

Circuit Writer

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By
his
wounds
we are
healed.

Isaiah 53:5, NIV

Special Dates:

- April 6 - Fifth Sunday of Lent
- April 13 - Palm Sunday
- April 14 - 18 - Holy Week
- April 17 - Maundy Thursday
- April 18 - Good Friday
- April 20 - Easter
Sunrise 5:45 a.m.
Breakfast following the
Sunrise service
Cantata 11:00 a.m.

Blountstown United Methodist Church

Hope for Holy Week

As you travel with Jesus through Holy Week, don't lose heart. He is your Palm Sunday King. He will always come to you and give you the best of what he has to offer because of his humble attitude and his devotion to his mission.

When you see this Savior who personally cares for you, you can't help but join the believers of old to give to the Lord your best and most precious treasures of your heart and life, and then to join with all believers saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

— Peter Sulzle

Easter Services

We invite you to celebrate Easter with Blountstown UM Church.

Our Maundy Thursday Service will be held in the sanctuary on Thursday, April 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Our Easter Sunday will begin at 5:45 a.m. with the Sunrise Service followed by a Sunrise Breakfast.

We come back together for the Easter Cantata, at 11:00 a.m., presented by our Chancel Choir under the direction of Tina Smith. This year's cantata is "The Hope of the Cross".





FROM THE PASTOR

“My Easter Dove”

There came a dove, an Easter dove,
when morning stars grew dim;
It fluttered round my lattice bars,
to chant a matin hymn.

It brought a lily in its beak,
aglow with dewy sheen;
I caught the strain, the incense breathed,
and uttered praise between.

It bought a shrine of holy thoughts
to calm my soul that day;
I caught the meaning of the note,
why did it fly away?

Come peaceful dove, sweet
Easter dove!
Above earth's storm and strife,
sing of the joy of Easter-tide,
of light and hope and life.

— Henrietta Cordelia Ray



Sabbath was over. The gloom of Friday hung over the room like a thick fog, dogging them with confusion and fear. The door was locked; checked and rechecked, just to be sure. Suddenly, there was a frantic pounding on the door. The disciples cringed in fear. Just what we expected. They crucified the Master on Friday. We're next. Now they are coming for us. Cautiously, Peter cracked the door open. Breathlessly, the woman blurted out the news. "He's not there. The grave is empty. They stole the body. Jesus isn't there." That was the first announcement of the most incredible news of all of history.

The Son of the living God, whose enemies thought they had killed him and silenced his message, had risen to unleash the most incredible message of all time. The power of death had been destroyed. The grip of its fear had been broken. Instead of a prison, holding its icy grip on the souls of humanity, death had become the door through which we enter into the presence of the highest heaven, the Holy of Holies, where we will live with God himself for all eternity.

Jesus clearly told us of his promises. "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26). Jesus went on to tell us the plans He has for us. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." (John 14:1-4)

The promise of Easter is that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. When we place our faith in Him and accept Him as our Savior and Lord, our lives are forever changed. He has come to give us life, an abundant life of joy and peace now and the assurance of eternal life with Him in the presence of the Almighty God throughout eternity. It doesn't get any better than that.

Bro. John King





Know Who (and Whose) You Are

Actor Kirk Douglas once picked up a hitchhiker. After the man got settled in Douglas's car, he turned to look more closely at the driver. Surprised to recognize the famous man at the wheel, the hitchhiker exclaimed, "Do you know who you are?!"

We would do well to ask ourselves and each other the same thing. Often, we seem to forget—or perhaps we never knew.

Through much of life, we behave as if our identity depends on our occupation, wealth, family line, daily accomplishments or good deeds. But none of these — not even the last one — determines the core of who we are. All that matters is our Creator's opinion, and God loves us with abundant, unconditional love.

Do you know who you are? You are God's beloved child! And so is everyone else. May we live out that knowledge, treating one another as such.

Earth-Shaking Victory

On Ash Wednesday in 2001, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake shook the Seattle area. Charlie and Ann Lewis, co-pastors in Snohomish, Washington, reflected on the timing:

"While most years we prefer to think of Lent as a contemplative of faith as we walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem and the cross, this year we are thinking of how God turned the world upside down at Calvary. From the cross, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and his life was finished. Then the earth shook violently, the curtain in the temple was torn in two and rocks were split apart. The God who identified with us in our humanity in the incarnation of Jesus Christ demonstrated in that moment the depth of divine love for us — a love that leads God to choose the path of suffering and sacrifice.

"Three days later, the earth shook again — another violent earthquake, and the stone in front of the tomb was rolled away. Then the crucified Christ threw aside the burial cloths, emerging from the darkness of the tomb to walk in the dew of the grass as dawn was breaking across the sky. God had declared victory over sin and death itself. That victory was for us. ... God has given us a glorious life that extends into eternity."



Clothed In Compassion

In Colossians 3:12, Paul tells us to clothe ourselves in compassion. What does that look like? Consider these parallels to actual clothes:

Each morning, we select outfits depending on our activities and who we will see. For example, clothing looks different for a day of chores that for worship on Easter Sunday. To maintain our wardrobe, we regularly clean, fold and repair items. Likewise, each day we choose how we'll treat others. Our approach to each activity or interactions might differ, as we seek to represent Christ well. And to maintain an effective witness, we often must renew and "mend" our attitude.

One more comparison; Look in your closet. Have you updated your clothes lately? Compassion looks different than it did decades ago. While staying grounded in biblical truth, let's adapt the care we wear—making it "fit" better for today's generations.

— Janna Firestone



A simple line drawing of an open umbrella. The umbrella has a curved handle and several ribs supporting the canopy. The canopy is divided into sections by the ribs. The drawing is positioned on the left side of the page, with a solid purple vertical bar to its left.



Our Caring Ministry List

Short Term Concerns

Edward Dean
George McNew
Theresa Merchant
Virginia Williams

Wayne Posey

Our Shut – Ins

Betty Ann Cayson
Alva Martin
Virginia Williams

Intercessory Prayer

Larry Carter
Phyllis Miller
Tim Mowrey

Our Military

Ukraine soldiers and citizens
Israel Citizens
Middle East

Those Battling Cancer

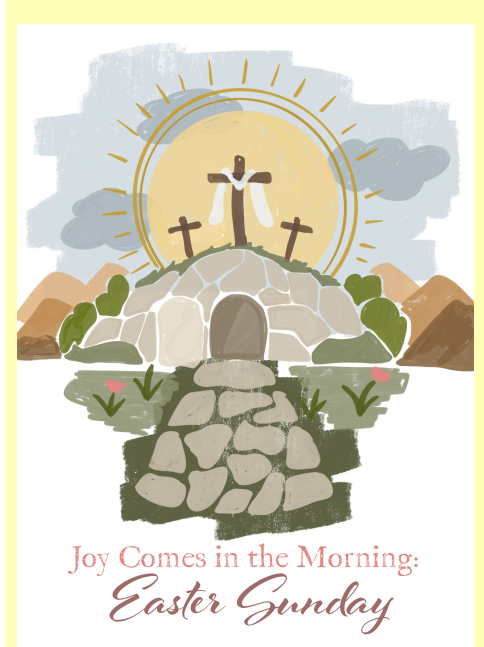
Melissa Bailey
Jimmy DeVane
Kathryn Doyal
Vivian Eckerson
Heather Leonard

Persecuted Christians

UM Missionaries

Caregivers

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



Fun and Laughter

“Here comes April again,” said poet Charles Lamb (1775-1834). “And as far as I can see, the world hath more fools than ever.”

That second observation may or may not be true, but April does indeed begin on a lighter note. April Fools’ Day, which is filled with practical jokes, can also be a reminder to thank God for laughter, joy, funny stories, children’s antics and other things that make us smile.

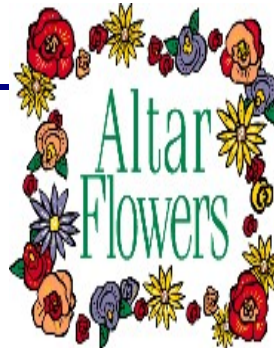
Then one week after Easter, on what’s known as Holy Sunday, some churches celebrate that God played the supreme joke on death. Jesus’ resurrection is cause for joy, smiles, and, yes, laughter. Even the Almighty joins in: “He who sits in the heaven’s laughs” (Psalm 2:4).

The Blessing of Fellowship

Between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God’s Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know visible fellowship is a blessing.

April Flower Calendar

- 6 Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Cox
- 13 Powell Adams Family
- 20 Mr. Bill Gaskin
- 27 Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Edwards



Blountstown United Methodist Church

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Family Prayer List

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1. Phyllis & Frank Miller /
Kathryn Mitchell Family
2. Karen & David Murrell /
Brenda Parrish
3. Gary Parrish /
Michele Pettis Family
4. Jeremy Proctor /
Charmian & Jerry Register
5. Diane & Russell Scholz /
DellAnne & Michael Schrufer
6. Tracy Cox–Stanton Family /
Ken Sheppard Family
7. Stacy Sims /
Rodney Smith Family
8. Donald Stanley Family /
Sue & Don Stanley
9. Mert Stephens /
Scott Stephens
10. Virginia House Szrowicz /
Betty Sue & Ken Taylor
11. Zach Taylor Family /
Chris & John Tomlinson
12. Ann & Mike Tucker /
Janis & Jack Weiler
13. Jarred Weiler Family /
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. Barbara Wilson /
Eric Alford
19. Esther Alford /
Dresa Barfield
20. John Barfield Family /
Wynelle Bareman
21. Alton Carpenter /
Betty Ann Cayson
22. Jane Creamer /
David Corbin Family
23. Donna & Finlay Corbin /
Peggy & Jimmy Cox
24. Steve Cox /
Gina & Tyler Cox
25. Joe Durden Family /
Debbie & Tommy Edwards
26. Norma Failes /
Gale & Joe Ferguson
27. Mary Flower /
Bill Gaskin
28. Frank Gates /
Gina Gates Family
29. Montez Golden /
Peggy Hall
30. Norah Handley /
Louise & Sonny Harrison