

Weekly Messenger

May 3, 2019

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Methodist Church**
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LETTER FROM REVEREND DON GOTHAM:

Exciting Updates...



On Sunday, we will continue our worship series, The Cup of Freedom. So far, we have marked the Freedom to Move Forward, and the Freedom to Sing. The display on the altar table was of four antique Marcrest coffee cups with musical notes and an abstract musical score as a backdrop. We have six more Sundays to consider the freedom we have because of the resurrection of Christ. Folks have shared with me ideas for two of the remaining Sundays. I invite you to dream of how we might represent these themes visually, or in a reading, or some other way. Think about how we could emphasize the Freedom to love, and the Freedom to Open. If you are interested, please seek me out.

Please read on to know how we will mark the Freedom to Rise Again. I absolutely love the idea Anna Gilbert shared with me! Let's all get in the spirit of celebrating our Freedom to Rise Again on May 12th.

To mark the Freedom to Rise Again, Anna suggested: "Invite the members of the congregation to wear their favorite outfit to services on May 12th. Don't make your choice on the price or the current fashion. Select the outfit that makes you feel the best. Maybe it was the suit you wore when you got your promotion. Maybe it is the shirt you were wearing when you first held your new grandchild. Maybe it was the golf outfit you had on when you made a hole in one. Maybe you've gotten several comments from others saying "that is your color." Maybe you think you look thinner, younger, or happier. Is it new and exciting or old and reliable?"

"Now realize how every morning we have the opportunity to put on God. To wear his gift of grace. To dress ourselves in His love, His loyalty, His wisdom, His energy. How much better will you feel and act wearing the garb of God's love? Shake off wearing the failures, the mistakes, and the disappointments of the past. Put on happy, energy, anticipation, promise."

"On Easter Sunday, Jesus was not wearing what he wore on the cross. He was dressed in white. He was resurrected. His clothes were new and exciting and full of hope and redemption." - Anna Gilbert

Anna went on to suggest we have folks write something about their decision to rise again, and put those slips of paper in a balloon we would raise. We will have paper and balloons ready. We will be relying on you to wear your true favorite clothing.

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



Geraniums for Mother's Day

It is time again to celebrate all the wonderful women in our lives. Mother's Day is right around the corner on Sunday, May 12th. Consider ordering geraniums in honor of your mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, teacher, or any other special woman in your life. The flowers will be placed throughout the church and your special person will be recognized in the Mother's Day bulletin.

\$5 per plant

Unlimited plants available!!

Order forms can be found outside of the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.

Forms must be returned to the office by Sunday, May 5th.

(You may take your plants home after service.)

Eat, Learn & Live Well

FREE Wellness Series Includes Food and Health Experts Stay Senior Strong A Free Community Health Fair Wednesday, May 22, 2019 10:00 am -1:00 pm Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital Lobby

Pick up a flyer located outside your worship space for more information.

UMW Meeting & Potluck

Join the Utica United Methodist Women at their monthly meeting. Special guest Heidi Wilt, founder of The Alabaster Gift, will be presenting on Human Trafficking here in Macomb County.

Wednesday, May 8th 12pm in Fellowship Hall

If you would like to come to this event, please bring a dish to pass along with your own place setting.

Utica UMW are also collecting items for the food pantry, stamps, and Boxtops for Education coupons. If you have any of these items, bring them with you. Thank You!



Graduation Sunday

Graduation Sunday will be on May 19th this year. We would like to honor all of our graduates for their hard work and great achievement during the worship service. Please submit the following information to Charlotte in the church office

(charlotte@uticaumc.org)

Submission Requirements:

High School Grads: Name, picture, graduating school, and future school (if known).

College Grads: Name, picture, and degree earned.



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.

Thank you to all who donated diapers, wipes, and miscellaneous gifts for baby Natalie. She will be here soon and we are now fully stocked and ready for her grand appearance!!

♥ Dave & Beth Miller

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

JUST A REMINDER

On May 10th, we are having a speaker from Ascension Health Care at 1pm. She will be speaking on the FILE OF LIFE and passing out these cards to each of us.

I do hope you will be able to attend this meeting. It only lasts about half an hour. Everyone would benefit from this information, especially anyone who lives alone, whether you are young or more mature. Knowing your health history, contacts and doctors is vital to your chance of survival in emergency situations.

There is a sign-up sheet in Narthex.

Please note this time on your calendar, May 10th at 1pm

Thank you
Janet Stone, Parish Nurse



Mexican Fiesta Cook-Off

On Sunday, May 19th at 5:00pm in Fellowship Hall we will once again be having a cook-off to raise money towards our Conference Apportionments. Sign up sheets will be available after services for the following categories:

1. Appetizers and Snacks,
2. Main Dishes,
- or 3. Desserts.

You can sign up for one or all categories.

Please bring a copy of your recipe so that it can be shared with others.

Come and enjoy the fiesta, bring your (\$) to vote on your favorite dishes. Awards will be given to the top three entries for each category.

Pastor Don's Letter Continued:

5/12 Freedom to Rise Again - Acts 9:40-41 This Sunday is covered.

5/19 Freedom to Love - John 13:34

5/26 Freedom to Heal - John 5:6 This Sunday is covered.

6/2 Freedom to Open - Ephesians 1:17-18

6/9 Freedom to Be Filled - Acts 2:3-4 This Sunday is covered

Did you love the prayer chair as much as I did? The prayer chairs, both the one from the sanctuary and the one from fellowship hall are up for auction. Please place your bids on the clipboard which can be found along with the chairs. The sanctuary chair will be in the narthex, and the fellowship hall chair will be in the rear entrance. The auction will close on Sunday 5/5 after worship.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Don



PET Project

On Saturday April 27th, Ron Borgacz, Gordy Dings, Nancy Powell, Andrew Lawson, Ray Lake, Don Weaver, and Charles White went to the Mobility International - Saline workshop in Milan MI.

We cut and prepared parts for 30 carts

We assembled 6 cart bodies and numerous cart seat parts

We painted a dozen or so cart wood parts

We assembled 2 cart drives (think bicycle chain driven front wheel with cranks powered by arms) and We participated in packaging and preparing for shipment the 399th and the 400th PET vehicle that the Milan site volunteers have built.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Weekly Devotional

“What Distracts Us”

I was thinking about all the things in my life that distract me from what I should do, want to do, and need to do. I decided I needed to clean out my closet and donate some things I no longer wanted or needed to a charity. I decided this weeks ago and finally did get it done this week. Then it took me all week to take it to the charity. But it was only when I said to myself, “No more delays, either today or give it up.” I had to decide that I had to stop procrastinating. I am terrible with things I once did when my schedule was so much busier. How did I find the time? The answer isn't how I found the time, the answer is I took the time and my focus was on what was important to me. During our recent Sermon series, Rev. Don stressed the need to take time to just sit and be still. I was terrible at it. I spend far too much time on Social Media and read just about everything whether I agree with it or not. I must read it so I can delete it, meanwhile I am wasting precious brain cells on other people's rants. My life right now can be demanding, and I am trying to make decisions that are life altering and that takes a lot of energy and a lot of sleepless nights. In some ways I need those distractions but then I get to the end of the day and so many things are left undone. But should laundry, cleaning, and clearing stuff out be my focus. There are more important things, like spending the time we have left with my husband, studying my bible, just being quiet and letting the mundane, the senseless, the disturbing, the anger, the sadness go. God has given me so much and I have so much to be grateful for and that is what I need to hold onto.

Jesus called the disciples once again. He had called them to follow him then he left them but then was the miracle.

John 20:19-22 On the evening of the first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he had said this, he showed him his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again, Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone their sins, they are forgiven: If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Father forgive us when our time is spent without you. Help us always to turn to you first. Give us those quiet moments when we can seek your presence, when we can feel your love, when you can put our path before us. May we know that you are always by our side, that your love and Holy Spirit are there to guide and help us. Give us pause to listen, to feel, to know you are there. Be with those who are ill and seeking answers, give them faith. Be with those who are grieving, give them comfort. Be with those who are struggling with mental health issues, may they feel you beside them loving them and seeking them. Be with those who are homeless and hungry, may they find you in their midst. Be with our MCREST workers, may they know that their love makes a difference in people's lives. Be with our Pastor and staff as they lead us ever more toward you. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, May 5th

- 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
- 12:00am – Youth Group
Room 101
- 3:00pm – Motor City Chorale Concert
Sanctuary

Monday, May 6th

- 10:00am – Commit to Be Fit
- 1:00pm - Prayer Quilting
Conference Room
- 6:00pm – Emmaus 4th Day
Library
- 6:30pm – Tiger & Wolf Den
Room 301
- 6:30pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Music Room
- 7:00pm – Into the Word
Conference Room
- 7:00pm – Boy Scouts
Fellowship Hall
- 7:45pm – Gosbells Rehearsal
Music Room

PET Project Photo



Tuesday, May 7th

- 7:00pm – PPRC
Board Room
- 7:30pm - ACOA
Room 104

Wednesday, May 8th

- 11:00am – UMW Board Meeting
Room 208
- 12:00pm – UMW
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00pm – BFBF Joint Team Mtg.
Conference Room
- 7:30pm – Praise Band Rehearsal
Fellowship Hall

Thursday, May 9th

- 10:00am – 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
- 7:00pm – Leadership Board Meeting
Board Room
- 7:00pm – Study of Luke
Room 302

Friday, May 10th

- 10:00am – File of Life
Parlor
- 1:00pm - Genealogy Class
Library

Saturday, May 11th

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

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Ministry Team:

Rev. Don Gotham
spastor@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 DRUG DAY APRIL 27, 2019

The following is a list of what we
received on Drug Day.
15,249 multiple medications
including opioids; 9 inhalers and
some liquid; Insulin 300 plus
the DEA goes by weight which
was 43 lbs. Between four
churches, Meijer and Kroger in
the area, we received over 1150
lbs. of medications. Most people
found out about Drug Day on the
internet, newspaper, word of
mouth and our sign. All of the
people commented how grateful
they were for this event. I would
especially like to thank all of the
people involved in making this
event possible. The people
include the volunteers, our office
staff and Officer Verougstraete
of the Sterling Heights Police
Department.
Janet Stone - Parish Nurse

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
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!*