



**September 8, 2017**

I can barely remember when the space shuttle Challenger exploded, but I understand the horror thousands of people must have felt as the events unfolded. And in the immediate aftermath I think it was natural to ask questions like “what happened?” and wonder what could have caused such a horrific thing to happen. After months of investigation the group asked to investigate the shuttle’s explosion discovered that a faulty o-ring on a rocket booster caused it! To make a long story short, it wasn’t something huge that caused the disaster, but rather a small, seemingly insignificant piece of equipment.

I think there’s a lesson here for the church. What if the big sins, you know the ones you try hardest to avoid (i.e. addictions, adultery, sexual immorality, murder, etc.), aren’t the greatest threats to your spiritual life and the church’s mission? Instead, maybe it’s the sins lying underneath - the ones considered “normal” or “acceptable”, the ones going undetected, that affect the church the most.

For example, what about the sin of fear? The phrases “do not fear” and “do not be afraid” appear 365 times in the Bible. Coincidence? I don’t think so. As a Christian, the one sin that shouldn’t plague us is fear. We should be filled with hope. Yet, Christians are often some of the most fearful people on earth. Even salvation, for some, is rooted in fear. Does it bother

anyone that a popular method of introducing people to Jesus has been an attempt to, literally, scare the hell out of them? Furthermore, the church is scared to make decisions out of fear and a mentality of scarcity. Christians are hesitant to step into dangerous situations out of a fear of what might happen. However, I John 4 tells us that God is love and that there is “no fear in love.” Therefore, if the catalyst for our obedience is fear, where is God in that?

Or, what about the sin of gluttony? In my younger days, I would literally eat myself sick. I mean, if I ordered food, I ate all of it and naturally this presented a problem when I ate at buffets. Looking back, I see that my attitude was gluttonous. And the gluttony wasn't just that I ate myself sick, but it was that I used a gift God gave me on myself in excess. Gluttony is primarily about the heart and an attempt to fill a void in our lives that only a relationship with God can fill. This type of sin can apply to food, alcohol, relationships, work, hobbies, material things and so much more. It's craving in excess of something other than God.

Then there is the sin of worry. The great philosopher/movie character Van Wilder once said, “Worrying is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere.” And he is right, but Van Wilder isn't the only one who talked about worry. Jesus said you shouldn't worry about anything (Matt. 6:25-34). I think the reason Jesus mentions this is because worrying is symptomatic of a larger issue- lack of faith. Many of us spend a lot of time worrying about things that ultimately we have little control over. We worry over our health, the weather, traffic, the environment, politics and the like, but in reality our worry changes very little while increasing the burdens we carry through life and limiting our ability to trust God.

These are just a few examples of practices we rarely consider when we talk about the presence and prevalence of sin in our lives. Other “small” sins that can cause great damage in our lives and to the mission of the church are gossip, anger, pride, jealousy and lying. All of these practices harm our witness as Christ followers and the witness of the Church to the world around us that is often times looking for a different way to navigate their lives. By the grace of God at work in our lives I hope we take an opportunity to be real about the presence of sin in our lives and not just the “big” sins, but also the “smaller” ones that can cause enormous damage as well.

I hope you have a great rest of the week and to see you on Sunday. God bless!!

Bro. David

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## **Prayer Requests**

- **Teresa Giuliani**, sister of Kathilu Mote, stage 4 breast cancer
- **Cam Palmer**, brother of Holly Palmer, pancreatic cancer
- **Dottie Taylor**, cousin of Donna Wheatley, in hospital for stroke
- **John Holmes**, friend of Donna Wheatley, health issues
- **Lauren** – friend of Kathilu Mote, friend's daughter entering drug rehab
- **Lowell Hawkins**, cancer treatment
- **Susan Carter**, friend of Crystal Mallery, cancer diagnosis
- **Charlene Lagerwerff**, sister of Elaine Forrest, shattered elbow
- **Phil Clauss**, father of Jennifer McGuire, cancer treatments
- **Jim Bowers**, family of Tamara Bowers-Shupp, health concerns
- **Ernie Onks**, Uncle of Jason Onks, cancer diagnosis
- **Doug Kincaid**, family friend of Abigail Mote, recovering from cancer treatments

- **Debbie Williams**, friend of Karen Sloan, liver cancer
- **Marco Nunez**, friend of Karen Sloan, lymphoma
- **Severin Hymel**, cousin of Karen Sloan, pancreatic cancer
- **Monroe Peagler**, brother of Reather Arnold, health concerns

## **Announcements**

*In case of inclement weather, stay tuned to Facebook, Twitter and email for updates on church services and activities.*

- Hurricane Relief Effort: Monday September 11th from 2:00–4:00 @ Feed America First [319 Murfreesboro St, Murfreesboro, TN 37127](#). We will be packing up Flood Buckets that have been prepared for UMCOR to be sent to Texas. Contact Chandra Inglis for information.
- Hurricane Irma: If you know of anyone fleeing from Florida as a result of Hurricane Irma and needing a free place to stay the church will be available as a shelter. Please contact Bro. David ([931-267-0884](#)) or Chandra Inglis ([615-630-2044](#)) to make arrangements.
- Did you know...that we have a flower ministry here at church? If you would like to give altar flowers in honor or in memory of someone the cost is \$35 and you may sign up on the bulletin board to your immediate right going down the hallway.

- Outreach Café: “If you are interested in volunteering to periodically provide a small snack between our 1st service and Sunday School for our Outreach Cafe, please email Beth Onks at [beth@the4onks.com](mailto:beth@the4onks.com), and she will sign you up! We greatly appreciate all who volunteer to provide those yummy snacks in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays.”
- DISCIPLE Bible Study is an in–depth study of the Bible for adults of all ages. New study groups have now been formed and there are plenty of spaces left. These classes would love to welcome you, so feel free to contact the teachers below; here are some details about days and times:

DISCIPLE I (Betsy Williams) – Tuesdays 6 – 9 PM starts Sept. 12

DISCIPLE II (John and Elaine Forrest)–Thursdays 1–4 PM starts Sept.7

DISCIPLE IV (Stacy Soules) – Mondays 6 – 9 PM starts Sept. 11

Please note again – there is still room in each class for additional participants.

This is also the first time we have offered a day class, so if you are free on Thursday afternoon and have completed Disciple I, please see John & Elaine Forrest, they would love to have you join their Disciple II class.

- Wednesday Night Program returning next Wednesday, September 6th. Dinner at 5:30 with prices: \$5/teens & adults, \$2/children (5–12), under 5 is free and there is a max per family of \$20. Classes start at 6:15. Class choices: Methodism 101 with Bro. David, Bible Study on Prophets led by John Slocum, “Exploring God’s Love Thru Art” with Chandra Inglis. Childcare will be available.

- **Save the Date: Children's Fall Art Retreat:**  
The Retreat will be \$65 per attendee and is scheduled for November 10th and 11th at Horton Haven Christian Camp in Chapel Hill. This retreat is for children in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex and more details to follow.
- **Benefit Concert:** There will be a benefit concert, Sunday, September 10th from 4–5pm, for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The musical group "Work in Progress" will play and sing in the sanctuary. An Offering will be taken; see Karen Sloan for more information.
- **Save the date:** September 17th, the Men's group will be going to a car museum, 1–4pm.....more details to follow.
- All church members and visitors are invited to a **Sing–A–Long** at Sunnington Assisted Living; located at [1658 Lascassas Pike](#), Murf. 37130. We will sing once a month till the end of the year and the next date is Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Come and join us, you will surely be blessed.
- **Children's Church** is always looking for adults to lead & assist. Contact the church office if you are interested; [office@blackmanumc.com](mailto:office@blackmanumc.com) or [615-893-0347](tel:615-893-0347).
- If you would like to be added to our weekly e–newsletter, please email [office@blackmanumc.com](mailto:office@blackmanumc.com)

Wednesday night programming has begun.  
Join us in the youth class!







## Youth

Wednesday Night Programming began September 6<sup>th</sup>. The youth theme for the next 7 weeks will be “Artistic Spiritual Journey”. If you enjoy painting, writing, singing, making jewelry, music even wood working this is the class for you. Youth are also encouraged to help prepare and serve the meal. Students can arrive any time after 3:30 to help with meal preparation. Students that help with meal prep and serving also get to eat for free. By the way did you know that any proceeds from the dinners we serve go to help fund local mission projects.

Be sure to mark your calendar now for our September 10<sup>th</sup>, parent and

student meeting. We will be filling out our annual paper work and have a notary present to make it convenient. We will end the night with a parent verses youth kickball game. Dinner will be provided. This meeting will start at 4:30. Please let Chandra know if you will not be able to attend this meeting.

Sign-ups for fall retreat are under way please sign up as soon as you can. You may invite a friend for fall retreat but they will need to attend the parent meeting on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> or see Chandra for paperwork. We have to have a good count on the canoes we will need and the amount of tents we will need to round up, so please register asap. (did I mention that God blessed us with the ability to offer fall retreat to you at no cost to you this year)

Anyone that would like to provide dinner for our Sunday night youth meal may do so by signing up on our sign up genius at the link on the bottom of this youth announcement. Most often this is done by our parents but if you or your group would like to provide it, we welcome you to do so.

From faith development to data entry, there are many ways to serve in our youth program. We have opportunities for you. If you are interested in using your spiritual gifts or other knowledge toward youth ministry, please see Chandra.

Youth, we currently have positions in our church that can be filled by youth volunteers. If you are interested in serving on a church committee, as a greeter or a worship tech please let Chandra know. Grace Towle is overseeing our sign ministry and is looking for two other volunteers to join her.

For your convenience you can keep up with all things youth ministry through our google calendar and our fast list of events. Here's our link:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=rccbec2mhmv2e9nj0g6hfmk%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago%22%20style=%22border:%200%22%20width=%22800%22%20height=%22600%22%20frameborder=%220%22>



**8:30 am:**

Stacy Soules, Worship Leader  
Grace Moore & Jaxon Chatman, Acolytes  
Janet Wichtman, Lay Reader  
Mike Rose, Sound Tech, Sarah Stockton, Multimedia Tech

**10:45 am:**

Brandon Whitt, Worship Leader  
Camden Williams, Acolyte  
Karen Sloan, Lay Reader  
Mark Spears, Sound Tech

**Church Staff**

Pastor: Rev. David Stockton, [pastor@blackmanumc.com](mailto:pastor@blackmanumc.com)  
Music Director: Mike Rose, [music@blackmanumc.com](mailto:music@blackmanumc.com)  
Youth Director: Chandra Inglis, [youth@blackmanumc.com](mailto:youth@blackmanumc.com)  
Administrative Assistant: Mary Rose Gansel, [office@blackmanumc.com](mailto:office@blackmanumc.com)

*[\(Missed a sermon? Check the Blackman UMC sermons archive by clicking here!](#)*