

# Circuit Writer

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## Special Dates:

- February 10 - GriefShare Begins
- February 14 - Valentine's Day
- February 15 - Transfiguration Sunday
- February 16 - Financial Peace Begins
- February 18 - Ash Wednesday
- February 22 - First Sunday of Lent

## Blountstown United Methodist Church

### Coming Soon

Blountstown UM Church will be offering two outreach programs this month, GriefShare and Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University.



The GriefShare Support Group will begin on Tuesday, February 10th at 5:00 p.m. and run for 13 weeks. Grief can be caused by many things, we are focusing on the loss of a loved one. Each session will contain a video and discussion time and is offered freely to those participating.



On Monday, February 16th, we will begin Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace course. This 9-week course teaches you how to save for emergencies, pay off debt fast, spend wisely and invest for your future. The cost is \$25 for the workbook.

Call the office to sign up for one or both of these classes.



## God's Love in Action

"We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, NIV). This month, let's share God's love in simple ways— a kind note, a prayer, a helping hand. Look for ways to bless someone around you!

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." - 1 John 3:18 (NIV).



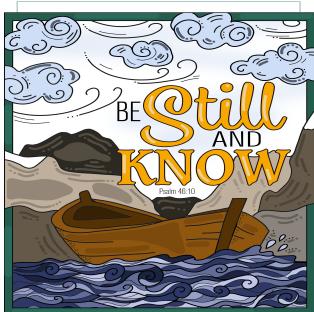
# FROM THE PASTOR

## Appointment with God

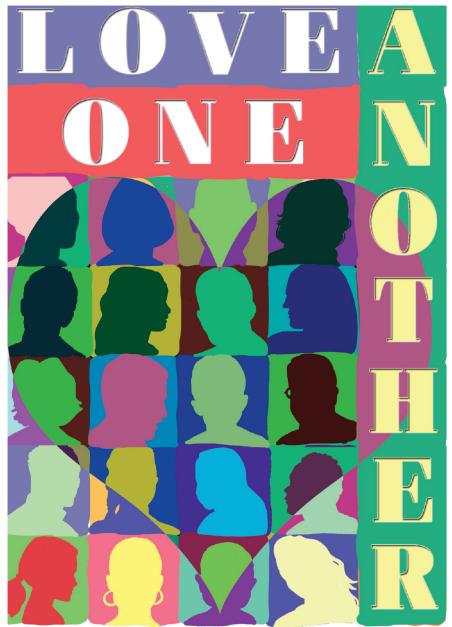
**The Sanctuary of Blountstown United Methodist Church is open every Sunday evening, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Come by, spend as much time as you wish in the quietness of God's presence.**

**No preaching, only quiet meditation as you sit in the presence of the Almighty, unburdening your soul, sharing your grief and pain, receiving His encouragement and comfort.**



Seated at the table of the Upper Room, the Master looked into the faces of his followers. Tragedy lay just ahead. His death would be tomorrow, and He knew it. Their faith and confidence in Him would be shaken to the core. Try as hard as He might, Jesus was unable to get his followers to understand that death lay ahead of him. The disciples just didn't get it. It was not what they understood the mission of the Messiah to be. They simply could not grasp the depth of God's love for His friends. "God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins" 1 John 4:9-10 [NLB]. To get through the disappointment, horror and pain of the next few days, they would need to lean on each other, to depend on each other. And that would require love.



To reinforce that love, Jesus reminded them over and over, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12 Love is not some warm fuzzy feeling. Nor is it measured by the acceptance of or the tolerance for another person. Love demands a commitment, a response to an injustice, an affirmation to indifference. "We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion - how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." 1 John 3:16-18 [NLB]

Love is never easy. In fact it's tough, really tough. "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 [NIV] I don't do well meeting these expectations.

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## Continued from page 2

Jesus laid out this responsibility for us, "If you keep my command, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. John 15:10 [NIV] The only way we can meet our Lord's call to love is to ask His Spirit to come to us and help us love others. During this Lenten season, join me as we pray for God's love to fill us and guide our relationships so we are able to love others as our Heavenly Father has loved us.

Bro John

## Mountain - Top Moments

In Matthew 17, we read a remarkable story about Jesus taking Peter, James and John up a high mountain. What seemed like an ordinary hike turned into a moment that changed their understanding of who Jesus really is. Matthew writes, "And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as light" (Matthew 17:2, NASB). The disciples saw Jesus in a brilliant, heavenly glory—a glimpse of his true identity as the Son of God.

But that wasn't all. A voice from the cloud declared, "This is My Beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him! (Matthew 17:5, NASB). Imagine the awe and holy fear those disciples felt. Just like many of us would, they fell to the ground, overwhelmed by God's presence. Yet Jesus didn't leave them trembling. He came close, touched them and said those comforting words we all long to hear: "Do not be afraid."

After the moment passed, Jesus led them back down the mountain and into everyday life again. This powerful encounter reminds us that Jesus is truly the Son of God –radiant, holy and worthy of our worship. But it also shows us his heart: gentle, reassuring and near to us when we are afraid.

We may not stand on that mountain, but we can still experience our own "mountain-top moments" - times in worships, prayer or Scripture when we glimpse God's glory in a fresh way. And just like the disciples, we are invited to rise up, follow Jesus and listen to him every step of the journey.



## Shine Without Wax

How sincere are you, really? How honest, dependable, and genuine? These are traits that shape our character and help other see Christ in us.

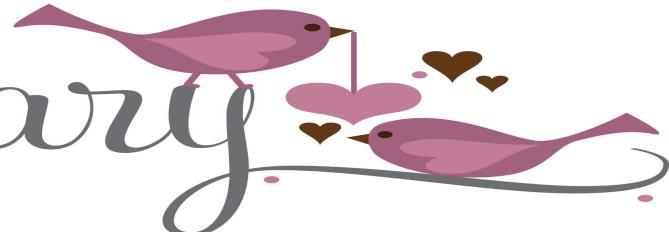


The word sincere comes from an old Latin phrase meaning "without tax." In ancient Rome, potters sometimes used wax to hide cracks in flawed pottery. Buyers would hold each piece up to the sunlight to see if it was truly and not hiding any imperfections.

When we allow the light of Christ to shine through our lives, it reveals both our rough spots and our strengths. The good news is that Jesus never shames us for the cracks; he restores us. As his light works within us, we grow into people of integrity who are whole, authentic, and sincerely his.



# February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Communion</b> Gail McCaskill	<b>Ushers</b> Joe Mike McCaskill Stewart Herndon  <b>Standby</b> Bill Jordan		Join us as we begin the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday reminds us of our need for grace and the hope we have in Jesus. Let's walk together toward the cross and the joy of Easter.			
1  ♪Dresa Barfield ♪Eileen Hatch	2	3	4  ♪Glenn Kimbre ♪John David House	5	6	7
8	9	10 <b>GriefShare</b> <b>Begins</b> <b>5:00 p.m.</b> ♪Addison Whitfield	11	12	13  ♪Heath McClellan	14
15  ♪Joe Mike McCaskill	16 <b>Financial</b> <b>Peace</b> <b>Begins</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b>	17 <b>GriefShare</b> <b>5 –6:30</b> <b>p.m.</b>	18 <b>Ash</b> <b>Wednesday</b>	19  ♪Joan Sheppard	20	21
22  <b>First</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>of Lent</b>	23 <b>Financial</b> <b>Peace</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b>	24 <b>GriefShare</b> <b>5 –6:30</b> <b>p.m.</b>	25	26	27	28  ♪Steve Cox



## Our Caring Ministry List

### Short Term

Jerry Adams

Ellen Cruz

Grant Golden

Jimmy Hand

Jim Jines

### Intercessory Prayers

Gale Ferguson

James Griffin

Phyllis Miller

### Shut-Ins

Betty Ann Cayson

Alva Martin

### Our Military

Ukrainian citizens

Israel citizens

Middle East

### Caregivers

### Persecuted Christians

### UM Missionaries



**Please contact the office** by phone, email, or in person, with any requests and updates. Written requests may also be placed in the offering plate.

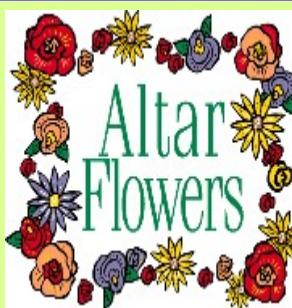
## A Taste of Loving - Kindness

A Sunday school teacher once asked her class, "What do you think the Bible means when it speaks of loving-kindness?"

A young boy thought for a moment and replied, "Well, if I were hungry and someone gave me a piece of bread with butter on it, that would be kindness. But if they added a spoonful of jam, that would be loving-kindness."

## February Flower Calendar

- 01 Mrs. Hester Leonard
- 08 Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Kimbrel
- 15 Mr. & Mrs. Henry McCrone
- 25 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Mike McCaskill



## Stop, Look and Listen

Why should we observe Lent?

We observe Lent because it causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong."

We observe Lent because it tells us to LOOK. Look inward for any honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Holy Spirit.

Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent.



# Blountstown United

## Methodist Church

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## Family & Friends Prayer List



volume • number 1

- 1 Mary Ann Williams /  
Mary Beth Williams
- 2 Laddie Williams /  
Laura & Roger Williams
- 3 Eric Alford /  
Esther Alford
- 4 Dresa Barfield /  
John Barfield Family
- 5 Wynelle Bateman /  
Vicki Bennett Family
- 6 Alton Carpenter /  
Betty Ann Cayson
- 7 David Corbin Family /  
Donna & Finlay Corbin
- 8 Gina & Tyler Cox /  
Peggy & Jimmy Cox
- 9 Steve Cox /  
Jane Creamer
- 10 Joe Durden Family /  
Debbie & Tommy Edwards
- 11 Norma Failes /  
Gale & Joe Ferguson
- 12 Mary Flowers /  
Frank Gates
- 13 Gina Gates Family /  
Holly Gates Family
- 14 Bill Gaskin /  
Montez Golden
- 15 Peggy Hall /  
Norah Handley
- 16 Louise & Sonny Harrison /  
Trevor Haser Family
- 17 Eileen Hatch /  
Brooks Hayes Family
- 18 Cheri & Quentin Henderson /  
Mark Herndon Family
- 19 Jackie & David House /  
John David House Family
- 20 Nick Hughes Family /  
Laurie James Family
- 21 Sandra & Jim JInes /  
Seth Jones Family
- 22 Billy Jordan Family /  
Becki Kastli Family
- 23 Cathy & Glenn Kimbrel /  
Jonathan Kimbrel Family
- 24 John King /  
Clay Knight
- 25 Annie Jo Landers Family /  
Hester Leonard
- 26 Alva Martin /  
Sally & Mike Mayo
- 27 Gail & Joe Mike McCaskill /  
Marc McCaskill Family
- 28 Barbara & Hentz McClellan /  
Danita & Glen McClellan