



January 5th, 2018

Matthew 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him.

This Sunday marks a very important date on the Christian calendar. It is Epiphany Sunday. A day to observe the arrival of the wise men in the Western Churches. It marks the end of Christmas season or Christmastide. In the earliest traditions, of the Eastern churches, the day began a period that celebrated the incarnation and baptism of Christ.

The most familiar things come to our mind for this day. Wise men bringing gifts to the new born King and the famous "We Three Kings" song. They believed the baby born in the manger was Christ the King so they followed a bright star to find the Christ child. When they arrived they gave gifts to the Child and worshiped him.

This story is inspiring. It is a story about people, wise people, seeking Christ. The question is, "How can we be wise men and women in 2018?". Our journey is going to be different than the wise men of biblical days. We will not be required to follow a star in the sky and travel miles and miles to find a young child.

Instead we are already given the knowledge of the resurrection. After weeks of preparing for the birth of Christ it is important to remember that His entire life was important not just the familiar story of a baby born in a manger. The story doesn't end at His birth, His life, his death, or His resurrection. His story lives on and we are part of his story.

The first of the year is always a good time to revisit your relationship with God. Relationships need to be worked on; they don't happen without effort. The wise men made an effort to go see Jesus. So look for ways to put effort into your relationship with Christ this new year. They brought Him gifts. Give Jesus yourself this year, through your time, attention and acts of kindness. As we start a new calendar year some of you may have made New Year's resolutions and honestly some of you may have already broken some of them. The Good News is that Jesus makes promises to us that are never broken. It is never too late to start working on your relationship with Christ. It can be a new journey or it can be an old journey that you are continuing. Jesus is there and ready to journey with you through 2018. Let Him lead the way; no star needed, "He is the light of the World."

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Chandra Inglis

Prayer Requests

- **Carrie Borchers**, friend of Tamara Harris, health concerns, lymph nodes
- **Clara Williamson**, sister of Margaret Brogdon, hospitalized for flu
- **John Sloan**, recovery from flu
- **Braxton Matt**, 3 yrs. old, brain tumor removed
- **Kathy Davis**, sister of Jennifer Simons, health concerns
- **Bill Lambert**, father of Caroline Houchens, cancer diagnosis
- **Phil Clauss**, father of Jennifer McGuire, stem cell transplant on 12/11
- **Sue Marcum**, friend of Ginny Mathes, recovery from stroke
- **Bruce Broden**, brother of Scott Broden, lung cancer treatments
- **Teresa Giuliani**, sister of Kathilu Mote, stage 4 breast cancer

Announcements

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

- *Saturday January 6th, is the next breakfast for both the United Methodist Men's group and also the Simply Fellowship Women's group. It will be at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is always invited to come and fellowship. We would also like to let you know that we are thinking about doing an adult retreat soon. Does that interest you? If so, come and join us for breakfast tomorrow.*
- Youth: The Warmth in Winter cost is \$150.00. Many of you have earned different amounts off of the total cost already. Everyone has 25.00 due on Sunday, January 7th to secure your spot.
- Note the date: January 14th at 8:30, the American Red Cross will be in our Fellowship Hall doing a blood drive. We have a sign up sheet in our Narthex.
- VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH: This lunch is to honor all volunteers for Blackman United Methodist Church. Please come and join us, Sunday, January 28th, in the Fellowship Hall directly after the second service.

Christmas Eve Thank You!

We feel giving is an important part of our faith, especially during the Christmas season and this is why we chose to collect a special offering during both of our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. This year's offering was donated to both an organization working to end forced labor, slavery and human trafficking/exploitation in Tennessee (End Slavery Tennessee) and an organization here in Murfreesboro committed to serving those experiencing chronic homelessness in our community (Murfreesboro Cold Patrol). **We thank you for your**

generosity this holiday season in helping those in need. We raised \$1218.72 for each organization on Dec. 24th. The grand total was \$2437.44



We would like to announce and welcome our new custodian Mr. Wayne Bradford to our BUMC family. Wayne is also currently employed by service solutions and is a custodian at MTSU.

Acolytes Sign-Up

We are now scheduling our Acolytes for Q1 (January - March) 2018. Acolytes usually are children ages 3rd Grade through 6th grade and older. They help with worship each week and with communion on the first Sunday of each month.

It has never been easier to sign up. Just go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d4faaaf2fa7f85-bumc> and select a date and time that your children are available. You can also email Mike Rose as music@blackmanumc.com.

If your children are new to this, we will provide training to get them started.

Thanks to all our Acolyte families for serving in worship!

Youth Calendar

January 7 Reg. Youth 5 pm.

January 14 Reg. Youth 5 pm.

January 21 Reg. Youth 5 pm.

January 28 Reg. Youth 5 pm.

February 4 Reg. Youth 5 pm.

February 9, 10 & 11 Warmth in Winter

A Word about Worship for 1/7/2018

Isaiah 60: 1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12

Leaders in Worship Today

Rev. David Stockton
Mike Rose, Music Director,
Jan MacKrell, piano

8:30 am:

Stacy Soules, Worship Leader
Grace & Maggie Moore, Acolytes
Don Mitchell, Lay Reader
Mike Rose, Sound Tech, Sarah Stockton, Multimedia Tech
Chandra Inglis, Stacy Soules & Maddie Peck, Communion Servers
Susie Seadorf, Communion Prep

10:45 am:

Brandon Whitt, Worship Leader
Graham & Ellis Jourdan, Acolytes
Diana Dalen, Lay Reader
Mark Spears, Sound Tech, Benji Barnes, Multimedia Tech
Chandra Inglis, Corey Greeson & Judy Shewmake, Communion Servers
Trish Ziegemeier, Communion Prep

Church Staff

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

(Missed a sermon? Check the Blackman UMC sermons archive by clicking here!)



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Our mailing address is:
Blackman United Methodist Church
4380 Manson Pike
Murfreesboro, TN 37129