



# Weekly Messenger

NOVEMBER 1, 2019

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## WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM REV. DON GOTHAM

For over twenty years, I have gone out and worked with churches embroiled in conflict. The issues folks have had with one another have varied with each church. Some people have been upset over changes the leadership of their church decided to enact. Some conflicts have been personality-driven. The reasons for the disputes have been many.

In my years of working with these churches, I have seen some recurrent behaviors. When some are involved in a conflict, they become like a bulldog. They grab ahold of their position, as though it were a bone. Others resign themselves to avoiding all issues since they are averse to conflict in every form. And thankfully, some choose to engage in working things through and finding a solution.

In these times of helping folks through conflicts, I teach them how Jesus laid out the path to working through disputes in Matthew 18. I am frequently amused to encounter those who are genuinely surprised that Jesus even addressed how we are intended to deal with such issues.

My mentor in this work (the late Rev. Terry Gladstone) frequently challenged folks with this phrase: "Don't get mad, don't get even, get what you want." To get what you want in times of trouble requires you to stay connected with the ones with which you are at odds. To get what you want requires you to be willing to speak your desires, and to be prepared to hear from others of how they understand the situation.

Today, I knew I had to engage in a conversation with a service provider who didn't come close to offering service worthy of their company. I waited a few days before making my call, as I knew I might say a few things I might regret, or words not becoming of a follower of Jesus. By the time the call was over, I felt I'd been heard, and the provider made a better effort to compensate me for my troubles.

Take a look at Matthew 18 the next time you are at odds with another. "Don't get mad, don't get even, get what you want!"

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Don

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Drug Take Back Day



The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

Our church has participated in Drug Take Back Day for a number of years now. The most recent was this past Saturday, October 26. We were able to collect the following:

1. Various types of opioids, painkillers, and anti-anxiety medications: 637
2. Mixture of pills: 4272
3. Antibiotics: 637
4. Inhalers: 15
5. Prescriptions Antacids: 429
6. Cholesterol medications: 130

Pictured below is the team that helped run the drop-off.



THANK YOU for your help!!

## Thanksgiving Pies for

### BALDWIN CENTER

Feed, Clothe, Educate, Empower

You may recall the previous article posted in October 18th's Weekly Messenger that tells about Baldwin Center. In short, the center feeds, clothes, educates and empowers those in need.

Every year, Baldwin Center hosts a Thanksgiving Meal at their Soup Kitchen. Our church has been providing the dessert for the Thanksgiving Meal for almost thirty years. We are the sole provider of pies to the Soup Kitchen!

**Please help us continue this tradition by bringing in a pie (or 2) to the church on Saturday, November 23rd or Sunday, November 24th.**

There is no refrigeration available, so please bring fruit or pumpkin pies -no cream pies.

Pies will be taken to the Soup Kitchen in the afternoon of November 24th.



## Annual Craft & Vendor Show

November 9th  
10am-2pm

\$2 Admission Fee



## All Saint's Day:

A Holy Day

John Wesley Loved

November 1 is All Saints Day, a sometimes-overlooked holy day in United Methodist congregations. It is not nearly as well known as the day before, All Hallows' (Saints') Eve, better known as Halloween, but is far more important in the life of the church.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 1, 1767, Wesley calls it "a festival I truly love." On the same day in 1788, he writes, "I always find this a comfortable day." The following year he calls it "a day that I peculiarly love."

This may sound odd. United Methodists don't believe in saints. Right?

Well, yes... and no.

Wesley cautioned against holding saints in too high regard. The Articles of Religion that he sent to the Methodists in America in 1784, include a statement against "invocation of saints" (Article XIV—Of Purgatory, Book of Discipline 104). Wesley did not see biblical evidence for the practice and discouraged Methodists from participating.

However, he also advised against disregarding the saints altogether.

On an All Saints Day journal entry dated Monday, November 1, 1756, Wesley writes, "How superstitious are they who scruple giving God solemn thanks for the lives and deaths of his saints!" ...

*Keep reading on page 3.*

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## All Saint's Day: A Holy Day John Wesley Loved

*Continued from page 2*

If your 18th century English is as rusty as mine, it might help to know that the word scruple means, “to be unwilling to do something because you think it is improper, morally wrong, etc.” (Merriam-Webster.com).

### Those to glory gone

All Saints Day is an opportunity to give thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith. It is a time to celebrate our history, what United Methodists call the tradition of the church.

From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. For example, in Hebrews 12 the author encourages Christians to remember that a “great cloud of witnesses” surrounds us encouraging us, cheering us on.

Charles Wesley, John’s brother, picks up on this theme in his hymn that appears in our United Methodist Hymnal as “Come, Let Us Join our Friends Above,” #709. In the first verse, he offers a wonderful image of the Church through the ages:

Let saints on earth unite to sing,  
with those to glory gone,

for all the servants of our King  
in earth and heaven, are one.

On All Saints Day we remember all those—famous or obscure—who are part of the “communion of saints” we confess whenever we recite The Apostles’ Creed. We tell the stories of the saints “to glory gone.”

Alongside the likes of Paul from

Charles Wesley, we tell stories of the grandmother who took us to church every Sunday. We remember the pastor who prayed with us in the hospital, and the neighbor who changed the oil in the family car. We give thanks for the youth leader who told us Jesus loved us, the kindergarten Sunday school teacher who showered us with that love, and the woman in the church who bought us groceries when we were out of work.

Retelling these stories grounds us in our history. These memories teach us how God has provided for us through the generosity and sacrifice of those who have come before us. The stories of the saints encourage us to be all God has created us to be.



### Saints on earth

Charles Wesley’s hymn tells us those “to glory gone” are joined by the “saints on earth,” whom we also celebrate on All Saints Day. We think of the inspirational people with whom we worship on Sunday, and those across the world we will never meet. We celebrate fellow United Methodists who inspire us, and those of other

denominations whose lives encourage us. We give thanks for those with whom we agree, as well as those whose views we do not share.

Additionally, we remember and pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ who faithfully follow Jesus in places where being labeled a Christian puts them in harm’s way.

### One song

On All Saints Day, we recognize that we are part of a giant choir singing the same song. It is the song Jesus taught his disciples; a tune that has resonated for more than 2,000 years; a melody sung in glory and on the earth. Our great privilege is to add our voices to this chorus.

The last verse of “Come, Let Us Join our Friends Above” encourages us to sing faithfully while on earth, so we might join the heavenly chorus one day.

*“Our spirits too shall quickly join,  
like theirs with glory crowned,  
and shout to see our Captain’s  
sign, to hear His trumpet sound.  
O that we now might grasp our  
Guide! O that the word were given!  
Come, Lord of Hosts, the waves  
divide, and land us all in heaven.”*

On All Saints Day, let us give thanks for both the saints in glory and those on earth, who have led us to Jesus. As they have shared the gospel with us, may we add our voices so someone else may hear about the grace and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for the lives of his saints.

*-This article is a UMC.org Feature  
by Joe Lovino from 2015*

# **THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

## **Grace's Weekly Devotional**

### **"Short Changed"**



This week while out and about on errands I stopped for a coffee. I don't actually like coffee but with flavoring and whipped cream it is quite good, and I have developed a taste for flavored coffee and have always liked whipped cream. The girl asked if I would like my receipt and I wanted to check my balance, so I said yes. When she handed me the receipt, I noticed that I had been charged \$14.95 for a cup of coffee. I called her back and asked her to correct this. She apologized and took care of it. Next, I was going past the Krispy Crème Donuts and thought it would be nice to have donuts for breakfast for my husband (of course).

Promising myself to not eat them in the car I stopped and ordered 6. When I paid, the girl quoted the price about \$8. I gave her a \$20. She gave me back \$5 and some coins. I called her back to the window and told her this wasn't correct. She immediately corrected it and gave me the correct amount back. I often don't pay much attention trusting others to do their job. And quite frankly, I found it interesting that neither of these people argued with me but immediately corrected the problem. As I was thinking about this the daily devotional came to mind. I had not read it in a few days. I don't always give my faith the time and attention it needs and deserves. Life gets in the way, lazy habits get in the way, selfishness gets in the way. I short-change God and he trusts me to do my job. I pray daily and I call him into my life daily, but I don't learn and grow daily. When I could get out of the house freely, I was often involved in a study group and then when I became more confined, I studied independently but gradually I have allowed other things to take me away from even that. Sometimes we need to go back and do better and rearrange our priorities.

Psalm 143:8-10 Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord. For I hide myself in you. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God, may your good spirit lead me on level ground.

Lord, help us to do better. To study your word and learn your lessons. Be with those who are suffering, those who are grieving for a life that is changing, be with those who hunger for you may they be fed. Be with our church may we be the hands and feet of Christ. Be with our Pastor, our staff and our leaders may they find strength and perseverance for the tasks before them. We ask your blessings upon them and upon our church.

Grace Epperson

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## This Week's Calendar

### Sunday, November 3rd

#### **ALL SAINT'S DAY & COMMUNION SUNDAY**

8:15am Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary  
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, November 4th

10:00am Commit To Be Fit - Room 301  
1:00pm Prayer Quilting - Conference Room  
5:00pm Women's Emmaus 4th Day Meeting - Library  
6:45pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Music Room  
7:00pm "Into The Word" Bible Study - Conference Room  
7:45pm Gosbells Rehearsal - Music Room

### Tuesday, November 5th

7:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics - Room 104

### Wednesday, November 6th

**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, November 7th

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

### Friday, November 8th

1:00pm Genealogy Studies Group - Library

### Saturday, November 9th

**10:00am Craft & Vendor Show - Church-wide**  
9:00am Ruth's Knit & Stitch - Conference Room



*Monthly Meeting*

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.

# 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



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](http://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.

## 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](http://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 Tuy 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!