

# Circuit Writer

## What's INSIDE

- 2 From the Pastor
- 3 Two-way Benefit
- 4 Calendar
- 5 Our Caring Ministry
- 6 Family Prayer List



**March 8, before going to bed  
Saturday night.**

## Special Dates:

- March 2 -  
Transfiguration Sunday
- March 4 - GriefShare begins
- March 5 - Ash Wednesday,  
First day of Lent
- March 7 - World Day of Prayer
- March 9 -  
Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 13 - Sister Friends
- March 16 - Breakfast  
Church Council meeting
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 - First Day of Spring
- March 30 - Fifth Sunday;  
Singspiration & Fellowship  
Meal

## Blountstown United Methodist Church

### GriefShare Support Group to Start



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.

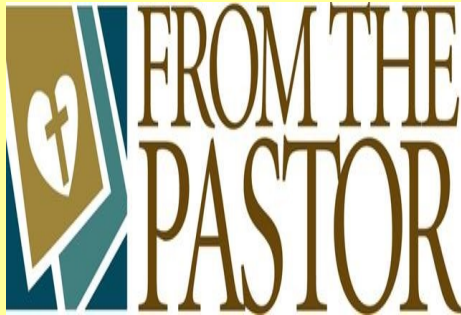
At GriefShare, you'll find a safe, comforting place where you can talk with others about your grief. You'll find support, direction, and guidance on how to make it through.

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.

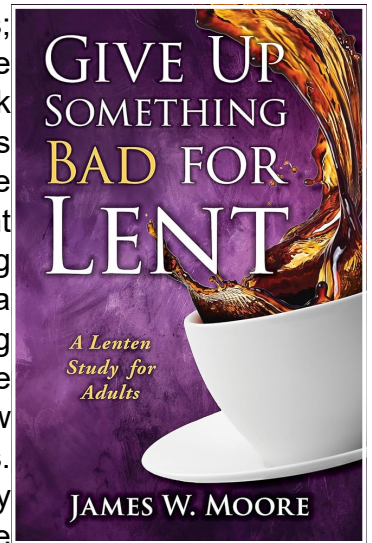
The GriefShare support group will meet in the conference room on Tuesdays, beginning March 4, from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.



During Lent, consider this practical - and biblical - advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

They were dear friends, had been for years; committed Christians, one Lutheran, the other Methodist. They would banter back and forth, good naturally poking verbal jabs at each other. But when it came to Lent, the barbs were a bit sharper. They took Lent very seriously, each giving up something during the 40 days of self-denial. Mrs. Ada was a tremendous cook, always having desserts; pastries were her specialty. She loved to eat and share her goodies. Oh how I loved making pastoral calls on her. Mrs. Isabelle, on the other hand, was not nearly so fond of sweets. In fact, she seldom ate them. When offered to her, she often passed on them. When Lent came and they decided what they would give up for Lent, Isabelle often told Mrs. Ada, I will join you and give up sweets for Lent this year. Mrs. Ada would protest, "That's no sacrifice for you, You don't even like sweets."

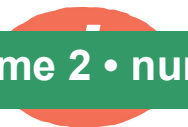


Most often we think of Lent as the time we make a commitment to sacrificially give up something important to us as an exercise in self-denial. Often it is a particular food that we really like, and for forty days by discipline and will power we will give it up. It may be sweets, as Mrs. Ada did, or coffee, ice cream or pizza or whatever. As I was looking for a study guide to use for Lent, *Give Up Something Bad for Lent*, caught my eye. A whole host of negative and unwholesome traits and behaviors that I have immediately crossed my mind. It would be a most productive thing if these attitudes were corrected and channeled in a positive direction. That is the study book we will be using on Wednesday mornings and evenings for our Lent study. If you are like me, I believe you will find some habits, attitudes and prejudices you may want to work on with the Lord as He helps us become all He wants us to be.

Plan to join us as we explore ways to become more like Christ as He prunes from us those branches that are not productive as we live for Him. We will meet on Wednesday morning, March 5, at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Join me as together we see how good we can be as the Lord challenges and encourages us to live abundantly and freely for Him.

Bro. John King





## The Lenten Desert

During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, “O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.”



The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. “This is what Lent is meant to be,” writes theologian Ron Rolheiser, “Time is the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other.”

## Creation-wide Praise Chorus

“All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing!” These words – just one paraphrase of a text by St. Francis of Assisi—seem a fitting description of springtime, when leaves and flowers pop out afresh, birdsong is heard again and hibernating animals emerge from dens and burrows, many with new babies in tow.

Psalm 148 may have served as inspiration for Francis, calling not only “young men and women alike, old and young together” (v.12 NRSV), but also animals and birds, wind and water, mountains and trees, to praise the Lord. James L. Mays writes: “We human beings ... should recognize that we are on the list with all the creation and creatures as creature and creation ourselves. We are in our obligation to praise no different from and no more than all the rest.”

When you head outside on a bright spring day, notice what praise looks like in nonhuman form and how it sounds from nonhuman voices. How can we best join “all creatures of our God and King” in worship?

Let **everything**  
that **breathes**  
**praise the**  
**LORD!**

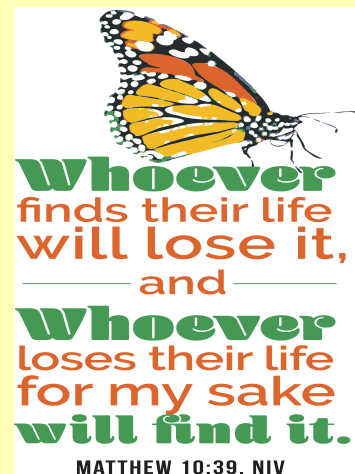
Psalm 150:6, NRSV



## Two-Way Benefits


When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless,” observed Connecticut politician Pauling Keezer. “But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.” Indeed, it’s impossible to shine light in someone else’s life without lightening up your own.

We might think being generous toward another with our time or possessions leaves us with less. But as Jesus said, “Whoever loses their life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 10:39, NIV). How common it is that when we minister to others in Christ’s name, we find we have also—or perhaps even more so—received ministry. This is the miracle of God’s love at work.





# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Communion</b> Gail McCaskill  <b>Offering</b> Marcus Register Fund	<b>Weekly Schedule</b> <b>Wednesdays</b> Bible Study 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 5:30 p.m. <b>Thursdays</b> Healthy Living Group 5:00 p.m.			<b>Ushers</b> Russell Scholz David Murrell  <b>Standby</b> Bill Gaskin		<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> ♪Montez Golden ♪Porter Smith	<b>4</b> <b>GriefShare</b> 5:00 p.m.  ♪Gail McCaskill	<b>5</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b>  ♪Roger Willaims	<b>6</b>  ♥Amanda & Perry McGhee	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 
<b>9</b> First Sunday of Lent	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>GriefShare</b> 5:00 p.m.	<b>12</b>  ♪Pam Hand	<b>13</b> Sister Friends' Coffee & Chat 10 a.m.	<b>14</b>  ♪Gary Parrish	<b>15</b> ♥Peggy & Jimmy Cox
<b>16</b> Second Sunday of Lent  Church Council 12 noon	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>GriefShare</b> 5:00 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  ♪Elijah Jordan
<b>23</b> Third Sunday of Lent  ♪Jaden McGhee	<b>24</b> ♥Pam & Ronnie Hand ←	<b>25</b> <b>GriefShare</b> 5:00 p.m.  ♪Laurie James	<b>26</b>  ♪Wynelle Bateman	<b>27</b>  ♪Virginia Williams	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  ♥DellAnne & Michael Schruefer
<b>30</b> <b>Singspiration Fellowship Meal</b>	<b>31</b> ♪Janis Weiler	<b>GriefShare Support Group to begin on March 4, at 5:00 p.m.</b> The sessions are independent, If you can't attend them all don't worry, attend when you can or want to.			<b>Don't forget to join us for our Third Sunday Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and stay for Sunday School.</b>	





## Our Caring Ministry List

### Short Term Concerns

Gale Ferguson  
George McNew  
Theresa Merchant  
Laurie Mowrey  
Tim Mowrey  
Virginia Williams

### Intercessory Prayer

Larry Carter  
Phyllis Miller

### Those Battling Cancer

Melissa Bailey  
Jimmy DeVane  
Vivian Eckerson  
Heather Leonard  
Wayne Posey

### Our Shut – Ins

Betty Ann Cayson  
Alva Martin  
Virginia Williams

### 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!

## Jesus, the Model of Salt and Light

In Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus tells his followers, “You are the salt of the earth. ... You are the light of the world.” Through his example, our Savior showed us what that means.

“The remarkable thing is that Jesus brought it all into reality in his own person,” writes Bible scholar N.T. Wright in *Matthew for Everyone*. “He was the salt of the earth. He was the light of the world: set up on a hilltop, crucified for all the world to see, becoming a beacon of hope and new life for everybody, drawing people to worship he [F]ather, embodying the way of self-giving love which is the deepest [fulfillment] of the law and the prophets.

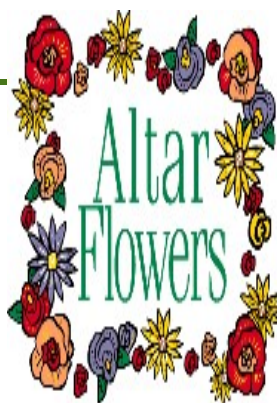
## Lenten Challenge

To search our souls, to mediate, will not suffice for Lent.  
To share the cross, to sacrifice; these are the things  
God meant.

— Jane McKay Lanning

## March Flower Calendar

- 2 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Register
- 9 Mr. & Mrs. Laddie Williams
- 16 Mr. & Mrs. Henry McCrone
- 23 Miss. Stacy Sims
- 30 Mr. & Mrs. Glen McClellan



## A Prayer for Lent

Dear Christ, hasten to me. Release me from my sins. Free my arms from the chains of evil, that I may embrace you. Lift the scales of ignorance from my eyes that I may see you. Why do you delay? What are you waiting for? You are my God and my Lord, you are my refuge and strength, you are my glory and my hope. In you I put my trust. Dear Christ, hasten to me.

-The monk known as Alfred of Rievaulx in Yorkshire, England

# Blountstown United Methodist Church

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## Family Prayer List



## volume 2 • number 3

1. Zach Taylor Family /  
Chris & John Tomlinson
2. Ann & Mike Tucker /  
Janie & Jack Weiler
3. Jarred Weiler Family /  
Cherie White Family
4. Doug Whitfield Family /  
Vicky & Steve Whitfield
5. Laura & Roger Williams /  
Marvin Williams
6. Mary Ann Williams /  
Mary Beth Williams
7. Virginia & Laddie Williams /  
Barbara Wilson
8. Eric Alford /  
Easter Alford
9. Dresia Barfield /  
John Barfield Family
10. Wynelle Bateman /  
Betty Ann Cayson
11. Jane Creamer /  
David Corbin Family
12. Donna & Finlay Corbin /  
Norma Failes
13. Gale & Joe Ferguson /  
Mary Flowers
14. Frank Gates /  
Gina Gates Family
15. Bill Gaskin /  
Montez Golden
16. Peggy Hall /  
Norah Handley
17. Louise & Sonny Harrison /  
Trevor Haser Family
18. Eileen Hatch /  
Brooks Hayes Family
19. Cheri & Quentin Henderson /  
Mark Herndon Family
20. Jackie & David House /  
Nick Hughes Family
21. Laurie James Family /  
Sandra & Jim Jines
22. Seth Jones Family /  
Billy Jordan Family
23. Becki Kastli Family /  
Cathy & Glenn Kimbrel
24. Jonathan Kimbrel Family /  
John King
25. Clay Knight /  
Annie Jo Landers Family
26. Hester Leonard /  
Alva Martin
27. Sally & Mike Mayo /  
Gail & Jo Mike McCaskill
28. Marc McCaskill Family /  
Michael McCaskill Family
29. Barbara & Hentz McClellan /  
Danita & Glen McClellan
30. Heath McClellan Family /  
Kyle McClellan Family
31. Sharon & Henry McCrone /  
Perry McGhee Family