

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- September 4 -  
Labor Day  
Office Closed
- September 14 -  
Sister Friends'  
Coffee and Chat
- September 19 -  
United Methodist  
Women
- September 23 -  
First Day of Autumn

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# Circuit Writer

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## Who Me? Yes, You!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds; 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.).



Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you."

## Safe & Sound

I am one in whom Christ dwells and delights. I live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble, and neither am I.

- James Bryan Smith



***“I’m a pencil  
in the hand  
of a writing  
God, who is  
sending a  
love letter to  
the world”  
-Mother  
Teresa***



## Back to School?

It happens every fall—the first day of school. Promotion to the next grade, a new teacher, new classmates, new skills to master, new material to learn, new challenges to face. It’s all part of growing up.

How about our spiritual growth, development and maturity? Has our spiritual growth hit a plateau? Facing any new challenges? New horizons in your faith? It’s a natural part of life.

Our life of faith is like any other area of growth. It requires a commitment to growth, developing a plan for success and the discipline to follow a plan. Intentionally following Christ pays handsome dividends. He is with us now each day and our future is guaranteed. Your classmates are looking for you each Sunday. See you then.

Rev. John King

## Honoring Our Sunday School Teachers

We give thanks that you will lead us in the ministry of Christian education. We offer you our pledge of support. As you teach your students, may all be open to God’s truth and be inspired to live the Christian life as fully as possible. Remember that we appreciate greatly the time and effort you expend as teachers of our local church family. May God grant you strength and joy in your endeavors.



## Going to School with Jesus

In *Faith Takes a Name*, Dwight E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain “learners under the instruction of Christ.” He notes, “Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus’] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him.

## Instruments of Connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled “The Hug”:

“The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious devotional acts, also included such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouses with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionally behind them.”

**“The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government is the next.”**

— Abraham Lincoln

## Listen to the Loving Voice

Figurative thieves are all around: illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

“I came,” says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, “that [you] may have life and have it abundantly” (v.10 NRSCV).

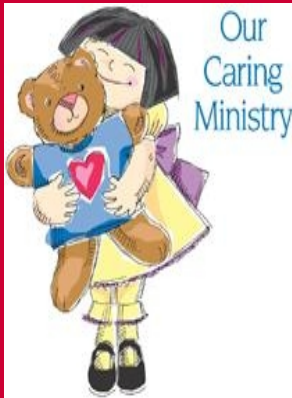
—Heidi Hyland Mann



***“Let us remember:  
one book, one pen,  
one child, and one  
teacher can  
change the world.”***

***-Malala Yousafzai***

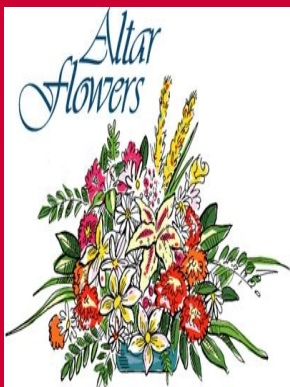




... let your  
request be made  
known to God.

*“Prayer is an  
acknowledgement  
that our need of  
God’s help is not  
partial but total.”*

*- Alistair Begg,  
Made for His  
Pleasure*



## Our Caring Ministry

### Short Term Concerns

Terry Blair  
Joel Butler  
Joyce Little  
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

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

### Those Battling Cancer

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

### Our Shut-Ins

Joe Webb  
Ann Weiler

### Persecuted Christians

### Caregivers

### Our Military Ukraine

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

## FLOWER CALENDAR

September 03 - Mr. & Mrs. Frank Miller  
September 10 - Mr. & Mrs. Hentz McClellan  
September 17 - Mr. Owen House  
September 24 - Mr. & Mrs. Glen McClellan

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



# September



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Communion Offering</b> Marcus Register Fund  <b>Communion</b> Diane Schulz		<b>Ushers</b> Glen McClellan Danita McClellan  <b>Standby</b> Mark Herndon			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Labor Day</b> <b>Office</b> <b>Closed</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  🎵 Barbara Wilson	<b>9</b>  🎵 Michael Schruefer
<b>10</b>  🎵 Betty Ann Cayson	<b>11</b> 🎵 Hentz McClellan 🎵 Stacy Sims	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 🎵 Ilana McGhee 🎵 Gina Cox →	<b>14</b> Sister Friends Coffee 10:00 🎵 Hester Leonard	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  🎵 Tommy Edwards 🎵 Tina Smith
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 🎵 Jimmy Cox →	<b>19</b> <b>United Methodist Women</b> <b>10:00 am</b>	<b>20</b> 🎵 Ace Barfield	<b>21</b> 🎵 Danita McClellan 🎵 Chris White	<b>22</b> <b>First Day of Autumn</b> →	<b>23</b> 🎵 Debbie Edwards 🎵 Frank; Miller
<b>24</b>  🎵 Mert Stephens	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  🎵 Mildred Guilford	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  🎵 Stewart Herndon



## **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. Owen House /<br>Nick Hughes Family                    | 11. Heath McClellan Family /<br>Hentz McClellan Family       | 22. Mert Stephens /<br>Scott Stephens                   |
| 2. Laurie James Family /<br>Sandra & Jim Jines           | 12. Helen McCowen /<br>Sharon & Henry McCrone                | 23. Virginia Szrowicz /<br>Chris & John Tomlinson       |
| 3. Seth Jones Family /<br>Billy Jordan Family            | 13. Perry McGhee Family /<br>Phyllis & Frank Miller          | 24. Ann & Mike Tucker /<br>Ann Weiler                   |
| 4. Tiffany Jordan Family /<br>Becki Kastli               | 14. Kathryn Mitchell Family /<br>Brenda Parrish              | 25. Janis & Jack Weiler /<br>Jarred Weiler Family       |
| 5. Cathy & Glenn Kimbrel /<br>Jonathan Kimbrel Family    | 15. Gary Parrish /<br>Joyce Peacock                          | 26. Joe Webb /<br>Cherie White Family                   |
| 6. John King /<br>Clay Knight                            | 16. Michell Pettis Family /<br>Charmian & Jerry Register     | 27. Doug Whitfield Family /<br>Drew Whitfield Family    |
| 7. Hester Leonard /<br>Alva Martin                       | 17. Diane & Russell Scholz /<br>DellAnne & Michael Schruefer | 28. Vicky & Steve Whitfield /<br>Laura & Roger Williams |
| 8. Sally & Mike Mayo /<br>Gail & Joe Mike McCaskill      | 18. Shelia Shelton /<br>Ken Sheppard Family                  | 29. Marvin Williams /<br>Mary Ann Williams              |
| 9. Marc McCaskill Family /<br>Michael McCaskill Family   | 20. Stacy Sims /<br>Rodney Smith Family                      | 30. Mary Beth Williams /<br>Virginia & Laddie Williams  |
| 10. Danita & Glen McClellan /<br>Kyle McClellan Family / | 21. Donald Stanley Family /<br>Sue & Don Stanley             |   |