

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- February 1 -  
National  
Freedom Day
- February 2 -  
Groundhog Day
- February 14 -  
Valentine's Day
- February 19 -  
Transfiguration  
Sunday
- February 22 -  
Ash Wednesday
- February 26  
First Sunday in  
Lent

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

The Freedom Found in Loving Relationships	2
Christians Symbol	3
Caring Ministry	4
Flower Calendar	4
Calendar	5
Family Prayer Calendar	6

# Circuit Writer

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2023

## Don't Lose the Key

In *Walking on Water*, Madeleine L'Engle writes: "We have to be braver than we think we can be, because God is constantly calling us to be more than we are, to see through plastic sham to living, breathing reality, and to break down our defenses of self-protection in order to be free to receive and give love." That sounds inspiring, but the moment I stumble, exhausted or overwhelmed, these words no longer encourage. Instead, they read like the work is mine *alone*, and I'm not up for that.

Knowing some of L'Engle's writings on faith, I researched that quote. Turns out it had been chopped off at the knees. Her next words are the key: "With God, even a rich man can enter the narrow gate to heaven." *With God.*

I can't respond to God's call to be more than I am grow in faith, serve my neighbor or "enter the narrow gate to heaven" on my own. But "with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26), and whatever Jesus calls me to do, *he* will equip me to do, walking with me all the way.

- Heidi Hyland Mann



## Amazing Love

If there is one subject more than another upon which I wish ever to speak, it is the love of Christ; but if there is one which quite baffles me, and makes me go back from this platform utterly ashamed of my poor feeble words, and of the tongue which has uttered them, it is this subject. This love of Christ is the most amazing thing under heaven, if not in heaven itself.

— Charles Spurgeon

# The Freedom Found in Loving Relationships



***“As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil.”***

**13** You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh ; rather, serve one another humbly in love. **14** For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5:13-14

20quotes.com

“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. 14 For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

- Galatians 5:13-14

Has your conscious ever got the best of you? Have you ever held back love, compassion or even service towards others because it was an inconvenience or limited what you wanted to do? I mean, freedom is life without consequences, right?

Sometimes we are like the young boy who had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father if they could discuss the use of the car. His father said to him, “I’ll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut and we’ll talk about it.”

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss the use of the car. His father said, “Son, I’ve been really proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you’ve studied your Bible diligently, but you didn’t get your hair cut!” The young man replied, “You know Dad, I’ve been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair.” To which his father replied, “Yes, and they walked everywhere they went!”

Scripture tells us that we only become free in healthy loving relationships that involve mutual, unselfish service, and a mutual loss of independence. True freedom is not the absence of limitations and consequences but finding the right ones that fit our nature and liberate us.

1 Peter 2:16 tells us that our liberation is found when we “As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil.” True freedom is not fooling ourselves that we can have freedom without consequences!

Continue on page 3

## Ash Wednesday Service

Since the Middle Ages, Christians in the so-called Western Church have observed Ash Wednesday (the seventh Wednesday before Easter) as the first day of Lent. On this day, in many churches worshippers receive ashes on the forehead as a reminder of their sorrow for their sins.

On **Wednesday, February 22, at 5:30 pm** Pastor Tyler will offer an Ash Wednesday Service. Bring a friend and join us.



## The Freedom Found in Loving Relationships

Continued from page 2

True Freedom is known when we love one another.

“We know love by this, that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” (1 John 3:16-18)

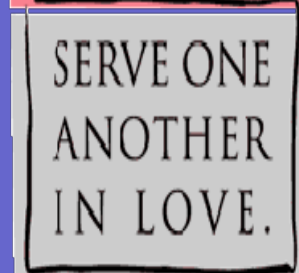
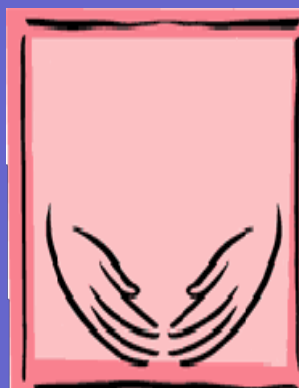
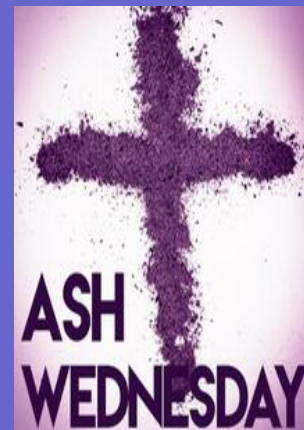
God is the sole source of our love. He can transform lives through Christ’s gracious sacrifice. That is where we experience true freedom and love; our sacrificial service toward others. (John 8:31) I encourage you to reflect on God’s love in your life and the life of Blountstown UMC.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Tyler

## Christian Symbol

ECCE AGNUS DEI — Latin for “Behold the Lamb of God,” this is the phrase John the Baptist uses twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus’ Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).



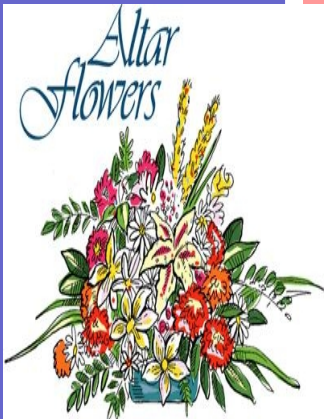
GALATIANS 5:13, NIV





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

*"To love  
another person  
is to help them  
love God."  
- Søren  
Kierkegaard*



# Our Caring Ministry

## Short Term Concerns

Rhett Bozeman  
Joyce Little  
Sofia Rodriguez  
Mary Schruefer  
Joe Schruefer  
Laura Williams

## Intercessory

Eric Alford  
Connie Carpenter  
Virginia Williams

## Caregivers Persecuted Christians

## Those Battling Cancer

Iann Kollarik  
Luke Melvin  
Karen Pilcher

## Our Shut-Ins

Joe Webb  
Ann Weiler

## Our Military Ukraine

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

Requests can be done by emails,  
phone calls, or prayer card placed  
in the offering baskets.

## Our Fun-Loving God

Whence comes this idea that if what we are doing  
is fun, it can't be God's will? The God who made  
giraffes, a baby's fingernails, a puppy's tail, a  
crookneck squash, the bobwhite's call and the young girl's giggle has  
a sense of humor. Make no mistake about that.

— Catherine Marshall



## FLOWER CALENDAR

February 05 - Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Kimbrel  
February 12 - Mr. & Mrs. Henry McCrone  
February 19 - Mr. & Mrs. Joe Mike McCaskill  
February 26 - Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Tyler Cox

Chancel Choir  
Youth  
Wednesdays  
@ 5:30 pm



# February

Healthy  
Living Group  
Thursdays  
@ 5 P.M.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Communion</b> <b>Gail McCaskill</b> <b>Offering</b> Marcus Register Fund	<b>Ushers</b> Joe Mike McCaskill Marc McCaskill <b>Standby</b> Stewart Herndon		<b>1</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:00 am <b>Sister Friends</b> 10:00 am →	<b>2</b> ♪Dresa Barfield ♪Eileen Hatch	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> ♪Glenn Kimbrel ♪John Davis House	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>GriefShare</b> 5:00 pm	<b>8</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:00 am	<b>9</b> <b>Sister Friends</b> 10:00 am	<b>10</b> ♪Addison Whitfield	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Church Council</b> 12:00 noon	<b>13</b> ♪Heath McClellan	<b>14</b> <b>GriefShare</b> 5:00 pm	<b>15</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:00 am ♪Joe Mike McCaskill	<b>16</b> <b>Sister Friends</b> 10:00 am	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> ♪Joan Sheppard	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>United Methodist Women</b> 10:00 am <b>GriefShare</b> 5:00 pm	<b>22</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:00 am <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> 5:30 pm	<b>22</b> <b>Sister Friends</b> 10:00 am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>GriefShare</b> 5:00 pm ♪Steve Cox	<b>28</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:00 am	"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day." — Sally Koch		



**Blountstown United  
Methodist Church**

## **Blountstown United Methodist Church**

20500 Central Avenue, West  
Post Office Box 299  
Blountstown, Florida, 32424

Phone: 850-674-8254

or 850-674-3144

E-mail: [bunitedmc@gmail.com](mailto:bunitedmc@gmail.com)

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

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



## **PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Laurie James Family / Sandra & Jim Jines         | 11. Perry McGhee Family / Phyllis & Frank Miller          | 20. Scott Stephens / Virginia House Szrowicz        |
| 2. Billy Jordan Family / Kinsey & Seth Jones        | 12. Kathryn Mitchell / Betty Monfort                      | 21. Chris & John Tomlinson / Ann & Mike Tucker      |
| 3. Becky Kastli / Cathy & Glenn Kimbrel             | 13. Brenda Parrish / Gary Parrish                         | 22. Ann Weiler / Janie & Jack Weiler                |
| 4. Jonathan Kimbrel Family / Clay Knight            | 14. Michelle Pettis Family / Charmain & Jerry Register    | 23. Jarred Weiler Family / Joe Webb                 |
| 5. Richard Leath / Alva Martin                      | 15. Diane & Russell Scholz / DellAnne & Michael Schroefer | 24. Cherie White Family / Doug Whitfield Family     |
| 6. Sally & Mike Mayo / Gail & Joe Mike McCaskill    | 16. Shelia Shelton / Ken Sheppard Family                  | 25. Drew Whitfield Family / Vicky & Steve Whitfield |
| 7. Marc McCaskill Family / Michael McCaskill Family | 17. Stacy Sims / Brittany Smith Family                    | 26. Grant Williams Family / Laddie Williams         |
| 8. Danita & Glen McClellan / Heath McClellan Family | 18. Rodney Smith Family / Donald Stanley Family           | 27. Laura & Roger Williams / Marvin Williams        |
| 9. Kyle McClellan Family / Hentz McClellan Family   | 19. Sue & Don Stanley / Mert Stephens                     | 28. Mary Ann Williams / Mary Beth Williams          |
| 10. Helen McCowen / Sharon & Henry McCrone          |   |   |