



Weekly Messenger

JULY 19, 2019

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"IMPOSSIBLE"

A LETTER FROM CHRIS HELDT

We celebrate a milestone this weekend. It was fifty years ago, on July 20, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin first stepped foot onto the surface of the moon. With the advancement of technology since then, today this doesn't seem like an impossible task. But it sure did when John F Kennedy boldly declared:

"We choose to go to the Moon! We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard; because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one we intend to win, and the others, too."

When this challenge was put forth, it wasn't entirely clear if a moon landing was feasible. The program was almost scrapped when astronauts Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee were tragically killed in preparation for the Apollo 1 launch. It was clear that achieving the goal set forth by JFK was not going to be an easy task. It took determination, hard work, training and even some setbacks, to make a once impossible task became a reality.

Hebrews 12:3 states: *"Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."*

Our lives are not always easy. We face many challenges, but that doesn't mean we have failed. Failure occurs when we give up, not when something doesn't go to our plan. God is training us to *"run with perseverance the race marked out for us"*.

I think back to my high school football days. Our team wasn't the most skilled. We didn't have any top-rated players. Everything we lacked, though, we made up with conditioning. Now this was not our decision as players. (*Continue reading on page 2.*)

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Letter from Page 1: Continued

We would have all been much happier running plays and not just RUNNING! Through years of coaching though, our coaches realized the importance of building up our endurance. Our team ended up going 7-2 my senior year and won the conference title. Looking back, I firmly believe that the credit for this belongs with the coaches who pushed us to train harder, even when we wanted to quit. We won games that season by outlasting our opponents. When they started getting weary in the 4th quarter, we took advantage of our ability to keep pushing up to the last whistle.

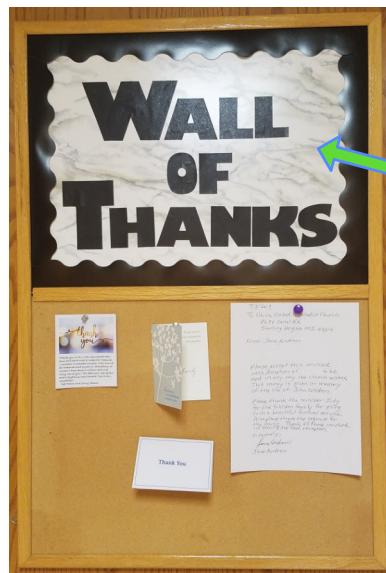
My encouragement to you, as you read this, is to keep your eyes on the prize Jesus has set for you. The space program kept their eyes on JFK's challenge. My former coaches looked at a long season ahead and equipped us. God is preparing us for the marathon of a life lived for Him, not just a short sprint. Although we sometimes face hardships, one day we will be able to look back at those moments and see them as steppingstones along God's path for our life.

Christ's peace be with you,
Chris Heldt

Utica United Methodist Men Monthly Breakfast

The Utica UM Men's Group will be holding their monthly gathering on **Saturday, July 20th** at **8:30am** in **Fellowship Hall**

Come and enjoy breakfast, study the Word of God, and grow supportive connections with other men of the church.



The New Utica UMC Website: Where to find News/Letters/Devotionals

As you scroll through the new homepage of the website, you will see a number of new additions. You can find upcoming events, our location and service times, and sermon/service information. If you continue to scroll, you will come to a section titled "Latest News". It is here that you can find the weekly devotionals, letters, and miscellaneous news articles.

If you have any questions about items on the website, please email bmiller@uticaumc.org or call the church office.

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).

Thank You Display

Have something you would like to thank the church for? Many people have had thank you notes posted in the Weekly Messenger in the past. We now have a new spot where everyone can see your thank you message.

The new board has been placed in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. You can pin something to it yourself, or ask the office to! If there is a message you would like in the messenger, that option is still available as well -just let Beth Miller or Charlotte Ramsey know!

LATEST NEWS

MODERN DAY MIRACLES – BETH MILLER

JULY 5, 2019

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL – HANDS AND FEET OF CHR...

JULY 2, 2019

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL: "MIXED MESSAGES"

JUNE 28, 2019

CELEBRATE RECOVERY MESSAGE BY BOB CLARK

JUNE 28, 2019

ALL NEWS

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

PULLED PORK SANDWICHES

A Fundraiser for S.T.A.R.S. and XCEL Interns

Sandwich prices are freewill donations

THIS SUNDAY ONLY!!

Carry out containers will be available!



Thank you to ALL who volunteered their time and hard work to make the Treasures Luncheon a complete success! With around 80 treasures and guests in attendance, we couldn't have done it without each and every one of you! The afternoon was perfect and everything went smooth! You're ALL wonderful!

- Deb Pelton and Suzy Palmer

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

Weekly Devotional

"Sometimes You Just Need A Friend"

When I was a teenager a woman at our small church befriended me. She would ask me to accompany her on her frequent trips to Port Huron. In the car we would talk. She would ask me about what was happening in my life and advise me on how to handle things that came up. She did it in such a way that I thought my decisions were mine alone. She had no children and seemed to enjoy our time together. I learned a lot on these rides namely self-respect and to value myself. She helped me a lot during a very difficult time. My Mother and I disagreed on many things and these rides and council were very helpful in dealing with that. What brought this to mind was a note that I found in a drawer I was cleaning out. The note was from some years ago. There was a young girl in our church who was going through a difficult time. Her parents were divorcing, and she was trying to deal with that and was acting out a little. She always stood off from the crowd. She would come to church with her hair dyed in streaks and a different color weekly. I began to stop her to talk with her about her hair, about how striking the color was and how did she do that and then about how she was doing. At first, she was reluctant but gradually we built up a relationship of my acceptance where she was and her acceptance of my caring. After that she moved but when she came back, she would always make a point to find me and say hello. She went on and has been very successful in her career. The note I found spoke to me of her success and that her life was good. I am sure it helped that she had two parents who never ceased to love her. My point of this is that we need to talk to those who stand apart, those who are having a difficult time, those who seem to be saying "Stay away from me." These are the ones who need a kind word, who need to find acceptance, who need someone that doesn't try to solve their problems but accepts them where they are. I never forgot my rides to Port Huron and the council of a friend that gave me courage and acceptance but most importantly the ability to articulate my own thoughts and to make my own rules and to stand up for myself. She was a friend when I needed a friend.



Colossians 4:5-6a: "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders, make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be full of grace."

Proverbs 17:17: "A friend loves at all times."

Dear Lord, may we reach out to those who need your love. We never know their problems, but we know you love them. May we show the love you have blessed us so abundantly with to them. Be with our church as we seek to do your will. May we truly be the hands and feet of Christ. Be with our Pastor, our staff and our leaders. Be with those who grieve, those who are ill and facing decisions, be with those who are lonely and saddened, be with those who struggle with decisions and those who seek your will. All these things we ask in Jesus name. Amen

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

This Week's Calendar of Events

Sunday, July 21st

BLOOD PRESSURE SUNDAY

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, July 22nd

9:00am - S.T.A.R.S. / XCEL Various Rooms

10:00am - Commit to Be Fit
Room 301
2:00pm - Prayer Quilting
Conference Room
6:00pm - Women's Emmaus 4th Day
Library
7:00pm - Scout Troop 80 & Parent Meeting
Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, July 23rd

9:00am - S.T.A.R.S. / XCEL Various Rooms

7:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)
Room 104

Wednesday, July 24th

**9:00am - S.T.A.R.S. / XCEL
Various Rooms**
6:30pm - Adult Bible Study
Board Room
7:30pm - Praise Band Practice
Fellowship Hall

Thursday, July 25th

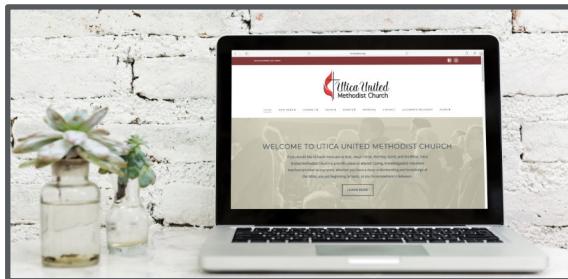
**9:00am - S.T.A.R.S. / XCEL
Various Rooms**
10:00am - Commit to be Fit
Room 301
11:00am - Women's Emmaus 4th Day
Library
6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery Service
Fellowship Hall

Friday, July 26th

1:00pm - Genealogy Study
Library

Saturday, July 27th

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



Visit our new website today!
www.uticaumc.org

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
June 16 – Rev. Dr. Margie Bryce
June 23 – Chris Heldt
June 30 – Rev. Dr. Margie Bryce

July 7 – Rev. Jeff Regan
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

8650 Canal Road,
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!