

Circuit Writer

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Special Dates:

- July 4 Independence Day
- July 10
Sister Friends
- July 14 - 18
Choir Camp
- July 20
Third Sunday Breakfast
- July 20 Choir Camp
Performance

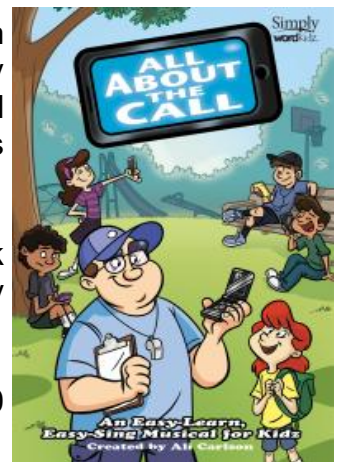
Blountstown United Methodist Church

Choir Camp

The dates for our Choir Camp have been decided, Monday, July 14 through Friday, July 18. The time has been set, 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Snacks at 9:50 a.m. This year's program is "All About the Call".

We need volunteers to help make this week happen. If you can help an hour or two, a day or two or all week, please contact Beth.

Show time will be Sunday, July 20 at 6:00 p.m. with a cast party to follow.

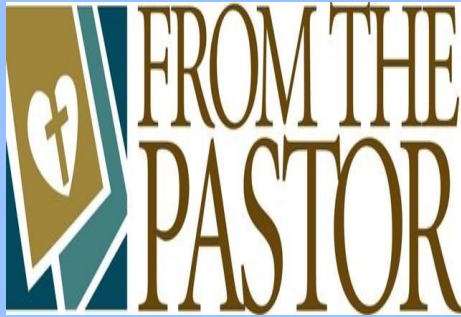


Perspectives on Patriotism

While pondering differences between patriotism and nationalism, Ryan Hamm looks to Jesus' example in Luke 19:41-44. "Jesus, it seems, loved his people, his city, his nation — so much so that he cried over it," he writes in Christianity Today. "He didn't despise his country or wish ill upon it—instead, he wanted nothing but the best for it, and it grieved him to see how his people had rejected his teachings."

This example of "patriotism perfected" can serve as a guide for modern-day Christians, according to Hamm. "It's an example that's both pragmatic and romantic, shot through with justice, truth and love. It's not a nationalistic patriotism — it's a love for nation that doesn't pit it against other nations. Instead, it's a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of shortcomings."

Put another way, God doesn't love America more than any other nation. And he doesn't want us to worship our nation alongside him, because that is idolatry. Instead, we are to love and proclaim God above any earthly realm.



White Christmas in July



The year is zooming by fast. It will be December before you realize it. I mean Hobby Lobby is putting out Christmas decorations already.

Every December we give a contribution to Embrace Florida Kids, formerly United Methodist Children's Home.

The mission statement of Embrace Florida Kid is to embrace and nurture vulnerable children and families by providing homes, healing, and hope.

All contributions should be clearly marked Embrace Kids, or White Christmas.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

On July 4 we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of this nation under God. Unfortunately the phrase "under God" is too often omitted in our celebrations. The religious foundations of our national history and its spiritual significance in our moral values is no longer considered important and is often treated with disdain when considering our history. A brief and cursory look into the values and convictions of the men who were leaders in our national formation will give us a sense of the duty that drove them to risk everything to develop a nation of liberty, freedom and personal responsibility.



The seeds of our national quest for liberty were sown in the First Great Awakening. The initial burst came with the preaching of Jonathan Edwards in New England. The Great Awakening primarily took place between the 1730s and 1770s. It was a period of intense religious revival that swept through the colonies, characterized by passionate preaching and widespread conversions. The period between 1739 and 1742 is often cited as the peak of the First Great Awakening, with George Whitfield's powerful preaching drawing massive crowds. This religious revival had a profound impact on colonial society, leading to a renewal of personal faith and impacting various Christian denominations. George Whitfield was a member of Wesley's Holy Club during his days at Oxford. With the exception of Samuel Adams and Ben Franklin, all of the leaders in the movement for independence were born and developed their values that led to their convictions, guided their lives and formed their view of human nature with all the weaknesses of human characteristics, grew up in this environment.

A part of the educational process in colonial schools was to develop a plan for the moral development of students. These truths reflected the values that would guide the students throughout their lives. These values were founded on biblical truths that emphasized personal responsibilities to high moral principles, fairness, honesty and justice. The biblical principles established in their youth become those principles which guided their philosophy for government as they understood the foibles of human nature. To argue whether or not these men were Christian is a waste of time. The convictions they held and the values they lived by were based on the biblical standard for solid citizenship. That cannot be denied.

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This July 4th, as we reflect on the blessing of freedom and enjoy the fruit of liberty, take time for personal reflection. How closely do my values and life choices reflect the values of the Scriptures? How well do our national values meet the biblical standard? We have the privilege and responsibility to live a life that reflects both the gospel of Jesus Christ and the best in our relationship to others. That is what good citizenship is all about. With Christ in our lives, we can let our light shine before others, so they may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven. How we live does make a difference. Thanks be to God.

Bro. John King

Tips for Gardeners

“Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer’s year,” said evangelist Billy Graham. “It brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul.” Without summer, our gardens would disappoint, and without love, our hearts wouldn’t bloom.

The warmth of summer and love aren’t the only ingredients for abundant physical and spiritual crops, however. Discernment and persistence ensure fruitful yields in both areas. “Unless we know the difference between flowers and weeds, we are not fit to take care of a garden,” advised Clyde Francis Lytle. “It is not enough to have truth planted in our minds. We must learn and labor to keep the ground clear of thorns and briars, follies and perversities, which have a wicked propensity to choke the word of life.”

Echoing God’s Goodness

Roald Dahl’s 1988 novel *Matilda*, since adapted for stage and screen, tells of a young girl surrounded largely by abusive adults. With her exceptional intelligence, and courage, Matilda decries her father’s lying and cheating, resists injustice against her classmates and kind teacher and, in the end, refused to perpetuate a cycle of revenge. A community-theater director in Minnesota wrote in the musical’s playbill, “Her story reminds us that strength isn’t always loud, and power doesn’t always look like we expect.

That also aptly describes Jesus, who came not with what society deems strength and power. Instead, the Messiah showed that true strength is kind, compassionate and sometimes quiet. True power is not bullying and domination, but giving of oneself in love. Refusing to curse his opponents or even his executioners, Jesus prayed for their forgiveness, demonstrating how to end cycles of violence and death.

Humans — not matter how brilliant! — can go only so far by themselves. That’s why Jesus went farther, rising to new life and defeating death entirely. But in the world around us, particularly in books, plays and other works of art, we can catch echoes of God’s goodness. Inspired by characters like Matilda and real-life neighbors who uplift others, we too can echo God’s goodness. While we trust above all in our Savior Jesus, let’s work courageously and creatively for kindness and care.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion Eileen Hatch Offering White Christmas		1	2 🎵 Courtney Doyal	3 🎵 Amanda McGhee	4 	5 🎵 Beth Herndon 🎵 Billy Jordan
6	7 🎵 Marley Barfield	8	9 ♥ Angie & Billy Jordan	10 Sister Friends' Coffee & Chat 10:00 a.m.	11	12
13 ♥ Ann & Mike Tucker	14	15	16	17	18 ♥ Donna & Finlay Corbin	19
Choir Camp Monday through Friday, 8:30—11:30 a.m.						
20 Choir Camp Performance 6:00 p.m.	21	22 🎵 Glen McClellan	23	24	25	26 ♥ Beth & Mark Herndon
27 🎵 Cherie White	28 🎵 Maisie Jones	29 ♥ Phyllis & Frank Miller	30	31 🎵 Philip Kastli	Ushers Jimmy Cox Frank Miller Stand by David House	

Our Caring Ministry List

Short Term Concerns

Edward Dean

Gale Ferguson

Lisa Glavin

David House

Cathy Kimbrel

John King

Lynn Lanier

George McNew

Intercessory Prayer

Phyllis Miller

Those Battling Cancer

Melissa Bailey

Erica Coronado

Jimmy DeVane

Kathryn Doyal

Vivian Eckerson

Heather Leonard

Wayne Posey

Jessica Stallworth

Our Shut – Ins

Betty Ann Cayson

Alva Martin

Our Military

Ukraine soldiers and citizens

Israel Citizens

Middle East

Persecuted Christians

UM Missionaries

Caregivers

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

Complete Joy

Because Jesus came to do such serious work, we often imagine him straight-faced. Yet Jesus also enjoyed fun times, such as the wedding celebration at Cana. When the wine ran out, Jesus miraculously produced more.

Jesus also warmly welcomed children. Picture lifting an infant into the air or tickling a giggling youngster while another child, grinning, climbs on his back.

Summer usually allows more time for fun and play. So use these months to teach the kids in your life — and to remind yourself — that Jesus came so our “joy may be complete” (John 15:11). Laughing, playing, having fun, relaxing and enjoying life are part of living and loving as faithful disciples.

Summer Worship

Sundays in July are for sunshine, fellowship, and worship! Whether you're here every week or dropping in between vacations, we love seeing you.

“Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse and cool the earth, the air and you”.

- Langston Hughes

- 6 Mrs. Don Stephens
- 13 Mrs. Esther Alford
- 20 Mrs. Eileen Hatch
- 27 Mr. & Mrs. Russell Scholz



Spend time with God this summer

Blountstown United Methodist Church

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www.blountstownumc.org

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Family & Friends Prayer List

1. Charmian & Jerry Register /
Diane & Russell Scholz
2. DellAnne & Michael Schrufer /
Tracy Cox-Stanton Family
3. Ken Sheppard Family /
Stacy Sims
4. Rodney Smith Family /
Donald Stanley Family
5. Sue & Don Stanley /
Mert Stephens
6. Scott Stephens Family /
Virginia House Szrowicz
7. Betty Sue & Ken Taylor /
Chris & John Tomlinson
8. Ann & Mike Tucker /
Eric Alford
9. Esther Alford /
Dresa Barfield
- 10.. John Barfield Family /
Wynelle Bateman
11. Alton Carpenter /
Betty Ann Cayson
12. Jane Creamer /
David Corbin Family
13. Donna & Finlay Corbin /
Norma Failes
14. Gale & Joe Ferguson /
Mary Flowers
15. Frank Gates /
Gina Gates Family
16. Bill Gaskin /
Montez Golden
17. Peggy Hall /
Norah Handley
18. Louise & Sonny Harrison /
Trevor Haser Family
19. Eileen Hatch /
Brooks Hayes Family
20. Cheri & Quentin Henderson /
Mark Herndon Family
21. Jackie & David House /
Nick Hughes Family
22. Laurie James Family /
Sandra & Jim Jines
23. Seth Jones Family /
Billy Jordan Family
24. Becki Kastli Family /
John King
25. Cathy & Glenn Kimbrel /
Jonathan Kimbrel Family
26. Clay Knight /
Annie Jo Landers Family
27. Hester Leonard /
Alva Martin
28. Sally & Mike Mayo /
Gail & Joe Mike McCaskill
29. Marc McCaskill Family /
Barbara & Hentz McClellan
30. Danita & Glen McClellan /
Heath McClellan Family
31. Kyle McClellan Family /
Sharon & Henry McCrone