

Circuit Writer

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Special Dates:

- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 6 - Epiphany
- January 11 - Baptism of the Lord
- January 18 - Council Meeting
- January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Blountstown United Methodist Church

The Foundation of Our Faith

Jesus' resurrection is the very foundation of Christianity. If Christ had never been raised from the dead, we'd have to Christian faith.

God's power was at work in Christ's death and resurrection. "It was on the resurrection fact that the church was built," said New Testament scholar James Stewart.

Paul understood that the resurrection was the bedrock of our faith; "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14, ESV). He continued, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17, ESV).

The resurrection proves that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Its authenticity means that by faith in Christ, we are reconciled with God.

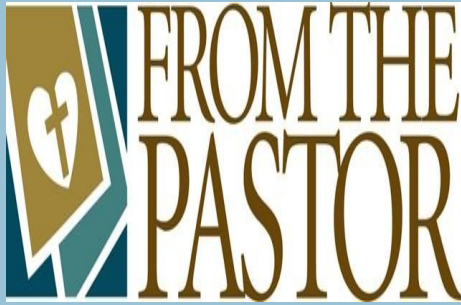
Billy Graham said the risen Christ is the bridge between us and God: "One of Christ's hands holds the hand of God; his other hand holds ours."



For God So Loved

One of the hallmarks of John's short sermons is that they almost always contain the plan of salvation in a single verse. Here it is verse 16: "This is how God showed his love to the world. He gave his one and only son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have life eternal." In perhaps the most beautiful words ever written, this verse presents the why as well as the how of God's redeeming love. Later, in his letters, John will betray a preoccupation with the question "What is the meaning of love?" Here he gives himself and all of the answer.

—Michael Card in The Parable of Joy.



Appointment with God

**The Sanctuary of
Blountstown United
Methodist Church
is open every
Sunday evening,
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

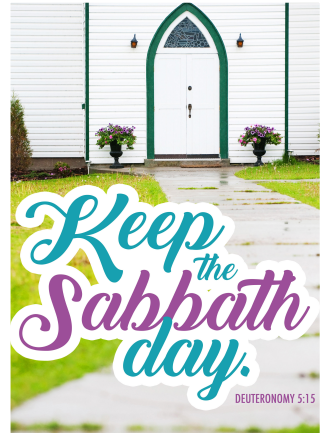
**Come by, spend as
much time as you wish
in the quietness of
God's presence.**

**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.**



I am standing at the beginning of the second quarter of the 21st. century, wondering where the first quarter has gone. I agree with Job when he observed, "My life passes swiftly away, filled with tragedy. My years disappear like swift ships, like the eagle that swoops upon its prey. Job 25-26 (Living Bible)

Charlie Kirk was killed in September as he spoke to a crowd at Utah Valley University. He was 31, and the married father of two young children. His martyrdom has sent a shockwave across the nation and mobilized thousands of young supporters on college campuses across the United States.



Charlie's influence continues to be felt throughout the nation and will continue to impact us. In his last book, *Stop, In the Name of God: Why Honoring the Sabbath Will Transform Your Life*, completed shortly before his death, he helps us discover how observing the Sabbath isn't a rejection of modern life but a rebellion against busyness and a pathway to genuine connection, peace, and presence.

Charlie writes, "In this book, I intend to persuade you of something that may, at first, seem quaint, old-fashion, or even unnecessary: that the Sabbath is not merely a helpful tradition or a cultural relic – it is essential to the flourishing of the human soul. I will define the Sabbath not just in doctrinal terms but in existential ones. We will explore its origin - not in history, but in eternity; not in law, but in creation... I will show you how to incorporate it not as a weekly burger but as a life-giving rhythm that reorders your time, renews your mind, and restores your humanity."

This book "is not written for the religiously initiated alone... This is not a suggestion manual or a spiritual upgrade for those with spare time. This is a manifesto against the machine of modern life. It is a call to war against the endless noise and ceaseless hurry that have slowly robbed you of your joy, your wonder, and your rest." He recognized the negative influence and impact of social media and wrote to interrupt our current lifestyle. "I am writing to cut at the root of some of the deepest wounds in our society – disconnection, anxiety, spiritual fatigue, mortal confusion — and to offer you a concrete, ancient, and divine practice that can begin to heal them. "As America has abandoned the Sabbath, we have watched nearly every major marker of health- emotional, spiritual, communal - begin to fail," he wrote. "We are more productive and less peaceful, more

Continued on page 3



From the Pastor continued from page 2

connected digitally and more isolated relationally. We are over-stimulated, undernourished, distracted, discontent, and desperately lonely."

Charlie Kirk brings the reader back to the summer of 2021, saying his life was "in perfect order," and after marrying Erika Kirk, his life "was as good as it gets. But on the inside, there was a battle brewing. I was fatigued, tired, and spiritually confused." He discussed how he began to unplug, recharge and reconnect with God, family, and himself through observing the Sabbath.

We cannot slow the passing of time. But we can turn off the devices that crowd our days and cloud our minds with the fog of stuff that really doesn't matter, and take time to rest and reflect on who we are, what we have done and what we wish to do in the future. After all, God did that after He had created the world. Charlie Kirk found that taking a day to completely unplug and unwind to reset his clock rejuvenated his spirit. I'm going to try it. I bet it will do the same for me. Why not join us and see what happens?

Bro John

"Getting me into hot water is often God's way of keeping me clean."

— Ruth Zimmerman

When All Else Fails—God Reigns

When we deliberate, God reigns;
When we decide wisely, God reigns;
When we decided foolishly, God reigns;
When we serve God in humble loyalty, God reigns;
When we serve God self-assertively, God reigns;
When we rebel and seek to withhold our service, God reigns

—

The Alpha and the Omega, which is, and which was and which is to come, the Almighty.

— William Temple



A Purposeful New Year



The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life,

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.



January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion Beth Herndon Offering Calhoun Liberty Ministry Center		Ushers Glenn Kimbrel Jimmy Cox Standby Stewart Herndon		1 Happy New Year! Church Office closed	2	3 ♪ Vicky Whitfield
4 Epiphany Sunday ♪ Olivia Averett	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7 Choir practice begins	8 ♪ John King	9	10 ♥ Joan & Ken Sheppard
11 ♪ Perry McGhee	12	13	14 Bible Study begins	15	16 ♥ Vicky & Steve Whitfield	17
18 Church Council Meeting 12 noon	19 Martin Luther King Day ♪ Nick Hughes	20 ♪ Sarah Lynn White	21 ♪ Delilah Jordan	22 ♪ Jim Jines ♪ Emma Kimbrel	23	24 ♪ Henry McCrone
25	26	27	28	29 ♪ Tyler Cox ♪ Laura Williams	30 ♪ Briella Kate Whitfield ♥ Karen & David Murrell	31



Our Caring Ministry List

The new year brings a fresh clean calendar, and 2026 brings the same to "Our Caring Ministry List".

To have an active list of prayer concerns updates must be current and continuous. A little info on how the concerns are listed. The names placed on the short term list include such things as a new and/or life changing diagnosis, a scheduled test and results, an upcoming surgery or procedures. The short term list is just that, for short term needs.

The intercessory list is for those who are dealing with long term concerns such as rehab, therapy, recovery and hospice care. The other categories are self-explanatory; cancer, shut-ins, and military. Some concerns will move from one category to another as needed.

To place a name on Our Caring Ministry List contact the office by phone, email, note in the offering plate or in person. We ask that a small amount of information be included, for the office use only. The prayer concern will only be shared if that is the wish of the person.

Our Caring Ministry List is only as active as the updates, please help keep our list accurate and up to date. Thank you!



Prayer for the Church

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.



"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it, where it is in error, direct it, where in anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunited it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Faith in Action

A Christian is someone who makes it easier for others to believe in God — not through perfection, but through kindness, grace and love in everyday life. When people see Christ's compassion in us, they're drawn closer to Him.



January Flower Calendar

- 04 Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Cox
- 11 Mr. & Mrs. Glenn McClellan
- 18 Mrs. Vance Bateman
- 25 Mrs. Don Stephens



Blountstown United Methodist Church

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Family & Friends Prayer List

volume • number 1

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