

# Weekly Messenger

May 24, 2019

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## LETTER FROM REVEREND DON GOTHAM:

### Getting Ready

I've been getting many things ready in these past weeks. The preaching schedule is complete and will be published in the newsletter. The list of clergy who will be available in the case of a pastoral emergency has been created and will be in the capable hands of Charlotte Ramsey in the church office. The summer fellowship specials have all been planned, and sign-up sheets will be available for those who want to join in on something they are passionate about. I've passed along the passcode to my voicemail box here at church, so those messages don't sit and wait for my return. I am also providing the sign-in credentials to my church email account, so it can be monitored and responded to in a timely fashion.

The last one, the church email is probably the one which requires the most preparation. Over eight years, I have ended up on email lists which I don't really even have an interest in. I have become used to merely deleting them without even opening them. Still, I realize it isn't fair to ask someone else to sort through this in the same way I have. I'm now doing what I should have done long ago, I'm unsubscribing from these pesky junk mail lists.

I suspect I am much like the majority of folks who deal with something when it becomes something which has to be dealt with. I believe lots of us get used to the "extra" and "unnecessary" things in our lives without giving them much thought.

(Continued on Page 3)

**Utica United  
Methodist Church**

8650 Canal Road,  
Sterling Heights, MI

(586) 731-7667

[www.UticaUMC.org](http://www.UticaUMC.org)

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



## THE 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL **HIGH BEAM** CAR SHOW



ALL MAKES, MODELS, AND YEARS WELCOME

**JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> ★ 9AM - 3PM**

**Sign-in/Registration  
begins at 8am**

Utica United Methodist Church  
8650 Canal Road, Sterling Hts, MI

\$15 Day-Of Registration

\$12 Pre-registration available:

Call Jim at 586-247-0256 or  
download the registration form at  
[www.uticaumc.org/our-ministries](http://www.uticaumc.org/our-ministries)

★ Live Music ★

★ Great Food ★

★ Awards & Prizes ★

★ Charity Driven ★

Proceeds go toward *Autism\**  
and the *Society of St. Andrew*

\*If you would like to know the exact Autism support organizations that will receive donations from this event, please email [uticami.ummen@uticaumc.org](mailto:uticami.ummen@uticaumc.org)

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



## Veteran's Memorial Garden



It is hard to believe that the Veteran's Memorial Garden was dedicated almost 6 years ago on July 28, 2013. In preparation of doing some general maintenance and minor enhancements there will be a fund raiser on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day weekend. Part of the fundraiser will be the sale of flag cross pins. These pins were given to each person who had their names engraved on a brick. If you already have one and still want to help, just write Veterans Garden on your giving envelope. Many of the names on the bricks are no longer with us, let's keep their memory alive and support the Veteran's Garden. Thanks, Vets of UUMC.



## Summer Camps

Perhaps you have not been thinking about summer camps, but summer will soon be here. The Endowment Committee is making summer grants available in the amount of \$100 to those who are interested.

Summer camps can range from a couple of days to a week, and covers a range of topics. The church office has camp brochures that can provide you with all the information you need.

If you are interested in obtaining one of the grants notify the church office.

## Pastor's Page cont'd

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul cautioned the saints, "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil" ([Ephesians 5:15-16](#))

Living wisely involves using our time carefully. It doesn't take but a fraction of a second to delete the useless emails, but those fractions add up, and I believe all of us could benefit from thinking through the "extra" and "unnecessary" things we could eliminate to allow us to spend our time more effectively for God.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Don

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

**S.T.A.R.S.** is returning again this summer!

**S**tudents, **T**alents, **A**ctivities, **R**ecreation, **S**cripture

**And we're looking for UUMC kids to participate along with children from our community!**

**Parents:** Please plan now to arrange your summer schedule to include **S.T.A.R.S.** for your children.

It runs from **9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.**

(There is room for a total of 28 children, so don't hesitate to sign up your child or grandchild)

***Mondays through Thursdays, June 17 through July 25  
for Children ages 7-5<sup>th</sup> grade (current grade)***

This program is **totally free** (thanks to the generosity of the people of Utica UMC) and includes breakfast, lunch, snacks, activities, materials, teaching times, and much more.

**Every Thursday is an outing day, also free.** (Last year they went to places such as the Apple store, Butterfly House, Music store, painting, etc..)

What a wonderful opportunity for your elementary aged children to spend time in a safe, wholesome environment, having good Christian fun!

We continue to be blessed to have mission interns from the Greater Detroit Conference.

Contact the church office to have questions answered. Watch for registration forms in the sign up areas.

**Free of charge**

**Open to ages 6<sup>th</sup> grade -8<sup>th</sup> grade (current grade)**

**Limited to 15 students**

**9:00-2:30 daily**

**Monday - Thursday**

**June 17 - July 25**

**Serving breakfast,  
lunch and snack daily**

**Weekly field trip**

**Transportation offered**

**\*\*Registration forms can be found in your  
Worship area.**



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Volunteers Needed for: STARS / XCEL

Beginning June 17<sup>th</sup>, Monday – Thursday  
for 6 weeks.

We will be in great need of volunteers to assist with meals, transportation, teach a talent (craft, music, etc.), chaperones, recreation, etc. Contact the church office or sign up on the sheets provided in the sign up area.

## SNACKS FOR STARS / XCEL

Like last year, we are asking for donations of individually wrapped servings of a snack item (not candy).

This could be chips, pretzels, goldfish or other crackers, fruit snacks, etc.

We will need a total of 50 servings and please try to avoid nuts as we have some children with food allergies.

Just drop them off in the kitchen and mark the item "STARS".

Thank you!!!

## Sponsor a Child for STARS or Xcel!

The STARS/Xcel program is an outreach to our community. In order to make this program open for all families, we do not charge for the time their children attend our program.

So you can help off-set the cost by sponsoring a child. The cost for one child is \$25 per week / \$150 for all 6 weeks. This includes meals, outings, supplies and other needs.

If you want to help, put on the other line "Sponsor A Child" and the amount you are giving. Thank you for your continued support of the Summer Programs.



## FUNDRAISER OPPORTUNITY AROUND THE CORNER!



**PEEL TO SAVE CARDS ARE  
ON THEIR WAY!**

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Weekly Devotional

### PHONE IN THE CAR

I have a phone in my car. I occasionally use it when I am driving because it is hands free and connects me with an operator who is just an anonymous automated voice. I argue with this voice. She never gets the number right and argues right back. I then hang up and try again, eventually getting the number correctly dialed. I often think this compares with my experience with my prayers. God doesn't argue with me, but he has a different plan and I can't override it no matter how many times I hang up and try again.

Lately I have been thinking it would be good if I could win the lottery. But I hesitate to ask God for this because I know there is a lot of competition and others are much more deserving of it and I am too cheap to buy a ticket. I am reminded of the story of the man who prayed to God to win the lottery. Each week he would pray, and he never won. He became distressed about this and told God he had been praying and praying, and his prayers were not answered. He asked God one more time to win the lottery and God finally answered him in a still small whisper, "You have to buy a ticket!" God may not answer my prayers in the way that I want but he uses others to point me in a different direction.

I was talking with a woman one day on the phone (at home, not in the car) and she was telling me about what she had gone through with her Mother who had dementia. She was sympathizing with me about my husband. We witnessed to each other about our faith and she asked if she could pray with me over the phone. I welcomed her prayer and felt comforted by it. Her prayer gave me peace and understanding, and I think God used her for that. God may not answer our prayers in the way we want but he is listening and sends us comfort. He is a shelter in the storm.

Psalm 107:28-31 Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds.

Lord be with us this day. Give us strength for the journey until we find our rest in you. Be with those who are grieving loss, those who are ill, those who are facing tough decisions, those who are estranged from family and friends, those struggling with addiction, and those who suffer silently. May they feel your comfort. May we be a welcoming and comforting church as we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Be with our Pastor and staff as they lead us and bring us closer to you. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Weekly Calendar

### Sunday, May 26th

9:30am - Traditional Worship Service  
Sanctuary  
9:45am - Children & Youth Sunday School  
Rooms 304, 305, 106  
10:30am - Fellowship & Coffee Time  
Parlor  
11:00am - Contemporary Worship Service  
Fellowship Hall  
12:00 – Youth Group  
Room 106

### Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

**\*\*Office closed for Memorial Day**

10:00 – Commit to Be Fit  
Room 301  
1:00pm - Prayer Quilting  
Conference Room  
6:00pm – Emmaus 4<sup>th</sup> Day  
Library  
7:00pm – Into the Word  
Conference Room

### Tuesday, May 28th

7:30pm - ACOA  
Room 104

### Wednesday, May 29th

6:30 – Wednesday Adult Study  
Board Room  
7:30pm – Praise Band Rehearsal  
Fellowship Hall

### Thursday, May 30th

10:00 – Commit to Be Fit  
Room 301  
11:00am - Emmaus Group  
Library  
12:00pm - Food for Body & Soul  
Conference Room  
6:30pm – **Celebrate Recovery**  
Fellowship Hall

### Friday, May 31st

1:00pm - Genealogy Class  
Conference Room

### Saturday, June 1st

**9:00 – Annual Car Show**  
**Parking Lot**

9:00am - Ruth's Knit n Stitch  
Conference Room

### **SUMMER ADULT STUDY OPPORTUNITY**

A New Study begins Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at  
9:30am and Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am.  
Both classes will be held in the Conference  
Room

“Not A Fan” by Kyle Idleman  
Teresa Winkler will lead this study.  
Cost of book is \$11.00

### Save the Date!

#### Blood Drive

Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>  
from Noon – 5:45pm  
In Fellowship Hall



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Ministry Team:

Rev. Don Gotham  
srpastor@uticaumc.org

## Music Ministry

David Fox, Organist, Bell, & Chancel  
Choirs Director  
FoxDavidL@sbcglobal.net

Christopher Heldt, Contemporary  
Worship Leader  
chris.heldt@uticaumc.org

## Youth Leader

Suzy Palmer  
suzy.palmer@uticaumc.org

## Communications Director

Beth Miller  
bmiller@uticaumc.org

## Secretary/Bookkeeper

Charlotte Ramsey  
charlotte@uticaumc.org

## Custodian

Rachelle Heldt

## Child Care

Caitlyn Wilson

## Sunday Worship Times:

**9:30 AM**

with Organ, Choir and Handbells  
in the Sanctuary

**11:00 AM**

with our Worship Band  
in Fellowship Hall

## 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:

Items for The Weekly Messenger  
and/or The Weekly Prayer List must be  
submitted by 4pm on Wednesday in  
order to be included in that weeks  
edition.



## Results of Fiesta Cookoff

### Appetizer:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Emily Heldt**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Charlotte Ramsey**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place **Heather Sample**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place **Sheila Manning**

### Main Dish:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Laura Gotham**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Evelyn Phipps**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place **Kerre Cardwell**

### Dessert:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Dave Miller**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Don Gotham**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place **Rachelle Heldt**

Raised \$435 towards our  
apportionments.

## Office Hours:

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

**Friday**  
8:00am - 2:00pm

**Phone:** (586)731-7667

## Like us on Facebook!

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Going on vacation? Can't make it to  
church due to weather or illness?

You can use "E-Giving" so you can  
still give your offering during those  
times that you can't be here. You can  
even set up a recurring donation so  
you won't have to remember your  
envelope and to write that check.

The E-Giving tab is on our church  
website at:

[www.uticaumc.org](http://www.uticaumc.org)

If you need assistance, feel free to  
call the office!

## Classes/Studies

### Commit To Be Fit

Mondays & Thursdays

10am-11am in room 301

Follow along to fitness videos with  
others. Includes variety of chair  
aerobics, strength training, and  
stretching.

### Study of Luke:

Thursdays at 7pm in room 302

Join this group to study the book of  
Luke with others.

### Coming Soon - June 2nd:

#### **Not A Fan**

Sundays at 9:30am in the  
Conference Room.

Teresa Winkler will lead this study;  
see her with questions or to order  
books.

### Easter Study:

Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the  
Board Room.

**Part One: "The Case for Easter"**

**Part Two: "The Easter  
Experience"**

### Genealogy Study:

**Fridays at 1pm in Library**

Learn how to study genealogy with  
Ray Lake. Remember to bring your  
own pens and notebooks! *If you  
missed the first class, you are still  
welcome to join!*