

# Weekly Messenger

DECEMBER 6, 2019

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from Together In Missions.....	2
Handbell Concert.....	2
UMW Meeting..	2
Year End Financial Obligations.....	3
Church Library..	3
New Advent Study.....	3
Celebration Place.....	4
Grace's Weekly Devotional.....	5
Weekly Calendar.....	6
Group Studies Available.....	7
Church Information.....	7

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## MINISTRY WITH MIGRANTS

UMNEWS.ORG | DECEMBER 5, 2019

Hebrews 13:2 says, *“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”*

Radical hospitality, rooted in our biblical understanding of God’s abundant love and provision, helps us to imagine a world of plenty, rather than scarcity, and a world of welcome, rather than fear.

An unprecedented 70.8 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 25.9 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18, according to the U.N. Refugee Agency.

In its Social Principles, The United Methodist Church recognizes all people, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God and opposes policies that separate family members from each other.

Resource inequality and the unequal development of nations resulting from human-made and natural disasters have caused massive displacement and forced migration. The United Methodist Church says, “In order to provide basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education, health care, and other necessities, ways must be found to share more equitably the resources of the world.” (Social Principles, ¶163.E)

“Global migration as a factor in the quest for justice is a major priority of The United Methodist Church as a denomination that is global in vision, mission and ministries. This concern is rooted in both a biblical mandate for justice and a commitment to the future of the church.” (Book of Resolutions, 6028)

Find this article at: <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/ministry-with-migrants>

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

#### Pray

Pray for compassion by our elected leaders. Pray for families that are separated, for those appearing before judges to seek asylum, to those on the journey, to the lawyers and volunteers who are supporting them. Pray that we might have compassion.

#### Support

UMCOR (<https://www.umcmmission.org/umcor>)

Global Migration Advance (<https://advance.umcor.org/p-525-global-migration.aspx>)

National Justice For Our Neighbors (<https://njfon.org/>)

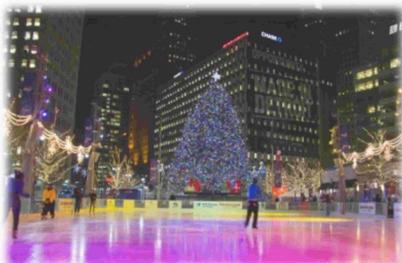
#### Read the stories

United Methodist News has reported on the work of the church on both sides of the U.S. and Mexico border. Find the stories by visiting [www.umnews.org](http://www.umnews.org)

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## "IT'S CHRISTMASTIME IN THE CITY"

A HANDBELL AND PIPE ORGAN CONCERT FEATURING THE GOSBELLS HANDBELL CHOIR



Presented by: The Music Ministry of Utica United Methodist Church

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 4PM**



\*CONCERT ADMISSION IS FREE\*

STAY FOR AN AFTERGLOW IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONCERT.

## The Giving Tree

ALL the gift tags have been taken home already!

Thank you to all of you for being such a generous congregation!!

Place purchased gifts back under the tree \*UNWRAPPED\* with the original gift tag attached by **Sunday, December 15th**

## A Message from Together In Missions

One of the programs supported by your Missions Committee is the NOAH Project. Through the years you have welcomed speakers from their Detroit mission, you have gathered together, winter coats, scarves and missions, you have helped to support the "bag lunch" efforts. We thought you might enjoy a reminder of their goods works and a history of how these programs started.

The mission of the NOAH Project is to empower low income and homeless Detroiters to achieve stability by serving as the first step on the journey to self-sufficiency.

In 1976, members of Central United Methodist Church saw that people in their community needed food. Responding to this basic need, church members began offering a Bag Lunch to anyone who came to their door twice per week, on Mondays and Thursdays. This program, now nearly 40 years old, remains the cornerstone of the NOAH Project.

In 1999, realizing that people needed more than just a lunch, Central partnered with Family



Networking, Organizing, and Advocating for the Homeless

Service, Inc. and created the NOAH Project (Networking, Organizing, and Advocating for the Homeless). NOAH began offering social services and physical health counseling.

The NOAH Project operates a Community Center in downtown Detroit for people living on the streets. Offering lunch four days a week, one-on-one social services, physical health counseling, empowerment-based programming, and emergency needs, we strive to build a family support system for those who come to us.

We believe that change comes through positive, trusting relationships. At NOAH, we support individuals by developing trusting relationships founded upon acceptance — acceptance of who that person is. When acceptance is combined with compassion and honesty, it builds trust.



## Monthly Meeting

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

**Potluck luncheon at 12pm  
Wednesday, December 11  
in Fellowship Hall**

Followed by:

**"Lord's Prayer  
Candlelight Ceremony"  
Recognition of Officers  
and Pledge Program**

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

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## PROGRESS TOWARD FULFILLING OUR YEAR END OBLIGATIONS



- Your faithful regular giving and your extra giving is making a difference!
- Since November 1, we have received more than half of what is needed to meet our year end obligations.
- **We still require \$40,000 to fulfill our remaining obligations** (salaries, utilities, conference Ministry Shares & Apportionments, and property upkeep).
- Please ensure your 2019 financial commitment is fulfilled before the end of the year.
- **Please continue to give extra, if you are able**, to ensure we meet all our obligations for 2019. Simply mark "extra" on your offering envelope or include it on the Operating Fund line.

### WAYS TO MAKE YOUR DECEMBER AND YEAR END GIFTS:

- Cash or checks
- E-Giving (find the link at [uticaumc.org](http://uticaumc.org) under "More")
- Stocks and securities (contact office for information)

THANK YOU!!

## The Church Library

Did you know that Utica UMC has a library? You've probably seen it and perhaps did not realize it! The library is located next to the Sanctuary, with a stained glass art piece hanging next to it's door.

"Everyone is invited to stop in the library and take a **free magazine**. They have a Christmas theme and contain devotional readings, recipes, and more.

While you are in the library, please browse our book collection and perhaps find something good to read!"

-Joan Sanders



## Make It & Take It Holiday Gifts

### Thursdays in Fellowship Hall

(Nov. 14th & 21st and Dec. 5th & 12th)

1:00pm-3:00pm

### ★ BRING YOUR OWN CRAFT ★

- ★ Wood Working ★
- ★ Knitting & Crocheting ★
- ★ Scrapbooking ★
- ★ Sewing ★
- ★ Working with Fleece ★

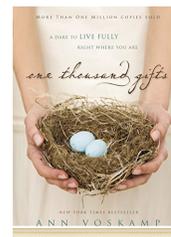
There will be people to assist you with your project; everyone (men, women, & children) are all welcome!!



## Advent Study

With Teresa Winkler

This study will help you "discover a way of seeing that opens your eyes to ordinary amazing grace, a way of living that is fully alive, and a way of becoming present to God that brings you deep and lasting joy." - "One Thousand Gifts" by Ann Voskamp



**Sundays at 9:30am**  
**Tuesdays at 11am**

Classes meet in the conference room.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## CELEBRATION PLACE

**“The Celebration Place dream is to put Celebrate Recovery out of business by breaking the cycles of dysfunction in our families.”  
—John Baker, Founder Celebrate Recovery**

Celebration Place is a 52-week complementary children's resource to Celebrate Recovery. So while adults explore topics that bring healing and wholeness, kids discover the same truths in age-appropriate ways!

### **Celebration Place gives kids...**

- Hope for all the amazing things God has in store for them
- Truths that help them overcome life's challenges by learning to lean on Jesus
- Joy as they embark on a wonderful, year-long journey of songs, games, videos, impactful experiences, and great conversation
- Friendships with other children

It has everything you need to lead kids as they make Jesus the enduring, rock-solid foundation of their lives. Celebration Place is designed to inspire kids with hope, joy, and happiness while they learn to rely on God.



### **HOW IT WORKS:**

Weekly lessons follow a two-hour schedule that includes songs, small groups, crafts, learning centers, games, teaching times, and free play. Every lesson closes with a time of commitment, reflection, or worship-and the child version of the Serenity Prayer.

During small groups, kids use their Celebration Place Journals to get in touch with their feelings and record their thoughts. Then kids tear out their Celebration Place Journal pages and take home the family conversation starter that's included on the reverse side. This unique aspect of the journal opens the door to healing communication by teaching kids to talk to each other, talk to God, and talk to their parents.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Grace's Weekly Devotional

### "God Said No"

Thirty-five years ago, in early December, I found a lump. I waited a few weeks, but the lump remained. I called the Doctor and he was on vacation in Florida. I made an appointment for January and prayed that the lump would go away. It did not. God said no. At the appointment, the doctor was not unduly alarmed and had me return in a few weeks. I went back, and the lump was persistent. I told the doctor that I wanted this one to be removed, he agreed. He scheduled surgery and I had a mammogram. When he came in the room to do the surgery, he told me the results had come in from the mammogram that morning and it was negative, but we went ahead with the lumpectomy. I prayed that it would be benign. God said no. When they woke me up, the doctor said it was malignant. I was scheduled for another surgery for mastectomy in three days. I prayed that there would be no lymph node involvement. God said no. I then prayed that I wouldn't have to have chemo or radiation. I saw the Oncologist and once again, God said no. I was scheduled to have 9 months of chemo. I prayed that I would get through this and asked God to not leave me alone, and that he would give me the strength I needed. GOD SAID YES! I realized that this was the question God had been waiting for. No miracle cure, just acceptance and reliance on him. I had to give up my control. My prayers changed, I now prayed for God to just be with me. I asked if possible, to see my children settled. They both married. My daughter was pregnant with their first child. I asked God if I could just hold my granddaughter. God said yes. When I held her, I fell in love instantly and asked if God was willing for just 10 years so she would remember me. God said yes. We had 2 more grandchildren and I fell in love and treasured each one, and again I prayed, just 10 years Lord, my prayer did not change except it had added, not my will but God's. I had surrendered. When I reached 75, I prayed and told God that he had given me so much and I only wanted his will to be done. But God had another challenge for me, this one harder than any before. My husband developed dementia and then Alzheimer's. But God gave me great joy with this sorrow, he gave me the joy of Great Grandchildren and I fell in love again with these precious beings. Now we are expecting another Great Grandchild, a girl, in January. God didn't take away the cancer and I live every day knowing it could return, but I learned that God is with us through the good and the bad and although sometimes we do not get what we pray for, God walks this journey with us and does not leave us alone.

Isaiah 40:10, 13. So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand, and says to you, Do not fear; for I will help you.

Lord, you are with us through the good and the bad times. You walk with us and give us strength. We praise you and thank you. Be with those who are suffering in this holiday season, with those who mourn, those who are sick, those who are saddened by life. We thank you for the healing we have seen and the blessings we have received. Be with our Pastor and his family, be with our staff, and our leaders. Give them your blessings and guide them in their work. Be with our church, may it be a place where all who come find the living Lord. In Jesus name, Amen

Grace Epperson

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## This Week's Calendar

### Sunday, December 8th

- 
- 
- 8:45am - Gosbells Rehearsal - Sanctuary
  - 9:00am - Fellowship Time - Parlor
  - 9:30am - Advent Study - Conference Room
  - 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
  - 4:00pm - Gosbells Handbell Choir Concert - Sanctuary**

### Monday, December 9th

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

### Tuesday, December 10th

- 11:00am - Advent Study - Conference Room
- 6:00pm - MOPS Group - Library & Toddler Room
- 7:00pm - ALS Support - Parlor
- 7:00pm - Finance Committee Meeting - Boardroom
- 7:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics - Room 104
- 7:30pm - Worship Band Practice - Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, December 11th

- 11:00am - UUMW Executive Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- 12:00pm - UUMW Monthly Meeting/Potluck - Fellowship Hall
- 6:30pm - Adult Bible Study re: Prayer - Boardroom
- 6:30pm - Men's Step Study - Library & Room 105
- 6:30pm - Women's Step Study - Library & Room 105

### Thursday, December 12th

- 10:00am - Commit to be Fit - Room 301
- 11:00am - Women's Emmaus 4th Day Meeting - Library
- 12:00pm - Food for Body & Soul (Bible Study) - Conference Room
- 6:30pm - Celebrate Recover - Fellowship Hall
- 7:00pm - Adult Bible Study re: Hebrews - Room 302

### Saturday, December 14th

- 9:00am - Ruth's Knit & 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  
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## Classes/Studies

### Advent Study:

Sundays at 9:30am  
Tuesdays at 11am  
Meetings will be held in the  
Conference Room

This study will help you "discover a  
way of seeing that opens your eyes  
to ordinary amazing grace, a way  
of living that is fully alive, and a  
way of becoming present to God  
that brings you deep and lasting  
joy." - "One Thousand Gifts" by Ann  
Voskamp

### Food For Body & Soul

Thursdays at 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  
New book starting soon! See  
Cookie Miller for info!

### Thursday Night Study

Thursdays at 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 at 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.



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](mailto:bmiller@uticaumc.org),  
contact the office, or complete a  
form in the office.