

BLOUNTSTOWN UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- July 4 -  
Independence Day
- July 17-21  
Choir Camp
- July 18 -  
UM Women  
Meeting
- July 23 -  
Performance  
6:00 pm
- July 30 -  
Singspiration  
Fellowship Meal

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| To Forgive                | 2 |
| Christians Symbol         | 3 |
| Caring Ministry           | 4 |
| Flower Calendar           | 4 |
| Calendar                  | 5 |
| God's Got You             | 6 |
| Christmas in July         | 7 |
| Family Prayer<br>Calendar | 8 |

# Circuit Writer

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

JULY 2023

## 2023 CHOIR CAMP

This year's Choir Camp dates are set for Monday, July 17th, through Friday, July 21st. Each day begins at 8:30 am, ending at 11:30 am. The performance is scheduled for Sunday, July 23rd at 6:00 pm.

We are looking forward to sharing a great week of music, games, crafts and fun with the children. This year's show has a barnyard feel to it. The lessons will deal with fear and bullying.

We welcome all children, who have completed Kindergarten through the eighth grade. We are also offering High School volunteer hours for any youth that helps during Choir Camp.

Spread the word, and make plans to join in the fun. We already have children registered.

Volunteers are needed to help with snacks, crafts, games, and costumes. If you are able to help please contact Beth Herndon.



### It's A Miracle!

I believe in miracles. While I believe in the possibility, under God, of any kind of miracle, I am committed especially to the miracle of the changed life. When a human being goes from despair to hope, when a lost soul comes home, or when a mean and destructive person becomes kind and fruitful, the great of all miracles has occurred.

- J. Ellsworth Kalas



**... John Paul  
uttered  
firmly, “I  
forgive you.”**



## To Forgive

“Put aside all bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting, and slander, along with every other evil. Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.” – Ephesians 4:31-32

On December 27, 1983, the world witnessed a most extraordinary act of forgiveness. In Rome’s Rebibbia Prison, Pope John Paul II met for the first time with Mehmet Ali Agca, the very terrorist who shot him four times in St. Peter’s Square just two and a half years earlier. The two men sat inches from each other for 21 minutes in Agca’s cell, and as they clasped hands, John Paul uttered firmly, “I forgive you.”

A convicted murderer, radical extremist, notorious thief, and prison escapee before he assaulted the pope, Agca hardly invited sympathy. Nonetheless, John Paul gave him that and so much more.

One of my favorite Contemporary Christian artists, Steve Taylor, wrote a song about this meeting title “To Forgive.” The first line goes like this:

I saw a man  
He was holding the hand  
That had fired a gun at his heart  
Oh, will we live  
To forgive?

Forgiveness can be a challenge for us. Sometimes it’s easy, other times so demanding it seems unthinkable. I don’t know if I could find the strength under all circumstances, especially on those occasions when the perpetrator of a wrong exhibits no remorse. It seems to me that some measure of regret ought to be a prerequisite for forgiveness, yet some people offer it without condition. Perhaps they do so in the belief that it may induce the very contriteness the subject has yet to show.

Continue on page 3

## To Forgive cont' from page 2

Mehmet Ali Agca served nearly 30 years behind Italian and Turkish bars for his crime. While in prison, he became a Christian and a changed man. He was released in 2010. Four years later, on the anniversary of John Paul's prison visit, Agca traveled to the Vatican to lay roses on the late pope's tomb.

The second line of "To Forgive" goes like this:

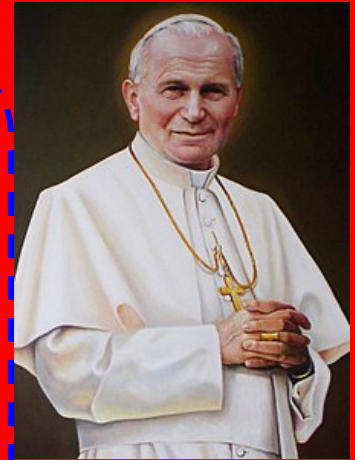
I saw the eyes  
And the look of surprise  
As he left an indelible mark  
Oh, will we live?  
To forgive?

1 John 1:9 tells us that, "If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Forgiveness changes our life and leaves an indelible mark on the life we are willing to forgive. I do not completely understand the mystery of the power of forgiveness, but I do know we need more of it, perhaps a lot more of it in these days of conflict and tension. Some say our society is too far gone. But I am reminded of the final line to that Steve Taylor song:

I saw a man  
With a hole in His hand  
Who could offer the miracle cure  
Oh, He said live  
I forgive.

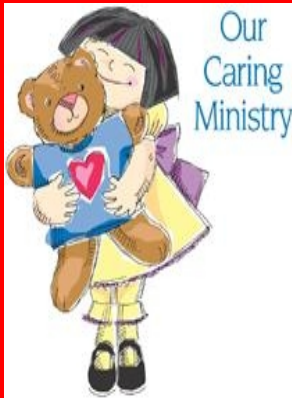
Grace and Peace

Pastor Tyler



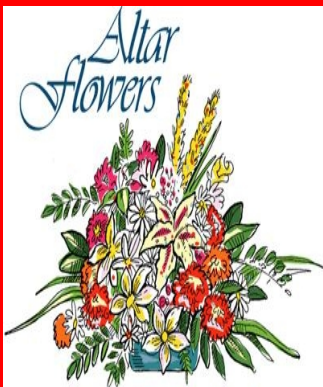
If we **CONFESS**  
our **SINS** he is  
FAITHFUL and JUST  
to *forgive us*  
our sins and to  
**CLEANSE** US FROM  
all unrighteousness.  
1 JOHN 1:9

Be **KIND**  
to one another,  
**TENDERHEARTED,**  
**FORGIVING**  
one another, as  
**GOD in CHRIST**  
has forgiven **YOU.**  
Ephesians 4:32, NRSV



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

***“Don’t tell me  
the sky’s the  
limit when there  
are footprints  
on the moon.”  
- Paul Brandt***



## Our Caring Ministry

### Short Term Concerns

Terry Blair  
Quinton Henderson  
George Kitchens  
Joyce Little  
Evelyn Mickler  
Joe Rector  
Sofia Rodriguez  
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

### Persecuted Christians

#### Those Battling Cancer

Grace Barfield  
Terry Blair  
Robert Hughes  
Iann Kollarik  
Heather Leonard  
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!**

Just a reminder names placed  
on Our Caring Ministry List must  
be submitted through the church  
office. Requests can be done by  
emails, or phone calls.

### Caregivers

## FLOWER CALENDAR

July 02 - Mrs. Don Stephens  
July 09 - Mr. & Mrs. Michael Schrufer  
July 16 - Mrs. Joe Alford  
July 23 - Mrs. Eileen Hatch  
July 30 - Mr. & Mrs. Russell Scholz

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



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

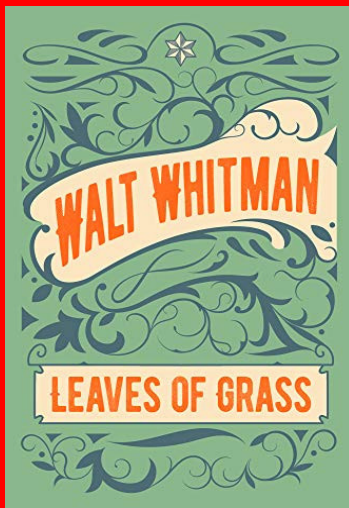
| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday                           | Friday   | Saturday                                    |
|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Communion</b><br>Eileen Hatch<br><br><b>Offering</b><br>White<br>Christmas<br>Offering | The church office will<br>be closed<br>July 3rd & 4th<br>in observation of<br>Independent's Day |   | <b>Ushers</b><br>Jimmy Cox<br>Frank Miller<br><br><b>Stand By</b><br>Mike Schruefer |                                    | <b>Bible<br/>Study</b><br><br>Wednesdays<br>@10:00 am                        | <b>1</b>                                    |
| <b>2</b><br><br>♪Courtney<br>Doyal  | <b>3</b><br><br>♪Amanda<br>McGhee   | <b>4</b><br>     | <b>5</b><br><br>♪Beth<br>Herndon<br>♪Billy Jordan                                   | <b>6</b>                           | <b>7</b><br><br>♪Marley<br>Barfield  | <b>8</b>                                    |
| <b>9</b><br><br>♥Angie &<br>Billy Jordan  | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b><br><b>United<br/>Methodist<br/>Women<br/>10 am</b>                                      | <b>12</b>   | <b>13</b><br>♥Ann & Mike<br>Tucker | <b>14</b>  | <b>15</b>                                   |
| <b>16</b>   | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b><br>♪Owen House<br>♪Mary Beth<br>Williams<br>♥Donna &<br>Finlay Corbin                   | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b>                          | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b><br><br>♪Glenn<br>McClellan        |
| <b>23</b><br><br><b>Choir Camp<br/>Performance<br/>6:00 pm</b>                            | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b><br>♪Ann Weiler<br>♥Beth &<br>Mark<br>Herndon                              | <b>27</b><br><br>♪Cherie<br>White  | <b>28</b>  | <b>29</b><br><br>♥Phyllis &<br>Frank Miller |
| <b>30</b><br><br><b>Singspiration<br/>Fellowship<br/>Meal</b>                             | <b>31</b><br><br>♪Philip Kastli   | <b>Choir Camp</b><br><b>July 17th Through<br/>July 21st<br/>Performance<br/>Sunday, July 23rd</b> |   |                                    | <b>Singspiration</b><br>Contact Tina if you<br>would like to<br>participate. |   |





**“Instructions  
for living a  
life. Pay  
Attention.**

**Be Astonished.  
Tell about it.”  
- Mary Oliver**



## God's Got You

In Romans 4 Paul writes: “If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ... For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace” (v 14,16 NRSV). Here and elsewhere, Paul firmly explains that we are saved through God’s grace, or unconditional love, made known most profoundly in Jesus Christ. But this passage raises a question: if belief (trust, faith) reckons us as righteous before God, what if we don’t trust, can’t believe, have lost all faith?

Pastor Martin Luther (1483—1546) assures us that even this is a gift of God: “I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead *the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith*” (*The Small Catechism*; emphasis added). Later in Romans, Paul declares that when we feel so lost (unbelieving, lacking in faith) that we don’t even know how to pray, the “Spirit himself intercedes for us” (8:26, NIV). Rest assured, dear one: God’s got you.

- Heidi Hyland Mann

## Living as Poetry of God (From the preface of *Leaves of Grass*, 1855)

For Christians, the Scriptures are our first source of guidance for how to live, and within them, Jesus is primary. But God speaks through non-biblical voices too: preachers and teachers not found in the Bible, and even literature that isn’t directly Christian. God, who used King Cyrus of Persia to free the exiled Israelites, can use anyone to call us to right living. Take, for example, Walt Whitman’s description of life as poetry when we live certain ways, and God as “the greatest poet”:

“This is what you shall do: Love the earth and sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to every one that asks, stand up for the [vulnerable], devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning God, have patience and indulgence toward the people, ... and your very flesh shall be a great poem and have the richest fluency. ... The known universe has one complete lover and that is the greatest poet. ... His love above all love has leisure and expanse.”

## Christmas in July

Our July communion offering is designated to the Embrace Florida Kids, formerly known as United Methodist Children Home. The mission of Embrace Florida's Kids is threefold: ensure safety, achieve stability and strengthen families.

Their passion for serving children is motivated by the knowledge that so many children must rely on someone to care for them when those closest to them are unable to do so. Embrace Florida Kids is driven to nurturing, supporting, and preparing kids for productive, thriving futures. Their caring teams works to change the trajectory of the lives of children in foster care with the hope of breaking the cycle of neglect, abuse and abandonment. One way they serve the children is by recruiting, training, licensing and supporting foster parents in Northwest Florida. There are more children in Northwest Florida who are waiting for a foster family than the number of available licensed homes.

The office will accept donation through July for Embrace Florida's Kids. Please mark your donations, (Children's Home, Embrace Florida Kids or White Christmas) The donations will be sent after the December's Fund drive. Thank you in advance for supporting this ministry.

"Until the great mass of people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained.

- Helen Keller

## Prayer Brings Heaven to Earth

When you receive Jesus as your Savior, you began to live in two homes—earth and heaven. You were born the first time into your earthly family. Now you have been born again into the family of God. You are a citizen of both worlds. Your new heavenly home is the biggest one. It is God's home. It is your because you are united to Jesus, and heaven is where he lives.

But we don't need to wait until we die to visit heaven. Prayer is the airline to our heavenly homeland. We walk heaven's streets and view its wonders each time we fellowship with the Lord.

- Ben Jennings



As advocates for children, Embrace Florida Kids strives to provide a safe haven for neglected, abused or abandoned kids through a variety of programs while working to bring about preservation with their families.





## **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. Gina Averett Family /<br>Dresa Barfield                    | 12. Norah Handley /<br>Louise & Sonny Harrison           | 23. Michael McCaskill Family /<br>Danita & Glen McClellan    |
| 2. John Barfield Family /<br>Wynelle Bateman                  | 13. Eileen Hatch /<br>Trevor Haser Family                | 24. Kyle McClellan Family /<br>Heath McClellan Family        |
| 3. Mary & Margaret & Bob Barsch /<br>Connie & Alton carpenter | 14. Brooks Hayes Family /<br>Cheri & Quentin Henderson   | 25. Hentz McClellan Famil /<br>Sharon & Henry McCrone        |
| 4. Betty Ann Cayson /<br>Donna & Finlay Corbin                | 15. Mark Herndon Family /<br>Jackie & David House        | 26. Helen McCowen /<br>Perry McGhee Family                   |
| 5. Jimmy Cox Family /<br>Tyler Cox Family                     | 16. Owen House /<br>Laurie James Family                  | 27. Phyllis & Frank Miller /<br>Kathryn McMillan Mitchell    |
| 6. Joe Durden Family /<br>Kelby Durham                        | 17. Sandra & Jim Jines /<br>Billy Jordan Family          | 28. Betty Monford /<br>Brenda Parrish                        |
| 7. Debbie & Tommy Edwards /<br>Gale & Joe Ferguson            | 18. Seth Jones Family /<br>Becki Kastli                  | 29. Gary Parrish /<br>Joyce Peacock                          |
| 8. Dottie & Bob Fleck /<br>Mary Flowers                       | 19. Cathy & Glenn Kimbrel /<br>Jonathan Kimbrel Family   | 30. Michelle Pettis Family /<br>Charmian & jerry Register    |
| 9. Frank Gates /<br>Montez Golden                             | 20. Clay Knight /<br>Richard Leath                       | 31. Diane & Russell Scholz /<br>DellAnne & Michael Schruefer |
| 10. Mildred Guilford /<br>Bonnie Hall                         | 21. Alva Martin /<br>Sally & Mike Mayo                   |  |
| 11. Peggy Hall /<br>Pam & Ronnie Hand                         | 22. Gail & Joe Mike McCaskill /<br>Marc McCaskill Family |  |