

Circuit Writer

Blountstown United Methodist Church

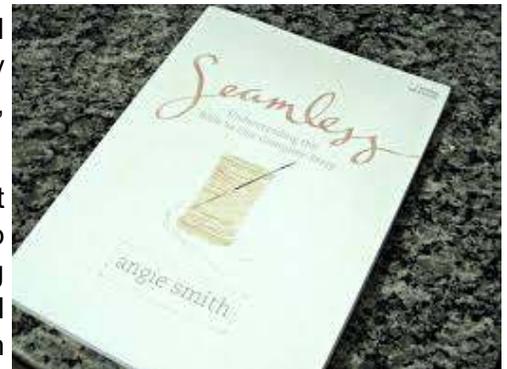
SEAMLESS - BIBLE STUDY

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- April 1 - Sister Friends' Study Seamless
- April 14 - Palm Sunday
- April 18 - Maundy Thursday
- April 21 - Easter
 - Sunrise Service
 - Cantata

The Sister Friends' Study Group will begin a new study, "Seamless" by Angie Smith, on **Monday, April 1st**, beginning at **9:00 a.m.**

It is the author's, Angie Smith, hope that this seven-week study will help participants gain an overarching understanding of the fundamental layout and meaning of God's Word. Each week of study will feature key information that ties all of scripture together into the seamless truth of the gospel message.



The study workbook (\$13) will be available through the church office.

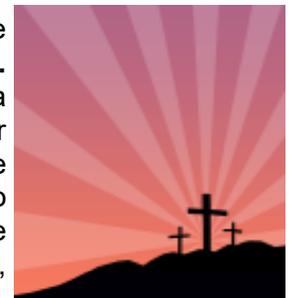
All ladies are invited to participate and bring a friend. Sister Friends is an inter-denominational ladies group that enjoy supporting each other in their journey and study of God's Word.

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EASTER CANTATA - ON A HILL TOO FAR AWAY

On **Easter Sunday**, during the 11 am worship service, the Chancel Choir will present "**On a Hill Too Far Away**". Choir Director Tina Smith will take the audience on a musical tour of the events surrounding the passion of our Lord, that occurred in the distant past in a far off land. We will revisit a timeless story that seems to have occurred too long ago, on a hill too far away, yet we remember the cross. Without the cross, there is no life. Without the cross, there is no faith. Without the cross, there is no song. Jesus, the Son of God, died on a wooden cross on a rocky hillside in human history for the sins of the world. You and I were not there to see it or hear it, but God saw it, and through His chosen apostles, this is what He told us of the last week of the earthly ministry of Christ.



We hope you join us for the beautiful story on Easter Sunday, and bring your family and friends.

“FATHER, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.”

As we continue our journey in Lent, we move towards the Passion of Christ. Holy Week will begin with “Hosannas” and end with crying and confusion. Our Lenten season began on Ash Wednesday with us being reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return, and that we should repent and believe the gospel. So, we confessed our sins, vowed to give things up during Lent, and hopefully chose to add some spiritual practice to our lives. Hopefully this season has also allowed us the chance to pause and do more introspection.



I was reflecting recently on our journey with suffering. It is a common human experience. But if we are honest, it's unpleasant and we tend to avoid the dark and difficult subjects. I know I do. Quite frankly, we often find ourselves at a loss for words when we experience pain and death or see it in the face of others. For instance, a loved one sits in a room dying. Death is the elephant in the room that we all know is coming, but none of us want to mention it or name it. We think if we mention it, it will be improper, rude, or even make it more real. I've found a lot of dying people want to talk about their death with loved ones. They know it's coming. We know it's coming. Yet, a lot of times, we remain silent. Perhaps it's a moment too sacred for words.

Even at holy services, the painful ones are the ones less attended. We like celebrating Jesus' birth. Studies show Christmas services are now the best attended. After all, who doesn't enjoy a good birthday party? Second to Christmas in attendance is Easter Sunday when Jesus triumphantly beats death, the devil, and the grave, and we proudly proclaim, “God wins!” But consider attendance at an Ash Wednesday service, a Maundy Thursday service, or a Good Friday service. They pale in comparison to the high and exciting days on the Church calendar. (And no, this isn't a knock at anyone who didn't or doesn't attend these services! It is only an observation I've made.) We don't like pain and death, but they are facts of life. These services remind us of a tender reality.

Holy Week causes us to pause and remember that we will all experience pain in life. Jesus did. We are certainly no better than him! We all experience death. The perfect man, Jesus, did as well. But there's something we can do with our pain and even with our mortality, and it's found in Jesus' word from the cross: “Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit.”

We will never fully understand pain and death in this life, and we don't have to. We can simply trust God because God loves us and that's enough reason for us to trust him. His hands are bigger than our world and certainly bigger than our pain. As John Wesley said on his death bed, “The best of all is, God is with us!” God was with Jesus on the cross, and God is with us today no matter what we face.

So you might be experiencing pain or betrayal today. Jesus did too. You might be experiencing an existential crisis, knowing you have more days behind you than ahead of you on this earth. Trust God. He loves you. Commit your life to him this day and each day. Today may be difficult, but the best is yet to come! It may be Good Friday, but Easter Sunday is coming!

With You on the Journey,

Pastor Nick

UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEE CHAIRMAN

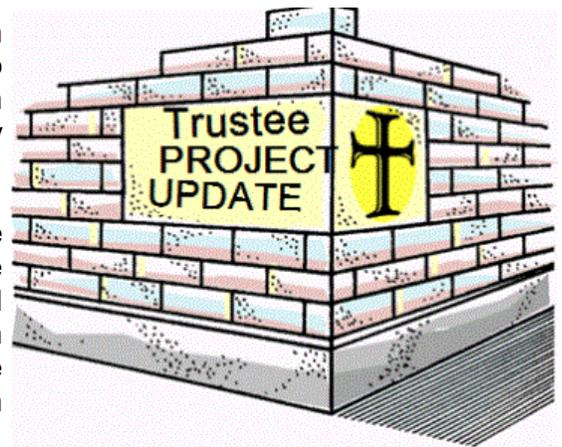
Our goal of being back into the Fellowship Hall by Easter will not happen, however we are making progress even though it seems like two steps forward and one step back. A couple of critical events have taken place over the last month. On Feb. 26th, we had an insurance adjuster back on the property. It took a while, but the insurance company finally understands that much of our water and mold damage occurred when the tarp blew off and the fire occurred after the original storm and after the first adjuster was on scene! That misunderstanding held our efforts back for a while, but we are on track and moving forward.

As of this writing the fellowship hall has been gutted and treated for water damage and mold. Unfortunately, a visit by an industrial hygienist from the insurance company on March 18th may have discovered some additional mold that may need to be retreated. However, that should not result in a long delay. We have a contractor ready to begin the re-build of the fellowship hall as soon as we're given the go ahead from the insurance company.

On Wednesday, March 20th, we had the base for the steeple shrink wrapped by a company from Panama City. The tarps have just not been effective in keeping water out. We've had 4 or 5 leaks into the narthex and rear of the sanctuary despite the tarping. The shrink wrap should prevent that until the new steeple arrives in about 6 weeks.

The old fellowship hall and Sunday school rooms have all been treated for mold if present and have had all surfaces cleaned to remove the smoke smell. We have some recommendations from the hygienist to install some additional vents to reduce the musty smell in a couple of the closets.

Our insurance company sent a construction specialist to the church on March 14th. He spent almost 4 hours examining the property. We don't have his final recommendation yet but should receive direction soon on how to handle the fire charred trusses in the fellowship hall as well as a determination of whether the insurance will cover a new roof on the sanctuary which has been recommended by the City Building Inspector.



The stained glass above the main entrance doors was taken to Tallahassee for repairs and is ready to be picked up. We plan to replace the front doors and will probably wait to replace the stained glass until after the new doors are installed.

The city cleaned up around Lake Hilda after we had our clean up day. The large stump outside the fellowship hall should be removed by the city in the next 2 weeks.

Thanks very much to everyone who participated in our clean-up day, to all the Board of Trustee members who are working hard to get our church back to normal and to all the other church members who have been helping throughout our recovery.

- Joe Ferguson, Trustee Chairman

OUR CARING MINISTRY

Short Term Concerns

Halli Barnhart
Harriet Boore
Ilene Cataldo
Larry Carter
Arnell Clark
Olivia Clemons
Lisa Cleveland
Steve Cook
Jimmy Hand
Darwin Hazelton
Caraleen Kitchens
Kay McKee
Max Metzger
Sam Miller
Becky Nobles
Connie Price
Charmian Register
Frances Register
Bennarr Revel
Linda Stewart

Intercessory Concern

John Davis
John Edwards
Braelynn Elam
Gale Ferguson
Hudson Farley
Frank Guilford
Mildred Guilford
Helen McCowen
Kay Trammell
Sandra Waller
Darryl Taylor Sr.

Those Battling Cancer

Ruby Clark
Shelia Dees
Doug Faircloth
Jeff Harris
Larry Kilment
Frank Miller
Becky Nobles
Kim Peacock

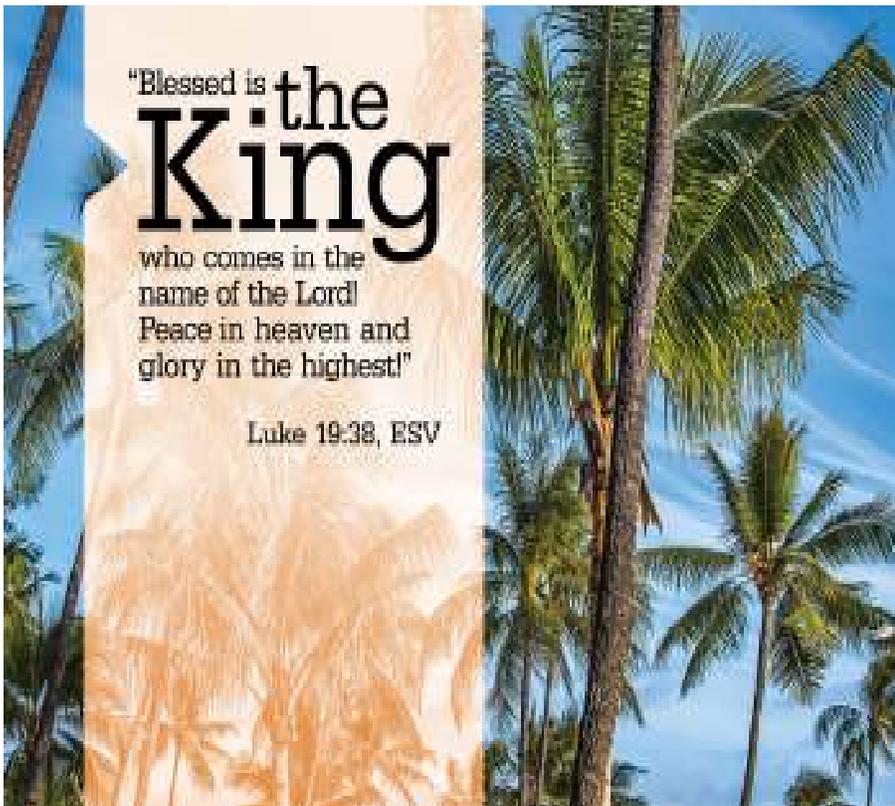
Seth Stanaland
Elizabeth Stephens
Janis Weiler

Shut-Ins

Sara Gaskin
Max Metzger
Burrel Sumner
Kathryn Tucker
Joe Webb
Bernice Whitfield

Our Military Persecuted Christians UM Missionaries

Please notify the church office with any prayer concerns.



Flower Calendar April

4/7

Mr. & Mrs. David Murrell

4/14

Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Cox

4/21

Jimmy Adams &
Powell Adams Family

4/28

Mrs. Jack Gaskin



Chancel Choir/ Youth Wednesdays @ 5:30 pm		<h1>April</h1>				T.O.P.S. Thursdays Gateway Baptist Church 5:30 pm	
Communion Donna Corbin	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Offering One Great Hour of Sharing	Seamless Study 9:00 a.m.				♪Mary Catherine Hayes		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
♪Al Carpenter	Seamless Study 9:00 a.m.				♪Finlay Corbin		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Palm Sunday	Seamless Study 9:00 a.m.	♪Kristopher Jordan	UMW 10:00 am ♪Beth Finlay	Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 pm	♪Andrew Bennett		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Easter Services: Sunrise - 6 am Cantata -11 am	Seamless Study 9:00 a.m. ♪Jared Weiler ♪Norma Failes	♪Jerry Register	♥Sally & Mike Mayo			♪Gina Averett	
28	29	30	Ushers Glenn Kimbrel Brooks Hayes Elevator Entrance Raymond Russell Susan Russell		Acolyte Julie Jordan		
	Seamless Study 9:00 a.m. ♪Alva Martin						



**Blountstown
United
Methodist Church**

Blountstown United Methodist Church

Glorifying God by loving and leading all people to Christ.

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E-mail: bunitedmc@mail.com
Website: blountstownumc.org

Christ Has Triumphed!



Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer;
Death is strong, but life is stronger.
Stronger than the wrong, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right.
Faith and hope triumphant say,
Christ will rise on Easter Day.

-Phillips Brooks

PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. John Averett Family /
Dresa Barfield | 11. Mary Flowers /
Bill Gaskin | 21. Sandra & Jim Jines /
Billy Jordan Family |
| 2. John Barfield Family /
Wynelle & Vance Bateman | 12. Sara Gaskin /
Frank Gates | 22. Becki Kastli /
Cathy & Glenn Kimbrel |
| 3. Vicki Bennett Family /
Mary Margaret & Bob Barsch | 13. Montez & Roy Golden /
Mildred & Frank Guilford | 23. Jonathan Kimbrel Family /
Clay Knight |
| 4. Cindy & James Byrd /
Connie & Alton Carpenter | 14. Libby & James Griffin /
Bonnie Hall | 24. Richard Leath /
Alva Martin |
| 5. Betty Ann Cayson /
Ron Copeland Family | 15. Pam & Ronnie Hand /
Norah Handley | 25. Sally & Mike Mayo /
Gail & Joe Mike McCaskill |
| 6. Finlay Corbin Family /
Jimmy Cox Family | 16. Louise & Sonny Harrison /
Ben Haupt Family | 26. March McCaskill Family /
Michael McCaskill Family |
| 7. Jessie Doyal /
Ashley & Joe Durden | 17. Eileen Hatch /
Brooks Hayes Family | 27. Carolyn McClellan /
Danita & Glenn McClellan |
| 8. Kelby Durham /
Debbie & Tommy Edwards | 18. Cheri & Quentin Henderson /
Mark Herndon Family | 28. Hentz McClellan Family /
Kyle McClellan Family |
| 9. Peck & Miles Eldridge /
Gale & Joe Ferguson | 19. Jackie & David House /
Owen House | 29. Mandy & Heath McClellan /
Sharon & Henry McCrone |
| 10. Beth Finlay /
Dottie & Bob Fleck | 20. Nick Hughes /
Laurie James Family | 30. Perry McGhee Family /
Kathryn McMillan Family |