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*

"The world can't save itself. That's the message of Christmas."

—Timothy Keller

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday of Advent	2	3	4 ♪David Corbin	5	6	7
8 Second Sunday of Advent Christmas Fellowship Meal 12 noon	9 ♥Ashley & Joe Durham	10	11 ♪Isaac McGhee	12	13	14 Birthday Party for Jesus 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
15 Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Cantata 11:00 a.m. ♪Mark Herndon	16	17	18 Christmas Caroling 5:30 p.m.	19	20 ♥Katie & Brooks Hayes ♥Danita & Glen McClellan ♥Erin & Kyle McClellan	21 ♪JayIn Jordan
22 ♥Sharon & Henry McCrone	23 ♥Tiffany & Jared Weiler	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6 p.m.	25 Christmas	26 ♪David House	27	28
Church office closed until December 30						
29 ♪Boston Barfield	30 ♪Marvin Williams	31	Communion Danita McClellan Offering White Christmas	Ushers Mark Herndon Stewart Herndon Standby Joe Ferguson		

Our Caring Ministry List

Short Term Concerns

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Rhett Bozeman | Robert Hughes |
| Terry Chambers | Heather Leonard |
| Jimmy Devane | Robert Petty |
| James Griffin | Ed Pilcher |
| | Makalyn Sheetz |
| | Anthony Sims |

Intercessory Prayer

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Eric Alford | Our Shut – Ins |
| Joel Butler | Betty Ann Cayson |
| Tommy Edwards | Virginia Williams |

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sonny Harrison | Our Military |
| Quentin Henderson | Ukraine soldiers and citizens |
| Brenda Parrish | Israel Citizens |
| Mary Schruefer | Middle East |

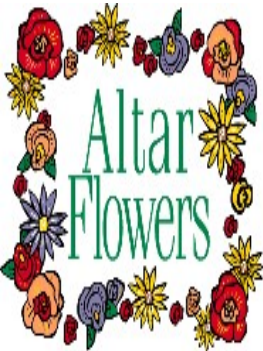
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|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Hannah Stephens | Persecuted Christians |
| Sarah Lynn White | UM Missionaries |
| Laura Williams | Caregivers |
| Virginia Williams | |

Those Battling Cancer

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Melissa Bailey | Please contact the office with any updates to this list — Thank You! |
| Grace Barfield | |
| Vivian Eckerson | |
| Leslie Faurot Hand | |

December Flower Calendar

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| December 01 | Mrs. Tommy Williams |
| December 08 | Mrs. Betty Ann Cayson |
| December 15 | Mrs. Montez Golden |
| December 22 | Dr. & Mrs. Quentin Henderson |
| December 29 | Mr. & Mrs. Mark Herndon |



Walking with Those Who Grieve.

The holiday season can be difficult for people who are grieving a death of deep loss. As Christians, we do well to be aware that not everyone feels wholehearted joy this time of year.

Grief counselor Alan Wolfelt explains that walking alongside — “companionship — one who grieves “is not about being totally present to the mourner, even being a temporary guardian of [his or] her soul.”

Among Wolfelt’s 11 tenets for “companionship the bereaved”:

- It’s about being present to another person’s pain, not taking it away.
- It’s about listening with the heart, not analyzing with the head.
- It’s about walking alongside, not leading.

More tips are available at www.centerforloss.com/2019/12/

May God bless you as you share the love of the Christ Child, his caring parents and his compassionate heavenly Father with people who are hurting.



Blountstown United Methodist Church

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Family Prayer List

volume 1 • number 12

1. Heath McClellan Family /
Hentz McClellan Family
2. Kyle McClellan Family /
Sharon & Henry McCrone
3. Helen McGowen /
Phyllis & Frank Miller
4. Kathryn McMillian Mitchell /
Betty Monfort
5. Brenda Parrish /
Gary Parrish
6. Michelle Pettis Family /
Charmian & Jerry Register
7. Diane & Russell Scholz /
DellAnne & Micheal Schrufer
8. Ken Sheppard Family /
Stacy Sims
9. Rodney Smith Family /
Donald Stanley Family
10. Sue & Don Stanley /
Mert Stephens
11. Scott Stephens Family /
Virginia House Szrowicz
12. Chris & John Tomlinson /
Ann & Mike Tucker
13. Janis & Jack Weiler /
Cherie White Family
14. Doug Whitfield Family /
Drew Whitfield Family
15. Vicky & Steve Whitfield /
Grant Williams Family
16. Marvin Williams /
Mary Ann Williams
17. Mary Beth Williams /
Laura & Roger Williams
18. Virginia & Laddie Williams /
Barbara Wilson
19. Esther Alford /
Eric Alford
20. Dresa Barfield /
John Barfield Family
21. Wynelle Bateman /
Mary Margaret & Bob Barsch
22. Alton Carpenter /
Betty Ann Cayson
23. Donna & Finlay Corbin /
Peggy & Jimmy Cox
24. Steve Cox /
Gina & Tyler Cox
25. Jane Creamer /
Joe Durden Family
26. Debbie & Tommy Edwards /
Gale & Joe Ferguson
Mary Flowers
27. Frank Gates /
Montez Golden
28. Peggy Hall /
Pam & Ronnie Hand
29. Norah Handley /
Louse & Sonny Harrison
30. Eileen Hatch /
Trevor Haser Family
31. Brooks Hayes Family /
Cheri & Quentin Henderson