



# Weekly Messenger

JUNE 7, 2019

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## "HOW MANY MINUTES?" A LETTER FROM REV. DON

Today I had a conversation with a parishioner about my rapidly upcoming leave. They shared how they heard a pastor tell of his experience taking the renewal leave required by his church. The story was touching of how God used the time to provide the pastor with the rest he needed, and it spoke of the significance of what God was able to do in the life of the pastor during his time of renewal. The parishioner then told me they hoped the time I would be away would be enough for me to find the rest I need. I was appreciative of their hopes and grateful for their expressed commitment to pray for me during this time!

I will be away for 133,920 minutes. Seeing that number in print somehow makes it seem quite large. I suspect the time will seem to pass quickly, but like the parishioner who came to see me today, I am praying God uses the time to bless our church, and me during this time. Early on the morning of June 16<sup>th</sup>, I will be driving north for my first retreat. I am excited to begin.

The work of the church will go on in fine fashion while I am away. The lay leaders have my full confidence and support. Much of what will happen in the life of our church this summer has already been discussed. Our leaders know my heart on these matters. Trust them as they lead you, for I surely do.

It has been a challenge for me to not offer my usual "Don't hesitate to reach out if you need me," as I have responded to the challenges folks are facing, lately. The words of the District Superintendent keep coming back to my mind, "Gone means, gone." I realize life will happen during this time. Life events happen whether we are around, or not. We won't share those life events during these minutes apart, but we will catch up on them when I return.

As I enter this time of renewal, I want you to know how deeply I appreciate the outpouring of support from the church. Some have expressed both joy for me and concern over how things will get along in my absence. Those concerns are natural. I simply ask you to not be overcome by them. I want you to think about this scripture if you come to an anxious place in the minutes ahead: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

I look forward to celebrating Pentecost and Holy Communion with you on Sunday!

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Don

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## S.T.A.R.S. and XCEL Are Back!

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

**We are looking for kids within our church and the community to participate!**



**June 17th - July 25th**  
**Monday through Thursday**  
**9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.**  
**STARS: Children age 7-5th Grade**  
**XCEL: Grades 6-8**



The programs are **TOTALLY FREE** and includes breakfast, lunch, snacks, activities, materials, and teaching times. Every Thursday is a **FREE** outing day to places such as the Apple store, Butterfly House, Music store, painting, and more! (All of this is made possible thanks to the continued generosity of the people of Utica UMC. We also continue to be blessed to have mission interns from the Greater Detroit Conference who run the program.)

What a wonderful opportunity for your children to spend time in a safe, wholesome environment, having good Christian fun! **We encourage you to include S.T.A.R.S. and/or XCEL in your summer schedule for your children!**

Watch for registration forms in the sign up areas. **We are limited to 28 children for STARS & 15 for EXCEL, so please ACT FAST!!**

\*Contact the church office if you have any questions!

## 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 sign up on the sheets provided in the sign up areas.

Thank you for your continued support of the Summer Programs.

## 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](mailto:charlotte@uticaumc.org).

## Utica United Methodist Women Monthly Potluck Meeting

The Utica UMW Group is holding their monthly meeting THIS WEEK:

**Wednesday, June 12th**  
**at 12pm**  
**in Fellowship Hall**

All are welcome to join. The meeting begins with a potluck luncheon (please bring your own place-setting and a dish to pass) followed by the program "Next Steps 4 Seniors" by Wendy. Please bring items for the food pantry as well, if you are able.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

UTICA UMC'S ANNUAL

# BASEBALL OUTING

Reserve Your Tickets Now!

**AUGUST 2, 2019**

Game Starts @ 7:05pm  
AT JIMMY JOHN'S FIELD

7171 Auburn Road, Utica, MI 48317

50 Grandstand seats are reserved for \$25 per person.

Your ticket will include a hot dog, soft drink, and donation to charity\*

A van shuttle will be available from church to the ballpark.



Advance purchase is required by June 30th. See Barry Croteau for tickets or ph. 586-254-3667. Please make checks out to "Utica United Methodist Men".

\*Charity that receives donation TBD.

**\$25.00**  
PER PERSON

Utica United Methodist Men's

# ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

**AUGUST 10TH, 2019**

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



Please 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. Don't worry about your lack of golf skills - we will be playing a best ball format. You can sponsor the outing with a donation of \$25 and have your name displayed at one of the holes. Of course, any other donation is also welcomed. If you are interested in playing, contact Al Manning at 586-463-0298

**\$40 PER PERSON**

## THANK YOU

The fundraiser that was held on Sunday, May 26th for the Veteran's Memorial Garden was a great success. Thank you for everyone's generous support.

### Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, June 11th  
from 11am-5pm

**GIVE BLOOD**

 American Red Cross *You can make a difference.*

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Weekly Devotional

### *"God Has A Plan"*

I have a file called "Ideas for Devotionals". When I am stumped about what story to tell or what to write about, I go to that file. I went to it this week and it was blank; I had used up all my ideas for devotionals. I thought about what I could write, and not only was the page blank, but so was my mind. For some reason the old TV program "The Naked City" came to mind. If you remember, at the end of the program, they would say "There are eight million stories in the Naked City, this has been one of them". I would reply, "then why do we have to watch reruns"! There are eight million stories in our lives and there are no reruns, but we do have forgiveness and do overs. I was talking with a long-time friend and discovered that our lives had been similar. We both came from dysfunctional families with someone in the family who had been a strong presence in our lives. For me, it was my brother, and for her it had been a sister. For both of us, those people had taught us to stand up for ourselves and that we could be more than what others thought of us. My brother pushed me all the time about the importance of education -to not give up as he had done, and to use it to better my life. Her sister told her she was better than the life that had been given to her and to rise above those that belittled and shamed her. We both found our way out of the lives that had put us down, and found our way to our faith. It was a journey that culminated in a church and newfound faith. I believe that the journey started a long, long time ago, even before our birth. God loved us before we knew him, before we were formed, and he had a plan for our lives. We may not like that plan, we may suffer in that plan, and we may not follow that plan... But then we get a second, and even a third chance. Our strength is in knowing we are loved, and held as precious, by a loving, forgiving and ever-present God. It is in that plan we can give hope, love, and witness to others.

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart.

Isaiah 55:6-8 Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

Lord, we thank you for your presence in our lives. May we live lives that are worthy of your love. Be with those who mourn, those who face illness, those who are suffering, those who hunger, and those who are lost. Be with our church that all who enter our doors find the living Lord. Be with our Pastor and our staff as they lead us. Help us Lord to be the hands and feet of Christ for it is in his name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## **This Week's Calendar of Events**

### **Sunday, June 9th**

- 8:30am - Handbell Rehearsal  
Sanctuary
- 9:30am - Adult Study:"Not A Fan"  
Conference Room
- 9:30am - Traditional Worship Service  
Sanctuary
- 9:45am - Children and Youth Sunday School  
Rooms 304, 305, 106
- 10:30am - Fellowship & Coffee Time  
Parlor
- 11:00am - Contemporary Worship Service  
Fellowship Hall
- 12:00pm - Youth Group (UMYF) meeting  
Room 101
- 5:00pm - Private Event in Fellowship Hall

### **Monday, June 10th**

- 10:00am - Commit to Be Fit  
Room 301
- 1:00pm - Prayer Quilting  
Conference Room
- 6:00pm - Emmaus 4th Day  
Library
- 7:00pm - Scout Troop 80  
Room 104

### **Tuesday, June 11th**

- 11:00am - Blood Drive**  
**Fellowship Hall**
- 11:00am - Adult Study:"Not A Fan"  
Conference Room
- 6:30pm - ALS Support  
Parlor

### **Tuesday, June 11th Cont'd**

- 7:00pm - Community Information Meeting  
Fellowship Hall
- 7:30pm - ACOA (Adult Children of Alcoholics)  
Room 104

### **Wednesday, June 12th**

- 11:00am - UMW Board Meeting  
Library
- 12:00pm - UMW Monthly Meeting  
Fellowship Hall
- 6:30pm - Adult Study with Cookie Miller  
Board Room
- 7:30pm - Worship Band Practice  
Fellowship Hall

### **Thursday, June 13th**

- 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 Meeting**  
**Fellowship Hall**

### **Friday, June 14th**

- 1:00pm - Genealogy with R. Lake  
Library

### **Saturday, June 15th**

- 8:30am - UM Men's Breakfast  
Fellowship Hall
- 9:00am - Ruth's Knit n Stitch  
Conference Room
- 12:00am - Eagle Scout Honor  
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.

## 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 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!

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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

### Coming Soon:

**"Not A Fan" - by Kyle Idleman**

Begins Sunday, June 2nd 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 Orthberg**

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!