

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

- January 1 -
New Year's Day
- January 1 -
Epiphany Sunday
- January 6 -
Epiphany of the Lord
- January 8 -
Baptism of the Lord
- January 11 -
Wednesday Bible
Study begins
- January 12 -
Sister Friends' study
- January 16 -
Martin Luther King,
Jr. Birthday
- January 18 - 25
Week of Prayer of
Christian Unity

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Circuit Writer

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2023

Pursue Jesus and Your Passions

If you struggle with making and keeping resolutions, you're not alone. It can be discouraging to focus on what you're doing "wrong" and all the difficult changes in store. Yet January offers great opportunities to listen to God's direction. After all, Jesus came to give us abundant life and wants us to pursue him.

As you review the previous year, ask:: What brought you joy? How did I grow? How did I help others? What did I do that no one else could have done? Where your list includes spending time outside, mentoring or coaching young people or making crafts to give away or sell, continue doing what brings you joy. God gives us each unique gifts and circumstances, so live passionately for him this year!

— Janna Firestone

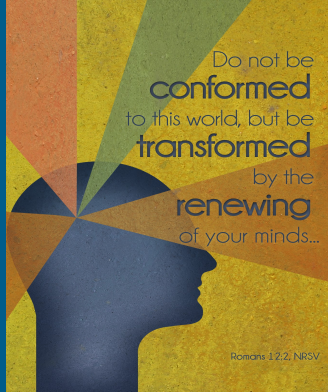
Time for a Spiritual Assessment

"Hardly anything else reveals so well the fear and uncertainty among [people] as the length to which they will go to hide their true selves from each other and even from their own eyes," says A.W. Tozer. For insights into who we are as Christians, the theologian propose "rules for self-discovery." According to Tozer, "we may be known" by these seven things: what we want most, what we think about most, how we use our money, what we do with our leisure time, the company we enjoy, who and what we admire, and what we laugh at.

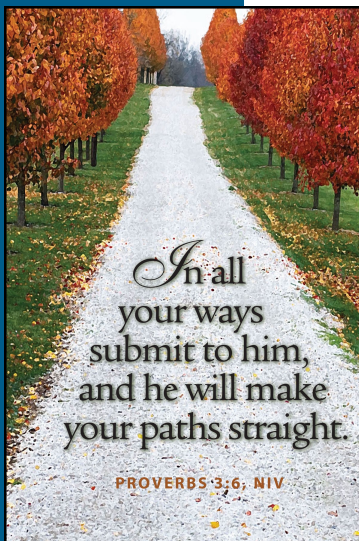
The "wise Christian" will find other tests, says Tozer, but these are a starting point to reveal if our desire and priorities conflict with God's will. "Our self-judgment is almost certain to be biased and imperfect," he adds, yet there's every good reason for us to work along with the Holy Spirit in his benign effort to locate us spiritually in order that we may make such amendments as the circumstances demand.



Let Us Begin the Year on Straight Paths



**“God is offering
His blessing to
all of us, but we
must
acknowledge
His grace in our
lives.”**



“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” - *Romans 12:1-2*

I once read a story about a wealthy man who had a collection of paintings, one of which was of the “Leaning Tower of Pisa” that hung over his writing desk. One day he noticed that the painting was hanging crooked. So, he straightened it. But the next morning, he noticed it was crooked again. So, he straightened it again. That happened every morning for about four or five days.

Finally, in frustration, he asked his housekeeper if she had any idea what was happening. She answered, “I have to hang it crooked to make the tower hang straight.” That made sense to her. It wasn’t right for the tower to lean like that, so she felt she had to make the painting crooked so the tower would look straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6 warns us “Do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” God is offering His blessings to all of us, but we must acknowledge His grace in our lives. Galatians 5:16 tells us that we should “walk in the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” When we walk in the Spirit, our paths become straight and we will be “transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Blountstown UMC has turned the corner and now ready for a renewal! The past has been full of troubles, struggle, and challenges. But it is out of such tribulation, renewal takes hold and forges strength in faith. As we begin this New Year, let us work together in the renewal of our faith in Christ as His church and

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New Studies

Begin the year off with Bible Study.

Pastor Tyler will start the Book of Romans study on **Wednesday, January 11**. All you need is your Bible, notepad and pen are optional.

On **Thursday, January 12**, Sister Friends' invite the women of the church, and community, to join them for a study of Psalm 23. Books will be available through the church.

Wisdom from MLK

I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love.

- Martin Luther King Jr.



Let Us Begin the Year on Straight Paths

walk straight paths. There will be new challenges to face but let us be united in faith and rely on His strength. "But surely, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life." (Psalm 54:4)

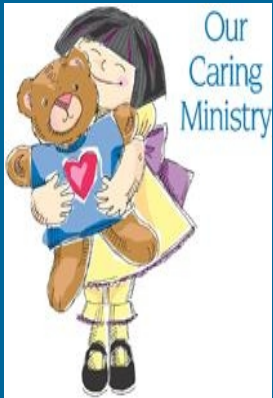
Grace and Peace

Pastor Tyler

Christian Symbol

Open Book— A book symbolizes the Bible, the written Word of God. When shown open, a book represents truth or revelation. Apostles and saints are often pictured holding an open book, understood as the New Testament writings of the early Christian church.

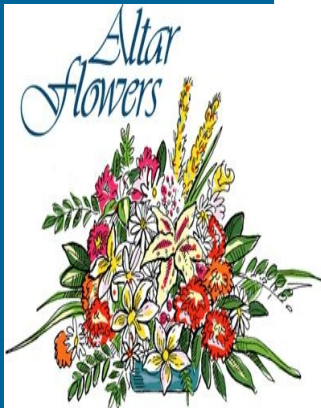




... let your
request be made
known to God.

Write it on
your heart that
every day is the
best day of the
year.”

- Ralph Waldo
Emerson



Our Caring Ministry

Short Term Concerns

Eric Alford
Hentz McClellan

Intercessory

Connie Carpenter
Virginia Williams

Caregivers

Persecuted Christians

Those Battling Cancer

Iann Kollarik
Luke Melvin

Our Shut-Ins

Joe Webb
Ann Weiler

Our Military

Ukraine

At the beginning of the new year the Caring List is cleared, the names that remain are the ones that have been currently updated.

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



“Life, with its rules, its obligations, and its freedoms, is like a sonnet: ‘You’re given the form, but you have to write the sonnet yourself.’”

— Anna Quindlen,

“An Appreciation, “ in *A Wrinkle in Time* By Madeline L’Engle

FLOWER CALENDAR

January 01 - Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Cox

January 08 - Mr. & Mrs. Glen McClellan

January 15 - Mrs. Vance Bateman

January 22 - Mrs. Don Stephens

January 29 - Mrs. Hester Leonard

Chancel Choir
Youth
Wednesdays
@ 5:30 pm



January

**T.O.P.S.
Thursdays
@ 5 P.M.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Epiphany Sunday	2	3 ♪Vicky Whitfield	4 ♪Olivia Averett	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7
8 Baptism of the Lord	9	10 ♥Ken & Joan Sheppard	11 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. ♪Perry McGhee	12 Sister Friends 10 am	13	14
15	16 ♪Linda Szewczyk- Allen ♥Steve & Vicky Whitfield	17 United Methodist Women 10 am	18 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	19 Sister Friends 10 am	20 ♪Sarah Lynn White	21 ♪Delilah Jordan
22 ♪DellAnne Schruefer	23 ♪Emma Rea Kimbrel	24	25 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	26 Sister Friends 10 am	27 ♪Ave Rae Haser	28
29 ♪Laura Williams ♪Tyler Cox	30 ♪Brielle Whitfield	31	Ushers DellAnne Schruefer Mike Schruefer Standby Jimmy Cox		January 31 Singspiration Fellowship	



**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

Website: blountstownumc.org

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

PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Nick Hughes Family /
Laurie McClellan James Family | 12. Phyllis & Frank Miller /
Kathryn McMillan Mitchell | 23. Ann Weiler /
Janis & Jack Weiler |
| 2. Sandra & Jim Jines /
Billy Jordan Family | 13. Betty Montford /
Brenda Parrish | 24. Jarred Weiler Family /
Cherie White Family |
| 3. Kinsey & Seth Jones /
Becky Kastli | 14. Gary Parrish /
Joyce Peacock | 25. Doug Whitfield Family /
Drew Whitfield Family |
| 4. Cathy & Glenn Kimbrel /
Jonathan Kimbrel Family | 15. Michelle Pettis Family /
Charmian & Jerry Register | 26. Vicky & Steve Whitfield /
Grant Williams Family |
| 5. Clay Knight /
Richard Leath | 16. Diane & Russell Scholz /
DellAnne & Michael Schrufer | 27. Laurie & Roger Williams /
Marvin Williams |
| 6. Alva Martin /
Sally & Mike Mayo | 17. Shelia Shelton /
Ken Sheppard Family | 28. Mary Ann Williams /
Mary Beth Williams |
| 7. Gail & Joe Mike McCaskill /
Marc McCaskill Family | 18. Stacy Sims /
Brittany Stephens Smith | 29. Virginia & Laddie Williams /
Barbara Wilson |
| 8. Michael McCaskill Family /
Danita & Glen McClellan | 19. Rodney Smith Family /
Donald Stanley Family | 30. Esther Alford /
John Averett Family |
| 9. Heath McClellan Family /
Hentz McClellan Family | 20. Sue & Don Stanley /
Mert Stephens | 31. Dresa Barfield /
John Barfield Family |
| 10. Kyle McClellan Family /
Sharon & Henry McCrone | 21. Scott Stephens Family /
Virginia House Szrowicz | |
| 11. Helen McCowen /
Perry McGhee Family | 22. Chris & John Tomlinson /
Ann & Mike Tucker | |