

BLOUNTSTOWN UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST:

- **December 3 -  
First Sunday of  
Advent**
- **December 10 -  
Christmas  
Fellowship Dinner**
- **December 12 -  
UMW Meeting**
- **December 24-  
Christmas  
Cantata**
- **December 24 -  
Christmas Eve  
Candle Service**

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# Circuit Writer

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2023

## CAROLS

The Chancel Choir, under the direction of Tina Smith, will present their Christmas Cantata "Carols" on Sunday, December 24, at 11:00 am.



"Carols" was written by Heather Sorenson and includes beloved carols that are sung every December from one generation to the next.

This year's cantata is a bit different in its format and will include congregational participation. Invite family, friends and neighbors to our Sunday, December 24th worship service and to add to the Christmas experience.



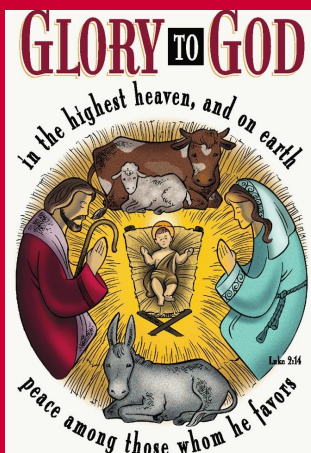
Be the  
**light**

The office will be accepting  
donations for our White  
Christmas Offering.  
Be sure to mark you  
donations clearly.

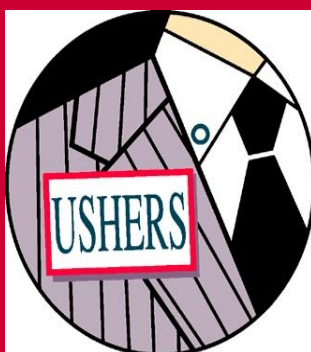
## CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT BUMC



The following dates have been added to the church's calendar:  
**December 10** - Our Christmas Fellowship Meal at noon, following the morning service.  
**December 12** - The UM Women Meeting at 10:00 am  
**Christmas Eve - December 24** - Choir's Cantata at 11:00 a.m. Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m.



**“And THAT’S  
THE TRUTH!!  
Glory to God  
in the  
Highest!!”**



## FROM THE PASTOR

The hints of its coming began in September. By mid-October, the signs were obvious. Immediately following Halloween, a full infection. Snowmen, reindeer, Santa Claus, and all sorts of insignificant trappings that clamor for our attention had crowded out the Son of God in the celebration of Christmas. The crass world of commercialization has stolen the meaning of one of the most sacred days of the year. The worship of the almighty dollar has replaced the adoration of the Son of God. This encroachment is reinforced by the nonstop claptrap of Xmas music on the radio beginning at Thanksgiving. I say Xmas because the Christmas carols and Christ have been quietly purged from the play lists of holiday music. I don't mean to be a grinch, but I believe he has stolen Christmas.

Why, every year, are we looking for the latest fad or decorating idea to replace the ancient story of a baby, the Son of the Living God, being born in a stable in Bethlehem during tax season? Perhaps it's the humble accommodations God chose; a dusty stable, cobwebs, the smell of manure. Or the young couple, alone, in a strange town. Surely, his Heavenly Father could have done better. Perhaps, we have become accustomed to the quaintness of the story and feel its familiarity needs a bit of updating, modernizations to be 'with it'. Much to the chagrin of contemporary thinking, on a specific day, in a specific year, Jesus, the Son of God, was born in a particular city, Bethlehem, to a particular couple, Mary and Joseph, to redeem us from our sins.

It is imperative that we do not allow the trappings around Christmas rob it of the absolute truth of the day. Christmas celebrates that birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. Make sure the constant drumbeat of the monotonous Xmas claptrap music so dull the message of the Scripture that by the Holy Night of Jesus' birth we have become desensitized to the momentous truth that God became one of us, so we could be adopted into His family as His daughters and sons. And THAT'S THE TRUTH!! Glory to God in the Highest!!

## USHER'S NEWS

Kudos to our members that served our church as ushers this year. Unless anyone must make a change we will keep the same list in 2024. We will try to hand out the new schedules by the middle of December. Thanks again for your service to our church.

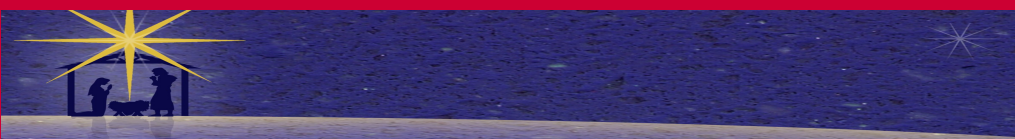
If you need to make a change to the usher list, please contact Jimmy Cox.

## DON'T MISS OUT!

In his poem "The Inn That Missed Its Chance," Amos R. Wells writes from the perspective of the "fairly crazed" innkeeper who recalls Bethlehem becoming "a hive at swarming-time." Of the couple who requested shelter on what became Christmas Eve, the proprietor asks, "Could I know that they were so important?"

There was a sign, they say, a heavenly light  
resplendent; but I had no time for stars.  
And there were songs of angels in the air  
out on the hills; but how was I to hear  
amid the thousand clamors of an inn?

If the innkeeper had only known Jesus' true identity, he says, he would have turned the place upside down, sending other guests out to the stables instead. When Jesus returns — "as he will surely come" — the anonymous innkeeper wants everyone to know: "Tell my Lord that all my inn is his, to make amends."



## PONDERINGS AT THE END OF THE DAY/YEAR

Dutch Catholic priest and theologian Henri Nouwen found it useful to reflect on several questions at the end of the day: "Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Pondering such questions may prove valuable at the end of the year as well." How did I contribute to peace in the world this past year? Did I bring a smile to others' faces? Did I offer words of healing?" Nouwen continues, and we can too: "Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love?"

Many of us set New Year's resolutions for self-improvement, asking "What are my goals? How can I better myself, my weight, my work-life balance, my habits?" But Nouwen said of his self-inquiry: "These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and [in] life to come." His resolution was to share God's love with others. With God's help, it can be ours as well, for each new day and each new year.

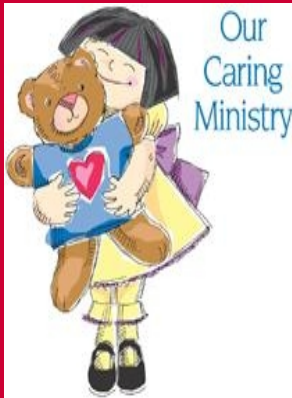


... there was no room  
for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7, KJV

***Usher Scheduled to  
stay the same.  
Contact Jimmy Cox  
to make any  
changes.***

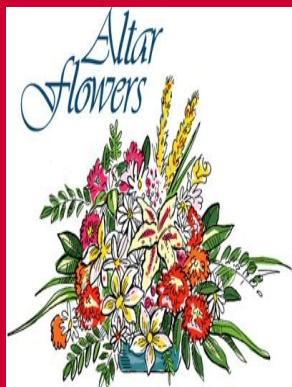




... let your  
request be made  
known to God.

***“The best  
thing is God  
with us..”***

***-John Wesley***



## Our Caring Ministry

### Short Term Concerns

Terry Blair  
Joel Butler  
Arthur Farout  
Evelyn Mickler  
Joe Rector  
Sarah Lynn White

### Intercessory

Eric Alford  
Rhett Bozeman  
Connie Carpenter  
Bonnie Hall  
Sonny Harrison  
Paul Hoff  
Angie Jordan  
Joe Schrufer  
Mary Schrufer  
Johann Van Lierop  
Laura Williams  
Virginia Williams

### Those Battling Cancer

Grace Barfield  
Terry Blair  
Robert Hughes  
Heather Leonard  
Luke Melvin  
Karen Pilcher

### Our Shut-Ins

Mildred Guilford  
Joe Webb  
Ann Weiler

### Persecuted Christians

### Caregivers

### Our Military

### Ukraine

### Israel

### Middle East

Prayer is a vital and active part of the church's ministry. The Caring List will start fresh in January. **Contact the office to add a concern. Thank You.**

## FLOWER CALENDAR

December 03 - Mrs. Tommy Williams

December 10 - Open

December 17 - Mrs. Roy Golden

December 24 - Dr. & Mrs. Quentin Henderson

December 31 - Open

**Chancel Choir**  
**Wednesdays**  
 @ 5:30 pm



# December

**Healthy**  
**Living Group**  
**Thursdays**  
 @ 5 P.M.

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





## **Blountstown United Methodist Church**

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Website: [blountstownumc.org](http://blountstownumc.org)

**Glorifying God by loving and leading all  
people to Christ.**

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## **PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES**

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- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Mary Flowers /<br>Frank Gates                      | 12. Becky Kastli /<br>Cathy & Glenn Kimbrel               | 23. Michelle Pettis Family /<br>Charmian & Jerry Register    |
| 2. Holly Gates /<br>Montez Golden                     | 13. Jonathan Kimbrel Family /<br>Clay Knight              | 24. Diane & Russell Scholz /<br>DellAnne & Michael Schruefer |
| 3. Mildred Guilford /<br>Bonnie Hall                  | 14. Richard Leath /<br>Alva Martin                        | 25. Shelia Shelton /<br>Ken Sheppard                         |
| 4. Peggy Hall /<br>Pam & Ronnie Hand                  | 15. Sally & Mike Mayo /<br>Gail & Joe Mike McCaskill      | 26. Stacy Sims /<br>Rodney Smith Family                      |
| 5. Norah Handley /<br>Louise & Sonny Harrison         | 16. Marc McCaskill Family /<br>Michael McCaskill Family   | 27. Donald Stanley Family /<br>Sue & Don Stanley             |
| 6. Eileen Hatch /<br>Trevor Haser Family              | 17. Danita & Glen McClellan /<br>Heath McClellan Family   | 28. Mert Stephens /<br>Scott Stephens Family                 |
| 7. Brooks Hayes Family /<br>Cheri & Quentin Henderson | 18. Hentz McClellan Family /<br>Kyle McClellan Family     | 29. Virginia Szrowicz /<br>Chris & John Tomlison             |
| 8. Mark Herndon Family /<br>Jackie & David House      | 19. Sharon & Henry McCrone /<br>Helen McGowen             | 30. Ann & Mike Tucker /<br>Ann Weiler                        |
| 9. Owen House /<br>Nick Hughes Family                 | 20. Phyllis & Frank Miller /<br>Kathryn McMillan Mitchell | 31. Janie & Jack Weiler /<br>Jarred Weiler Family            |
| 10. Laurie James Family /<br>Sandra & Jim Jines       | 21. Betty Montford /<br>Brenda Parrish                    |  |
| 11. Billy Jordan Family /<br>Seth Jones Family        | 22. Gary Parrish /<br>Joyce Peacock                       |  |