

Caton United Methodist Church Messenger

July 2016

A Note From Pastor Chad

“²² The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children... and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, ‘Let me go, for the day is breaking.’ But Jacob said, ‘I will not let you go, unless you bless me.’ ...³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, ‘For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.’”

- Genesis 32: 22-30

Friends, we are living in a particularly difficult time in our world. Many people have compared this time with that of the 1840s-1870. It is a time when our culture is carrying many different opinions on the value of humanity, the place of religion, the distribution of power/control, and the balance of generations of thoughts. This is something that seems new to us and, perhaps for many, can cause a lot of stress and tension; but this phenomena is nothing new—we have been through it many times before!

In the United Methodist Church, we too are experiencing some of these difficulties. Since 1976, our General Conference (the highest body in the UMC) has been debating several hot-button issues that have caused more and more heated debates. As a pastor and a church member, I am thankful that the UMC has room for people at many different stages in their faith journey. Watching the church intensely debate over these issues to the point where people are getting hurt and doing crazy things is not the picture of the Church that God has supplied to me.

As I have been pondering the predicament that the Church is in, I keep coming back to this passage from Genesis 32. It is fitting that we just finished our work with Jacob and his sons so we have a taste of who Jacob is. This passage defines, I think, the journey that the Church needs to take and it answers some difficult questions.

Jacob just finished moving his entire household to a new place. The journey was not easy and they worked on settling the new place. That night, Jacob was alone and found himself wrestling with a ‘man’. Jacob was really struggling! He was going through a dark time in his life and now, as he was literally sitting in the midst of this ‘darkness’, he begins to wrestle with ‘a man’. We know that this ‘man’ is God and the struggle was intense. Jacob was fighting and fighting---even into the wee hours of the morning---why?!?! Jacob was passionate about seeking God’s blessing. By the end of our story, Jacob did receive God’s blessing but it came at a price. God struck Jacob on the hip and for the rest of his life, Jacob walked with a limp.

Throughout our lives, all of us have the joy of experiencing good and bad periods. I think that we are walking through one of those right now...together! Here are some things that we learn from Jacob:

1. When we are in our dark times, we will struggle. Jacob didn't get away easy. He was after God's blessing but some things had to change. We know Jacob was quick to act, self-serving, and stuck in generations of sinfulness. After Jacob wrestled with God, he was forever changed. We might think that God striking him on the hip was bad but let's look at what Jacob gained—it caused him to slow down, he forever remembered his wrestling, he never forgot that God has power over him, and Jacob had a story, now, to tell those who saw him limp.
2. Jacob was persistent. For many of us, when we enter into a dark period our first response is to GET OUT! Jacob knew he wanted God's blessing. Jacob knew there was only one way...persist. God even encouraged Jacob to stop: "Let me go for day is breaking!" Jacob never gave up. Part of what makes the Church successful is that ALL of us make it up! (For more see 1 Corinthians 12) When we walk out or give up, nobody benefits, our voices are no longer heard, and nobody achieves the desired blessing.
3. Jacob remained true to his convictions and did not conform. The scripture made a point to say that the other 30+ people who were with Jacob went to bed and Jacob remained alone. When the going got tough, Jacob could have just gone to bed—instead he chose to wrestle. This is difficult because many of us, including myself at times, operate out of compassion and ease. Our hearts break when we realize that our convictions don't appeal to all people. It was Robert Frost who wrote:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

As we move forward into the summer, I want to encourage you to be in prayer for OUR Church around the world as we make some decisions that will impact the future. In a couple of weeks the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference will meet to decide on the appointment of our Bishop, to elect new bishops, and to discuss the status of the UMC in our corner of the world. As we move into the fall, the leadership of the Caton UMC will be discussing decisions regarding the status of our ministry in Caton, the ministry plan for next year, and how we will be representing God's Kingdom here in the future. Friends, there will be wrestling. There will be change. The Good News is that God's blessing is waiting for those who persist along the journey. Amen.

Blessings!
Pastor Chad

Caton Family News



Congratulations Class of 2016

To all the relatives of our church family who are graduating from high school and college this year, we wish them success and happiness in their future endeavors.



Welcome to God's World

Congratulations to Candi and Robert (Bob/Twaz/Butch) Thompson. They became proud grandparents of a granddaughter; Brenna Elizabeth, on Sunday – June 19th.



July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

July 1

Taylor Burnside

Micah Sayers

July 2

Robert (Bob) Blanchard

July 8

Kay Pavlick

July 11

Jim Gridley

July 12

Allison Clark

July 14

Matthew Clark

July 21

Maryjane Blanchard

Anniversaries

July 11

Andy and Jen Webber

July 26

Pastor Chad and Jessica Sayers

Dear Lord, may humility characterize my life so that You may be glorified.



Financial News

Our income into the General Fund as of June 19, 2016 was \$46,238.00. This is \$9,972.00 less than last year at this time. This shortfall has impacted our ability to pay the church's bills.



Lay Leader Ponderings

Quiz: What do all these things have in common?

- *Cotton Dresses*
- *Toilet Paper*
- *Chicken Soup*
- *Tithes and Offerings*
- *Hammers and Nails*
- *Splitting/Stacking wood*
- *Cleaning gutters and planting flowers*
- *Building and rebuilding church structures*
- *Connecting with our neighbors and yet-to-be friends*

*This list is just a small but important part of what we do and who we are as United Methodists and Christians. Many involve projects we have recently undertaken, some are missions about to take place, but all must be ongoing: connecting with others plus our tithes & gifts – which include time, financial and other resources. We must keep our focus on our mission: to make disciples for Christ for the transformation of the world; as we know, the world does not stop offering us opportunities to reach out and help others. Let's make sure we are living our faith and doing everything we can – if we live by Christ's teachings, it **WILL** transform the world!*



Sunday Snacks

*Volunteers are needed for Sunday Snacks.
Snacks usual consist of finger foods, juice and water.
Also, please be willing to set up and clean up.
Sign up sheet is on the announcement table in the fellowship room.*

Church Picnic



*We will be having a church picnic!!!!!!
When: Sunday – July 17th (right after worship)
What to Bring: Your appetite and a dish to pass*

The church will provide paper products, hot dogs, rolls, and condiments.



*Friday – July 29 at the Caton UMC
5 Screenings for \$149.00
Carotid Artery/Plaque Screening Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial
Fibrillation)
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening
Osteoporosis Risk Assessment*

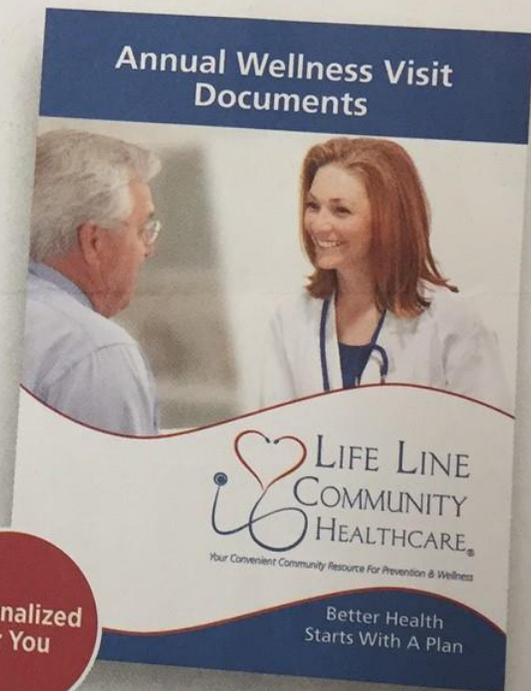
*Please call 888-653-6450 to register for your screening or
Visit www.LifeLineScreening.com/community-partners*

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- ✓ An AWV may seem similar to an annual physical, but it's different in many ways. An AWV provides a plan for better health, enabling you and your doctor to plan your preventive screenings and immunizations for the next 5-10 years



**Personalized
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Schedule Your Annual Wellness Visit Today by calling **888-653-6450**
(Please have your Medicare card ready when you call)

Where: Corning - Caton United Methodist Church

When: Friday, July 29, 2016

July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:30am Band Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	4 Happy 4 th of July Office Closed	5	6	7 5:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00pm Band Rehearsal	8	9
10 8:30am Band Rehearsal 9:30am Worship (Communion) 10:30am Fellowship	11 6:00 pm Worship Planning	12	13	14 5:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00pm Band Rehearsal	15	16
17 8:30am Band Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Church Picnic	18 6:00 pm Worship Planning	19	20	21 5:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00pm Band Rehearsal	22	23
24 8:30am Band Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	25 6:00 pm Worship Planning	26	27	28 5:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00pm Band Rehearsal	29 8:15am – 6:15pm LifeLine Screening	30
31 8:30am Band Rehearsal 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship						

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