

September 2024
volume 1 • number 9

Circuit Writer

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Special Dates:

- Labor Day - September 2
- National Grandparent Day - September 8
- Patriot Day - September 11
- Sister Friends - September 12
- United Methodist Women – September 17 at 10:00 a.m.
- First Day of Autumn - September 22
- Fifth Sunday Singspiration & Fellowship Meal - September 29

Blountstown United Methodist Church

The Extraordinary Amid the Ordinary

A violinist once performed in the New York City subway, entertaining passersby for 45 minutes. A few tossed him cash, totaling about \$30 by the time he concluded.

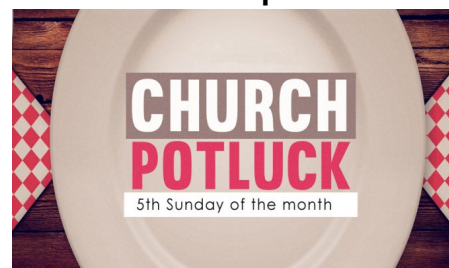
Little did anyone know, Joshua Bell was one of the world's best violinists. That day, he played one of the most complex musical pieces ever written on an instrument worth \$3.5 million. Indeed, a few days earlier Bell had performed a sold-out concert in Boston, where tickets averaged \$100.



Sometimes God does extraordinary things right in the middle of our ordinary lives, yet we don't notice. You're offered an opportunity you almost pass up, thinking it's not worth your time or effort. But upon taking part, you find it leads to your life's calling. Or someone crosses your path, but overlooking their worth, you brush them aside, missing out on a blessing God had for you through them.

And what about you? Do you undervalue yourself as "nothing special," just an ordinary person? Look closer; think again. For an ordinary baby born long ago to an ordinary couple in an ordinary stable in an ordinary town was none other than ... God's Son!! And you? Why, you are also an extraordinary child of God!

**Mark your calendars for September 29 -
Fifth Sunday and Singspiration and Fellowship Meal.**



FROM THE PASTOR

"An Appointment With God"



An Appointment with God

The sanctuary of Blountstown
United Methodist Church
will be open every
Sunday evening,
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

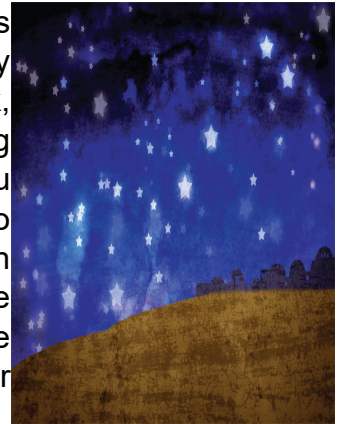
Come by, spend as much
time as you wish in the
quietness of God's presence.

No preaching, only quiet
meditation as you sit in the
presence of the Almighty,
unburdening your soul,
sharing your grief and pain,
receiving His encouragement
and comfort.

Bro John is available to pray
or speak with you.



The campfire was dying down, the embers glowing red. Julie, Jared and their dad lay back, staring up at the night sky. The dark, velvety expanse was dotted with stars, blinking like LEDs in the blackness. "What, do you suppose, is out there?" Dad asked. How far do the stars go, the kids wondered. The question asked by those perceptive young minds is one that has been pondered for centuries and we need to ask again. In the answer we find our hope now and our confidence for the future.



The psalmist made this observation about the message of the starry skies. "The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound of word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world" Psalm 19:1-4 [NLB] Any casual observer sees in nature a profound, extraordinary order and a precise and intricate plan in the mind of the Creator. He didn't just throw it together one morning. He had a grand idea and plan behind it all.

The ancient people had a three-tiered view of the heavens. The first heaven was the atmosphere. The second was outer space, where the planets and stars are. The third level of heaven was where the gods lived. We understand creation a bit better. But there is a part of God's plan for His creation we need to grasp more clearly and ponder its meaning more fully.

The Scriptures tell us, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets." 1 Cor. 2:9-10 [NLB]

In the Book of Revelation, after the letters to the Seven Churches, the Scriptures continue, "Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." Rev. 4:1 [NLB] The story begins with the splendor and majesty of the "One sitting on the throne and the Lamb seated at His right hand. Blast after blast of trumpets announce the pouring out of the bowls of God's wrath and judgment as the cosmic struggle unfolds in the eternal struggle for holiness, righteousness and moral supremacy at the end of age. Our Lord prevails. Evil is defeated and destroyed.

Continues on page 3

Continued from Page Two

The Scriptures continue, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone.² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.”⁶ And he also said, “It is finished I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life.⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessing, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.⁸” But coward, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” Rev. 21:1-8 [NLB].

Each of us who has placed our trust in Jesus has an address on a street in the new Jerusalem where we shall live with God and Christ our Lord for eternity. That construction is going on “out there” as we stare into the night sky. So, hang in there. Thanks be to God!

Bro John King

The Gift of Work

During Labor Day weekend worship, many congregations bless members of various occupations. From painting to parenting, from truck driving to teaching, from farming to pharmaceutical research, work is honored as holy.

Some might believe that certain jobs—pastor, missionary, bishop—are holier than others. But in his classic book *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Brother Lawrence, a 17th-century Carmelite monk, tells of performing even the most common, tedious tasks as holy service to God: “I turn the cake that is frying on the pan for love of [God],” he wrote. “It is enough for me to pick up but a straw from the ground for the love of God.”

No matter your field of work, remember that any task done in God’s name and to his glory is holy.

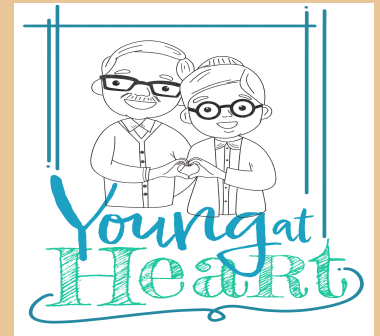
Young at Heart

I like to walk with Grandpa
and Grandma,
Their steps are short like
mine.
They don’t say, “Now hurry
us.”
They always take their time.

I like to walk with Grandpa
and Grandma,
Their eyes see things like
mine do ...
Wee pebbles bright, a funny
cloud,
Half-hidden drops of dew.

Most people have to hurry,
They do not stop and see.
I am glad that God made
Grandpa and Grandma
Unrushed and young like
me.

—Author unknown



‘A Hymn’

O God of earth and altar,
bow down and hear our cry,
Our earthly rulers falter,
our people drift and die;
The walls of gold entomb
us,
the swords of scorn divide,
Take not thy thunder from
us,
but take away our pride.

— G.K. Chesterton



SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Office Closed	3	4	5	6	7
8 ♪ Barbara Wilson	9 ♪ Michael Schrufer	10 ♪ Betty Ann Cayson	11 ♪ Hentz McClellan ♪ Stacy Sims	12 Sister Friends Coffee 10:00 a.m.	13 ♪ Ilana McGhee	14 ♪ Hester Leonard
15	16 ♪ Tommy Edwards ♪ Tina Smith	17 United Methodist Women 10:00 am	18 ♪ Jimmy Cox	19	20 ♪ Ace Barfield	21 ♪ Danita McClellan ♪ Chris White
22	23 ♪ Debbie Edwards ♪ Frank; Miller	24 ♪ Mert Stephens	25	26	27	28
29 Singspiration & Fifth Sunday Meal	30 ♪ Stewart Herndon	Communion Offering Marcus Register Fund Communion Diane Schulz		Ushers Glen McClellan Danita McClellan Standby Mark Herndon		

Our Caring Ministry List

Short Term Concerns

Melissa Bailey
Rhett Bozeman
Ted Dempsey
Jimmy Devane
Tommy Edwards
James Griffin
Sonny Harrison
Dorothy Hughes
Robert Hughes
Heather Leonard
Brenda Parrish

Robert Hughes
Iann Kallarik
Heather Leonard
Luke Melvin
Robert Petty
Ed Pilcher
Karen Pilcher
Anthony Sims

Our Shut – Ins

Betty Ann Cayson
Owen House

Intercessory Prayer

Eric Alford
Mary Schruefer
Hannah Stephens
Sarah Lynn White
Laura Williams
Virginia Williams

Our Military

Ukraine soldiers and citizens
Israel Citizens
Middle East

Persecuted Christians

UM Missionaries

Caregivers

Those Battling Cancer

Grace Barfield
Leslie Faurot Hand

Please contact the office with any updates to this list — Thank You!

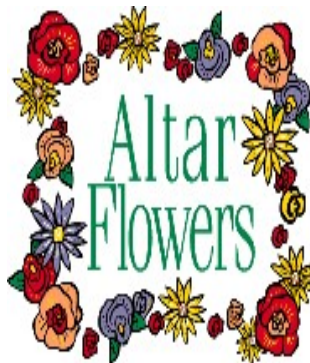
Healthy Start Baby Shower List

Diapers - Newborn, Size 1&2
Baby Wipes—Unscented
Baby socks
Baby Towels and washcloths
Cloth Diapers
Baby Scratch Mittens
Baby Fingernail Clippers
Baby hats - cloth or knitted
Bibs - with Velcro
Baby Shampoo and Body Wash
Onesies (newborn - 3 months)
Baby Lotion— “Baby Magic or Johnson
Pacifiers - green - Called a Soothie - for newborn
Destin Diaper Rash Cream or Vaseline, or A&D Ointment
Bottles - old fashion, plastic is ok. *Parent’s Choice brand”
Baby Blankets—thin are better (fabric like thermal underwear is best”

The United Methodist Women invite the church to help provide baby items for their Healthy Start Program Baby Shower. Providing for the basic needs of infants and children under the age of 3 can make a big difference in a healthy start. The Florida Health Department’s Healthy Start Program offers assistant to low income women and teenagers who are pregnant, as well as their children. All the items donated will be used locally. Donations will be collected the next two months. If you wish to make a monetary donation, checks should be made out to the Blountstown United Methodist Women.

September Flower Calendar

September 01 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Miller
September 08 Mr. & Mrs. Hentz McClellan
September 15 Mr. Owen House
September 22 Mr. & Mrs. Glen McClellan
September 29 Dr. Gary Parrish



Blountstown United Methodist Church

Post Office Box 299
20500 Central Ave, West
Blountstown, FL 32424
Phone: 850-674-8254/3144
Email: bunitedmc@gmail.com
www.blountstownumc.org

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Family Prayer List

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1. Danita & Glen McClellan /
Heath McClellan Family
2. Kyle McClellan Family /
Helen McCowen
3. Sharon & Henry McCrone /
Perry McGhee Family
4. Phyllis & Frank Miller /
Kathryn Mitchell Family
5. Karen & David Murrell /
Brenda Parrish
6. Gary Parrish /
Joyce Peacock
7. Michele Pettis Family /
Jeremy Proctor
8. Charmian & Jerry Register /
Diane & Russell Scholz
9. DellAnne & Michael Schruefer /
Tracy Cox-Stanton Family
10. Ken Sheppard Family /
Stacy Sims
11. Rodney Smith Family /
Donald Stanley Family
12. Sue & Don Stanley /
Mert Stephens
13. Scott Stephens /
Virginia House Szrowicz
14. Betty Sue & Ken Taylor /
Zach Taylor Family
15. Chris & John Tomlinson /
Ann & Mike Tucker
16. Janis & Jack Weiler /
Jarred Weiler Family
17. Cherie White Family /
Doug Whitfield Family
18. Drew Whitfield Family /
Vicky & Steve Whitfield
19. Laura & Roger Williams /
Marvin Williams
20. Mary Ann Williams /
Mary Beth Williams
21. Virginia & Laddie Williams /
Barbara Wilson
22. Eric Alford /
Esther Alford
23. Dresia Barfield /
John Barfield Family
24. Wynelle Bateman /
Betty Ann Cayson
25. Ron Copeland Family /
Jane Creamer
26. David Corbin Family /
Donna & Finlay Corbin
27. Peggy & Jimmy Cox /
Steve Cox
28. Joe Durden Family /
Debbie & Tommy Edwards
29. Norma Failes /
Gale & Joe Ferguson
30. Mary Flowers /
Gina Gates Family