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When I was growing up, there was a neighbor who did calisthenics every morning in his driveway. He told the children in the neighborhood he needed to stay ready, because the Army could reactivate him at any time. Through my young eyes, he looked like he must have been as old as Methuselah. He was never reactivated by the Army, but he did keep himself physically ready to re-enter the service of our country if the call ever came.

As followers of Christ, some of us take a different approach than my childhood neighbor. Rather than concerning ourselves with being ready to re-enter leading a ministry, we take the attitude that we have been there, done that, and have already given our time. Such an attitude is ultimately un-fulfilling for the Christian, and for the church.

There are so many ways to offer service and leadership in the church. Certainly there are those who have the physical ability to get things done. There are those with certain skillsets which are of great help as well. There are folks who show up, and are willing to teach a class, push a broom, or pull some weeds. And, there are so many more ways folks are stepping up, and offering themselves. All are needed, and all are appreciated.

Time and again I've heard how those who can no longer offer some physical labor can always pray. I agree with this, whole-heartedly! And there is another way I'd like to see our leaders re-activate. I would like to have those who have had a lifetime of service, serve as a mentor and a coach to those who are new and perhaps unsure of what they've been asked to take on.

We need all of the gifts of all of the people in our church. Because reaching more people for Christ means we have to build up our leaders.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

## Summer Sunday School

Beginning Sunday, June 4th we will begin our one room Summer Sunday School for kids age 4 through 5th grade. Teachers have been identified, but each one will need a helper for their Sunday.

You may volunteer for one Sunday or several. Help out our teachers and enjoy our special children.

Contact Peggy Miller or call the church office.

Summer is almost here, and the kids will soon be out of school. Remember that we have a summer program for children ages 7-11 and for Youth ages 12-15.

Registrations have begun and each group has a limited amount of openings.

Programming begins on Monday, June 19th and runs for 6 weeks, Monday through Thursday.

We will be in great need of volunteers to assist with meals, transportation, teach a talent (craft, music, etc.), recreation, etc.

Contact the church office or watch for signup sheets coming soon.

5/2: Richard Girdler  
5/4: Delbert White  
5/9: Emily Benoit  
5/10: Ramona Van Tol  
5/11: Sydne Hansman  
5/11: Sophia Kerkmaz  
5/12: Joyce Fox  
5/13: Mary Lou Flowers  
5/14: Janet Sturgeon  
5/14: Chuck McDougall  
5/14: Robert Taylor  
5/16: Donna Nagy  
5/17: James Miller  
5/17: Catherine Parker  
5/22: Paul Warnick  
5/22: Juanita Miller  
5/23: Marilene Miller  
5/24: Rachel Barns  
5/24: Mackenzie Ings  
5/25: Joseph Smith  
5/26: Jean Mueller  
5/26: Sarah Olechowski  
5/29: Elizabeth O'Connor  
5/30: Dolores Hardoin

*\*\*If you have a birthday this month, and don't see your name, then we don't have it on file in the office. Please contact us and we will update our records to include your birthdate!*



## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

**The last program for Financial Peace University was so successful that another series of classes has been scheduled.**

**Beginning Monday, June 5th at 7pm, the class will run for 9 weeks (except for Monday, July 3rd).**

**Pastor Don will be the class leader. If you are interested or have questions, please contact the church office.**

**Class materials are available for purchase in the office.**

**These are some results from those that attended the last class - Of the 9 individuals and families that took the class:**

**They retired \$24,775.78 in debt.**

**They saved an additional \$14,620.00.**

**They cut up and cancelled 26 credit cards.**



**You are invited to be part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual High Beam  
Utica United Methodist Car Show**

Obviously, if you have a car you can participate if it has an interesting history, is one of a kind, etc. you can enter it in the show and share that story with other participants and visitors. There are applications in the office, on our website, [www.uticaumc.org](http://www.uticaumc.org), our facebook page, or from any of the car guys.

What if you don't have a car? Consider being there, all day or part of the day because you are the Utica United Methodist Church that is providing this opportunity to our neighbors so they can have an enjoyable day – cars, ice cream, live music, sloppy joes from “Jaloppy Joe’s Sloppy Joes & Dogs” – what could be better.

Your presence, getting to know our visitors, sharing with them about our love of Christ, and encouraging them to come join with us in our ministries, worship, and fellowship is what the Show is ultimately about.

We, the “Car Guys” enjoy car shows, and have enjoyed ‘making’ the High Beam Car Show ‘happen’ for 10 years – we’re starting on our second decade. But, the ‘Show’ is best if you are also present, helping with various functions during the show, and most importantly being present to be with our participants and visitors.

We pray you will come join with us as we reach out to our community in faith, fun, and good friendship.

**The Car Guys**

Mark Biernaczzonek, Jim Buckley, David Clark, Bob Clark, Gene Epperson,  
John Herthel, Gary Penz, Gary Taylor, Charles white

### *Summer Mission Intern Program*

Your financial support provides training in:  
Team building; Curriculum design; Cultural sensitivity; Child protection training; Working with volunteers; and Conflict resolutions.

You may directly support our congregational intern, Sarah Olechowski, who will be an intern this year for our own STARS/XCEL programs.

Write "Mission Intern" on your offering envelope to support this important program.

Remember that we will have 3 or 4 interns here to assist with the STARS and XCEL Summer Programs.

So as we support them, they support us!

**Remember to purchase food items for the shopping carts.**

**The month of May, the donations are for our own food pantry. Regular sized cans are good since most of our food pantry participants You may also donate paper products, cereals, canned meats such as tuna, chicken, etc. Thank you for your generosity to those in need.**



### **United Methodist Summer Camps**

Has your child, youth, or your whole family considered attending one of the United Methodist Summer Camps?

There are several to choose from and registration and getting information is so easy.

Just go to the camp website at:

<https://umcamping.org/>

You will find details for the all the UM camps in Michigan, details on registration, and contact information if you have questions.



### **Photos Wanted!**

Our pictorial directory needs to be updated. This is a perpetual booklet that we print out of the church office.

We have several new folks attending and would like to include pictures in our directory. Also, if you have had a family change (marriage, new baby, etc), we would like to have new photos from those folks as well.

If we do not have your picture or a picture of your family, we are asking you to drop off or mail us a current photo of you or your family that we may scan for our directory. We will be happy to return the photo to you if asked.

Directories are available on the table in the Narthex.





## Graduation Sunday WE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOU!

Graduation Sunday is  
**June 4**, and we'd like  
to honor you for this great achievement  
during the worship services.

**You must contact the church office to be included.**

We are looking for **high school** graduates as well as **college** graduates.

For high school students, we'd like your name, photo, and school.

For college grads: name, school AND degree earned.

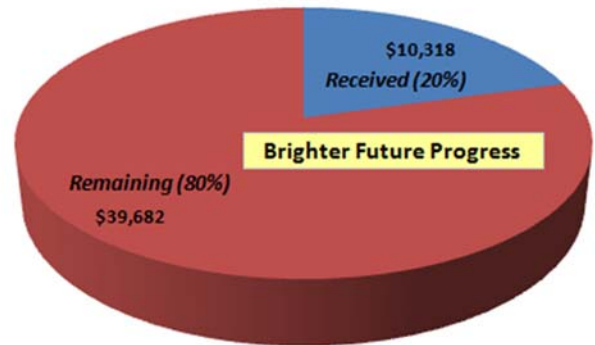
Contact the church office by  
Phone at 586-731-7667 or via email to  
charlotte@uticaumc.org

## Brighter Future Progress

We are making progress toward our goal of raising \$50,000 by the end of September to update the parking lot lighting and purchase a digital sign for the Canal Road entrance.

Thank you for your willingness to make a Brighter Future.

\*As of this past Sunday, our new balance is \$12,208. Thank you for your continuing support!



## Gardening Friends.....

Thank you to those who have been weeding our flower beds and spreading some much needed mulch. Your help is greatly appreciated.

We are still in need of folks to take care of the Food Pantry Garden at the back of the church.

Many hands make light work, whether it is to weed, to plant, or to harvest. It would be especially helpful to have one or two people who could take charge of organizing helpers.

Please contact the church office if you are able to help in any way.



## E-GIVING

### An easy way to give! Easy to Register!

1. Scan this QR code with your smart phone: **or**
2. On your computer, online type in:  
<https://e-giving.org/uticaunitedmethodistchurch>



You will then be led through the registration process during which you will enter your payment information.

E-giving offers scheduling options for donations, online donation confirmations, and giving history reports.

Donations can be made through bank draft, credit card or debit card. You will still get a regular quarterly statement from the church as usual.



Attention golfers:

This year's golf outing will be held on Saturday, June 24th. The first tee time will be 1:00 and we will be playing at Plum Brook golf course. The cost to play is \$40, this includes 18 holes with cart, and prizes for the lucky ones. If you are interested in playing, contact Al Manning (586-463-0298) or Del White (586-739-0576). Both men and women are welcome and we will be playing a scramble format so even the less experienced golfers can look good. If you only want to play 9 holes that can be arranged. We are looking for donations to give out as prizes; please help.



**FUNDRAISER for Good Shepherd Coalition**

Shop for your Spring Flowers, Garden Vegetables and Benefit GSC!

It is simple and the best part is you get to benefit GSC and you will be surrounded by gorgeous flowers!

Our dates are **May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**. Shop on these 2 days, You will need to sign up for a **Free Deneweth's customer card** (this is how they keep track of the donations through the cards) and let the person at the register know that you are supporting **Good Shepherd Coalition!**

**20% OF ALL YOUR PURCHASE WILL GO TO HELP US!!**

**DENEWETH'S GARDEN CENTER  
16125 22 MILE RD. MACOMB, MI 48044**

[deneweths.com](http://deneweths.com)

**Note that GSC is a coalition of churches and businesses that help those in need with rent, utilities, and other assistance.**

**Utica UMC is a participant in GSC.**

Operating Fund Status

Below is the YTD summary of our income and expenses. To date, we have received \$144,713 in income. We have disbursed 143,585. Thank you for your commitment to ensuring we are able to meet all our obligations in 2017.





## Furnishing Homes for the Homeless

Whether we are returning from a long day at work, finding the way down our street after a night out with friends or family, or finally arriving from the excitement of vacation, there is nothing like the feeling of returning *HOME*.

We at Utica UMC have an opportunity to help provide that same feeling to those transitioning from a life of one shelter after another, or a life on the street, to a place of their own. Baldwin Social Services in Pontiac assists clients during this transition by providing good quality USED household items to furnish their home.

So this is what we are asking - - for the next two weeks we will be collecting good quality USED items like: dishes, especially cereal bowls, glasses, eating utensils, kitchen towels and washrags, brooms and dust pans, mops, pots and pans, bath towels, blenders, coffee pots, microwave ovens, vacuum cleaners, toasters, luggage, irons and ironing boards.

As you go through your house doing your spring cleaning, or replacing items as you redecorate, please bring them to the church for donation. Your “hand me downs” will be a “hand up” to those starting a home for the first time.

You will find a list of needed items in the Narthax and on the Bulletin insert. If you have questions about something you would like to donate, contact me or any member of the Missions Committee, as well as the church office.

Help us to help the transitioning homeless know the feeling that....

*there's no place like home.*

~Together in Missions

## NEEDS FOR RALLY DAY AND IN-GATHERING PROJECT

On June 14th at 10:00am, we will be cutting out items for the Personal Kits for Teens in Haiti. We continue to need dark flannel materials of 2 1/2 yards or more or flannel sheet sets and also snaps of 1/4 or 1/3 inch. Please place these items in the marked bin in the Narthex. We also need people who would be willing to sew simple circles. See Kathy Weaver on Sunday mornings or call her at 586-677-0572 if you are able to help or have questions. Thanks for your support!

## A Mother's Love

This Sunday we celebrated Mother's Day. A day began by the Methodist Church to honor those who gave us birth and those who raised us. I wanted so badly to be a good mother, I hope I succeeded more than I failed. I was a fortunate Mother, I had good children. They still are in my heart daily as they have raised children of their own, now adults. I know the worries they face because I have faced them myself. They are always in your thoughts and prayers.

The sermon this week was about Generosity and as Rev. Gotham said who better to represent generosity than a Mother. It begins with the pregnancy, then sleep deprivation; who needs sleep when an infant's needs are more important. Giving up sleep without resentment or regret is just the beginning of generosity with a Mother and it doesn't end with infancy but continues on until they leave home. Generosity for a Mother includes not only making sure they are well clothed and have all the necessities of life but also includes eating the broken egg, the cold meal, grocery shopping when you really don't feel like it, working a job that you may not enjoy but the hours are better for your children, calling in sick when they have a snow day and making cookies.

Generosity doesn't come from a bank account but is a sacrifice of self. It's doing what needs to be done because it is what you want to do for them and it's love. We see generous people in our church lives daily. They are the ones who help us out of the car, greet us at the door, prepare funeral luncheons, usher us to our seats, prepare our coffee and tea and cookies for fellowship, serve on our committees, make sure our mission goals are met, serve at Warming Center and MCREST, clean up our section of Van Dyke in Utica, keep our grounds looking nice, prepare our pews, knit and pray over prayer shawls, and sew dresses for Haiti.

Remember the TV show that said "There are a million stories in the Naked City" that is how church is, there are a myriad of jobs. These jobs are done by people with a generous spirit. People who care about their church. I have said nothing about the generous gifts of money that keep the church functioning, that keep the lights on, that pay the salaries, that enable us to grow together and reach out to others.

Then there is the extra giving that pays for things like the parking lot lighting, and a electronic sign, and the new van. We are a generous people. But we give because we have been given. God so loved us that he gave his only begotten son. Christ gave up his life on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. How can we not be a generous people as a Mother is generous and giving to her children, as a Father is generous and giving to his family, as God has been and will continue to be generous to those who follow him and love his Son? God takes our generosity and uses it. Let us be in every way God's generous people.

Luke 21:1-4 As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.

2 Corinthians 8: 7 But just as you excel in everything --in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you excel in the grace of giving.

Thank you God for Mother's, those that gave us birth, those who were examples in generosity to us, those that raised us, those who mentored us, and those who were kind to us and taught us kindness.

May we be reflections of their generosity. Amen

~ Grace Epperson





**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:****Sunday, May 21**

8:15 - Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
<b>9:00 &amp; 10:30- Blood Pressure Screening</b>	<b>Library</b>
9:30 - Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 - Children & Youth Sunday School	Rooms 304, 305, 103
11:00 - Adult Bible Study	Room 104
11:00 - Worship	Fellowship Hall
11:00 - Children's Worship	Room 302
12:30 - Youth Ministry	Room 101 & 103

**Monday, May 22**

10:00 - Commit to Be Fit	Fellowship Hall
1:00 - Prayer Quilting	Conference Room
7:00 - Scout Troop 80	Fellowship Hall
7:30 - Into the Word Study	Conference Room

**Tuesday, May 23**

6:00 - Tuesday Bible Study	Conference Room
7:00 - Disciple Fast Track	Room 107
7:00 - MS Men's Support	Parlor
7:30 - ACOA	Room 104

**Wednesday, May 24**

6:30 - Men's Study	Room 104
7:30 - Worship Band rehearsal	Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, May 25**

10:00 - Commit to Be Fit	Fellowship Hall
12:00 - "Food for Body & Soul"	Conference Room
6:30 - Scripture Investigators	Conference Room

**Friday, May 26****Saturday, May 27**

9:00 - Ruth's Knit 'n' Stitch	Conference Room
10:00- Multiply meeting	Board Room

**Sunday, May 28**

8:15 - Chancel Choir rehearsal	Sanctuary
9:30 - Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 - Children & Youth Sunday School	Rooms 304, 305, 103
11:00 - Adult Bible Study	Room 104
11:00 - Worship	Fellowship Hall
11:00 - Children's Worship	Room 302
12:30 - Youth Meeting	Room 103



**Utica United Methodist  
Church**  
8650 Canal Road  
Sterling Heights MI 48314

**SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES:**

9:30AM Traditional Service with Organ,  
Choir and Handbells

11:00AM Contemporary Service with  
PRAISE Band  
(Join us in Fellowship Hall)

\*\*\*\*\*

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday - Thursday – 8:00am-4:00pm

Friday 8:00am- 2:00pm

**\*office closed Monday  
5/29 - Holiday**



**Ministry Team**

**Rev. Don Gotham**  
srpastor@uticaumc.org

**Minister of Congregational Care**  
**Norma Taylor**  
norma@uticaumc.org

**Music Ministry**  
**David Fox**, Organist, Bell, & Chancel  
Choirs Director  
FoxDavidL@sbcglobal.net  
**Christopher Heldt**, Contemporary  
Worship Leader  
cjheldt2000@yahoo.com

**Director of Christian Development**  
**Peggy Miller**  
peggy@uticaumc.org

**Youth Director**  
**Jonah Ings**  
jonah.ings@uticaumc.org

**Office Staff**  
**Charlotte Ramsey** - Secretary/Bookkeeper  
charlotte@uticaumc.org

**Tara Blandford**—Office Assistant  
tarab@uticaumc.org

**Custodian**  
**Rachelle Heldt**

**Child Care**  
**Caitlyn Danforth**



**Visit our NEW Website!**  
[www.uticaumc.org](http://www.uticaumc.org)

**Our Mission**  
To make disciples of  
Jesus Christ  
for the transformation  
of the world.

**Our Vision**  
To reach and nurture our  
community with the love of Christ

**Deadline Information**

**For the Weekly Messenger:**  
Items must be submitted to the office by  
Wednesday to be included in that week's Messenger

**Prayer Requests:**  
3:00 p.m. Thursday for Sunday's Prayer List