

SPECIAL POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- November 1 -  
All Saints Day
- November 5 -  
All Saints Sunday
- November 5 -  
Daylight Saving Ends
- November 11 -  
Veterans Day
- November 14 -  
United Methodist  
Women Meeting
- November 16 -  
Sister Friends  
Coffee and Chat
- November 23 -  
Thanksgiving Day
- November 26 -  
Decoration Party

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# Circuit Writer

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2023

## WHAT'S YOUR NOVEMBER?

For Davey Blackburn, a pastor in Indiana, one particular month has brought “the highest of highs and the lowest of lows,” He was born in November, moved to a new church in November 2011 and learned he’s be a father in November 2013. But two years later, in November 2015, Blackburn’s wife and unborn second child were murdered during a home invasion.



Despite that painful tragedy, the pastor determined not to “let the enemy have a claim over November” or “steal the many beautiful memories I once held” about it. Since then, his church’s worship team recorded an album one November, he proposed to his second wife another November, launched a new ministry one November and welcome another child the following November.

That journey, Blackburn says, is evidence of God’s faithfulness to replace a spirit of despair with a garment of praise (see Isaiah 61:3). And it’s an important remainder for the holiday season, with all its memories and traditions. Just as God wants to heal and restore, Blackburn writes, “Your [deceased] loved one would not want your ‘November’ to haunt your memory forever.”

Blackburn, author of the forthcoming book *Nothing Is Wasted*, says everyone has a November but can choose what to do with it. Instead of letting your November haunt, you can let God use it to heal.

— Stephanie Martin



*Be sure to set your clocks back  
before going to bed on November 4.*





**Thanksgiving  
Day is a good  
day to  
recommit our  
energies to  
giving thanks  
and just giving.  
- Amy Grant**



Two ships set sail August 5, 1620 bound for the New World. For two years, the Pilgrims had carefully planned and prepared for this venture. Barely a week out, the Speedwell sprung a leak. They returned to England and tried to make the ship seaworthy. Unable to do so, 102 passengers with a crew of perhaps 30, set for the New World in the Mayflower. The ship was about 100 feet from the beak of her prow to the stern and perhaps 25 feet wide; a bit longer than our sanctuary and half as wide. The 102 passengers were crammed in the 'tween deck, the space below the deck, about 4 ½ to five feet high. During the trip, they encountered the tail end of two hurricanes and were blown off course. They had planned on joining the Virginia colony in Jamestown. But when they sighted land on



November 9, 1620, they were north of the boundary for the Virginia colony. They considered their options and decided they had been providentially directed to this location. On December 20, in the middle of falling snow, they disembarked onto Cape Cod. No welcoming party greeted them. No homes to go to, nothing but a barren strip of rocky coastline, cold and foreboding. They set out to build the most basic of protection and housing; huts really, mud and wattle, to shut out the wind. But every Sunday they stopped to worship and give God thanks for His mercies and care. In the bitter cold, they began to get sick from exposure. At one time, only 5 adults were able to care for those who were ill. They had begun to die; in November, 1; December, 6; January, 8, February, 14; March, 17; April, 5. By the spring, 51 of the 102 had died. Of the 18 families that had come to the New World, 13 families had lost a spouse. Only 5 couples remained intact. But each Sunday, they gathered for worship to give God thanks for His mercies.

In April, a native came into the compound and in perfect English, asked for beer. A few years earlier, Squanto had been taken captive by some English explorers. The year before, he had returned to the New World, but his tribe had been wiped out with disease. He helped these settlers learn how to plant corn, how and when to fish and recognize the edible native fruits and plants. Under his guidance, the planting of spring led to the growth in summer and the harvest in the fall. Reflecting on the survival and the successes of the year, Governor Bradford called for a day of Thanksgiving, to give God thanks for His goodness and mercy.

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## STARTING A RIPPLE EFFECT

Shortly before his death, 80-year old farmer Hody Childress asked his daughter to continue a practice he'd conducted for years: taking a \$100 bill to a local pharmacist on the first of every month. For years, Childress anonymously came to the aid of neighbors in Geraldine, Alabama, who couldn't afford medications. "Don't tell a soul where the money came from," he instructed store owner Brooke Walker. "If they ask, tell them it's a blessing from the Lord."

Thanks to the farmer's generosity, Walker could fill prescriptions for about 24 uninsured or underinsured people each year. "I was honored he allowed me to do that," she said, "and it really encouraged me to do the same in my life."

Childress wasn't wealthy but "always gave what he could," said his daughter Tania Nix. "I think he felt like he couldn't not give," she added. "Giving that way, that just got on his heart." After word spread about Childress' generosity, other people were inspired to perform stealth outreach and a fund was established in his name.

A man in Oklahoma who shares Childress' surname said a story about the farmer caught his attention. They're probably not related, he wrote, but he'd feel proud if they were. "A man like that surely tried to follow the example of Jesus," the Oklahoman wrote, and "[his] story inspires me to be a better man."

--adapted from *The Wired Word*.

## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED

Hardship and disease; give thanks? Half the colonists dead; give thanks? The peculiar thing about gratitude, we don't sense it, appreciate it or celebrate it until we have experienced difficulties, adversities and hard times. It is then that we realize how grateful we are for God's presence and providence. The Psalmist reminds us, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

An attitude of gratitude comes from an awareness of God's mercy and a heart filled with appreciation for his grace.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

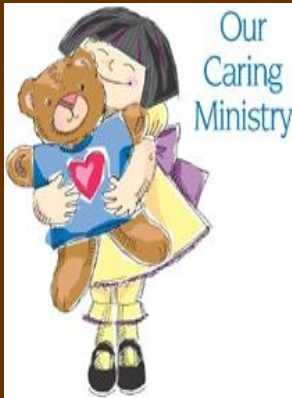
Bro. John King



**Hody Childress**

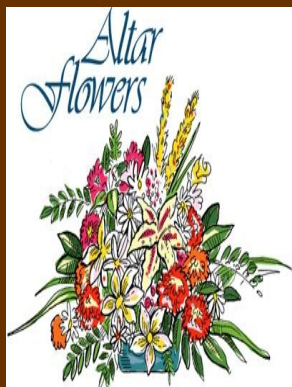
***Thanksgiving Day  
is a good day to  
recommit our  
energies to giving  
thanks and just  
giving."***  
**-Amy Grant**





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

*"Give thanks for  
unknown  
blessings already  
on their way."  
— Native  
American saying*



## Our Caring Ministry

### Short Term Concerns

Terry Blair  
Joel Butler  
Isabella Juarez  
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

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

Prayer is a vital part of the church's ministry. Our Caring Ministry List has not changed in months. Please notify the office with updates and requests. Thank You.

## FLOWER CALENDAR

November 05 - Mrs. Don Stephens  
November 12 - Ms. Stacy Sims  
November 19 - Dr. & Mrs. Cheri Henderson  
November 26 - Mrs. Betty Ann Cayson

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



# November

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Communion</b> Ann Tucker  <b>Communion</b> <b>Offering</b> Calhoun Ministry Center	<b>Ushers</b> Vicky Whitfield Steve Whitfield  <b>Standby</b> Jimmy Cox		<b>1</b>  ♪Brenda Parrish ♪Joe Ferguson	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  ♪ Dottie Fleck	<b>4</b> Set Your Clocks Back  ♪Tiffany Jordan
<b>5</b> <b>All Saints</b> <b>Sunday</b>  ♪John Tomlinson	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  ♪Charmian Register	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans</b> <b>Day</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Church</b> <b>Council</b> <b>12 noon</b>  ♪Hannah Haser	<b>13</b>  ♪Louise Harrison ♪Norah Handley	<b>14</b> <b>UMW</b> <b>Meeting</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  ♪Michelle Pettis	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  ♥Gale & Joe Ferguson	<b>21</b>  ♪Clay Knight	<b>22</b> <b>No evening</b> <b>activities</b> Office closed	<b>23</b>  <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> Office closed	<b>24</b>  ♪Joe Webb	<b>25</b> <b>Decoration</b> <b>Party</b> <b>November</b> <b>26</b> 
<b>26</b> <b>Christ the</b> <b>King</b> <b>Sunday</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  ♥Debbie & Tommy Edwards	<b>30</b>  ♥Chris & John Tomlinson	<b>Decoration Party</b> Volunteers are needed to prepare the sanctuary for Advent. A light lunch will be provided.	





## **Blountstown United Methodist Church**

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

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## **PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES**

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- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Heath McClellan Family /<br>Helen McGowen                 | 12. Betty Sue & Ken Taylor /<br>Chris & John Tomlinson  | 23. Vicki Bennett Family /<br>Connie & Alton Carpenter |
| 2. Sharon & Henry McCrone /<br>Perry McGhee Family           | 13. Ann & Mike Tucker /<br>Ann Weiler                   | 24. Betty Ann Cayson /<br>Ron Copeland Family          |
| 3. Phyllis & Frank Miller /<br>Kathryn Mitchell Family       | 14. Janis & Jack Weiler /<br>Jarred Weiler Family       | 25. Jane Creamer /<br>David Corbin Family              |
| 4. Karen & David Murrell /<br>Joyce Peacock                  | 15. Joe Webb /<br>Cherie White Family                   | 26. Donna & Finlay Corbin /<br>Peggy & Jimmy Cox       |
| 5. Michele Pettis Family /<br>Jeremy Proctor                 | 16. Doug Whitfield Family /<br>Drew Whitfield Family    | 27. Steve Cox /<br>Gina & Tyler Cox                    |
| 6. Charmian & Jerry Register /<br>Diane & Russell Schulz     | 17. Vicky & Steve Whitfield /<br>Laura & Roger Williams | 28. Joe Durden Family /<br>Kelby Durham                |
| 7. DellAnne & Michael Schrufer /<br>Tracy Cox-Stanton Family | 18. Marvin Williams /<br>Mary Ann Williams              | 29. Debbie & Tommy Edwards /<br>Norma Failes           |
| 8. Ken Sheppard Family /<br>Stacy Sims                       | 19. Mary Beth Williams /<br>Virginia & Laddie Williams  | 30. Gale & Joe Ferguson /<br>Dottie & Bob Fleck        |
| 9. Rodney Smith Family /<br>Donald Stanley Family            | 20. Barbara Wilson /<br>Eric Alford                     |  |
| 10. Sue & Don Stanley /<br>Mert Stephens                     | 21. Esther Alford /<br>Gina Averett Family              |  |
| 11. Scott Stephens /<br>Virginia House Szrowicz              | 22. Dresia Barfield /<br>John Barfield Family           |  |