

Weekly Messenger

FEBRUARY 28, 2020

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ASK THE UMC: IS COMMUNION SIMPLY A RITUAL OF REMEMBRANCE?

Holy Communion includes a profound act of remembrance that recalls the last supper Jesus had with his disciples. But it is more than just a ritual of remembering. It is primarily an act through which our connection with God, each other and our life of ministry in the world is nourished and strengthened.

This Holy Mystery describes what we believe and practice in the sacrament: "Holy Communion is remembrance, commemoration, and memorial, but this remembrance is much more than simply intellectual recalling. 'Do this in remembrance of me' (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25) is anamnesis (the biblical Greek word). This dynamic action becomes re-presentation of past gracious acts of God in the present, so powerfully as to make them truly present now. Christ is risen and is alive here and now, not just remembered for what was done in the past."

In the ritual, the prayer of Great Thanksgiving intentionally rehearses the entirety of God's saving acts in history from creation to God's covenant with Israel, through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. And in this prayer, we seek the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon us and the gifts of bread and wine we bring.

When we receive the bread and wine so "we may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood," we are remembering. At the same time, we are also re-membered, put back together again. We pray that we may be "one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world." God's work of making us one and uniting us with Christ and with each other is the ordinary way by which God feeds us, sustains us and empowers us to live as Christians in the world.

In communion, we do remember the saving work God has already done in the world and is doing today. And we anticipate God's future for the world and all creation. We're partners with God in creating this future. We are strengthened and transformed by the presence of Christ in the bread and wine to respond to God's love by loving God and others.

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(<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-is-communion-simply-a-ritual-of-remembrance>)



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

2019 Mission Support Summary

During calendar year 2019 the Utica United Methodist Church made pledges to support many ministries that are sponsored through the UM Michigan Conference. As a result of the generosity of all of you, our congregation once again fulfilled 100% of these pledges that go to local, regional, national and international ministries as well as direct support for 2 missionaries. Other ministries that are not a part of our pledged conference support include the Warming Center, MCREST, UM Men's and UM Women's ministry projects.

In 2 Corinthians, chapter 8, we learn of how *"He who gathered much had nothing left over, and He who gathered little had no lack"* as the early churches shared the burden to provide the resources and support the spread of the great news of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In this same way today, our collective gifts have provided ministry support that is required to continue to reach out to those who need to know the love and grace that Jesus gives to all of us.

The following summary of 2019 Ministry Support is provided by your Together-In-Mission (TIM) Committee with our heartfelt thank you.

Local Ministries include:

Good Shepard Coalition (UUMC Food Pantry)	\$796
Blessings in a Backpack	\$2,694

Michigan Ministries include:

Baldwin Center	\$847
Cass Community Social Services	\$727
Methodist Children's Home Society	\$800
The NOAH Project	\$800
UM Conference Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Recovery	\$300
God's Country Cooperative Parish	\$300

National Ministries include:

Society of St. Andrews	\$506
UM Committee on Relief (UMCOR)	\$300

International Ministries include:

Mujila Falls Agricultural Project	\$549
Liberia Water for Life Project	\$200

Missionary Support include:

Randy Hildebrandt (Gods Country Cooperative Parish)	\$1,500
Paul Lee Webster (Mujila Falls, Zambia – agricultural specialist)	<u>\$1,500</u>
Total Actual Mission Support for 2019	\$11,279



**General Conference
Presentation -by Rev. Don**

**Sunday at 3pm
Fellowship Hall**



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

COOK-OFF RESULTS

We had a great time on February 23 with our Mac-n-Cheese, Soup, Stew, and Dessert Cook-off. In addition to enjoying great food and fellowship, we also played several rounds of "Cook-off" Bingo while the votes were counted. When the results were tallied we had raised \$482.60 for apportionments. The results are below.

Mac-n-Cheese Category

(Only 7 votes separated the top 3 entries!)

FIRST PLACE

Delta Mac-n-Cheese
Don Gotham

SECOND PLACE

Smokey-Cheesy Mac-n-Cheese
Rachelle Heldt

THIRD PLACE

Bacon Tomato Mac-n-Cheese
Laura Gotham

Soup Category

FIRST PLACE

Potato Leek
Todd Steggall

SECOND PLACE

Stuffed Pepper
Andrew Lawson

THIRD PLACE

Ministrowski
Bob Clark

Stew Category

FIRST PLACE

Chicken Stew
Don Gotham

SECOND PLACE

Vegetable Beef Stew
Mary Dolenga

Dessert Category

FIRST PLACE

Apple Pie
Ruth Charlton

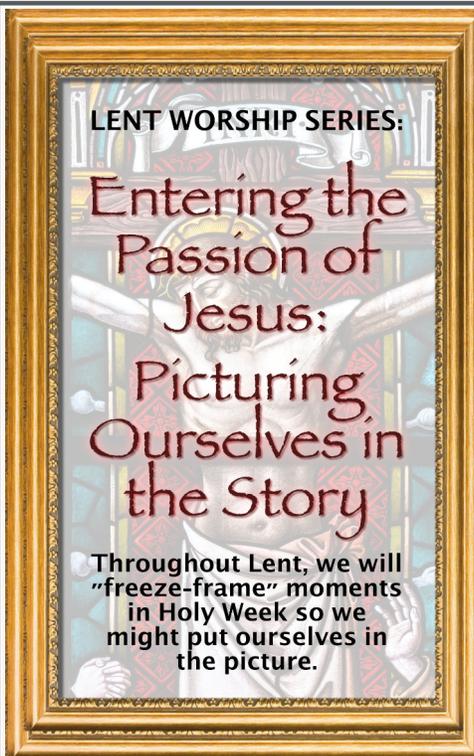
SECOND PLACE

Chocolate Surprise Cake
Emily Heldt

THIRD PLACE

Crack
Don Gotham

Some recipes are available, call the office or pick up copies at church.



Each week we invite you to take photos --to capture artful "life moments" through the lens of your camera-- post them to our church's Facebook page: @UticaUnitedMethodistChurch and use #lifeframe.

If you are not on Facebook, we still invite you to visit our one of our "Photo Booths" (located near the Sanctuary and in Fellowship Hall) where we would like to take your photo. We will be creating something very special out of the collection of people in this church.

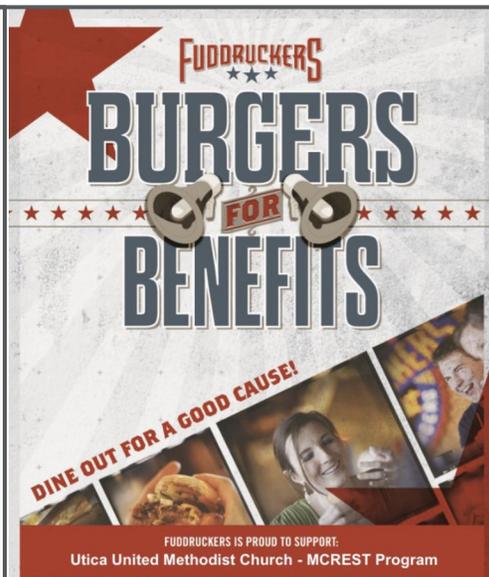
BOOK SALE

We have received \$94 for Christian Education through our book sale.

Books will be available until Sunday, March 1st. Fill a bag for \$1.00 or give free will donation.

We will not be taking any more book donations this year. If you were hoping to donate books, please donate elsewhere.

Thank you!



Grab a flyer and bring it to Fuddruckers on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 11am to 9pm

40955 Van Dyke Ave,
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Must show flyer in restaurant

SAVE THE DATES: ROMEO UMC FISH FRY



Romeo UMC's annual fish fry will be happening again during Lent. If you are interested in going, dinner is served between 4:30pm and 7:00pm on

Friday, March 13th
Friday, March 20th
Friday, March 27th
Friday, April 3rd

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

GRACE'S DEVOTIONAL:

"TRUST"

I never learned to swim. When I entered Nurses Training, we had swimming as part of our Physical Education. The first day I put my swimsuit on and class began. The instructor separated out the few of us who could not swim. There were 3 of us. She told us to get in the water and we were to hold our breath, put our heads under water and clutch our knees. Just the thought that this was called "Dead Man's Float" was not encouraging. I told her I would drown. Thus, began a 3 year relationship with her insisting I could do it and me insisting I would drown. I tried everything she told me even jumping into the deep end where I was supposed to swim to the other end. Instead I would bob up and grab the side of the pool. At one point she did persuade me to swim to the other end and since I would not open my eyes when in the water I could not see where I was going. I just knew the room was very quiet. I opened my eyes and found myself in the middle of the pool with everyone watching me and the instructor walking beside the pool with a very long pole. When she realized I knew where I was, she yelled, "Swim, swim, keep going!"



Instead I made a beeline for the side of the pool. I had no trust. I did not trust my ability to swim and I did not trust the water to support me. The instructor tried in my second year to tell me that I could not graduate unless I learned to swim. By the end of that year, she gave up and played tennis with me instead, I was also very bad at tennis, but I knew: rarely does anyone drown playing tennis. The instructor finally decided I was just too thin to swim. Her theory was that I did not have enough body fat for buoyancy. I knew it was that I just did not trust the water. I love pools but give me the shallow end. I do have trust in other areas of my life. I trust my family, my faith, and my God and if God ever told me to swim I probably would, but could I walk on water?

14:25-31 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord save me" immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Lord, hold us up when we doubt. Be with those who are ill, those who are going through times that are frightening, those that grieve, give them strength and may they feel your love holding them up. Be with our church, may we be the hands and feet of Christ. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, and be with his family, uphold them with your love and strength. Be with our staff and leaders, may they feel your presence in their lives and in their journey. Thank you, Lord for all our blessings, for the food we eat and the shelter you provide and the love and strength of our families and friends. Amen.

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, March 1st

Communion Sunday | First Sunday in Lent

- 8:45am - Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 9:00am - Fellowship Time - Parlor
- 9:30am - Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 9:30am - Lenten Study - Conference Room
- 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
- 3:00pm - Presentation re: General Conference by Rev. Don**

Monday, March 2nd

- 10:00am - Commit To Be Fit - Room 301
- 1:00pm - Prayer Quilting - Conference Room
- 6:00pm - Women's Emmaus 4th Day Meeting - Library
- 6:00pm - Trustee's Meeting - Board Room
- 7:00pm - "Into the Word" Adult Study - Conference Room

Tuesday, March 3rd

- 11:00am - Lenten Study - Conference Room
- 1:00pm - Harmony Circle (A UMW Group) - Library
- 6:00pm - MOPS Meeting - Library
- 7:30pm - ACOA (Adult Children of Alcoholics) - Room 104

Visit Fuddruckers between 11am & 9pm
***with flyer* to support The UMC MCREST GROUP**

Wednesday, March 4th

- 4:30pm - KIDS Club - Fellowship Hall & Classrooms
- 6:30pm - Women's Step Study - Library
- 6:30pm - Men's Step Study - Room 105
- 6:30pm - Wednesday Night Bible Study - Board Room
- 7:30pm - Worship Band Practice - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 5th

- 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 - Stephen Ministry Meeting - Board Room
- 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery - Fellowship Hall
- 6:30pm - Celebration Place - Room 305
- 7:00pm - Thursday Adult Bible Study - Room 302

Saturday, March 7th

- 9:00am - Ruth's Knit & Stitch - Conference Room

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Ministry Team:

Reverend Don Gotham
srpastor@uticaumc.org

Contemporary Worship Leader

Christopher Heldt
chris.heldt@uticaumc.org

Music Ministry

David Fox, Organist, Bell, &
Chancel Choirs Director
FoxDavidL@sbcglobal.net

Communications Director

Beth Miller
bmiller@uticaumc.org

Secretary/Bookkeeper

Charlotte Ramsey
charlotte@uticaumc.org

Youth Leader

Suzy Palmer
suzy.palmer@uticaumc.org

Child Care

Caitlyn Wilson

Custodian

Rachelle Heldt

Sunday Worship Times:

9:30 AM

with Organ, Choir and
Handbells
in the Sanctuary

11:00 AM

with our Worship Band
in Fellowship Hall



Swanson, John August. Entry into the City, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. Original source: www.johnaugustswanson.com - copyright 1990 by John August Swanson.

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

Classes/Studies

Featured: Lent Study

Sundays at 9:30am

Tuesdays at 11am

in the Conf. Room

Join Teresa Winkler with a new
Lent study: "Entering the
Passion of Jesus". This class
will continue to meet until Easter
Sunday.

Food For Body & Soul

Thursdays at 12:00pm

in the Conf. Room

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

in the Conf. Room

Thursday Night Bible Study

Thursdays at 7:00pm

in Room 302

"Into The Word" Bible Study

Mondays at 7:00pm

in the Conf. Room

Commit To Be Fit

Mondays & Thursdays

10am-11am in room 301

Celebrate Recovery

Step Study for Men

Wednesdays

6:30pm in room 104

Celebrate Recovery

Step Study for Women

Wednesdays

6:30pm in room 104

Celebrate Recovery Service

Wednesdays

6:30pm in room 104

MOPS - Moms of Preschoolers

2nd Tuesday of each month

6:00pm in the Library

**For more information about any
of these classes, visit our
website: www.uticaumc.org*



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.