

Day of Prayer...from Page 1A

messages was that of Pastor Tim Mason, who spoke about

American youth.

When Pastor Mason

asked that any children or teenagers in the sanctuary stand and be recognized, no one stood up.



Photo by Mark Smith

Pastors Derrick Hartley, Terry Stuart, Tim Mason, Daryl Flake, Bill Schakat, Dave Wesche, Marty Duncan, Don Parmely and George Cline all led prayers at the 2018 National Day of Prayer event at First Baptist Church Blairsville.

That's because there were no young people present, even in a place like Blairsville, Georgia, which Pastor Mason pointed out as a sign of the times.

"We are reaping in America things we've sown because there's been a complete devastation of the family unit as we know it," said Mason. "There's a lack of respect, lack of honor, lack of manners, lack of morals amongst young people."

Pastor Mason was quick to point out that Union County has some great kids, but that in general, the youth of America need prayer to bring them back into the fold with Biblical principles.

Elected officials in attendance were recognized by Pastor Daryl Flake, who prayed that all national, state and local government officials, including President Donald Trump, be saved in Christ and be guided by "a spirit of humility" in their duties to the American people.

Pastor Bill Schakat recognized American military veterans, including those in attendance, those currently serving at home and abroad, and those who had given their lives for the American nation being prayed for that evening.

In defending a Christian nation, Schakat said that members of the U.S. military are soldiers for Christ, though he believes that the onus is

on all American citizens to become warriors for God.

"Discipleship is boot camp for spiritual warfare. Believers must constantly be on guard and be ready to fight," said Schakat, referring to Ephesians 6, which asks people to take up the whole armor of God against the spiritual forces of evil.

All told, pastors from nine different churches in Union County gave testimonies and prayed for nine different national concerns that plague the nation and its culture today.

Concerns prayed over included: National, State and Local Officials; Armed Forces; First Responders; Education; Youth and Families; World Missions; Media and Business; and pastors and the Body of Christ.

Pastor Tim Mason closed the event with a heartwarming solo of "I Love This Land."

The following church leaders led prayers that

evening: Pastor Derrick Hartley of First Baptist Church Blairsville; Pastor Terry Stuart of Blairsville Church of Christ; Pastor Tim Mason of Shining Light Baptist Church; Pastor Daryl Flake of House of Prayer Church;

Pastor Bill Schakat of Redeemer Baptist Church; Pastor Dave Wesche of All Saints Lutheran Church; Pastor Marty Duncan of Fellowship of the Hills Church; Pastor Don Parmely of New Life Family Church; and Pastor George Cline of Antioch Baptist Church.

In honor of the National Day of Prayer, other churches around the region also hosted prayer observances on May 3.

The National Day of Prayer is observed on the first Thursday in May each year, so residents are encouraged to mark their calendars in advance of the 2019 event.

Inclement weather plan for UCHS Graduation on May 25

In the event inclement weather is forecasted for Friday evening, the UCHS Graduation Ceremony will be held 8 p.m. at the Union County Fine Arts Center. A decision regarding this change will be made at the earliest on Friday, May 25th.

Graduating seniors will be given five tickets for guests

who attend the ceremony at the Fine Arts Center, and each guest will be required to present a ticket upon entering the ceremony. For all other guests, the ceremony will be streamed live at the UCHS gym. You may also find a YouTube link at the Union County Schools website, www.ucschools.org, to watch the ceremony live.