



Weekly Messenger

JANUARY 24, 2020

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PROGRESS, WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS!!

MESSAGE FROM REV. DON GOTHAM

I wanted to let folks know the group of folks working on the "Church Unique" process is making progress. We have written a new mission/vision statement, and will soon have our core values established, too. With the help of two talented navigators, the team of folks from UUMC is working diligently. We invite the church family to keep the process in prayer.

An invitation

I have happened upon several conversations regarding the news of the proposed "Protocol for Separation." It has become clear to me people have questions as to what might happen at the upcoming General Conference in May. I believe it is a good thing for our members to wonder how things might turn out. I also think it is part of my responsibility as your pastor to offer as much of my understanding of these matters as possible.

To that end, I will be making a presentation to those interested on Sunday, March 1st, at 3 pm. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall. After I present to you what I understand, I will take questions to clarify the presentation. Just as was the case when I offered a study on the issues facing the Special General Conference last year, this will be a chance to gain an understanding, not an opportunity to help others see why your position is the "right" position.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Don

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

United Methodists in Philippines help volcano evacuees

By Gladys P. Mangiduyos | Jan. 22, 2020 | UM News

United Methodists are among those assisting some of the hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the Taal volcano eruption on Luzon Island in the Philippines.

Kusina ng Taal, an outreach ministry of Tagaytay United Methodist Church in Tagaytay City, began providing hot meals for evacuees on Jan. 21. Kusina ng Taal, which means “kitchen of Taal,” was created to respond to the immediate needs of evacuees in the Asisan barangay, which is 13.4 miles away from the volcano.



Evacuees in Mataas Na Kahoy in the province of Batangas, Philippines, receive relief goods from the Philippines Central Conference's Asuncion Perez Memorial Center. United Methodists are among the many people responding to the thousands displaced by the Taal volcano eruption Jan. 12 on Luzon Island. Photo courtesy of Liza A. Cortez. (<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/united-methodists-in-philippines-help-volcano-evacuees>)

The Rev. John Manalo, administrative pastor of Tagaytay United Methodist Church, posted on his Facebook page that his church currently is ministering to 500 to 1,000 evacuees.

The volcano, located about 40 miles south of Manila, began erupting Jan. 12, spewing hot ash and gas. According to the Republic of the Philippines' National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, more than 71,000 families — an estimated 282,000 people — have been affected in the provinces of Batangas, Quezon, Laguna and Cavite. The group's Jan. 22 report said nearly 149,000 people have taken shelter at 493 evacuation centers.

After the initial eruption, The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology warned that a much more

dangerous eruption could occur. On Jan. 20, a top scientist echoed those concerns, saying the restive volcano is “recharging” and has a high risk of eruption.

Currently, there is a lockdown mandate in the danger zone around the volcano, with authorities ordering commercial establishments to remain closed.

Manalo said his church established the outreach project to provide care to people displaced by Taal's wrath. According to barangay officials, cooked food and medicine are the primary needs.

“Currently, we're distributing cooked food to Tagaytay City Integrated School located at barangay Guinhawa. This (evacuation) center is just a kilometer away from where our church building is located.”

UTICA UMC T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE | \$10 | GET YOURS AT CHURCH!!

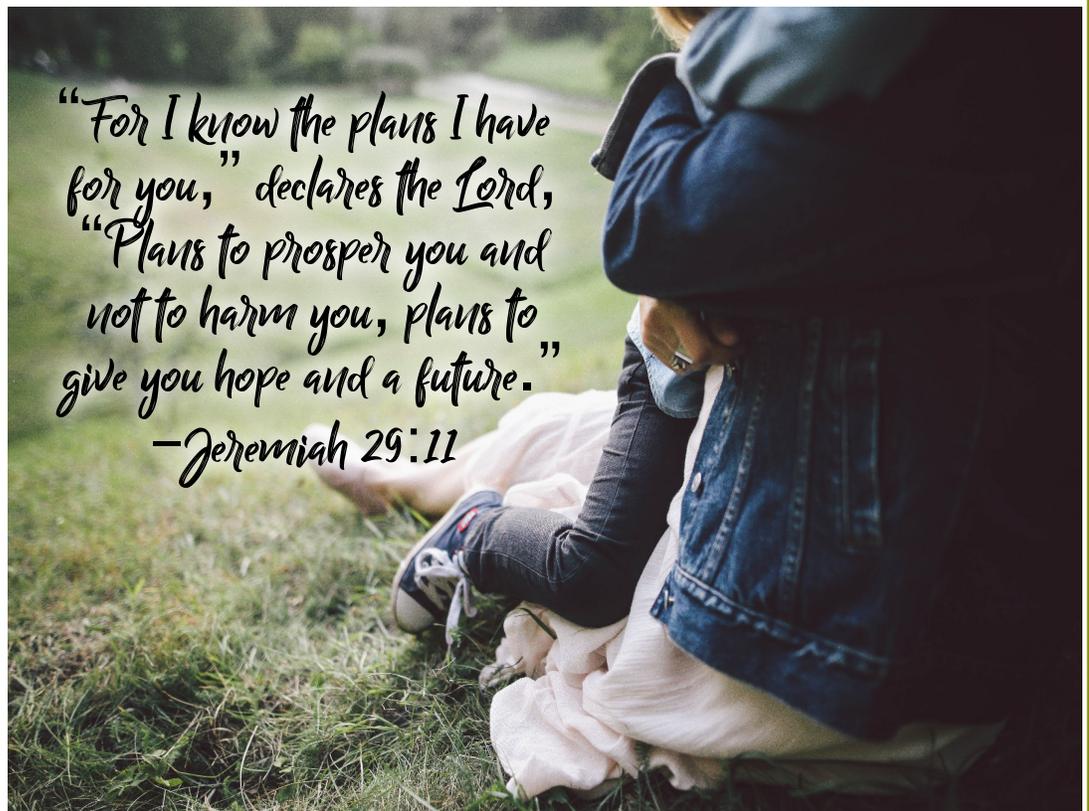
THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

GRACE'S DEVOTIONAL: "LIFE'S JOYS"

So many times, we focus on the sorrows in our lives instead of the joys. I do this often when I write because it is from the sorrows that we are often drawn closer to our God. In our sorrows we learn about ourselves and our human frailties. We learn that we are supported and loved by a God that loved us before we were born, before we were formed in our mother's womb; a God who loves us in our need and our emptiness. What do we learn from our joys? Sometimes we look on them as earned and as accomplishments, forgetting the God that stood by us in our need. When I had children, I thought my joy was complete. Then I had 3 grandchildren and I thought 'it doesn't get any better', but then -wonder of wonders, miracle of miracles- I had great grandchildren and I knew bliss.

This week we had one of the greatest joys that one can have -we have *another* great grandchild, a baby girl. A sweet, beautiful baby who reminds me of her mother when she was born and her mother before that. I want to remember this is a gift. One I did not earn, but that was brought to me by a loving God who has said to me, "See what joy I give you, my child. I have brought you out of the depths and now I show you joy!" God knows what we are going through and sends us those pure moments, and sometimes days and even years of unadulterated bliss, the love of a child. There is such happiness in the giving and receiving of the love of a child. I was talking with another woman and we talked about the feeling of contentment one gets when a child puts their arms around your neck and gives you a hug. There is nothing quite like it. It is trust, love, and faith all wrapped up in one embrace. Now I look forward to the precious moments and all the firsts; the first smile, the first tooth, the first time she rolls over, stands up, and takes that first step. She is blessed with loving parents and a big brother who already is showing signs of being a generous and excellent big brother. She will be surrounded by family that love and adore her and she will learn of a God who knows her and loved her always even before she was born.

Lord, we thank you for the joy of the birth of a child. We are so blessed by your love. In our happiness let us not forget those who are grieving, those who are worried about enough food or any food, those who are without shelter, those who are suffering and ill. May we reach out and comfort those who suffer, may we be the hands and feet of Christ in the lives of your children. Bless our Pastor and his family, bless his ministry, be with our staff and leaders, give them strength and guidance. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen
Grace Epperson



*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
-Jeremiah 29:11*

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, January 26th

First Night of Warming Center

- 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

12:30pm - Warming Center Set-Up

6:30pm - Warming Center guests begin arriving

Monday, January 27th

- 10:00am - Commit To Be Fit - Room 301
 - 1:00pm - Prayer Quilting - Conference Room
- 6:30pm - Warming Center guests begin arriving**

Tuesday, January 28th

- 7:00pm - Leadership Meeting - Board Room
- 6:30pm - Warming Center guests begin arriving**

Wednesday, January 29th

No K.I.D.S. Club

6:30pm - Warming Center guests begin arriving

Thursday, January 30th

- 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 - Warming Center guests begin arriving

Friday, January 31st

- 1:00pm - Stephen Ministry Network Meeting - Parlor

6:30pm - Warming Center guests begin arriving

Saturday, February 1st

- 9:00am - Church Unique - Room 302
 - 9:00am - Ruth's Knit & Stitch - Conference Room
- 6:30pm - Warming Center guests begin arriving (last night)**

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He said one-on-one and family counseling and prayers also are part of the church's ministry and noted that the church can be used as a command center for communication or coordination for United Methodist churches that wish to donate relief supplies.

Manalo said families are thankful for the food, noting that one recipient said, "Truly we believe that God is present in this place caring for us."

Amid the fears of another eruption, United Methodists continue to look for ways to help.

Manila Area Bishop Ciriaco Q. Francisco said local churches and individuals have been generous with support for victims. He said more evacuation centers are needed and rebuilding efforts will be imperative.

"With the abundance of support locally, they (will) need support during rehabilitation, (with) housing (and) livelihood to start all over again," he said.

Liza A. Cortez, executive director of the Philippines Central Conference's Asuncion Perez Memorial Center, led the pooling of resources for immediate relief distribution. In addition to working with local churches and organizations, the center collaborated with the Government Service Insurance System and the Malate Catholic School Alumni Association.

"We just did the first wave of relief distribution Jan. 16 in Mataas NaKahoy Central Elementary School," she said, adding that a second wave is expected to begin Jan. 26.

"We are grateful for the collective efforts," she said. "I had with me a 24-member team of clergies, laity members and deaconesses who volunteered to prepare and distribute the goods."

Relief supplies included rice, canned goods, coffee, biscuits, hygiene kits, towels, mats and bottled water. The donations came from St. Mark, Central, Grace, Jesus Christ the Cornerstone and Sandmeir United Methodist churches.

The Rev. Dave Sablan, former administrative pastor of St. John United Methodist Church in Cubao, Quezon City, was with his wife in Bacoor Cavite on Jan. 12 to visit family when the volcano, a popular tourist attraction, erupted.

"We're also victims of ash falls but not that hard. The following day, Jan. 13, with our 93-year-old father, (we) thought of going up to Tagaytay to see the volcano. Then, as we traveled along, we saw the devastation and destruction of every barangay.

That devastation prompted the family to help. "We all agreed to share hundreds of pesos each to buy bottled water for our chosen barangay, Asisan, where the Tagaytay (United Methodist) mission camp is located," Sablan said.

Speaking to United Methodist News, Sablan urged United Methodists to take action.

"Let us turn our faith into action, something concrete, so that people who are in need can see the love of God more real," he said.

Manalo said his church's Kusina project will continue to provide cooked food as long as donations are coming in.

"We don't know how long this project would last. As long as there are volunteers and donors, Tagaytay UMC is committed to cook and distribute."

Cortez said those in need deserve the church's support.

"Let's not give them donations, but gifts — not because it felt good in our soul but because we believe deep in our hearts that it is their right."

Mangiduyos is a communicator from the Philippines.

News media contact: Vicki Brown, news editor, newsdesk@umcom.org or 615-742-5470. To read more United Methodist news, subscribe to the free Daily or Weekly Digests.



There have been some emails received from church staff that appear to be from Rev. Don or "Senior Pastor" and are asking for money. Please know that Rev. Don is NOT sending these emails.

At this time, it is only effecting staff, but If you happen to receive a suspicious email, please **ignore the message** and let Rev. Don know!

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

SUPER BOWL SUB SALE



12" Subs \$10



6" Subs \$6

Your choice of HOT or MILD

****ORDER SUNDAY****

Pick up on Feb. 2nd

All proceeds go to our Youth Fund



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



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

2
Admission

Mom-2-Mom Re-Sale

Utica UMC | February 8th
10:00am-2:00pm

Over 35
tables!!



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

If you are interested in volunteering to help set-
up/clean-up, selling refreshments, etc., please contact
Beth Miller at bmiller@uticaumc.org



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

WEDNESDAYS

4:30PM - 6:30PM

REGISTER TODAY!!

Visit www.uticaumc.org for more
information or call the church office.

SCOUT SUNDAY

100 YEARS

SCOUT SUNDAY 2020

February 9, 2020

Please join us in celebrating 100
years of service and partnership
with the United Methodist Church
and Scouting BSA.

Boy Scout Troop 80 of Utica UMC
will be participating in both
services.

ALL Scouts are welcome!!!

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
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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 Ephesians. 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? 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.