

Weekly Messenger

OCTOBER 25, 2019

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WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM REV. DON GOTHAM

Are you a planner? Are you the type of person who maps out the flow of your days weeks in advance? I tend to be a planner. I try not to be rigid about the plans I make. As a young pastor, I learned to take some things as they come, since I wasn't going to be able to control all of the days and times my presence would be needed.

I plan music to support the message on Sunday. (Does that surprise you? Those hymns you aren't familiar with were chosen, not to frustrate you, but to reinforce the message. Oops - that's a different subject). I work to have a number of things for church planned out for many months in advance. I appreciate when the plans I've made come together.

More than the plans I alone have made, I have come to appreciate the plans I've made which require others to have a hand in. Alone, I can put something together which is pretty good. With the inclusion of others, the "something pretty good", can become something extraordinary.

The scary part of inviting others into our plans is having to rely on someone else to complete, or perfect, or be ready to do the things I'm relying on them to do. If the people a "planning person" is relying on does not come through, it can result in frustration, a sense of defeat, or of having let folks down - even for the ones who've completed their part.

Many years ago, when I announced one Sunday that I would be preaching from a different passage of scripture than the one printed in the bulletin, I was almost always told by a particular parishioner how he looked forward to the Sunday's when I made those changes. He said he felt the Spirit had led me more in those weeks. I was glad to know my late week preaching pressure was of benefit to at least one- even if it was a challenge to me.

As I write to you today, I sit in an airport waiting an extra 2.5 hours to fly back to Detroit. This is an interruption of my plans. The delay is for concern of the safety of the passengers, so the rational part of me argues that it is difficult to be overly annoyed by the delay.

Still, I get to decide how I'll respond to my plans being interrupted. I can be annoyed for allowing myself to be in a situation where I rely on others. I can resent the time I won't get back. I can also choose to consider the change in my plans to be a Holy Spirit directed opportunity.

James 4:13-15 reads, "Now listen, you who say "today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.""

Trusting in the incomparable goodness and plans of the Lord!

Rev. Don

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Live a God-Pleasing Life!

Generosity is the Hallmark of how to **Live a God-Pleasing Life!**, which has been our stewardship theme this fall. The apostle Paul wrote, "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11). May you rejoice in all God's gifts to you and may you willingly, joyfully, and generously share them with others. Through your faithful giving, God blesses the recipients of your gifts, he blesses you, the giver, and he receives praise and glory.

As God-pleasing stewards, we know that all we have belongs to him so we can hold our time, talents, and money in an open palm. "Freely you have received, freely give." Matthew 10:8.

This Sunday, October 20, we will be concentrating our thoughts on generosity in giving of ourselves through money, time, and talents. Please remember to bring your commitment cards!

Pick up a daily devotionals booklet at church, so you can use at home in preparation for the service each week. You can also call the office to have a devotional booklet emailed to you.

Reminder: Bottle Drive for Church Picnic Area - October 27

Donovan Bullock of Troop 80 will be collecting bottles/cans or monetary donations at services October 27. This is for his Eagle project which is adding a picnic area for UUMC. Your help in making this project successful would be greatly appreciated.



Cass Community Social Services (CCSS) was established as a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) in 2002. Prior to that many of its programs started as a part of Cass Community United Methodist Church.

The Detroit-based agency works across the city in areas of concentrated poverty providing programs for food, health, housing and jobs.

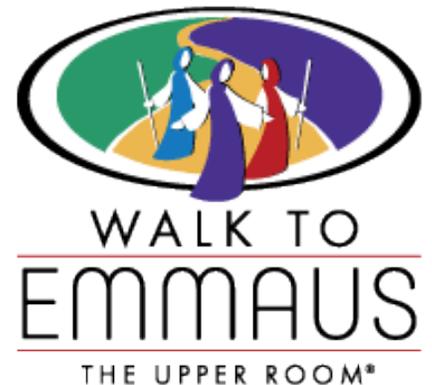
CCSS prepares and serves 700,000 meals annually.

300 homeless men, women and children currently stay in one of CCSS' shelters or permanent supportive housing programs.

CCSS operates two weekly free medical clinics and a day program for 125 adults with developmental disabilities.

80 adults are currently employed in the agency's Green Industries which marry jobs with sustainability.

CCSS is also involved in building Tiny Homes in Detroit.



Emmaus at Utica UMC

Our church is hosting the Walk to Emmaus program this year! The men's walk began this past Thursday, October 17 and will continue until Sunday, October 20th.

"The walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation... It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed through other believers." - <http://emmaus.upperroom.org/>

Please say a prayer for all of the men who attended last week as they continue there growing relationship with Jesus and for the the women who are completing their walk this weekend.



This year's Annual Trunk -or- Treat will be taking place **INDOORS** on Friday, **November 1st, from 5pm-7pm.** If you would like to help, please reach out to Suzy Palmer or Beth Miller!

National Drug Take-Back Day

Saturday, October 26
10am - 2pm



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Grace's Weekly Devotional

"Halloween"

Halloween has changed over the years to become a tradition that is much more involved than what many of us remember as children. I don't recall costumes and candy and going out "begging." My only memory of Halloween is at the age of 6 when I needed to go out to the "outhouse." We lived in what was then country and it was very dark with no lights at night. I went out and could not find the outhouse. I went back and told my Mother this. She told my oldest brother to help me with the implication being that I was dumb as a rock. He went out with me, muttering about why him, and saw that the outhouse was indeed gone. As we were walking back, we saw a fire in the street and realized that the outhouse was burning. A Halloween prank had taken place. No one seemed particularly upset, they just built another one. That is my only memory of Halloween until I was much older and was married with children. The lessons learned at that time from Halloween were 1. Never buy your candy early, you'll just have to buy it again. 2. Costumes are fun but should always have room for a snowsuit in Michigan. 3. Save the good stuff for last. 4. Buy lots of good stuff.

Halloween was originally a Pagan Holiday, when my daughter and family were in Indiana there was a woman who tried to ban Halloween in the schools for this reason. She was unsuccessful. After being a Pagan holiday, it became a Christian day and was known as Hallowed Eve to precede All Saints Day in the Catholic Church. We celebrate Halloween with treats and costumes and the joy of children yelling trick or treat. It is a fun day with school parties and funny and sometimes scary outfits. One of my joys was always making costumes for my children and then helping with the costumes for the grandchildren. One year my granddaughter was so into her alligator costume that when I pretended to be scared, she reached down and bit me on the ankle. Costumes can transform us into something we aren't. Shy children can take on the persona of Superman or Wonder Woman or even an alligator. Children who are aggressive can be transformed into an angel. Jesus can transform us, and he doesn't want us to wear a costume. He accepts us and uses us as we are, sometimes angels and sometimes shy and sometimes even aggressive. He sees the value in each one of us and sees beyond our masks. This morning the men from the Emmaus Walk at our church joined us and sang a beautiful song. I thought about each of them, they didn't look alike, they each were unique and I realized that they had been through a weekend that brought them closer to Christ than ever before and I thanked God for what I know they experienced. They had taken off their masks. I hope that they take that experience with them and become the people that God knows them to be. If they are like me, they will fail sometimes, but they will get up and try again and again and they will be better for it and closer to God.

1 Peter 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-kept in heaven for you.

Lord, be with us we pray. Help us Lord to be the people you know us to be. May we be what you have ordained for us, may we surrender to your will. We pray for those who are apart from you, may they be restored. We pray for our Church, may we be the hands and feet of Christ. Be with our Pastor, our staff, our leaders, may they feel your assurance and guidance in all they do. Be with those who travel, keep them safe. We ask these things in the name of Jesus. Amen

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, October 27th

Women's Emmaus Walk - Last Day

- 9:00am Fellowship Time - Parlor
- 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 Worship Service - Fellowship Hall

Monday, October 28th

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

Tuesday, October 29th

- 7:00pm Pastor Parish Relations Committee - Board Room
- 7:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics - Room 104

Wednesday, October 30th

- 4:30pm K.I.D.S. Club & H.E.C.T.I.C. Youth
- 6:30pm Men & Women's Step Studies - Library & Room 105
- 6:30pm Wednesday Adult Study - Board Room
- 7:30pm Worship Band Practice - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, October 31st

- 10:00am Commit to be Fit - Room 301
- 11:00am Emmaus 4th Day - Library
- 12:00pm Food For Body & Soul - Conference Room
- 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery - Fellowship Hall
- 7:00pm Thursday Adult Bible Study - Room 302

Friday, November 1st

- 1:00pm Genealogy Studies Group - Library
- 5:00pm Trunk or Treat - Inside front of church

Saturday, November 2nd

- 9:00am Church Unique - Room 302
- 9:00am Ruth's Knit & Stitch - Conference Room
- 1:00pm Emmaus Reunion - Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary



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

**Potluck luncheon at 12pm
Wednesday, November 13
in Fellowship Hall**

**Speaker: David Clayton
Families Against Narcotics/
Hope Not Handcuffs**

Bring a dish to pass, your own place-setting and anything you may have to donate to the food pantry.

Monthly Meeting

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!

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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.