



May 4, 2018

As many of you know last weekend Sarah and I took a weekend trip to Chicago in celebration of our wedding anniversary. I am grateful to Chandra for doing such a great job preaching on Sunday and for everyone's well wishes around our anniversary. We had a great trip that was filled with some wonderful new experiences. These experiences sparked some interesting thoughts in my mind, and I wanted to share a few of those with you today.

Our hotel was located on the famous Magnificent Mile (a.k.a. Michigan Avenue) in downtown Chicago a couple of blocks away from the Disney Store, which we passed while exploring the area. Having a couple of three year olds at home we naturally felt compelled to visit this store to see if we could find the girls something fun. As we were leaving the store I saw on the wall outside the store part of a quote from Walt Disney that caught my attention, "Animation can explain whatever the mind of man can conceive." This quote helped frame a lot of what I experienced in Chicago, but also inspired me to think about the nature of God's call upon each of our lives to love and serve God and neighbor.

For example, on Friday night we had the unique opportunity to go see the musical Hamilton. If you have not seen it then it is hard to fully explain how unique it is because almost the entire show is sung in a hip-hop/rap rhythm. I am blown away by a stage actors' ability to remember and recite their spoken lines, but I was even more stunned by these characters' ability to SING the lines at such a quick pace. However, I was even more fascinated by the idea that someone conceived, created and helped execute such a distinctive artistic expression. I think this speaks to the creative power of the human mind, a power that God instilled within us at creation. To be sure, not all creative expressions are used to praise God, but the ability to conceive and create things is given to us by God.

Beyond the experience at Hamilton we were able to see the animation of so many other wonderful conceptions of the human mind. From the ability of the human mind to construct 100-floor skyscrapers, to create delicious food, to imagine a game like baseball in a place like Wrigley Field, to conceive a way to overcome the laws of physics and bring the world the gift of flight - all of these unique abilities were given to us by God.

I don't think these people were the only one's that God has equipped with special abilities to envision creative things. Therefore, I wonder what unique gifts has God given you. Are your gifts found in music, sports, theatre, construction, cooking, finances, science? I believe that God has given each of us gifts to do various things, but it is up to us to utilize them. If you aren't sure what gifts God has given you or you aren't sure how to go about using them I would love the chance to visit with you and help you find answers to those questions.

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

Bro. David

Prayer Requests

- **Wayne Pyle**, father of Maribeth Towle, proper diagnosis and healing
- **Bill Lambert**, father of Caroline Houchens, cancer diagnosis
- **Sharon Hendrixson**, sister of Crystal Mallery, cancer diagnosis and ongoing tests
- **Ed Kriner**, spouse of Connie Kriner, 4/20 surgery for blocked artery
- **Bruce Broden**, complications with cancer treatment
- **Praise Report: Tally Arnold's** Carotid Artery surgery went well, thank you for your prayers.
- **Praise report: Breanna Jessie**, relative of Dick Stidom, received a double lung transplant due to cystic fibrosis and is doing well.
- **Grant Allen Reed**, cancer
- **John Sloan**, spouse of Karen Sloan, bladder cancer
- **Mike Murphy**, friend of Mary Rose Gansel, Stage IV Neck Cancer
- **Eddie Peel**, stage 4 cancer
- **Malcolm Hart**, friend of the Peck family, pancreatic cancer



I would like to thank God for a the most successful pancake breakfast ever. The total was over \$1600 and it was a great day.

I would like to share something personal with you. Recently I have been bowling in a league on Monday mornings. Some weeks I bowl well, other weeks my fellow team members bowl well. But I have been reminded that even with a pancake breakfast, church or family event, it all takes a team. A team of loving one another and caring about the same things; all willing to work together.

Last Saturday the team was God, pancake crew, youth, helpers and the community.

Here at Blackman, we are a team. But this team can always use more team members for all the things the team is involved in. And finally in bowling, the last member bowling on the team is called the anchor, need I say more?

Dave Seadorf

Announcements

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

- **Birth Announcement:** We would like to announce and congratulate Teresa and John Brockwell at the birth of their new grandson Luke Trousdale; born May 1st, to their parents Lauren and Jonathan in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
- **Volunteers are needed** for the Welcome Desk in the lobby; if you can help, call or text Debbie Mann at 615-869-8325
- **Project Transformation:** Project Transformation time is near and we need your help! Blackman UMC has been asked to donate the following items for the children:
boxes of new colored markers, boxes of coffee filters, packs of construction paper, & packs of drinking straws. You will find a display in the narthex which has each item on a slip of paper. Take one or more of the slips with the item(s) you intend to donate. Please have all the items back to the church on or before Sunday, May 13th. Thank you! Any questions, contact Deanna Kendall at fraudk@comcast.net or Trish Ziegemeier atcstlziggy@att.net
- **Mother's Day Brunch**— We will gather to celebrate mothers with a brunch on May 13th (next Sunday) between services. The United Methodist Men will be sponsoring this event and handling all the cooking, so all you need to do is come enjoy good food and a wonderful time of celebration.
- **The next Sing-a-long** at Rutherford Assisted Living will be May 18th, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited to share in this special experience with the residents. Bring your voice and a smile! Hope to see you there! Their address is: [1658 Lascassas Pike, Murfreesboro, 37130](#) See Wayne Rollins with any questions.
- **Sweet Potato Drop: May 12th at 9am.** Invite your friends & family and anyone in need, to come and get some potatoes.
- **VBS: Come join us on a "Rolling River Rampage" at Blackman UMC, June 10th-14th, beginning at 6pm!** We are already gearing up for VBS, and we want you to be a part! Please register now so that we can be well prepared to serve all of the VBS River Rafters! More details and a link to register follows...

Youth Missions

This Sunday we will start our annual fund raiser for our mission trip and our local mission week. You can give by donating \$5.00 a mile and adopt as many miles as you want. We greatly appreciate any and all donations. We are looking forward to two great weeks of missions. One week will be in Sevier County, Tennessee and the other week will be in Rutherford County and surrounding areas. Everyone that donates will be invited to our missions appreciation dinner on July 15th. We are working on a big surprise for this year's presentation. You won't want to miss it. Mission trip is June 23-June 30th. You may sign up now for mission trip by contacting Chandra.



Combined Worship Service and Potluck Picnic on May 20th. We are excited to announce that we are having ONE combined service on Sunday, May 20th at 10:00 a.m. (and no Sunday School). This will give people from both services a special opportunity to worship and fellowship with one another. After worship, everyone is invited to stay for a potluck picnic. The church is providing hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks and we are asking you to bring a side dish or desert to share. There will be jump houses for kids and fun games for all ages (horse shoes, corn hole, and more). This is set to be a great day of fellowship, we hope you will join us!



FREE
SWEET
POTATOES!

BLACKMAN UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
P O T A T O D R O P
4380 Manson Pike
Saturday May 12
9:00 AM

**FIRST COME
FIRST SERVED**



Youth Calendar & News

There will be a parent meeting at 6:30 pm for youth parents. We will be discussing all things summer. From regular meetings to mission trips. The meeting will be at the end of youth (this Sunday) and should not take more than 30 min. Thanks again to our amazing parents.

CALENDAR

May 6th Regular youth and parent meeting 5-7 pm

May 12th Sweet Potato drop at 9 am

May 13th Mothers day no youth

May 20th The church wide picnic is today. We will all take part in the fellowship, dinner, and fun activities.

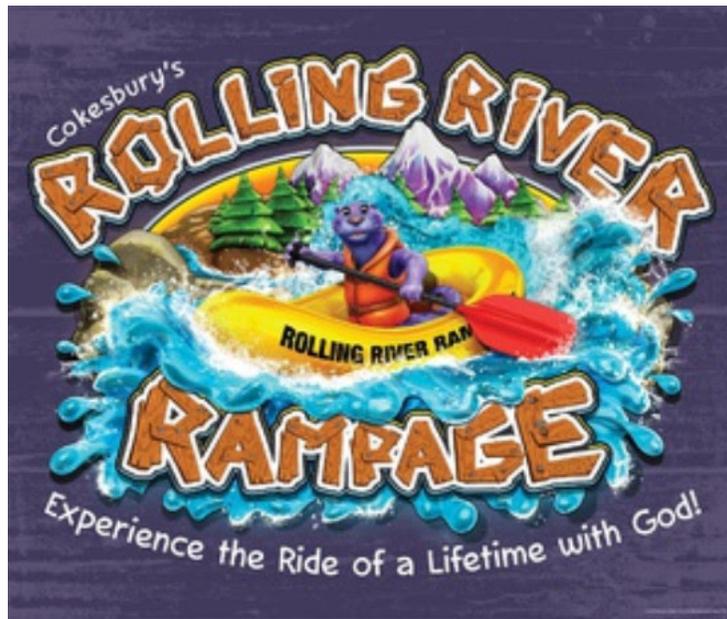
Remember to come on Wonderful Wednesdays and enjoy a meal and help serve it too. Then, stay later and enjoy some fun youth activities with everyone.



Activity Sign up: There are sign up sheets outside the youth office door for summer activities. Please sign up for things you are interested in to help us know the amount of adults and space we need. Thank you.



This upcoming week is teacher appreciation week. On Monday we need volunteers that can help at 10:00 a.m. to help us pack thank you bags for our local teachers. No heavy lifting required. These will serve as small tokens of our appreciation to the teachers that invest in our community children. We have several hundred to pack!



Come join us on a "Rolling River Rampage" at Blackman UMC, June 10th-14th, beginning at 6pm! We are already gearing up for VBS, and we want you to be a part! Please register now so that we can be well prepared to serve all of the VBS River Rafterers! Please click on the link below to register; you will be able to choose your child's t-shirt size when you register.

<http://blackmanumc.com/VBS2018>

Please reach out to Jenny Peck with any questions or if you would like more information at vbs@blackmanumc.com or (615) 218-9277

Please see the note in announcements also in regards to lilies this year; as all monies given toward the purchase of lilies will benefit Vacation Bible School. Thank you.

Acolyte's Needed

Parents of children in 3rd through 6th grade - we need your children to serve as acolytes in worship, carrying in the light of Christ, helping with the offering, communion, etc. Youth and older children are also invited to help. Training is provided. We now have an online signup service where you can go to pick the dates that work best with your schedule. Visit the website at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d4faaaf2fa7f85-bumc1> to sign up for dates in April through June. If you have any questions, or prefer to not use the online signup system, contact Mike Rose atmusic@blackmanumc.com.

Scriptures for this Sunday

John 15:9-17

Acts 10:44-48

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
Jenny Peck, Lay Reader
Mike Rose, Sound Tech, Madison Peck, Multimedia Tech
Ralph & Annelle Smith, Chandra Inglis, Communion Servers
Andrew Peck, Communion Prep

10:45 am:

Brandon Whitt, Worship Leader,
Graham & Ellis Jourdan, Acolytes
Deanna Kendall, Lay Reader
Mark Spears, Sound Tech, Corey Greeson, Multimedia Tech
Dan & Margo Ford, Chandra Inglis, Communion Servers
Cindi S.- Walters, 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!](#))