

Weekly Messenger

JULY 5, 2019

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Methodist Church
8650 Canal Road,
Sterling Heights, MI
(586) 731-7667
www.UticaUMC.org

A LETTER FROM BETH MILLER "MODERN DAY MIRACLES"

Recently, I was talking with a friend about the pregnancies of Mary and Elizabeth. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was visited by an angel who told her she was carrying the son of God. Elizabeth was also told by angels that she would birth a son who would pave the way for Christ. This had me thinking about the miracles these two women experienced. First, having angels talk to them and second, becoming pregnant when neither could have physically become pregnant on their own. My thoughts then switched over to wondering why we don't experience miracles like this today.

During the 11 o'clock sermon that same morning, I was reminded of an experience from Ichthus (a very large christian music festival) that happened a few years ago. During the communion service on the main stage, hundreds of people were gathered as massive storm clouds moved in. As communion was being served, a miracle happened. The clouds opened up over the stage -a literal circle of clear sky overhead surrounded by dark storm clouds opened as all these people took communion and worshiped Christ.

When my father was a toddler, he was in an accident that left him in a coma and the expectation of being fully paralyzed. The doctors left my grandparents with little hope. My Grandmother went to the sanctuary at the hospital and prayed to God that her son would be healed. She swore that a voice told her very clearly not to worry, despite the doctors' warnings, and that her son would be OK. Sure enough, my father got better, surpassed all the doctors' expectations, and is still living a full life.

A few years back, I was in a car accident on 696. My vehicle hit the dividing wall head on and was totaled. I somehow managed to walk away with only a couple of bruised ribs. In addition to not being seriously hurt, there was a random stranger who helped me out of the car, spoke to the police with me, and waited with me until my dad arrived to pick me up. That stranger helped me in a time of need when others had kept on going and I still think of him from time to time.

Just this week, I was at the laundromat near our cabin up north. When I was ready to go, I was looking at the laundry that had to go out and my 2 month old daughter in her car seat. As I resigned myself to knowing I had to make 2 trips to the car carrying my daughter both times, a woman came over and offered to carry a basket so that I only needed to make one trip.

Miracles can and do still happen everyday, we just need to be open to seeing them. They can be major, like miraculous healings, or simpler, like a stranger helping out in a time of need. I wanted to share this with you in the hopes that we can all start to recognize the small miracles that happen in our lives and thank God for being present even when we don't acknowledge him.

Beth Miller

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Weekly Devotional

"Hands and Feet of Christ"

I love the expression "the hands and feet of Christ." I love visualizing the carrying out of this expression. I like to think our church takes this expression to heart. I know from personal experience it does. I recently underwent knee replacement surgery. Now, I had the other knee done 3 years ago, so I was not a novice with this surgery and recovery. However, I am 3 years older and my responsibilities at home have changed. Three years ago, my husband could do things that he cannot do now. Little things like make a sandwich or fix his cereal or bring me something. Luckily, I am blessed with family that pitched in to help. My neighbor was a great help and checked on us often. But a big blessing was my church. Meals were furnished and when I said that I would have trouble using a walker and carrying plates the serving was taken care of. A ride to the Doctor's office for stitch removal was provided. I was checked on often to make sure my needs were being met. I received cards and phone calls, both much appreciated and treasured. I was blessed with a son-in-law that came and stayed for 5 days and made sure I was taken care of and arranged for extra caregivers for my husband. I am blessed with a son who came and took care of his Dad on the day of surgery and visited daily and then spent the weekend with us and continues to call daily. My daughter-in-law came by and helped often. All of these people from the Pastor who prayed with us before surgery and checked on me after, to the ones who did hands on care to the ones who cooked meals and the ones who delivered the meals and those who took time to send a card or make a phone call, and the escort to the Doctor's office and those who kept us in prayer, were the hands and feet of Christ. I have seen our church, time and again, step up to do what is needed. From the ushers on Sunday to those who prepare funeral luncheons they are willing to step up and help. This is a church, a community of believers who love and support one another. But what about those who cannot physically be the hands and feet of Christ? They are the heart of Christ, they are the ones who encourage, mentor, and lift in prayer those in need and encourage those who physically do the work. Paul said, "without love we are nothing."

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and I have a faith that can move mountains but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.



John 13:34-35 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Lord, I thank you for our church. This community of believers show your love in the way they care for each other and the way they care for those they don't know, for the poor, the hungry and the homeless. Continue to bless us with your love as we show that love to others. Be with our church, may strangers be welcomed, and all come to know you. Be with our Pastor, our staff and our leaders, guide them and bless them. Be with those who are grieving, those who face surgery, those who are ill, those who are suffering in silence, may all feel your comfort and peace. In Jesus name, Amen

Grace Epperson

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.turningpointmacomb.org

Items needed:

Paper Towels

Dish Soap

New Twin Sheets/Blankets

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

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

****11am Service will be held in the Sanctuary.**

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

This Week's Calendar of Events

Sunday, July 7th

Communion 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 8th

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 - Women's Emmaus 4th Day
Library
- 7:00pm - Scout Troop 80
Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, July 9th

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

Various Rooms

- 11:00am - Adult Study with Teresa Winkler
"Not A Fan"
Conference Room

Tuesday, July 9th Cont'd

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

Wednesday, July 10th

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, July 11th

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

Various Rooms

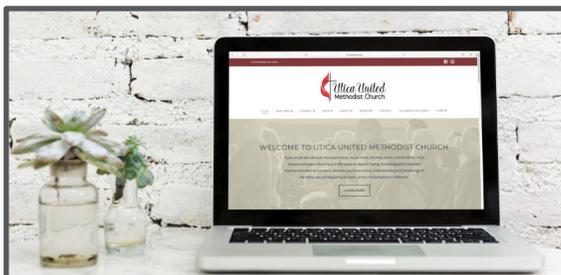
- 10:00am - Commit To Be Fit
Room 301
- 11:00am - Women's Emmaus 4th Day
Library
- 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery
Fellowship Hall

Friday, July 12th

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

Saturday, July 13th

- 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

****NOTE: Sunday, July 14th, the 11am
service will be held in the sanctuary.**

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 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

"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 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!