



# Weekly Messenger

JANUARY 10, 2020

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from Rev. Don.....	1
Special Sunday: Human Relations Day.....	2
UM Men's Breakfast.....	2
Youth Sunday.....	2
Weekly Devotional.....	3
Weekly Calendar.....	4
Celebration Place.....	4
Group Studies Available.....	5
Church Information.....	5

## AND THE BAND PLAYED ON...

MESSAGE FROM REV. DON GOTHAM

I recall how my brother read a book titled, "And the Band Played On," when we were in our later years of elementary school. Some of you might have read the book. It was based on the story of the sinking of the Titanic. The author was critical of there not being enough life-belts on the ship, and of there not being enough life-boats, as well. Mostly, the book was critical of the crew and passengers who refused to heed the warnings to get off the Titanic. People were convinced the ship was unsinkable. Even ships nearby who intercepted the distress signal from the Titanic convinced themselves it had to be someone playing a joke, for they too believed the ship was unsinkable.

After I shared with the congregation of how I didn't believe it was the time to panic in the wake of the media coverage of the impending splitting of the United Methodist Church, I was asked if I wasn't merely choosing to bury my head in the sand. My reply now is the same as then. I don't believe we are at the place of panic.

The proposal, which was announced to the media on January 3rd, is either the third or fourth of its kind. The group which announced it does not have the authority to split the denomination. The only group with that kind of power is the General Conference. You might recall how there was a Special General Conference in the Spring of 2019. That conference didn't agree on much, and no significant change came as a result of their time together.

I can't tell you the proposal announced on January 3rd won't pass. I can't tell you it will pass. I can tell you I've heard more willingness among those who are going to be attending General Conference to find a way to stop hurting one another over the issue of interpretation of scripture, specifically as it relates to human sexuality. Do I suspect something will change as a result of the next General Conference? Yes. Will it be what I want, or what you want? Sorry, my prognosticator isn't that good.

I can tell you if things change, our church, the Utica United Methodist Church, will go on. We will continue to gather to worship our Lord. We will continue to gather to study the word of God. We will continue to meet the needs of our community as best as we can. Our friends here at church will still be our friends, and that bond, along with our faith, will hold us together.

*Continued on page 3...*

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

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



The United Methodist Men's Breakfast is coming up on **Saturday, January 18th** at 8:30am in Fellowship Hall.

All men are welcome. There will be a light breakfast and time for fellowship.

*Continued from page 1...*

What lies before our church is not the same as the sinking of the Titanic. We are not derelict in our duties to stay where we are. Our ship is not sinking beneath us. There may well be changes on the horizon, but we will manage them together, and we will continue to be the Body of Christ striving to live our faith in ways that impact our world.

I invite us all to commit to pray for the upcoming General Conference, and for all of those who will have a vote on these matters.

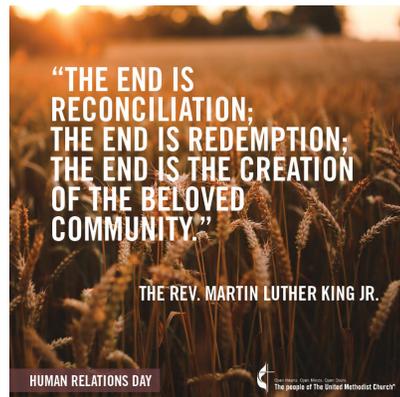
Fully Relying on God,  
Rev. Don

*\*\*Note: In regard to this matter, there will be articles available to you on the table outside of the sanctuary and at the kiosk out side of Fellowship Hall. Feel free to pick them up while in church on Sunday, or email [bmiller@uticaumc.org](mailto:bmiller@uticaumc.org) to get the links to the articles emailed to you. As always, Rev. Don will be available to talk with you if you have any concerns!  
Thank you - Beth Miller*

## Special Sunday - Human Relations Day

*EVERY ONE OF US IS OF SACRED WORTH*

We are all family. When we walk past our neighbor who is hiding in plain sight, we limit the gifts and graces that our sisters and brothers in Christ bring to the table. We limit the experiences, the voices and the beloved community that take place through mutual sharing of gifts. With a special offering celebrating Human Relations Day, we join with United Methodists around the world, remembering that the size of the table of divine love is unlimited.



## Celebrate Human Relations Day Sunday January 19, 2020

Across the United Methodist connection we come together to help bridge the gap between church and community by participating in an offering set aside for Human Relations Day. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this churchwide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: all of God's children are important.

One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own. On Human Relations Day, we join other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs.

In recognizing Human Relations Day, we are called to make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens.

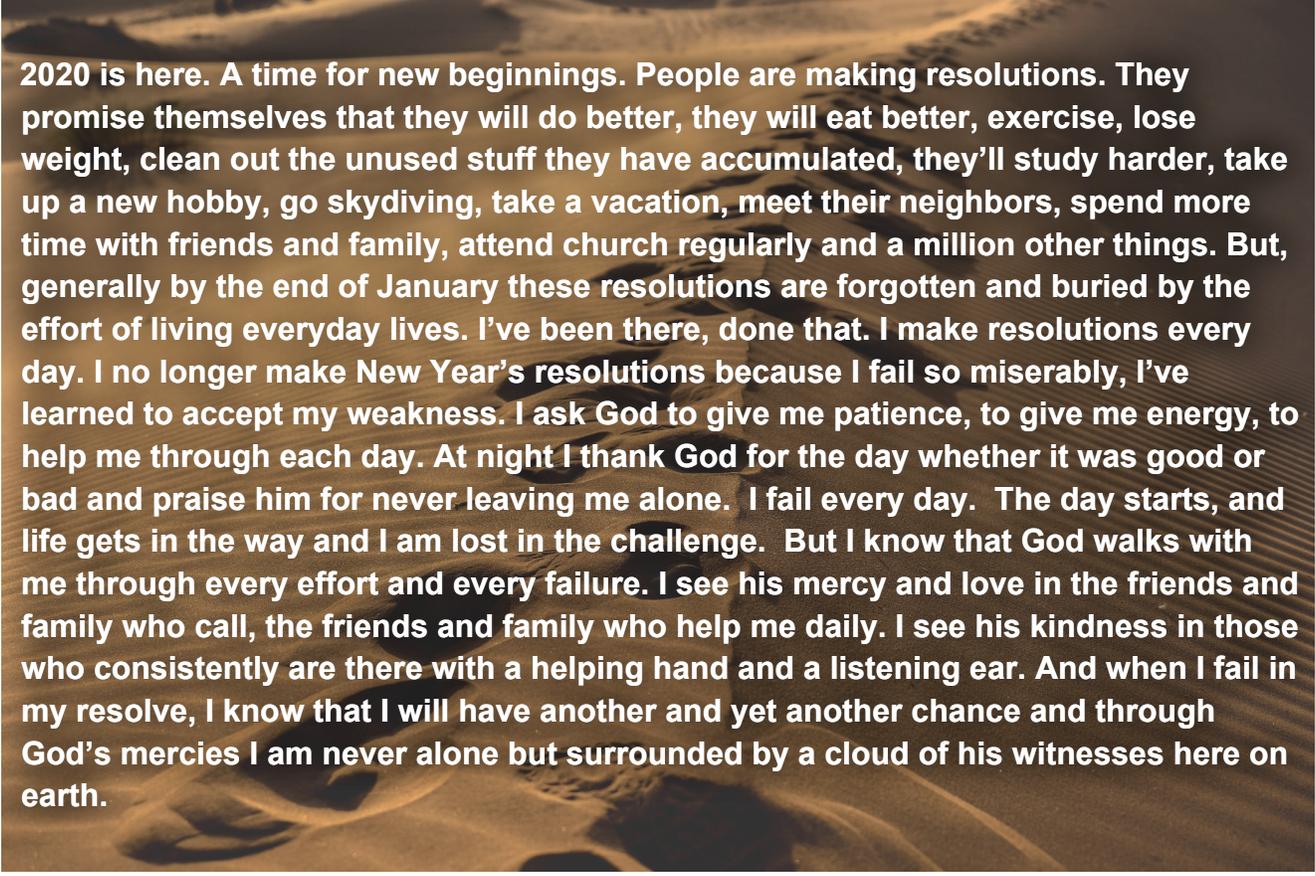
If you would like to give to this cause, please note on your offering envelope "Special Sunday Offering" or "Human Relations Day".



This Sunday, January 12th, is a "Youth Sunday". After second service (which let's out around 12pm), the youth (grade 6 - 12) will have pizza for lunch and will be watching a movie. Come hang out and relax with us!!

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## GRACE'S DEVOTIONAL: A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION



2020 is here. A time for new beginnings. People are making resolutions. They promise themselves that they will do better, they will eat better, exercise, lose weight, clean out the unused stuff they have accumulated, they'll study harder, take up a new hobby, go skydiving, take a vacation, meet their neighbors, spend more time with friends and family, attend church regularly and a million other things. But, generally by the end of January these resolutions are forgotten and buried by the effort of living everyday lives. I've been there, done that. I make resolutions every day. I no longer make New Year's resolutions because I fail so miserably, I've learned to accept my weakness. I ask God to give me patience, to give me energy, to help me through each day. At night I thank God for the day whether it was good or bad and praise him for never leaving me alone. I fail every day. The day starts, and life gets in the way and I am lost in the challenge. But I know that God walks with me through every effort and every failure. I see his mercy and love in the friends and family who call, the friends and family who help me daily. I see his kindness in those who consistently are there with a helping hand and a listening ear. And when I fail in my resolve, I know that I will have another and yet another chance and through God's mercies I am never alone but surrounded by a cloud of his witnesses here on earth.

*"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail. They are new every  
morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The  
Lord is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him.""*

- Lamentations 3:22-24

Lord, we give you thanks for this day and thanks for those who touch our lives with your love. Be with those who face the challenges of illness, those who are grieving, those whose futures are uncertain, those who seek you and your forgiveness, those who struggle with addiction, those who are separated from loved ones, may they reach out and find forgiveness. Be with our church that we may be a haven and a family to those who seek you and your love and forgiveness. Be with our Pastor and staff as they lead us; we ask your blessings in their lives. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Grace Epperson

# **THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

## **This Week's Calendar**

### **Sunday, January 12th**

- 8:45am - Chancel 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, January 13th**

- 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, January 14th**

- 6:00pm - MOPS Group - Library & Toddler Room
- 7:00pm - ALS Support - Parlor
- 7:00pm - Finance Committee - Boardroom
- 7:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics - Room 104

### **Wednesday, January 15th**

- 10:00am - Faith Circle ( A UMW Group) - Room 104
- 1:00pm - Harmony Circle ( A UMW Group) - Library
- 4:30pm - K.I.D.S. Club - Fellowship Hall
- 6:30pm - Wednesday Adult Study - Boardroom
- 6:30pm - Men's Step Study - Library & Room 105
- 6:30pm - Women's Step Study - Library & Room 105
- 7:30pm - Worship Band Practice - Fellowship Hall

### **Thursday, January 16th**

- 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
- 1:30pm - Endowment Meeting - Boardroom
- 6:30pm - Stephen Ministry Meeting - Board Room
- 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery - Fellowship Hall
- 6:30pm - Celebration Place (for children) - Room 301
- 7:00pm - Adult Bible Study re: Hebrews - Room 302

### **Saturday, January 18th**

- 8:30am - UM Men's Breakfast - Fellowship Hall
- 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

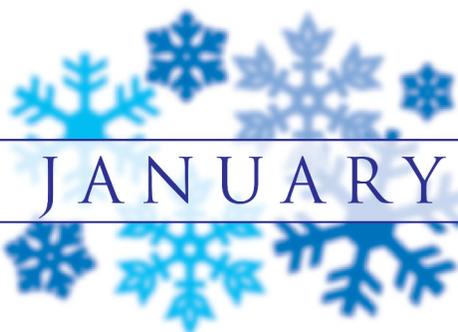
## Child Care

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



## Classes/Studies

### 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.

## 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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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.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Celebration Place

-A Celebrate Recovery Program for kids-

Happening here  
on Thursdays  
at 6:30pm



Women's Emmaus 4th  
Day Presents:

## TACOS TRIVIA

Sunday, January 19th

12:30pm-3:30pm

\$5 Adults | \$2 Children  
(max of \$15 per family)

TACO BAR  
DESSERT TABLE  
TRIVIA & PRIZES

## K.I.D.S. CLUB IS BACK!!

As of:

JANUARY 8TH

4:30PM - 6:30PM

REGISTER TODAY!!

Visit [www.uticaumc.org](http://www.uticaumc.org) for more  
information or call the church office.

**WARMING CENTER**  
will be at Utica UMC  
January 26th -  
February 1st

\$2  
Admission

## Mom-2-Mom Re-Sale

Utica UMC | February 8<sup>th</sup>  
10:00am-2:00pm

Come shopping for great deals on maternity wear,  
baby gear, toys and ALL age children's clothing!

If you are interested in a table or volunteering to help  
(set-up/clean-up, selling refreshments, etc.,)

please contact Beth Miller at [bmiller@uticaumc.org](mailto:bmiller@uticaumc.org)



Sign-Up at church  
on Sunday, or call  
the office for more  
information.