

Circuit Writer

What's INSIDE

- 2 From the Pastor
- 3 A Path of Persistence
- 4 Calendar
- 5 Our Caring Ministry
- 6 Family Prayer List



Special Dates:

- August 12 - First Day of School
- August 13 - Wednesday Bible Studies Begins
- August 14 - Sister Friends' Coffee & Chat
- August 26 - GriefShare Support Groups Begins
- August 31 - Singspiration & Fellowship Meal

Blountstown United Methodist Church

Fixer-Uppers

Summer is peak time for home renovations and remodeling projects. Those can be super stressful, starting with the selection of a contractor.

In a blog about her own family's construction plans, Laura Elliott explains the challenge: "It's not just any builder I want. I want one who has impeccable workmanship, is completely trustworthy and delivers our long-awaited [projects] early and under-budget." After sifting through bids and reviews, she discovered that most builders "look like they do pretty similar work for a pretty similar price."



For spiritual renovations, however, the choice is clear. "God is the builder of everything," says Hebrews 3-4 (NIV). Elliot writes, "Jesus is not only the *builder* of His Father's house, but He is the *buyer*, and the *heir* as well." And what he's building, she adds, is "a better bride," his church.

Faith upgrades are an ongoing, lifelong process. "The renewal of our natures is a work of great importance," said 18th-century minister George Whitefield. "It is not to be done in a day. We have not only a new house to build up, but an old one to pull down." It's a good thing God oversees this project.

—Stephanie Martin



FROM THE PASTOR

Why Christian Community is Key

Jesus' followers aren't meant to pursue faith by themselves. In fact, that's impossible! A *family* and *the body* signify plural members. It is among brothers and sisters in Christ that we:

- ⇒ Experience our Savior's presence, living and Incarnated;
- ⇒ unite in worship, confess our sins, hear the gospel and receive Communion;
- ⇒ accept church discipline through the gentle guidance of others
- ⇒ learn—through other people's examples and experiences — what it means to live a life of discipleship;
- ⇒ and lovingly serve

“I CAN'T BE A CHRISTIAN ON MY OWN.”

**I need a community.
I need the church.”**

—Rachel Held Evans

I don't need to tell you it is HOT! And has been for several weeks. But then that's what we should expect. August is the midpoint of summer. And with August comes the anticipation of September and October and fall. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. We have plenty of hot days ahead. But with August comes the return to the more natural rhythm of school schedules and football, both high school and college.



A similar return to a more normal routine applies to our church schedule, as well. We will begin our weekly Bible study each Wednesday, at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. This fall we will be using the Book of Psalms as our guide. On August 13, the day after school begins, we will consider the promises of Psalm 1. In this Psalm, the scripture contrasts the lifestyle and benefits of those who are faithfully following the Lord and those who are not. As in the past, we will have a brief study guide. I will also provide a guide for the psalm that will be the focus of our attention the next week. The Psalms cover the broad range of human emotional swings each of us has had at one time or another. In the Psalms we find hope in our despair, confidence in our doubt, strength in our weakness and forgiveness for our sins. This study promises to be an interesting and profitable time of study and fellowship.

Also, we want to offer another session of GriefShare. This is a thirteen week reflection that leads us through the valley of grief. We will emerge with a better understanding of the pain from our loss and have a path to healing from the pain left by the death of our loved ones. This death does not need to have been recent. Grief is the debilitating emotion that may paralyze us for years, coming back to haunt us when we least expected it. I have found this support group very helpful as I have experienced the loss of my beloved wife, Brenda.

As we anticipate the routine of fall, be sure to maintain your time of worship and the daily disciplines of prayer and Bible reading. Include in your schedule, the fellowship with fellow believers who encourage us as they share our ups and downs. Our spiritual health and emotional vitality depends on this regular nourishment of our souls.

Bro. John King



GriefShare

The GriefShare support group will meet in the conference room on Tuesdays, beginning August 26 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.



GriefShare™

When a loved one dies, it can feel like you're alone. Few people understand how painful and isolating your grief can be. But that doesn't mean you have to suffer by yourself.

At GriefShare, you'll find a safe, comforting place where you can talk with others about your grief. You'll find support, direction, and guidance on how to make it through.

At this 13-week grief recovery support group, you'll:

- ⇒ Hear insights from grief recovery experts
- ⇒ Meet other who understand what you're going through
- ⇒ Receive comfort and support
- ⇒ Learn practical tips for navigating your grief
- ⇒ Discover the 6 signs of healing

"Each week you can expect to view a 30-minute video filled with helpful guidance, discuss grief-related issues, and gain personal recovery tips through your workbook. The group is free to participate.

A Path of Persistence

Some Christians converts in an overseas village were diligent about daily prayer. In the thicket outside town, they each had a place where they prayed in solitude. Over time, these believers wore pathways through the brush to their special prayer areas. If someone neglected his or her prayer life, it was evident because fresh grass started growing on the footpath. Out of concern, fellow Christians offered this loving reminder: "Friend, there's grass growing on your path."

How worn is your own path to prayer? Are you persistent when answers don't seem to come? Do you trust that God will answer your prayers, according to his good and gracious will?

When you grow weary, remember this promise in Galatians 6:9 (NIV). "At the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Need a Vocation Vacation?

"It is not more vacation we need," said Eleanor Roosevelt. "It is more vocations" — in other words, something that God calls you to do. God uses his people to accomplish amazing things, even during the summer! Call it a "vocation."

If you're planning a trip, call ahead and offer to serve at a local homeless shelter or urban ministry. If you want to be outdoors, ask a Bible camp or recreation department if it needs volunteers. Other possibilities include assisting with programs that help elderly residents or people with special needs enjoy outdoor activities.

You'll enjoy summertime fun (vacation) and the knowledge that God is working through you (vocation).





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 | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 ♪ Sue Stanley | 5 | 6 ♪ Cheri Henderson | 7 ♪ Tiffany Taylor | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Church Council 12 noon | 11 ♪ Doug Whitfield ♪ Vicki Bennett | 12 | 13 New Bible Study Begins 10 am/7 pm | 14 Sister Friends' Coffee 10:00 a.m. | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 ♪ Steve Whitfield | 20 | 21 ♪ Virginia Bietenholz Szrowicz | 22 ♪ Theresa Merchant | 23 ♪ Nathan Kimbrel |
| 24 | 25 ♪ Laddie Williams | 26 GriefShare Begins 5:00 p.m. | 27 | 28 | 29 ♪ Brooks Hayes | 30 ♪ Peggy Cox |
| 31 Singspiration Fellowship Meal | Join Us Sunday, August 17, at 9:00 a.m. Third Sunday Breakfast Sunday, August 31 at 11:00 a.m. Singspiration and Fellowship Meal at 12 noon | | | The Church Council is scheduled to meet on Sunday, August 10, at 12 noon. All Council members are encouraged to attend this meeting. | | |



Our Caring Ministry List

Short Term Concerns

Edward Dean
Gale Ferguson
Lisa Glavin
Cathy Kimbrel
Lynn Lanier
George McNew
Tiffany Taylor

Intercessory Prayer

Phyllis Miller

Those Battling Cancer

Gene Alford
Melissa Bailey
Erica Coronado
Jimmy DeVane
Kathryn Doyal
Vivian Eckerson

Heather Leonard
Ed Pildher
Jessica Stallworth

Our Shut – Ins

Betty Ann Cayson
Alva Martin

Our Military

Ukraine soldiers and citizens
Israel Citizens
Middle East

Persecuted Christians

UM Missionaries
Caregivers

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

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

-William Arthur Ward

- 3 Rev. John King
10 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Ferguson
17 Open
24 Mrs. Amanda Dunn McCarthy
31 Mrs. Mary Ann Williams



Choir Camp Wrap

This was our fifth year to host Choir Camp. The children did an amazing job, as did the adults and youth who took part.



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



Family & Friends Prayer List

volume 2 • number 8

1. Perry McGhee Family /
Phyllis & Frank Miller
2. Karen & David Murrell /
Brenda Parrish
3. Gary Parrish /
Michele Pettis Family
4. Jeremy Proctor /
Charmian & Jerry Register
5. Diane & Russell Scholz /
DellAnne & Michael Schrufer
6. Tracy Cox-Stanton Family /
Ken Sheppard Family
7. Stacy Sims /
Rodney Smith Family
8. Donald Stanley Family /
Sue & Don Stanley
9. Mert Stephens /
Scott Stephens
10. Virginia House Szrowicz /
Betty Sue and Ken Taylor
11. Zach Taylor Family /
Chris & John Tomlinson
12. Ann & Mike Tucker /
Janis & Jack Weiler
13. Jarred Weiler Family /
Cherie White Family
14. Doug Whitfield Family /
Drew Whitfield Family
15. Vicky & Steve Whitfield /
Laddie Williams
16. Laura & Roger /
Marvin Williams
17. Mary Ann Williams /
Mary Beth Williams
18. Barbara Wilson /
Esther Alford
19. Dresia Barfield /
John Barfield Family
20. Mary Margaret & Bob Barsch /
Betty Ann Cayson
21. Finlay Corbin Family /
Jimmy Cox Family
22. Tyler Cox Family /
Joe Durden Family
23. Gale & Joe Ferguson /
Mary Flowers
24. Frank Gates /
Gina Gates Family
25. Hollie Gates /
Montez Golden
26. Pam & Ronnie Hand /
Norah Handley
27. Louise & Sonny Harrison /
Eileen Hatch
28. Trevor Haser Family /
Brooks Hayes Family
29. Cheri & Quentin Henderson /
Mark Herndon Family
30. Jackie & David House /
Nick Hughes Family
31. Laurie James Family /
Sandra & Jim Jines