

HAPPY  
Mother's Day

# Circuit Writer

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## Special Dates:

- May 1 - National Day of Prayer
- May 11 - Mother's Day
- May 22 - Blountstown Graduation
- May 23 - Altha
- Graduation
- May 26 - Memorial Day
- May 29 - Ascension Day

## Blountstown United Methodist Church

### Loving My "Enemies"

In polarized times, when people view huge concepts such as justice, government policy and care for neighbors differently, how do we follow Jesus' command to love our enemies? I prefer the word opponents, but our Lord's instructions stand.

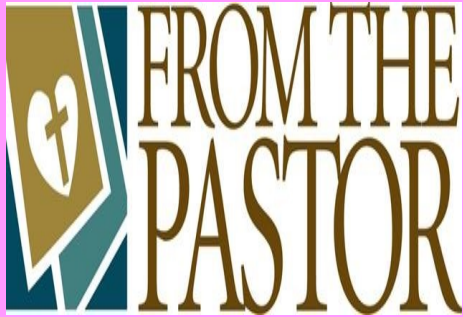
In the Bible, "Love" doesn't mean like someone; it means caring for them, treating them kindly. I find *The Message* paraphrase of Luke 6:27-36 helpful: "Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst," Jesus says about one's enemies. So, when I contact government leaders to express my opinions, I address them with respect, whether I agree with them or not. When I encounter a neighbor whose views oppose mine, I ask myself what I would want them to do for me, whether help with an errand or be friendly. Then, as *The Message* puts it, I "grab the initiative and do it for *them*."

And this, which might be the hardest: Amid tough times, Jesus says, "Respond with the supple moves of prayer." It's human nature to pray that God change our enemies' or opponents' minds. But it's more Christlike to pray for their health, their families and whatever God desires for them, not what I want. Can I do this? With God's help, yes.



### Our Only Job

Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worth.



## “He Ascended into Heaven...”

During his earthly ministry, Jesus could be physically present in only one place at any given time. “Only those could speak to him who came to where he was,” explained Archbishop William Temple. “If he was in Galilee, people could not find him in Jerusalem; if he was in Jerusalem, they could not find him in Galilee” (from *Readings in St. John’s Gospel*).

Spiritually speaking, Christ’s Ascension means he is with us wherever we find ourselves. Christ desires to be present with us everywhere we go. His presence is universal. He is here now. “Believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory” (Timothy 3:16, NRSV) - that is what Ascension affirms.



May, the shortest name of the months, three little letters. But the days we celebrate in it pack a punch.

The first day we celebrate is Mother’s Day. Each of us has one, otherwise we wouldn’t be here. Without a doubt, the person with the most influence on our lives and has done so much to determine who we are is our mother. She carried us in her womb for nine months and was the one who first held us close when we were born. She has nurtured us from our very beginning, her smile driving out our fears, her hands holding us steady in the hard places, her words encouraging us when times were tough. When we didn’t believe in ourselves, she did. Corrected us when we stepped out of line. But through it all, her love continues to be a constant guide in the troubled waters of life. Her words reverberate in our conscience guiding the principles by which we live.

Another time we celebrate is the graduation season in May. The academic year ends each spring. When we have completed the necessary requirements for the standard of preparation in our field, we are recognized for our achievement. We set out to make our mark in the world and find fulfillment and success in our work and relationships. Graduation is the foundation for life. We go on to maturity, always learning and expanding the limits of our knowledge and experience. Curiosity and inquiry drive us to expand our horizons as we examine and explore the wonderfully complex universe the Lord God has created. We just want to know.

The end of May brings us to Memorial Day. We reflect on those persons who have gone before us and upon whose shoulders we stand. This particular focus is on those citizens who have given their lives and sacred honor so we enjoy the unprecedented freedoms and prosperity we have come to know and expect. Too often we take these gifts for granted. We forget we have not earned them. They have been passed on to us by the vision and sacrifices of those who have gone before. These heroes have seen beyond the demand of their immediate responsibilities to the greater good that comes by denying today’s pleasure for greater achievement tomorrow. They have laid down their lives for their friends. And we are indebted to them and honor them for their sacrifice.

May completes the cycle of life. Our parents have invested themselves into whom we have become. Their nurture, discipline, affirmation, encouragement and advice have made us the persons we



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## Continue from page 2

have become. We have chosen the path our lives have taken; both by a disciplined course of study and the insatiable curiosity and constant inquiry into the mystery and majesty of God's creative genius. All of this is possible because of the vision and sacrifice of those who have gone before us. The Scriptures remind us we "are not our own, you were bought at a price." While that refers to the cost of our redemption through Jesus Christ, we need to remember who we are and where we are because of the goodness and mercy of our Heavenly Father who has shown us His favor. Take time this month to reflect on His blessings and thank him for his favor.

Bro. John King

## After Easter

*After* is every Christian's middle name. In his autobiography *A song of Ascents*, missionary E. Stanley tells of an African man who changed his name to After immediately following his conversion. Because all things were new and different and important after he met Christ, the man wanted to reflect that new reality as well as his thinking.

Easter is what makes us After Christians. After Easter, nothing in life is eve the same again.



## A Prayer for Mother's Day

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessing of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout our days.

We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Present us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Powered By God



God made us: invented us as a [person] invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else.

Now God designed the human machine to run on himself. He himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. that is why it is no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from himself, because it is not there.

-C.S. Lewis,  
Mere Christianity

# The CIRCUIT WRITER



# MAY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Communion</b> Cathy & Glenn Kimbrel  <b>Offering</b> Golden Cross	<b>Ushers</b> Finlay Corbin Hentz McClellan  <b>Standby</b> Glen McClellan			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		♪ Ashley Whitfield	♪ Ryan Whitfield	Sister Friends' Coffee & Chat 10 am	♪ Mike Mayo	♥ Sandi & Jonathan Kimbrel
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
 ♫ Kinsey Jones ♫ Mary Ann Williams			♪ Gale Ferguson	♥ Jackie & David House	♪ Chris Herndon	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			♪ Drayton Hayes	<b>BHS Graduation</b>	<b>Altha Graduation</b>	♪ Zeb Kimbrel
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
♥ Cheri & Quinton Henderson		♪ Jackie House	♪ Sharon McCrone	♪ Jagger Weiler		

# Our Caring Ministry List

<b>Short Term Concerns</b>	Jessica Stallworth
Edward Dean	
John King	<b>Our Shut – Ins</b>
George McNew	Betty Ann Cayson
Joe Meyer	Alva Martin
<b>Intercessory Prayer</b>	<b>Our Military</b>
Larry Carter	Ukraine soldiers and citizens
Phyllis Miller	Israel Citizens
	Middle East
<b>Those Battling Cancer</b>	<b>Persecuted Christians</b>
Melissa Bailey	<b>UM Missionaries</b>
Jimmy DeVane	<b>Caregivers</b>
Kathryn Doyal	
Vivian Eckerson	
Heather Leonard	Please contact the office with any updates to this list — Thank You!
Wayne Posey	

## Thoughts on Memorial Day

“Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount.”

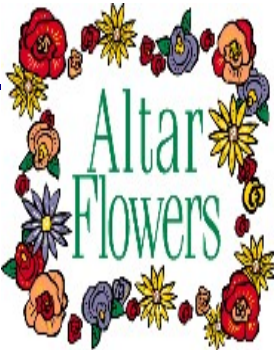
—General Omar Bradley

“There never was a good war or a bad peace.”

—Benjamin Franklin

## May Flower Calendar

4	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Tucker
11	Mr. & Mrs. Henry McCrone
18	Dr. & Mrs. Finlay Corbin
22	Mr. & Mrs. Ronny Hand



## The Scent of Prayer

It sometimes happens that in a plot of unclean and filthy ground, flowers spring up and flourish, and the sweet scent of the flowers overpowers the evil smell of the place. The plants, turning toward the sun, receive from it light and heat, and the filth instead of being hurtful to the plants fertilizes them and helps them to grow and flourish. So, too, the man of prayer as he prays turns his heart to God, and receives from him light and warmth. Amidst the ill odors of this evil world, the sweet scent of his new and holy life glorifies God, and there is produced in him not sweet odors only, but also fruit that shall abide forever.

-Sadhu Sunday Singh, *At the Master's Feet*

## “Little Seeds”

Raindrops tumble to the ground ‘cause God directs them to come down.  
 Little seeds sprout from the ground ‘cause God directs them up, not down.  
 Tender roots sink in the ground ‘cause God directs the to go down.  
 Pretty flowers will be found where raindrops tumble to the ground.

-MaryAnn Sunby



# Blountstown United Methodist Church

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## Family Prayer List

## volume 2 • number 5

1. Trevor Haser Family /  
Eileen Hatch
2. Brooks Hayes Family /  
Cheri & Quentin Henderson
3. Mark Herndon Family /  
Jackie & David House
4. John David House Family /  
Nick Hughes Family
5. Laurie James Family /  
Sandra & Jim Jines
6. Seth Jones Family /  
Billy Jordan Family
7. Becki Kastli Family /  
Cathy & Glenn Kimbrel
8. Jonathan Kimbrel Family /  
John King
9. Clay Knight /  
Annie Jo Landers Family
10. Hester Leonard /  
Alva Martin
11. Sally & Mike Mayo /  
Gail & Jo Mike McCaskill
12. Marc & McCaskill Family /  
Michael McCaskill Family
13. Barbara & Hentz McClellan /  
Danita & Glen McClellan
14. Heath McClellan Family /  
Kyle McClellan Family
15. Helen McCowen /  
Sharon & Henry McCrone
16. Perry McGhee Family /  
Phyllis & Frank Miller
17. Kathryn Mitchell Family /  
Karen & David Murrell
18. Brenda Parrish /  
Gary Parrish
19. Michele Pettis Family /  
Jeremy Proctor Family
20. Charmian & Jerry Register /  
Diane & Russell Scholz
21. DellAnne & Michael Schrufer /  
Tracy Cox–Stanton Family
22. Ken Sheppard Family /  
Stacy Sims
23. Rodney Smith Family /  
Donald Stanley Family
24. Sue & Don Stanley /  
Mert Stephens
25. Scott Stephens /  
Virginia House Szrowicz /
26. Betty Sue & Ken Taylor  
Zach Taylor Family /
27. Chris & John Tomlinson /  
Ann & Mike Tucker
28. Janis & Jack Weiler /  
Jarred Weiler Family
29. Cherie White Family /  
Doug Whitfield Family
30. Drew Whitfield Family /  
Vicky & Steve Whitfield
31. Laddie Williams /  
Laura & Roger Williams