

Circuit Writer

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 From the Pastor
- 3 A Repair for Brokenness
- 4 Calendar
- 5 Your Giving Matters
- 5 Our Caring Ministry
- 6 Family Prayer List



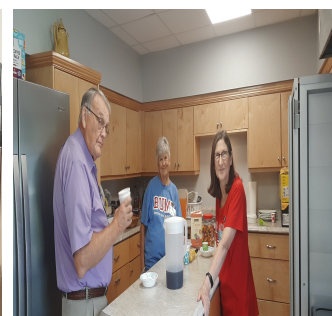
Special Dates:

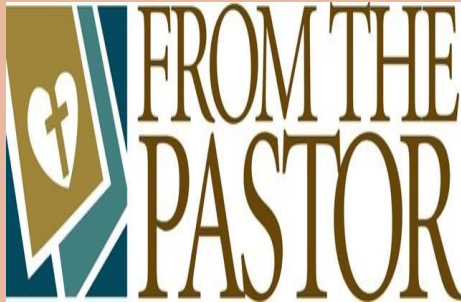
- August 16 - Fifth Sunday Breakfast
- August 25 - GriefShare
- August 30 - Fifth Sunday Fellowship Meal

Blountstown United Methodist Church

That's a Wrap

We have just completed our sixth Choir Camp, and the children did a marvelous job. In five short days (actually 15 hours) they learned eight songs, with motions, memorized pages of dialog, mastered painting and played lots of games. The volunteers, a bit tired at the end of each day, enjoyed the week too.



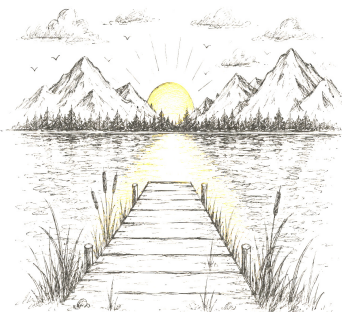


Appointment with God

**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.**



In August, we find ourselves in the throes of the heat of summer, when the blazing noon sun beats us down, saps our energy and drives us into the shade of the nearest oak tree. The heat can be relentless. Sweat drips from our faces and drenches our clothes. Our muscles tighten and are prone to cramping. If we are not careful, our minds may grow fuzzy and our steps uncertain. A heat stroke may be creeping up on us with severe and deadly consequences. The solution: get out of the heat, take the proper remedy, cool down and rest.



With our hectic schedules and daily responsibilities, it is easy for us to over commit, become stressed and suffer spiritual fatigue. We find ourselves pushing on in the rat race, when our spirit is warning us to slow down and take it easy. But if you are like me, I answer I have one more thing to get done, then I will take a break. And one thing becomes two, or three, or ...

Once in the life of Jesus, "The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. Then Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat." Mark 6:30-31 [NLT] In the pressure of trying to be all things to everybody it's easy to be stressed out. Jesus recognized this and told His disciples and us to take a break. You can't do everything at once.

When the burden of being the presence of Christ and sharing the peace of His presence with others becomes more than we know how to manage, Jesus says to us, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." Matthew 11:28-30. [NLT]

In the heat of serving Christ, take time to rest in the shade of His presence, drink from the cool waters of His word and stretch out in the shade of His promises. Then when we are refreshed, we will find the strength and wisdom continue to serve Him effectively. Remember the promise of Scriptures, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." [Philippians 4:19]. And that's the truth.

Grace and peace,
Bro John

Carried and Called to Follow



Jesus the Good Shepherd is one of Christianity's most endearing images. Scenes of Jesus holding a small lamb bring comfort during times of trouble, reminding us of God's tender care when we are weak or hurting. In those moments, we are grateful to be carried.

Yet this image also points to a deeper truth. The Shepherd's role is not only to carry the lamb, but to lead the flock. When we are restored and strengthened, we are called to rise, to walk and to follow where He leads.

God meets us in our need with compassion, but He also calls us forward with purpose. The same hands that lift us up also guide us on the path ahead.

There is a time to be carried, and there is a time to follow.

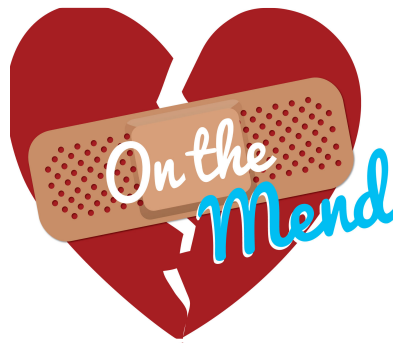
A Repair for Brokenness

Our lives are marked by brokenness, including broken relationships, broken promises, and broken expectations. Left unattended, these fractures can quietly shape us, hardening into bitterness or resentment.

How do we live with such brokenness without losing heart? We return, again and again, to God's faithful presence. In Him, we find not only comfort but restoration. God does not ignore what is broken. He meets us in it, gently mending what we place in His hands and reshaping what feels beyond repair.

Scripture reminds us, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3.NIV). What we cannot fix on our own, God is able to restore in His time and in His way.

Henri Nouwen, a Dutch Catholic priest, professor and spiritual writer, often spoke of this sacred return, the daily turning back to God where healing begins and hope is renewed. In His presence, our brokenness is not wasted. It becomes the very place where grace takes root and new life begins.



In Every Season, Turn to God

Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*



Why Me?

When we're faced with unexpected hardship, our first impulse is often to ask, "Why me, O God? Why Me?"

Yet when a blessing comes our way, we receive it with gratitude and rarely ask the same question: "Why me, O God? Why Me?"

August



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion Offering Transformational Recovery Mission	Communion Esther Alford	Ushers Bill Gaskin Stewart Herndon Stand-by Glenn Kimbrel		Third Sunday Breakfast Join us on August 16 at 9:00 a.m. for a breakfast.		1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		♪ Sue Stanley	♪ Cheri Henderson		♪ Tiffany Taylor	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		♪ Doug Whitfield ♪ Vicki Bennett				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Third Sunday Breakfast 9:00 a.m.			♪ Steve Whitfield		♪ Virginia Bietenholz Szrowicz	♪ Theresa Merchant
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
♪ Nathan Kimbrel		GriefShare Begins 5:00 p.m.				♪ Brooks Hayes
30	31		Fifth Sunday Fellowship Meal Be sure to join us on Sunday, August 30, for our Fifth Sunday Fellowship Meal. It is always a blessing when we can share a meal together.			
♪ Peggy Cox						

Our Caring Ministry List

Short Term

Matthew Barbee
Edward Dean
Art Eckerson
Grant Golden
Rebecca Greenwood
Libby Griffin
Annette Hires
Jim Jines
Buddy Johnson
Olivia Molitar
Danny Ryals
Diane Scholz
Rodney Smith
Rose Stopp
Pat Sumner
Laddie Williams
Laura Williams
Mary Ann Williams

Intercessory Prayers

Debbie Edwards
Tommy Edwards
Gale Ferguson

Those Battling Cancer

Gene Alford
Melissa Bailey
Edward Paul
Shannon Whitfield

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.

Your Giving Matters

One of our major annual expense is insurance (approximately \$45,000), which is due in September. We have also incurred some major capital expenditures including replacing four HVAC units and replacing the fellowship hall flooring, costing just under \$90,000. Our recurring income from contributions is declining. I understand the issues around our current financial situation. To continue to meet our obligations, I am asking that each of us review our giving to our church to enable us to maintain our ministry in our local community.

Thanks, Bro, John

Our current sources of funds:

Checkbook - \$33,398.00
Building Fund - \$54,300.00
Savings - \$96,700.00

Monthly expenses :

Salaries—\$7,900.00
Utilities - \$2,129.00
Apportionments - \$832.00

Upcoming expenses:

Carillons—\$7,105.00
GriefShare -\$4,000.00
Insurance premium - \$45,000.00 (Estimate)



August Flower Calendar

- 02 Rev. John King
- 09 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Ferguson
- 16 Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Cox
- 23 Mrs. Amanda Dunn McCarthy
- 30 Mrs. Mary Ann Williams



Blountstown United Methodist Church

Post Office Box 299
20500 Central Ave, West
Blountstown, FL 32424
Phone: 850-674-8254/3144
Email: bunitedmc@gmail.com
www.blountstownumc.org

First Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
City, ST
Permit # 000



Volume 3 • number 8

1. Esther Alford /
Dresa Barfield
2. John Barfield Family /
Wynelle Bateman
3. Vicki Bennett Family /
Alton Carpenter
4. Betty Ann Cayson /
Jane Creamer
5. David Corbin Family /
Donna & Finlay Corbin
6. Peggy & Jimmy Cox /
Steve Cox
7. Gina & Tyler Cox /
Joe Durden Family
8. Debbie & Tommy Edwards /
Norma Failes
9. Gale & Joe Ferguson /
Mary Flowers
10. Frank Gates /
Gina Gates Family
11. Bill Gaskin /
Montez Golden
12. Peggy Hall /
Norah Hanley
13. Louise & Sonny Harrison /
Cheri & Quentin Henderson
14. Mark Herndon Family /
Jackie & David House
15. John David House Family /
Nick Hughes Family
16. Laurie James Family /
Sandra & Jim Jines
17. Seth Jones Family /
Billy Jordan Family
18. Becki Kastli Family /
Cathy & Glenn Kimbrel
19. Jonathan Kimbrel Family /
John King
20. Clay & Dennise Knight /
Annie Jo Landers Family
21. Hester Leonard /
Alva Martin
22. Sally & Mike Mayo /
Gail & Joe Mike McCaskill
23. Marc McCaskill Family /
Barbara & Hentz McClellan
24. Danita & Glen McClelland /
Heath McClellan Family
25. Sharon & Henry McCrone /
Perry McGhee Family
26. Frank Miller /
Kathryn Mitchell Family
27. Karen & David Murrell /
Brenda Parrish
28. Gary Parrish /
Michele Pettis Family
29. Jeremy Proctor /
Charmian & Jerry Register
30. Diane & Russell Scholz /
DellAnne & Michael Schrufer
31. Tracy Cox—Stanton Family /
Ken Sheppard Family