

Weekly Messenger

SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

IN THIS ISSUE:

UMW Pie Sales.....	2
Hearing Clinic.....	2
Pizza Kits.....	2
Special Church Meeting Update.....	2
CROP Walk.....	2
Food Pantry Update.....	2
World Communion Sunday.....	3
UMW Monthly Meeting.....	3
Weekly Devotional.....	4
Weekly Calendar...	5
Group Studies Available.....	6
Church Information.....	6

"LIVING A GOD-PLEASING LIFE"



As Christians, we are stewards or managers of all the gifts God has given us. This is quite a task, a task, frankly, that we, on our own, are incapable of carrying out. Yet we don't have a choice; all Christians are called to be stewards. We are not left on our own, though. The God who calls us equips us as well.

"May the God of peace . . . equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to who be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Faith is the foundation of our stewardship. It is only through faith that we can please God, and it is only by faith in Christ's mighty power within us that we are able to do the works God has prepared for us to do.

If we are to be stewards **living a God-pleasing life**, we must follow the **path of discipleship** that Jesus lays out before us. We are called to serve, even as Jesus himself *"did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"* (Matthew 20:28).

God-pleasing stewards give generously, even as their Master, Jesus, gave all he had, his very life. **Generosity was the hallmark** of the early Christians who *"shared everything they had . . . There were no needy persons among them"* (Acts 4:32, 34). Out of thankfulness to our giving God, who gives so generously, we, along with our spiritual forefathers, respond to the needs of others, giving to them as unto the Lord (Matthew 25:40).

Beginning October 13th, we will spend three Sundays learning and growing and becoming stewards **living a God-pleasing life**. It is my hope and prayer that you will attend all the worship services for this very important, educational, and enriching program.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Don

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



Hearing Clinic

**October 2, 2019
10am - 12pm**

There will be a Hearing Clinic with Dr. Peyerck in the Narthex (space outside of the sanctuary). The assessment will be done privately in the Library.

Please come out and take advantage of this free service. Our hearing is important in so many ways to our bodies. Dr. Peyerck will be able to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,
Janet Stone, Parish Nurse

Special Church Conference Update Re: Canal Road Parsonage

A special church conference was held last Sunday, September 22, to inform members of the church about the sale of the Canal Road Parsonage and the adjacent fenced-in property. The vote was unanimously in favor of selling the house. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the office.

Food Pantry Update

At this time we are in need of:

**canned vegetables,
canned meats,
and soups.**

Thank you for your generous support to the food pantry.

UMW Pie Sales

It's that time of year again!!! The United Methodist Women will be baking pies!! Your last chance to place an order is this Sunday, September 29th. There will be blank order forms in the bulletins, or you can order after service!

Regular size pie is \$10.00

Small size pie is \$5.00

Don't miss out on this delicious opportunity to support the Utica United Methodist Women!



Pizza Kit Fundraiser

All payments are due by this Sunday, September 29th. Your pizza kit order will be available for pick up from the church on Tuesday, October 1st between 4pm and 6pm.

Please contact Debbie Pelton for payment or to arrange pick up at a different time.

Thank you for supporting the Pizza Kit sales to support our Friend In Need fund.



**Sunday, October 6th
Registration at 1:30pm
at Christ Lutheran Church**

Please mark the date for this year's CROP Walk. We will be partnering with Christ Lutheran Church again. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the CROP Walk. Sign ups will begin on Sunday, September 8th.

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in our lifetime. You can help make it happen.

Stand with neighbors in your community who rely on food assistance programs. Partner with parents worldwide as they ensure a bright future for their children. Support those struggling in the face of grinding poverty and open up new doors of opportunity for them.

Tens of thousands of CROP Hunger Walkers are committed to building a hunger-free world. **Join the movement!**

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
Your generous gift today helps promising young adults to become leaders.



The **World Communion Sunday** celebration is on **October 6th, 2019**. This year, your offering funds will graduate racial-ethnic World Communion Scholarships, which at least half of the annual amount is reserved for ministries beyond the United States. Donations also provide for undergraduate U.S. Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training programs.

Learn more at www.umcgiving.org

Craft Supplies Garage Sale October 12, 2019 10am - 2pm



Come and shop tables full of craft supplies:
Scrapbooking
Stamping
Quilting
Anything craft related!!

If you would like to rent a table, please contact Kathy at 586-530-4296 or email her at: buzz727kem@yahoo.com



FLU SEASON IS HERE!!

REMEMBER TO GET YOUR FLU SHOT!!

We want everyone to stay healthy and be in church on Sundays!

Hot Dog!



Please join us for a **Hot Dog Dinner** to fundraise for David Kies' Eagle Project benefitting the Dachshund Haus Rescue.



Friday, October 4, 2019
5:30pm - 7:30pm
At Utica UMC



Hot Dogs, Mac & Cheese, Slaw, Chips, Drinks, and Dessert will be served.

Thank you in advance for your kind donations!



Monthly Meeting

All women are invited to attend the United Methodist Women's monthly meeting.

Potluck luncheon at 12pm
Wednesday, October 9
in Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Patti Jacques
from All God's Children
(A christian adoption agency dedicated to intervening for the 8 million orphans living in institutions.)

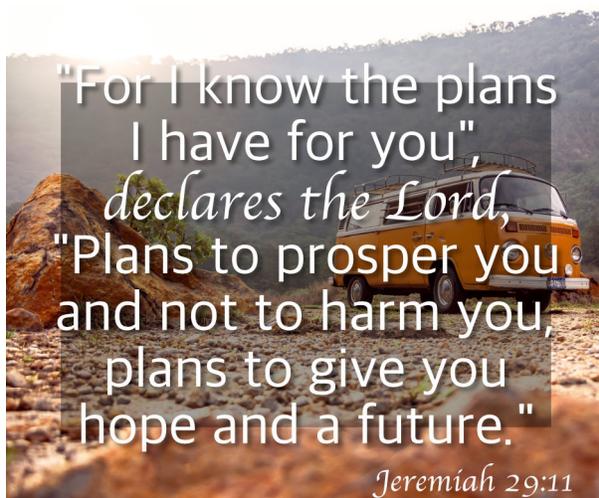
THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Weekly Devotional

"God's Plans"

I was 12 years and one month old; I was alone, on a bus, traveling back home from LeRoy, Michigan. It was July 11, 1947 and it must have been late because I recall it was very dark and the streets in Birmingham where the bus was to stop were deserted. I had been making jokes and had the whole bus laughing. As usual, I was hiding my pain behind laughter. The bus stopped and there was no one there to meet me. I expected my mother and father, but no one was in sight. The Driver said he would not let me off the bus alone. Then I saw my oldest brother running down the street towards the bus. I told the Driver it was my brother and he let me off. He wished me good luck as I exited, and I wondered if he knew my secret. My older brother had died a month earlier and I was finally coming home ... for the funeral. He had died far from home in Balboa, Panama. My oldest brother told me he would be taking me to the funeral home in the morning to see our brother. I was sure that I would look at the person in the coffin, someone who was not my brother, and tell everyone, "Look, it's not him, don't you see, it's not him!" I was convinced that God would not take the best of us. But it was him. I wanted to touch him, but my brother explained that the coffin was sealed with glass to preserve the body and we could not touch him. I cried so much that day. At the burial, it was a military funeral, people lined the fence and watched, and some reached through the fence and were taking his flowers. This upset me and I started to go over to stop them and my mother said, "It's okay, it doesn't matter." I told her, "But, they're his flowers". It was a horrible, frightening, and painful time. People said the usual platitudes, "God needed another angel", "he's in a better place", "God knew the future and was saving him from something terrible", "he's not suffering anymore"... I didn't buy any of it. To me, God was just a mean and vengeful God who had made a terrible blunder. I had been raised to believe that God was vengeful and unforgiving. He had proven himself. I began to pray nightly that God would take me too and to prove how mean he was, he didn't.

What reminded me of this time in my life was when I was trying to mail packages at the Post Office. While I was making out the label and fixing one of the packages, a woman got in line ahead of me. She filled out her forms while standing in line (smarter than me, she was). I glanced over and she had made out the address to Sandy Hook, Newtown, CT. I thought of those small children taken so cruelly that evil day and about a God who would allow such a thing and I realized that my perception of God had changed some time ago. I no longer blame God for death. I realize that God did not kill my brother, a kidney disease did. God did not kill those little children, a mentally ill man, who should not have had access to a military style weapon, killed them. God wept for those innocent children because he knew the plans he had for them. He wept for my brother because he knew the plans he had for him. God does not kill people; God loves them and wants only the best for them. I believe in a loving God.



God, we thank you for the love you show for us daily. Be with those who are grieving, may they feel your comfort. Be with those who are fighting illness, may they feel your presence, be with those who are lost, may they find their way. Be with our church that we may be the hands and feet of Christ. Be with our Pastor and staff and our leaders, bless them in all they do. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, September 29th

8:45am - Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
9:30am - Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
9:30am - Youth/Teen Sunday School - Room 106
9:45am - Children's Sunday School - Rooms 304 & 305
10:30am - Fellowship & Coffee - Parlor
11:00am - Contemporary Service - Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 30th

10:00am - Commit To Be Fit - Room 301
2:00pm - Prayer Quilting - Conference Room
6:00pm - Women's Emmaus 4th Day Meeting - Library
6:45pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Music Room
7:00pm - "Into the Word" Bible Study - Conference Room
7:45am - Gosbells Rehearsal - Music Room

Tuesday, October 1st

7:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics - Room 104

Wednesday, October 2nd

10:00am - FREE Hearing Clinic (open until 12pm)
4:30pm - K.I.D.S. Club - Fellowship Hall
6:30pm - Adult Study: Prayer - Board Room
6:30pm - CR Step Study Classes - Library/Rm 105
7:30pm - Praise Band Practice - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, October 3rd

10:00am - Commit to be Fit - Room 301
11:00am - Women's Emmaus 4th Day - Library
12:00pm - Food for Body & Soul - Conf. Room
6:30pm - Stephen Ministry - Board Room
6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery - Fellowship Hall
7:00pm - Thursday Adult Bible Study - Room 302

Friday, October 4th

1:00pm - Genealogy Study - Library

Saturday, October 5th

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

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.

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

Classes/Studies

Food For Body & Soul

Thursdays

12:00pm in the Conf. Room

Bring your lunch and study the
word of the bible with others! The
current focus will be the book of
John.

Wednesday Night Study

Wednesdays

at 6:30pm in the Conf. Room

This class will be all about prayer
- what is prayer, how to pray, etc...
Join at any time!

Thursday Night Study

Thursdays

7:00pm in Room 302

Join this class for a study of the
book of Hebrews. Have some
good fellowship, a bit of fun and a
better understanding of Bible
times and the teachings of our
Lord. All are welcome regardless
of bible knowledge!

"Into The Word" Bible Study

Mondays

7:00pm in the Conf. Room

This study will focus on the book
of Isaiah. Contact Sharon Van
Tuyl or the office for questions.

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.

Celebrate Recovery Step Studies

Wednesdays

6:30pm in room 104

This is a Celebrate Recovery
class. Speak with Bob or Patsy
Clark if you are interested.

Genealogy Study:

Fridays at 1pm in the Library

Learn how to study genealogy
with Ray Lake. Bring your own
pens and notebooks! If you
missed the first class, you are still
welcome to join!



Can't make it to church or just
looking for a fast and easy
way to give your? Donate
online with a one time gift or
set up automatic donations!

Visit our website to give now!

www.uticaumc.org/e-giving

If you need assistance, feel
free to call the office!

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.