



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 2017

Serving since 1859!

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Just Joshin'

One of the more fascinating themes that we see reoccur throughout the Bible is that of God changing people's names. The names different people were originally given—i.e.

Abram, Sarai, Jacob, Simon, Saul—had special meanings. When God blessed them with a new name this marked a new start for the person's life. Paul's reminder to the Ephesians is comparable here when he said, "... To put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:22-24). It was a new life and new direction for these people.

The new names were given—Abraham, Sarah, Israel, Peter, Paul—and a new life with God was pursued. One of the most interesting of these stories is that of Jacob being renamed "Israel." A change began to take place within Jacob before he was renamed, but he put on a whole new attitude and outlook after his wrestling match with God.

Jacob's story is told in the last half of Genesis, chapters 25-50. From birth to death we follow Jacob's ups and downs, and his continual growth in his faith in and relationship with God. I think that most of us can relate to Jacob. He went through a few stages of ups and downs as he was trying to figure out life. Jacob, which means "he grasps the heel" or

"he deceives," literally grabbed the heel of his twin, Esau, at birth, and had deceived both his brother and his father, Isaac, by the time he fled from home. While he was on the run, so to speak, God got a hold of Jacob. This is when the change in Jacob began to take place.

The next part of Jacob's story involves his marriage and his being deceived by his father-in-law, Laban. Now, Jacob found himself on the other side of deception. The now-changing Jacob handled this situation differently than the old Jacob. Instead of fleeing the situation to be rid of it, he waited for God's direction—and he waited for six years.

The third portion of Jacob's life is quite interesting. He finally meets God face-to-face, and he's going to hold on no matter what. Down by the Jordan River, Jacob grabs again, but this time he grabs for God's blessing. He realizes that God has been with him no matter what and that this relationship was the essential thing in his life. Jacob's name was changed to "Israel," which means "he struggles with God." Jacob was the father of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Jacob's final portion of life was spent with letting God have a hold of him. He didn't make a move without God leading the way. Jacob certainly came a long way during his life when it came to his relationship with God.

I know we have all experienced ups and downs in life. We've been through circumstances that we're in control of and

circumstances that we're in control of and those which we have no control over. We've made decisions that have had positive outcomes and negative outcomes. We've probably had periods of our life where we've been far from God as well as those time when we've a little closer to God.

Jacob's story can be a real example for us as we go through the different stages of life. God will always be there for us. We don't have to be perfect. Yet, are we willing to be open to what God might have in store for us? Are we willing, like Jacob, to be persistent and never let go of God to make sure that we're doing what God wants us to do?

We may or may not have a literal name change in our lives. But life is certainly different with and without God. With God, we are a new creation with a new attitude and a new meaning. With God, we know that His faith will never falter and that we can always trust in Him. With God, we know that we are loved unconditionally and that He will do anything for us.

Pastor Josh



Bethesda Thrift Shop:

Believe it or not, at the Bethesda Thrift Shop in the Rapids Mall, we will begin our Summer Clearance Sales to get ready for fall! Special sales include: 50% off green tagged clothing and shoes July 31-August 12; 50% off ALL clothing and shoes Aug. 14-24; 50% off almost everything in the store Aug. 25-26; BAG SALE Aug. 28 to Sept. 9. Additional daily sales may also be offered. It's a great time to get a great deal to help a great mission for our disabled folks served by Bethesda throughout the U.S.

My first memory of the Wisconsin Rapids UMC was when Katie and I were trying to figure out where the front entrance might be. Later we learned that what we thought was a service entrance was the front entrance.

Another of my not-so-favorite comments about the front entrance came from a man who does business with the Lutheran Church across the street. He made the comment that he didn't realize the building was still in use. This comment stemmed from simply observing our front drive and front entrance.

As I was writing this note, a service man arrived trying to figure out which entrance to come in. Unfortunately, this happens too often. When people (funeral planning visits, mostly) come to meet with me, finding the front entrance has been confusing.

It's time for a new front entrance. A space where people will know this is the front. A space where people will feel comfortable entering. A space where people won't look at it and think this is an abandoned building. Also, we need a front entrance where people can easily get in and out of and not have to worry about tripping over the broken concrete.

We've had 9 people step forward to generously donate the monies needed for a new front entrance. Many may have already noticed the new fence around the electric junction box. The rest of the front entrance will be scheduled to be redone sometime mid-July to mid-August.

The second part of this project is something that had been discussed before I arrived, and that is the front drive. The trustees will be discussing bids and designs for the front drive. They will report to the congregation what they have decided when plans are finalized.

By completing both the front entrance and the front drive, we hope to present an attractive and welcoming space for those stopping by the church. We hope to have a space where folks can enter the building safely (no cracks, rough ground to traverse), where there can be a couple handicap spots close to the office door, and where there can be extra parking for midweek events.

To jumpstart this project, we've been given an anonymous matching gift of up to \$10,000. Every dollar we contribute up to \$10,000 will be matched by this generous gift. Leading up to the Trustees decision, would you prayerfully consider giving to this project that will help Wisconsin Rapids UMC update its front drive in order to be more welcoming and helpful to our guests and members?

Blessings,

Pastor Josh

United Methodist Women



I hope everyone is enjoying the warm summer weather! Memories of summers past are sitting outside reading, biking, area picnics and family. I hope everyone is enjoying these warm days.

Speaking of reading, the 2017-2018 reading program begins this month (August 2017-July 2018). The program booklet will be available for all to see and get started on reading!

July Mission U was at the Hotel Mead and on Tuesday July 25 we hosted the evening program of Anita Henderlight as she spoke on the current situation in Sudan and had a social time after.

Next month we return to the fall schedule with a meeting on September 10, 2017 with a guest speaker from United Way. Please plan on attending!

While my monthly note is short, feel free to go on the UMW state and national websites and read some of the interesting articles that are posted there. You won't be disappointed.

Enjoy God's gift of nature this month!
Blessings,
Cindy

2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

It was my privilege, as Lay Member from our congregation, to attend the 48th session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference June 16-19, 2017 at Madison Marriott West in Middleton. Bill accompanied me and attended some of the services and enjoyed visiting with friends. All sessions were live streamed, so while I was in session, Bill was in our room watching all the action on the computer! It was an awesome event!

Annual Conference began with the Oneida Tribal Drum Circle sanctifying the Annual Conference Space. According to the performers, the ceremony unifies the people in the room and brings them to one mind. Imagine a room several times larger than our sanctuary with over 800 lay

and clergy members seated on round white tables.

Bishop Heon Young Choi, with the Korean Delegation, led the Opening Worship. He presented a gift from Korea to us - a stole placed on Bishop Jung. This exchange was set up by former Bishop Sharon Raeder. The Dongbu Conference Delegation was introduced by Bishop Jung.

After a brief business meeting with rules and regulations, Adam Hamilton, guest preacher, presented Session 1 - entitled "Leading Beyond the Walls." He was fantastic!

To round out the first day, three were wonderful Laity and Clergy sessions.

Dr. Marcia McFee, was a marvelous worship leader for the whole event.

After a busy plenary on Saturday morning, Adam Hamilton presented session 2.

Rev. Dr. Amy Valdez Barker conducted the Memorial Service. Pastors were recognized for years of service. The Rev. Marvin Schilling, now 105 years of age, served more than 80 years!

During the Saturday afternoon plenary, office administrators were recognized, Deanna Shimko delivered the Laity Address, Bishop Jung, presented "The State of the Church" and Adam Hamilton shared "Leading Beyond the Walls" - session 3.

The Sunday morning plenary included the reports from the various boards and agencies. Bill and I attended the Mission Motivation Luncheon. Eighteen churches were recognized as Rainbow Covenant churches. These churches must complete various criteria. Wisconsin Rapids can do it! Let's work together to make it happen.

The highlight for me was the Ordination & Commissioning Service. My friend, Anna Lisa Hunter, was licensed as a local pastor. She resigned as North Central District UMW President to serve a local church.

Bill and I attended two sessions on Monday:

1. Accountable Leadership Model for Church Governance: A Mission Based Structure for the Local Church lead by Dick Jones
2. A Spectrum of Opportunity: Envisioning Mission as a Part of Imagining Wisconsin Anew lead by Mary Balsom and Ben Moore who explained how missions work in Wisconsin Conference

Thank You for the privilege of representing Wisconsin Rapids.

In His Service,
Shirley Carpenter



Mission Needs



Noisy Collection

Sunday, August 13, 2017
for Jennifer and ODC



TNT COLLECTION
Sunday August 20,
2017 for our dinner
on October 12th



Stuff the School Bus will be asking local businesses and individuals to collect/donate school supplies from July 10 – August 3, 2017. School supplies must be dropped off at the Stuff the School Bus drive on August 3rd during Lunch by the River at Veteran's Memorial Park (11:30am – 1:00pm); or in the case of rain, at Witter Field.

Stuff the School Bus is a community collaborative effort to collect and distribute school supplies to students in need. All families who are in financial need are eligible. For more information, please contact United Way's 2-1-1.

Every year, the Stuff the School Bus/Stuff the Desk Committee asks the community to stuff a school bus with donations of school supplies. The event is held during Lunch by the River. Later, the donated school supplies are distributed to local students in need during the Stuff the Desk event. All families who are in financial need are eligible.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

August

- 1 - Katie Pegram
- 1 - Jax Baierl
- 2 - Lacey Correll
- 3 - Judy Steele
- 3 - David Wittenberg
- 4 - Elizabeth Anhalt
- 5 - Helen Dillingham
- 9 - Kasey Dillingham
- 10 - Corbin Neidlein
- 11 - David Goetsch
- 11 - Carol Calverley
- 14 - Albert Ciardelli
- 15 - Rachel Sering
- 18 - Zelda Guzman
- 18 - Easton O'Keefe
- 20 - Judy Seegert
- 23 - Bob Wright
- 23 - LuAnn Slattery
- 26 - Cindy Tyjeski
- 26 - Jenny Williams
- 28 - Mary Jo Hane
- 28 - Audrey Wittenberg
- 29 - Diane Swiggum

*Happy
Anniversary*

- 9 - Wayne & Wendy Boettcher
- 26 - Tom & Cindy Erickson
- 30 - Fred & Barb Kronenberg

If we have omitted your birthday or anniversary or have it listed on the wrong date, please let us know so we can make the necessary corrections to our records.



MEN'S GROUP



**Meet
for
Breakfast**

All men are invited
August 2, 2017 at 8:00
am

Prayer Calendar

August

- 1—Josh & Katie Pegram
- 2—Allen & Beverly Peterson
- 3—Mike & Mary Jane Phillips
- 4—Lonnie , Nicole, Hailey & Alyssa Reetz
- 5—Kelly, Rhett & Taylor Reinicke
- 6—Monty, Taylor and Rhett Reinicke
- 7—Russ & Karen Rifleman
- 8—Phyllis Ritchie
- 9—Timm, Anton and Carl Rosenthal
- 10—Brad, Stacey, Marinah & Cody Russell
- 11—Don & Sandy Saeger
- 12—Jonathan, Mackenzie & Cooper Schultz
- 13—Wendy Schwartz
- 14—Jim & Judy Seegert
- 15—Wayne & Shirley Sering
- 16—Roberta Shaurette
- 17—Robin Shaw
- 18—Patti Sisco
- 19—Tom & Barb Sisco
- 20—Holly Skinner
- 21—Scott & Judy Skinner
- 22—Eileen Slinkman
- 23—Mike, Diane & Acacia Sloat
- 24—Bill & Annette Spaulding
- 25—Greg, Karla & Tasia Staven
- 26—Molly Staven & Kaden Hicks
- 27—John & Judy Steele
- 28—Mike & Lynn Swanson
- 29—Diane Swiggum
- 30—Michael & Ruth Topp
- 31—Cindy Tyjeski

Have a prayer request? Call the prayer chain:

Daytime: (9:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.)

Lynn Swanson — **715-423-4407**

Evenings: (6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.)

Kathy Duerkop — **715-421-3396**



For encouragement,
call the prayer phone:
715-423-1323

Prayer Coordinator

Isaiah 40:31

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

How is your strength today? Are you feeling lonely, lost, or weary? Then read again Isaiah 40:31. God promises to renew your strength and lift you up on eagle's wings. You will not grow weary or faint.

The cares of our lives can take a toll on our strength. What do we need to do to receive God's strength to face each day? Isaiah says we need to hope (believe) in the Lord. Do you say "Yes, I believe, but my life is difficult. God does not seem to hear me." Remember, God never promised a care free life. His presence with us will help us through. We do have the God of the impossible. No matter what occurs, continue to seek God in prayer. Ask for him to show you what he is doing through these experiences. Put all in his hands and receive his peace and strength. I know this is not easy, but this is what we are to do. And remember that God's timing is not our timing. So let us pray for patience as well as strength.

Let us pray: Lord, please renew my strength; help me to stand for what's right, walk forward and not faint. Give me the patience to wait for your timing. Thank you for your promises. Thank you for lifting me up and sustaining me. In Christ's Name, AMEN



August 1

10:00 am - Bible Study
6:00 pm - Bible Study

August 2

8:00 am - Men's Breakfast
9:00 am - CLF Bible Study
10:30 am - Disciplines

August 8

10:00 am-12:00 pm - RCC Board Meeting
10:00 am - Bible Study
6:00 pm - Bible Study

August 9

10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir Practice

August 14

5:00 pm - Trustees

August 15

10:00 am - Bible Study
6:00 pm - Bible Study

August 16

9:00 am - CLF Bible Study
10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir Practice

August 21

6:00 pm - Finance
6:30 pm - Council

August 22

10:00 am - Bible Study
6:00 pm - Bible Study

August 23

10:30 am - Disciplines
10:00 am to 5:00 pm - Mobile Food Pantry
5:00 pm Choir Practice

August 29

10:00 am - Bible Study
6:00 pm - Bible Study

August 30

5:00 pm - Choir Practice

Church Office Hours

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. and closed on Fridays.

Pastor Joshua's Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

E-mail Addresses

Church Office: umc@wctc.net
Pastor Joshua: Joshua.peggram3@gmail.com

Church Office Phone

715-423-8860

Pastor Joshua's Phone No.

Cell: 920-896-3976

Sunday Services

9:00 a.m. — UMC Worship Service
10:00 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship

The Neighborhood Table

The last two Tuesdays of the month: 4:30 p.m.
Every Thursday: 4:30 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous

Meets each day of the week as follows:

Monday 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Nar-Anon

Every Thursday: 6:30 p.m.

Wisdom Seekers

Every Thursday: 9:30 a.m.

Gamblers Anonymous

Every Thursday: 7:00 p.m.



**September
Newsletter**
Articles are due in
the church office