

Pastoral Reflection

Our "Thorns"—can be Source of Strength and Grace

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.

For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (ESV)

Beloved, beware of the tendency to judge yourself too harshly. Be patient in your pursuit of your destiny. We tend to evaluate ourselves in terms of our natural weaknesses instead of God-given potential strengths. The Scripture tells us that apparent failures are just temporary setbacks (Romans 8:32). The decision to carry on despite disappointments can turn worst circumstances into a learning opportunity.

In the final analysis, God will make everything right for you. Our weakness becomes God's strength when we yield them to Him (2 Corinthians 12: 8). The Lord knows exactly what we need to get the job done and in time will impart it to us. Recognizing areas of vulnerability and needed growth in our lives is recognizing the opportunity for divine influence on our lives, even the divine power of the Holy Spirit.

Never yield to the temptation to resort to self-pity when you encounter a setback. Nothing drains your energy and drives away potential helpers faster than self-pity. Eliminate any attitude of self-condemnation (Romans 8: 1-2). What has happened is past and finished - move on. Immense power comes as you live to make things right in the present. O that the words Prophet Habakkuk will sink into your heart as you wait on the Lord today:

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. (Habakkuk 3: 17-19)

Stay close to the Almighty God—our Rock and Salvation, with Him, help is always on the way. ~Pastor Dominic Tommy

Central United Methodist Church
United Methodist Women
Lake Odessa

Salad Luncheon

Monday, August 21, 2017
12:00 Noon



With a program of
CLASSIC SONGS FOR CLASSIC PEOPLE
to follow lunch.
These folks were here several years ago and are excited
to return. Enjoy a fun filled afternoon!

All women are invited - no charge.
Just call for reservations
Virginia Decker (374-8080) by August 14.

Back to School is Coming

Beginning the weekend after
Labor Day,
Sunday, September 10

**Worship time changes
back to 10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday School will return
from 9:30—10:15
for all ages.**

Volunteers are needed to teach
classes. Please see Jane Kostanko.

Also small group Bible studies will
be offered on a six-week basis.

Congratulations to Leona Rayner and her family. Leona was the recipient of 2017 Janie Rodriguez Award. Central United Methodist Church is very proud and appreciative of Leona and her family for serving among us. The Lake Odessa community could not have made a better choice for the award than our very own, Leona. And on behalf of Leona Rayner and the Souper Thursday team, "thank you" to all who serve very faithfully in preparing the meals, especially these summer weeks. Thanks to the worship team—technicians at the sound board, ushers and custodians—for adjusting to your new pastor. We enjoy all the music selections of Marilyn Noffke during worship celebration services. By the way, do you always notice that selected hymns go with the theme of the message? To the congregation, "thank you" for making joyful melodies. We also enjoy having worship assistants every Sunday; the Worship Committee appreciates you. I enjoy working with Kim Stoepker and Mike McCartney in the office. They are on top of things concerning the life of our congregation and the business of the church. We are very fortunate to have them in the office. Thanks Kim and Mike!

where Christ is central.

Celebrations

Birthdays

08/04 Bob Avery
Angie Landon
08/06 Dave Faulkner
08/14 Vergie Winkler
Braelyn Gibbs
08/22 Ed Reiser
08/24 Bob Durkee
08/27 Elaine Garlock
Delos Johnson
08/28 Zach Davis

08/29 Tabitha Landon
08/30 Bill Eckstrom
George McNeill
08/31 Ray McDaniels
Margie First

Anniversaries

Ken & Brenda Steele 8/10/1975
Mike McCartney & Myra Kauffman 8/13/2016
Casey & Christy McDonald 8/21/2009
Dave & Jean Faulkner 8/23/1970

Recent Prayer Concerns

Family of Billy Johnson	Art Wagner	Bonnie Leak
Family of Elaine Johnson	Stacey Cole	Kim Seese
Family of Bob Morris	Karen Roebedge	Kathy Shelmat
Family of Ginny Kruisenga	Michael Oaks	Patsy Cole
Family of Kenneth McDowell	Jim Wackerlin	Tony Barcroft
Family of Cindy Good	Carol Herzog	Kim Seese
Phil Shetterly	Travis Tucker	Sonny Shuert
Ron Pooley	Kent McDaniels	Virginia Decker



State of the Church Report

Avg Attendance for June-68

Avg Attendance Last Year-83

Operating Fund Balance for June
\$29,085.19

Operating Fund Last Year-June
\$10,118.79

Other Giving Received in June

General Missions	\$ 213.00	CWS Tools	\$ 80.00
Helping Hands	\$ 75.00	Haven of Rest	\$290.24
UMCOR	\$ 75.00	Peace with Justice	\$ 35.00
Souper Thursday	\$ 1,022.80	Memorial-Ed Leak	\$600.00
Building Fund	\$ 658.00		

Upcoming Events

FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, August 1 —2 pm (September's date will be Tuesday, September 5th)
Parking lot on 3rd Avenue. Volunteers are welcome and asked to arrive by 1:30.

ADULT RESPITE (No Respite on August 10)

Thursdays, August 3, 17, 24, 31—1:30 to 4:30 pm

SOUPER THURSDAY COMMUNITY DINNER (No Dinner on August 10)

Thursdays, August 3, 17, 24, 31— 4:30 to 6 pm

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, August 7—12 to 5:45 pm

UNITED METHODIST WOMENS SALAD LUNCHEON

Monday, August 21—Noon (see related article)

NEWS OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN!!

Monday, August 21st—Noon

Our salad luncheon is open to all women. UMW members are asked to bring a salad and table service. Please be there by 12 noon. A program of CLASSIC SONGS FOR CLASSIC PEOPLE will follow. Please reserve your spot by calling Virginia Decker (374-8080).

Wednesday, September 20—9 a.m.

The Lansing District UMW Annual Celebration will be held at Portland UMC. Copies of the program and registration form are available on the bulletin board or see Terri Catt. Deadline is September 13. There will be an in-gathering of baby boxes for Haiti. If anyone would like to donate items, please see Terri.

Friday/Saturday, October 6-7

The United Methodist Women are accepting items for the annual fall rummage sale from church members only. No books please. Please contact Terri Catt to schedule your drop-off (480-231-7785).



Our Annual Church Conference has been scheduled for:
Tuesday, October 17, 6:00 to 8:15 pm at the Lakewood UMC.
More details in your bulletin.

Thank You!

The Trustees would like to thank everyone who came out to help with our Annual Chicken BBQ. It was a great success and we also thank everyone who came out to support it. We were able to raise almost \$1500 which will go towards a yet-to-be determined project. ~~~Del Kostanko

Christmas Round the Town

Christmas?

It's not too early to start thinking about the annual Lake Odessa Christmas 'Round the Town scheduled for:

Friday, November 24 & Saturday, November 25.

Central Church will open it's doors in Fellowship Hall for vendors to display and sell their crafts. If you or someone you know is interested in renting a booth, please contact Terri Catt at 480-231-7785.

Upcoming Blood Drive



Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for August 7th, 12 to 5:45 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Marian Durkee at 616-374-7489.