

# Chapel

June 23, 2019

Mike Congleton

Timanous Prayer;

We thank thee, O lord for the joy of fellowship;

For the beauty of our surroundings:

The tall trees and sparkling lake,

The life which teams around us in the woods,

The skies and clear water.

We thank thee for the love of doing things.

For active bodies and minds alert,

For the excitement of something new

and the comfort of things which are old.

For all these we give thanks:

For the cool and quiet evening

The restfulness of night,

The glory of starry skies

The new life which comes with showers,

For mothers and fathers who have given us our homes,

And for the trails which help us to know ourselves.

For all these we give thanks.

“Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Halsey Marshall Congleton my 19-year-old son is one of my heroes. He took a gap year and lived in Mexico for 7 months with two families in Oaxaca through the Rotary Club. In a month he will be leaving for college in Utah. I'm proud of him, and miss him when he is gone but also very excited for him to have such an adventurous spirit. I wrote this last year to be a future Chapel. Today is the future. I revised it since then but the idea and message is basically the same. Last summer I read a book called “Waking up White” by Debby Irving that had a great influence on me when I originally wrote this chapel last year. My whole family has been an inspiration for this chapel. My Mom and Dad who brought diversity into my life at an early age. My Mom brought me to Civil Right Marches in Boston and my Dad brought me to housing developments in Lowell. Jake

also opened my eyes to the idea that we are all just human. I'll always remember the day MLK was assassinated and how upset everyone was. My wife LG continues to challenge me to be more aware of our community in West Asheville North Carolina. Zada my teenage daughter reminds me to be present and patient at home as she grows into a beautiful person. I'm grateful for all the inspirational people in my life. I'm grateful for living in a place where people are open enough to talk about the tough issues. I once thought I was color blind. I've always tried to judge people on character regardless of race, sex, or religion. But now I know I'm not doing enough to make the changes that still need to happen in the world in my community and at home. My own son Halsey is far beyond where I was at his age regardless of the exposure to diverse living experiences I was exposed to in my youth. I'm very proud of my son and proud to be giving this talk in front of some of the best people I know, the people I love like family, Camp Timanous!

“It is usually easier and more reliable to carry extra tricks up your sleeve instead of extra gear in your pack.”

-John Gookin

Dear Halsey,

When you were born I held you up to the sky and the stars. I think the heavens liked what it saw. They at least liked the music that you heard for the first time in your life, Bob Marley Trench town Rock. You are blessed! The Universe has been kind to you so far. There are many lessons though, and life skills that I feel I've neglected to tell. Whether I thought you would learn them best on your own time or I just forgot to tell you I'm not certain. When you turned 18 years of age I felt proud, love, and panic all in the same moment. I'm proud of the person you have become. I'm proud of your confidence in your self and how you easily talk with all people. I'm proud that you have an awareness of the inequality that has been unseen in our own communities and which have given you privileges as a white person that you have had in your life. It's not right and it's ok to talk about it. You are good at that. I'm proud that you seem to not have any bias toward anyone, and your ability to judge people on character not looks. I'm especially proud of your adventurous spirit your love for nature. I'm proud to be your Dad! I love your friends, your loyalty, and your abundant

energy to go on expeditions. I love you as my son and friend. Though I'm panicked because I'll miss you, I'm panicked because the child I helped raise is ready to meet the world.

-Song- This Land is your land -Woody Guthrie

Dear Counselors,

I hope that you choose an adventurous spirit this summer and that you will embrace all that confronts you and challenges you. Adventure is not neat It is not always fun. Adventure can and should bring discomfort and even an occasional band aid. I hope that you will look at this summer as an opportunity to grow as a person. Do not be idle for very long, rest when you need to, but go head first into this summer being the best you can be. Open your heart, have empathy, try to understand those people who seem so different from you. You cannot change your campers to your likening; learn how to appreciate their differences. You have great potential to make a difference in this crazy world by being tolerant of the differences in others. You have a gift of youthful energy. Use your energy for the common good of all and never for the reward. Challenge yourself this summer, make a barn announcement, Commend a camper, walk to the barn with someone other than your friends, be fun! Spend time with your campers, tell them stories, really listen to them, it's all part of the adventure called camp. SLOW DOWN, stay in the moment, look around you and be responsible for the fun that will continue to happen because of you. Life at Camp goes fast and we often speed through it unconsciously from bell to bell. This is your summer! Pay attention! Take charge! Take the initiative to be positively the best! and lastly do not be afraid of change. It is inevitable and full of creative possibilities. Oh what a summer you will have!

“Life shrinks or expands in proportion to ones courage”  
-Anias Nin

-Song- Lively Up Yourself- Bob Marley and the Wailers

Dear Campers

When I was young I made many mistakes. Don't be afraid to fail because you will stumble, and you will fall. What you do in those moments will help you see what kind of a person you are. There are many choices at camp and not all lead to awards and

the Hall of Fame. What path to take, which activity to go to, and what to do with your summer. Don't blame others for your own mistakes, take responsibility for your choices and be the best camper you can be. When you fall pick yourself up look around there may be many like you who are stumbling as well. Show them empathy, share your story, many times your true friends will be standing right next to you and will go unnoticed to you. Pay attention to the world around you it is an awesome spectacular beautiful mystery. Pick yourself up again and again be positive, and go try again and again. You are the only person you can change in this world. Mistakes happen and will keep happening, we all fail, so will you, but what you do after will speak volumes about your character. What you do when the world is not watching and you are alone will determine the person you are and will be. I'm confident that you will have a great summer. You are about to make many stories, which I hope you someday will share with the next generation of Campers when you become the best thing of all, the Camp Timanous Counselor.

"Life is ether a daring adventure or nothing"  
-Helen Keller

Song-Puff the Magic Dragon

Salutation to the Dawn  
Attributed to Kalidasa

Look to this day!  
For it is life, the very life of life.  
In its brief course  
Lie all the verities and realities of your existence:  
The bliss of growth;  
The glory of action;  
The splendor of achievement;  
For yesterday is but a dream,  
And tomorrow is only a vision;  
But today, well lived, makes every yesterday  
a dream of happiness,  
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day!  
Such is the salutation of the dawn.