

THE  
MESSENGER IS  
ALWAYS ON  
OUR WEBSITE!

AUGUST 6, 2017

www.uticaumc.org – 586-731-7667

8650 Canal Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48314

Join us on Facebook!

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## When was the last time?

When was the last time the Bishop asked you to pray? Our Bishop, David Bard has asked us to pray for the work of The Commission on the Way Forward. Let me explain.

For over forty-five years the United Methodist Church has not been of one mind regarding the matter of human sexuality. In these years, there have been those wanting to retain our traditional standards, and those wanting to change the standards.

As we see in many parts of our society, there seems to be a lack of a willingness to accept staying in the place in between where a decision isn't ultimately reached. The General Conference decided in 2016 to create a commission to study, and make a recommendation to a special called general conference for the delegates to vote on, thus deciding the matter.

The commission has been at work, and all of the conferences have been asked to pray over their work. Our first week to stay in prayer for this important work is August 6-12. I invite you to click on this link - [https://vimeo.com/227295801?utm\\_source=Michigan+Area+UMC&utm\\_campaign=86df59f574-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_07\\_27&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_1e193f36cb-86df59f574-411526713](https://vimeo.com/227295801?utm_source=Michigan+Area+UMC&utm_campaign=86df59f574-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_07_27&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1e193f36cb-86df59f574-411526713) and watch the video in which the Bishop calls us to prayer.

I'll be praying, and hope you will too!

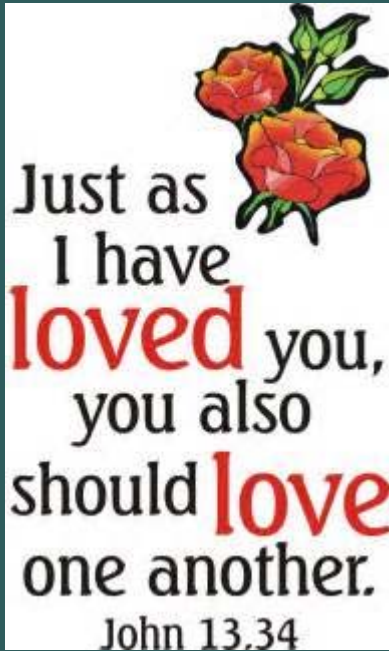


Rev. Don

Website for : [umcprays.org](http://umcprays.org)



# August Birthdays



- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 8/2:<br>Rachel Yung<br>Noah Chisholm                             | 8/11:<br>Kathryn Tuttle<br>Norma Taylor                      | 8/21:<br>Robert Gibson<br>Claudia Bill<br>Dale Taylor<br>Ronanne McGill |
| 8/4:<br>Bev Altovilla<br>Barbara Buckley<br>Christopher<br>Burke | 8/12:<br>Dorothy Vikstrom<br>8/13:<br>Doris Rhodes           | 8/22:<br>John Fox   |
| 8/5:<br>Megan Darr   | 8/14:<br>Sandy Deneweth                                      | 8/23:<br>Adelyn Affonso   |
| 8/6:<br>Kenneth Kelley<br>Jim Young                              | 8/15:<br>Audrey Leo  | 8/25:<br>David Miller   |
| 8/7:<br>Mathews George<br>Joyce Clark<br>Steve Bruen             | 8/16:<br>Marianne Harris                                     | 8/28:<br>Joyceann Joyce<br>John Sohlden<br>Cookie Miller                |
| 8/8<br>Ted Robertson<br>Bob Clark<br>Gail Potter                 | 8/17:<br>Richard Tuttle<br>Carl Ireland<br>Caitlin Schneider | 8/29:<br>Cynthia Stahl-Yuhas  |
|  | 8/18:<br>Beverly Dipman<br>Mickie Gaffke                     |   |

## Church T-Shirts

We are taking orders for a new church T-shirt! You may have seen a few around already!! They are Navy Blue with the church's name on the front and "Serving the Community for nearly 200 years" on the back. These shirts can be worn during all of the Utica UMC events and mission projects for several years to come!! (We celebrate 200 years in 2023!!)

The cost of the t-shirt will be \$15 and come in men's sizes small through xxx-large. Please order yours by August 13<sup>th</sup> to receive them by Rally Day on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Sign ups are on a table in your worship area.



Serving the community  
for nearly  
200 Years

### Directory Update

Mark & Carol Loessel  
13139 Talons Reach Blvd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Phone: 260-637-9914



### *In Memoriam*

Dorothy (Dotty)  
Bryson



## NEW MEMBER CLASS

Are you ready to become a member of Utica UMC?

If so, please let us know.

A new member class will be starting up soon and we would love to have you be a part of this class.

Call the church office (586-731-7667), speak with the Pastor or Norma Taylor, or email to: [charlotte@uticaumc.org](mailto:charlotte@uticaumc.org)

## Great Opportunity Available...

If you ever wondered what it would take to be a Sunday school teacher, now is a good time to find out! Teachers and substitute teachers are needed for both the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services.

Even if you missed the teacher's meeting, you can still find out details of being a teacher or helper, or to volunteer.

This is a rewarding opportunity and the children are eager to learn!

Please call the church office or email

Peggy Miller -

[peggy@uticaumc.org](mailto:peggy@uticaumc.org)

## “Brighter Future Program” A new opportunity for new donations!

Starting this Sunday, July 9 thru August 13 (6 weeks) a "limited time offer" - for new contributions received in that time period (not previous gifts).

**The following items will be on "sale":**

- ✦ **For \$300** - Purchase the opportunity to display a message on the sign for 1 week, with the following stipulations: 1) No business advertisements and 2) message must be appropriate and receive church approval. Examples: birthday, anniversary, graduation wish; ministry invitation, favorite saying, etc.
- ✦ **For \$200** - Purchase "pool of light" in the parking lot. This one is more conceptual than tangible, but it allows those interested in the lights to contribute in that manner.
- ✦ **For \$250** - Purchase the opportunity to select a scripture to be displayed on the sign for 1 week (people will sign up for a particular month/week, e.g., January - week 1; depending when the sign is installed we will start with the next month and go from there).
- ✦ Please note that regardless of purchase, any funds contributed will be utilized for both Brighter Future Projects.

Please do say a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the gifts we have received so far **(\$32,554)** and His continued blessing and inspiration on the remainder of the project.

### Sunday Service on August 13th

We will welcome our missionaries to Southeast Asia, Rev. Ut Van To and Rev. Karen Vo-To, who will be bringing us the message.

That day we will also be singing out favorite songs based on your votes!

It will be a special day. Be sure to join us!

### Macomb Habitat for Humanity August 2017 Volunteer Opportunities – All levels of ability welcome

#### **Mt. Clemens Builds**

Tuesday, August 8, 2017 – 20 slots New Construction > 42525 Stepnitz Mt Clemens

Tuesday, August 22, 2017 – 2 slots -- Chippewa Valley/Dakota Schools Build at 42461 Orchard St. Mt Clemens -- this is a house built by students at the School and brought to the site to be completed

Both sites are at the end of Stepnitz, south of Joy Blvd., east of Gratiot

#### ***First Romeo Macomb Habitat for Humanity Build Site***

Wednesday, August 9, 2017 – 4 slots -- New Construction > 161 Dickenson, Romeo.  
first floor deck on the crawl space walls

Friday, August 11, 2017 – 2 slots --

Wednesday, August 16, 2017 -- 17 slots -- Help build some interior walls and raise them

Thursday, August 17, 2017 – 12 slots -- Help finish the interior walls and raise some trusses for the roof

Saturday, August 19, 2017 – 12 slots -- Help raise some trusses for the roof and add roof sheeting plus other tasks

Tuesday, August 22, A landscaping day - grading and seeding the yard, put in garden spots

Wednesday, August 23, 2017 -- 18 slots -- Help finish the roof sheeting and start shingling plus other tasks  
161 Dickenson, Romeo

Saturday, August 26, 2017 -- 20 slots -- Help finish the roof shingling plus install doors and windows, start the siding

Wednesday, August 30, 2017 – 18 slots -- Help install doors and windows, and continue the siding

If you are interested in volunteering on this build, email Dave Tirsell at

[dtirsell@macombhabitat.org](mailto:dtirsell@macombhabitat.org)



Going to be away on vacation or other travel event? Why not sign up now for E-giving.

Your one time or recurring donation will happen even if you are traveling and are unable or forgot to mail in your offering.

Just go to our website, click on the E-Giving tab and register. It's that easy!



We received a wonderful brown bear, who we named Lucile. Lucile was given to a friend after her Emmaus walk. Lucile, joined our family on the morning of our son's ultrasound. Isaac has always had a big head, but it has started to grow very quickly. We went to his one year appointment, and his doctor told us to get an ultrasound. We were told we are fortunate that Isaac still has an open fontanel (soft spot), otherwise he would need an MRI.

We prayed a lot. Lucile, offered us a physical comfort. We were blessed by Isaac napping through a portion of the ultrasound. Lucile waited in the car for us. The next day, she traveled to Indiana with us, to visit family, and where we received the ultrasound results. We learned that Isaac does not have a brain tumor, but an MRI was recommended. We called and scheduled an appointment with a neurosurgeon. Lucile traveled with us to Children's Hospital.

At Children's we met Dr. Ham. He suggested a second ultrasound, to be done immediately. We learned that Isaac has a large head and his 3&4 ventricles are pronounced. Pronounced is ok, protruding would require an MRI. We feel very fortunate that Isaac is currently a big headed baby. We will take Lucile with us to visit Dr. Ham in October for a follow up appointment.

We are grateful for the diagnosis of Macrocephaly instead of Hydrocephalus. Lucile is and was a great comfort to us. We appreciate your church ministry of bears. Thank you again. ~Tera, Steve and Isaac Schwartz



## Commit to Be Fit

We are waiting for you to join us on  
**Mondays and Thursdays**  
**from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.**  
in Fellowship Hall.

We do a variety of chair aerobics, strength training and stretching using videos.

Come and see how much fun we have and we're sure you will really enjoy the exercises - and the fellowship.

**\*All are welcome!**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**RALLY DAY WILL BE**  
**ON SUNDAY,**  
**SEPTEMBER 10TH**  
**WITH A PICNIC AND**  
**OTHER SURPRISES.**

**More details will be**  
**announced soon.**

# Praise Songs on August 13th

Folks attending our service at 11:00am will be voting for songs to be sung on August 13th. A list of potential songs are on a sheet at the back of Fellowship Hall. Just circle the song you would like and put it in the basket provided. You may vote for one song per week through Sunday, August 6th.

Thank you for your participation.

## SAVE THE DATE



2017 Hands4Detroit Committee Members

<http://michiganumc.info/hands4detroit>

For more information contact Audrey Mangum at: drdsjusticemission@gmail.com

## VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE HYMN!

On Sunday, August 13th at the 9:30am service we will sing some of our favorite hymns.

You may vote for your favorite hymn by writing the name (and hymn number if you have it) on the paper provided in the Narthex and dropping it in the basket.

**You may vote for one hymn per person per week ending the Sunday of August 6th.**

The hymns receiving the top votes are the ones we will sing.

**Take time to vote and possibly have your song included in the song fest on Aug. 13th.**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

In order to maintain our welcoming atmosphere, we are seeking greeters for the 9:30 worship service. Greeters are needed to be present at both entrances to the church to welcome people as they arrive. If you are able to assist in this important ministry, please call the church office, or contact Tara at tarab@uticaumc.org. Thank you!



A new Sunday School format for children will start on Rally Day, Sunday September 10th

More details coming soon.

#### A NEW CHURCH HOME

In 1981 we were attending a small church near our home. We had been going there for several years and were involved and had many church friends. My husband was directing the choir, leading Council on Ministries and was active in the Men's Club. I was involved in Social Concerns, Women's groups, had taught Sunday School, ushered and served on the Pastor Parish Committee and was the Delegate to Annual Conference. Unfortunately I was losing the focus of why I wanted to be in church. Every time I would usher, one particular gentleman would make a remark about "women libbers." Pastor Parish was divided on issues, Women's group was entrenched and would reject any new ideas, Social Concerns were really not relevant to the congregation.

I was concentrating on all the things I thought were wrong about the church and I missed the things that were right. They were a good congregation and good people, but I was a bad fit. I decided to try a new church. I came to Utica UMC. It was a difficult time and for about 2 months, I attended both churches. I finally made the decision to change. I felt God calling me to a different place. My husband decided to move too and I knew this was difficult for him. This is not a move I ever regretted...well, maybe once when I decided to attend an early morning Lenten Study which had been advertised in the Bulletin. As I walked in I was greeted by a gentleman who informed me it was a Men's Study. I began to apologize when the Pastor overheard the exchange and informed everyone that the study was open to all. The next week he had his wife get up early before she went to work and attend so I wouldn't feel like I didn't belong. What a blessing they were in my life.

I thought of this transition this week when 2 couples from our congregation moved, one couple to Indiana, the other to Wisconsin. They will be changing churches for very different reasons but still changing churches is difficult and I will remember them in my prayers.

Ruth and Naomi faced changes in their lives. Naomi was the Mother-in-law to Ruth. Naomi and Orpah's husbands had been killed. Naomi urged them to return to their homelands where they could once again find husbands. Orpah agreed but Ruth uttered these words:

Ruth 1:16-18 - But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."

Ruth faced change with courage and trust and went on with Naomi to a place where she was a stranger. Holy God, we face changes in our lives, sometimes through moves, sometimes for other reasons but always you are there. We have a God that will see us through the changes, a God who is sometimes leading the changes, a God who uses those changes to bring about new challenges that help us grow, that draw us closer to him. Thank you for the people in our lives that help us through the changes. The ones who stand by us. Thank you Lord for your presence in our lives. Help us to trust, to remain steadfast in our faith, and to remember your Son, Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen. ~Grace Epperson

## **SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL**

For the summer months, the children will be attending our One Room Schoolhouse in Room 305 at 9:45am. This includes children going into Kindergarten through those going into 5th grade this fall. Children 4 and under will have activity time with Ms. Caitlyn in the Toddler Room. Our 5th grade graduates who will be in 6th grade this fall will move into the Youth Group. Their Sunday School will be in Room 103, also at 9:45am. If you have any questions, please see Peggy Miller or Jonah Ings.

### **FOOD DONATIONS TO OUR SHOPPING CARTS!**

For the month of August, food donations will be given to Baldwin Center in Pontiac. They run a soup kitchen as well as give food boxes to individual families.

*They can use whatever we give.*

Thank you for your continued support to our food cart / pantry program.

***FILL IT UP!***



### **New Chairs!**

As we continue to prepare for the new launch of our Contemporary service, we were recently awarded a grant to make purchases for this purpose by the New Church Development Committee.

Our first purchase was for additional new chairs in our Fellowship Hall. This will be an addition to our service but also for any other events or programs in our Fellowship Hall.

Please note that no money was used from our Operating Fund or from the money that has been donated for our Brighter Future campaign for this purchase.

We praise God for his continued blessings!

## *Vacation Bible Camp - S'More of Jesus*

*Some of the children who enjoyed the VBS camp.*





## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### Sunday, August 6th - Communion Sunday

8:30 - Men's Ensemble rehearsal	Sanctuary
9:30 - Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 - Children and Youth Sunday School	Rooms 305, 103
10:30 - Fellowship	Parlor
11:00 - Worship	Fellowship Hall
11:00 - Children's Worship	Room 301
12:30 - Youth Group	Room 103
1:00 - PLC Scout Leader Meeting	Room 104

### Monday, August 7th

10:00 - Commit to Be Fit	Fellowship Hall
1:00 - Prayer Quilting	Conference Room
7:00 - Troop 80 Scout Meeting	Fellowship Hall
7:00 - Financial Peace University	Music Room

### Tuesday, August 8th

7:00 - Finance & Trustees Joint Meeting	Conference Room
7:30 - ACOA	Room 104

### Wednesday, August 9th

6:30 - New! Summer Devotional Study	Room 104
7:30 - Worship Band rehearsal	Fellowship Hall

### Thursday, August 10th

10:00 - Commit to Be Fit	Fellowship Hall
12:00 - Food for Body & Soul	Conference Room
6:30 - ALS Support Meeting	Parlor
7:00 - Oil Change Ministry Meeting	Conference Room

### Friday, August 11th

### Saturday, August 12th

9:00 - Ruth's Knit 'n' Stitch	Conference Room
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### Sunday, August 13th

9:00 - Fellowship	Parlor
9:30 - Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 - Children and Youth Sunday School	Rooms 305, 103
10:30 - Fellowship	Parlor
11:00 - Worship	Fellowship Hall
11:00 - Children's Worship	Room 301



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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES:**

9:30AM  
With Organ, Choir and Handbells  
in the Sanctuary

11:00AM  
with our Worship Band  
in Fellowship Hall

\*\*\*\*\*

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday - Thursday**  
**8:00am-4:00pm**  
**Friday 8:00am- 2:00pm**



**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

cjhheldt2000@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**



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**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 the following Sunday