



Weekly Messenger

JUNE 21, 2019

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"OFF AND RUNNING!" A LETTER FROM PEGGY MILLER

This week started our summer camp programs: S.T.A.R.S. (for elementary students), XCEL (for grades 6th-8th), and XCEL Beyond (for students in 9th grade and above). It has proven to be a great week!

S.T.A.R.S stands for Students, Talent, Arts, Recreation and Scripture. This is a pretty good summary of the variety of activities they will encounter in their 6 weeks with us. We currently have 26 children enrolled in S.T.A.R.S., and at least 11 of those children are first-timers! Two of the first-timers had such a good time at Spring Break Camp that they decided to return for our summer camp.

XCEL, the junior high program, stands for Examining Christ in Everyday Living. We have 10 students enrolled in this group with 2 being new to our program. This is an active group with a lot of positive energy.

Our newest program, XCEL Beyond, was created for the students who have aged out of XCEL but still want to participate in learning about Christ. In this program students learn how God equips us for everyday living by exploring various careers and examining what Spiritual Gifts and passions might be needed to fulfill those careers. We currently have 4 students enrolled.

None of these young lives could be touched in this unique way without the many ways God blesses our congregation. We are blessed to have a facility that allows not only for programs, but program expansions. We have been gifted with resources such as vans, financial support, volunteers, and site directors. Additionally, we have been blessed by our conference with interns and grants to help cover their wages.

This year, the Michigan Conference had a shortage of applicants for the intern positions. This meant they were only able to secure 3 of the 5 interns we need for our site. But, as we learn again and again, when we follow God's leading to serve His people, God does provide! We were able to hire 2 recent graduates (1 from our own congregation!) and therefore complete our team.

Continue Reading on Page 2.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Utica United Methodist Women Collection for Turning Point

The Utica UMW Group will be gathering items for Turning Point Macomb from **June 16th - September 11th**. Turning Point provides service to end domestic and sexual violence. For more information about Turning Point, you can visit their website: www.turningpointmacom.org

Items needed:

Paper Towels
Dish Soap

New Twin Sheets/Blankets

There is a bin located in the Narthex (outside of the sanctuary).

Sponsor A Child or Volunteer

The S.T.A.R.S. & XCEL programs are an outreach to our community. In order to make this program open to all, we do not charge families for the time their children attend our program. 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 choose to donate, write "Sponsor A Child" on your donation envelope and the amount you are giving.

If you would like to volunteer, we are in need of drivers for outings and chaperones. Contact the church office or signup on the sheets provided in the sign up areas.

Thank you for your continued support of the Summer Programs.

Letter from Peggy Miller Continued from Page 1

This Sunday we will be taking a moment before our worship time to recognize and commission our interns. I hope that you will be able to join us in prayer for them as they venture into this challenging and exciting time of ministry. I also hope you will continue to lift them in pray through their time with us.

Speaking of prayer, our children will be filling out prayer request sheets throughout the program. Their completed sheets will be hung in the sanctuary. Please feel free to pick up a sheet, write a note to the child, return the sheet and pray for the child though the week. (If you have written a note on a sheet, place it back on the line BACKWARDS so we know it is complete.)

Thank you to all the support and encouragement we receive as we continue to to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Peggy Miller



Summer Camps



Summer is coming!!! Consider sending your child(ren) to camp this summer for all kinds of fun!

Multiple groups are giving scholarships for campers this year: The Endowment

Committee is making summer grants available in the amount of \$100; Christian Education has \$100 each for up to 3 campers, and Utica United Methodist Women are offering \$50 each for up to 4 campers. Summer camps can range from a couple of days to a week and cover 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, please notify the church office or email charlotte@uticaumc.org.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



S.T.A.R.S. and XCEL Week One Field Trip to Grit



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Weekly Devotional

"Father's Day"



This week we celebrated Father's Day. A wonderful time to honor those who were present in our lives as Fathers. I remember my Father holding me and hugging me when I was little, as I grew older the affection ceased and I did not know why. I think it was felt to be inappropriate to hug a young girl who was entering womanhood and I missed that affection. When our children were growing up, I hope they never doubted their Father's love. Recently, my husband was having difficulty standing up, our Son lifted his Father up and helped him stand. He said that he remembered his Father carrying him into the house when he had broken his leg and was in a cast and now, he would lift his Father up and carry him. When my granddaughters were growing up, I talked with my son-in-law about how his treatment of them and their Mother would influence the way they allowed men to treat them. Fathers sometimes feel they are in second place when it comes to parenting. They are very important to the forming of those babies, both boys and girls. I am pleased to see the dads my grandson-in-laws are as they take an active and very important role in the raising of our great-grandsons. On this Father's Day I remembered the only time I saw my Father cry. We had received the telegram that my brother had died. I saw my Father's sorrow and regret over the years at the loss of his sons. Years later it would be our last conversation 3 days before his own death as he told me of his sorrow and what he felt were his mistakes.

The Parable of the Lost Son. Luke 15:11-24 There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his Father, "Father, give me my share of the estate." So, he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired men have food to spare and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men. So, he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him," Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found."

This is a story of a Father's love.

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of Fathers here on earth and especially for the Father in heaven that accepts us and forgives us. Be with those who are grieving, those who suffer illness, those who seek you. May our church be a sanctuary for those who seek the peace and comfort that knowing you brings. Amen.

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

This Week's Calendar of Events

Sunday, June 23rd

9:30am - Traditional Worship Service
Sanctuary
9:30am - Adult Study: "Not A Fan"
Conference Room
9:45am - Children and Youth Sunday School
Rooms 304, 305, 106
10:30am - Fellowship & Coffee
Parlor
11:00am - Contemporary Worship Service
Fellowship Hall
12:00pm - Youth Group (UMYF) meeting
Room 101

Monday, June 24th

9:00am - S.T.A.R.S. / XCEL
Various Rooms
10:00am - Commit to Be Fit
Room 301
1:00pm - Prayer Quilting
Conference Room
6:00pm - Emmaus 4th Day
Library
6:30pm - Scout Parent Meeting
7:00pm - Scout Troop 80
Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, June 25th

9:00am - S.T.A.R.S. / XCEL
Various Rooms
11:00am - Adult Study with Teresa Winkler
"Not A Fan"
Conference Room

Tuesday, June 25th Cont'd

7:00pm - Leadership Board Meeting
Board Room
7:30pm - ACOA (Adult Children of Alcoholics)
Room 104

Wednesday, June 26th

9:00am - S.T.A.R.S. / XCEL
Various Rooms
6:30pm - Adult Study with Cookie Miller
"The Life You Have Always Wanted"
Board Room
7:30pm - Worship Band Practice
Fellowship Hall

Thursday, June 27th

9:00am - S.T.A.R.S. / XCEL
Various Rooms
10:00am - Commit to Be Fit
Room 301
11:00am - Emmaus Group
Library
6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery Meeting
Fellowship Hall

Friday, June 28th

1:00pm - Genealogy with R. Lake
Library

Saturday, June 28th

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



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
OUR MEMBERS AGES 70+

Treasure's Lunch

\$10
per person

70+
FREE!

JULY 14TH
12:30PM

Fellowship Hall

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

SIGN UP/PAY OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY OR
OUTSIDE OF FELLOWSHIP HALL

Patriotic Hymn Sing
Sunday, June 30th
at 9:15am

*Don't miss this opportunity to raise
your voice as together we celebrate
this great nation of ours and begin
the week when we celebrate our
independence and freedom!*

Utica United Methodist Men's

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

AUGUST 10TH, 2019

Sanctuary Lake Golf Course
1450 E South Lake Blvd, Troy, MI



\$40 PER PERSON

Join us for a fun afternoon of golf and fellowship. Your \$40 includes 18 holes and a golf cart at one of the area's elite golf courses. We will be playing a best ball format. Sponsor the outing with a donation of \$25 and have your name displayed at one of the holes. All other donations also welcomed. If you are interested in playing, contact Al Manning at 586-463-0298

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, The Weekly Prayer List, or Announcements must be submitted by the **Sunday prior to posting**. Submit to bmiller@uticaumc.org, contact the office, or complete a form in the office.

Summer Worship Leader Schedule

June 2 – Chris Heldt
June 9 – Rev. Don Gotham
(Communion Sunday)
June 16 – Rev. Dr. Margie Bryce
June 23 - Chris Heldt
June 23 – Chris Heldt
June 30 – Rev. Dr. Margie Bryce

July 7 – Rev. Jeff Regan
(Communion Sunday)
July 14 – Carol Morrell
July 21 – Rev. Dr. Margie Bryce
July 28 – Chris Heldt

August 4 – Rev. Dr. Margie Bryce
(Communion Sunday)
August 11 – Mary Dolenga
August 18 – Chris Heldt
August 25 – Bob Clark

September 1 – Rev. Jeff Regan
(Communion Sunday)
Sept. 8 – Rev. Dr. Margie Bryce
Sept. 15 – Martha Powers

Office Hours:

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

Friday

8:00am - 2:00pm

Phone: (586)731-7667

Like us on Facebook!

Utica United
Methodist Church

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Sterling Heights, MI

(586) 731-7667

www.UticaUMC.org



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

"Not A Fan" - by Kyle Idleman

Sundays at 9:30am (Classes also held Tuesdays at 11:00am) in the conference room. Teresa Winkler will lead this study; see her with questions. Books are available for purchase during class.

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.

Summer Adult Study:

"The Life You Have Always Wanted" - by John Ortberg

Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Boardroom. A study that will encourage us in our daily Christian lives. New students are welcome at any time!

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!