



Weekly Messenger

FEBRUARY 7, 2020

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LOOKING FORWARD MESSAGE FROM REV. DON GOTHAM

There are many things I am looking forward to in 2020. I am looking forward to baptizing our granddaughter this coming summer. I am looking forward to spending time with Laura’s parents and spending more time with our grandchildren. I am looking forward to Lent, and the exciting worship series titled, “Entering the Passion of Jesus: Picturing Ourselves in the Story.”

Some of the things we are called to “look forward” to are not necessarily the kinds of things that cause us excitement. Still, if we are wise, we do what we can to look forward and be prepared. One such event I learned of yesterday is coming up on March 7th. Our bishop has called a special session of the annual conference, and I am including the text I received regarding the reason for the gathering.

The sole purpose of this session of the Michigan Annual Conference will be to consider whether the Michigan Conference will send the legislation based on the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation to General Conference 2020 so that it might be considered by the delegates to the General Conference. The precise language of the petition to be voted upon will be released the week of February 17. No other business will be permitted at this session of annual conference.

Since the language of the petition to be voted on at the March 7th session of the conference won’t be released for ten days, I don’t have anything to share with you regarding it or the conference. I will be able to update you when we gather on March 1st at 3 pm to become more informed about the issues our denomination is facing.

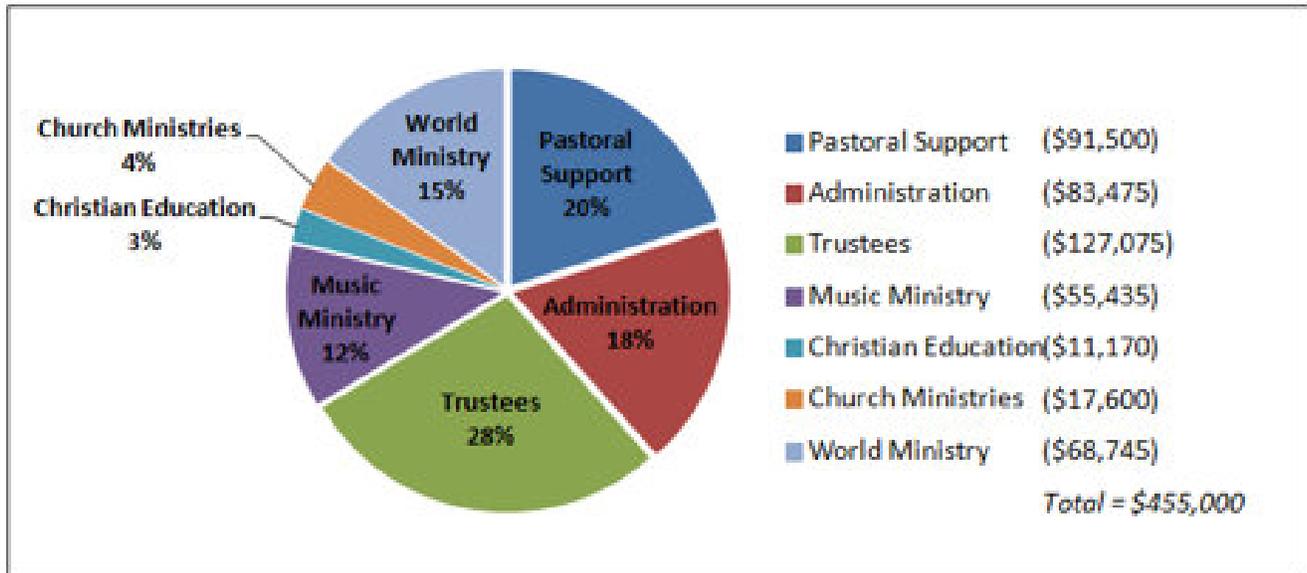
In January, the following letter written by the bishop assigned to Arkansas caught my attention. Much of what Bishop Mueller shares, especially as it relates to the importance of the local church, is in line with my thinking. I invite you to read the thoughts of Bishop Mueller (article attached).

I also encourage you to continue to look forward. Lent is coming soon, Easter will be here before you know it, and God has great things in store for us as a church. Let us all keep partnering with God and one another to achieve our calling of sharing the life-changing message of Jesus.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Don

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

2020 Operating Fund Budget Approved



- * The 2020 Operating Fund Budget of \$455,000 has been approved by the Leadership Board and Finance Committee. This is approximately \$6,000 less than the 2019 Budget.
- * Changes include:
 - ✧ Increased salaries for pastor and all lay staff.
 - ✧ Reduction in Conference Ministry shares (previously known as apportionments).
 - ✧ Elimination of monthly conference loan payment (loan has been paid in full).
 - ✧ Minor adjustments to other items that offset one another.
- * Many of our ministries are funded additionally with special giving (e.g., Warming Center, MCREST, STARS/XCEL).
- * If you would like additional details, please contact a member of the Finance Committee (Mary Dolenga (Chairperson), Kathy Borlas, Ruth Charlton, Fran Leo, Bob MacKool, Al Manning, Noel Potter, Charlotte Ramsey, Heather Sample, and Gary Taylor).



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

February is American



Heart Month

In 1963, President Johnson declared February as Heart Month. This was to be a celebration to encourage Americans to join the battle against heart disease. Many researchers, physicians, public health professionals and volunteers work tirelessly to prevent, treat and research heart disease. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States.

To join in this celebration and show our appreciation of all of these efforts to prevent heart disease, let us all wear red this Sunday.



THANK YOU to everyone who purchased Super Bowl Subs or donated to the HECTIC Youth Fund. **The Youth were able to raise almost \$500!!** This will allow them to do more activities as the year continues.



New Class for Lent Starting Soon!!



AMY-JILL LEVINE

ENTERING THE PASSION of JESUS

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK



Join Teresa Winkler with a new Lent study: "Entering the Passion of Jesus". **The first class will meet on Sunday, February 23rd at 9:30am** in the Conference Room and will continue to meet until Easter Sunday.

****If you can't make it to the Sunday class, but would like to be involved in the study, there will be a Tuesday class that would potentially start on February 18th at 11am - depending on interest. If that is something that works better for you, there will be sign up sheets outside of both services.**



United Methodist Women's Meeting

The UMW invites all women to attend the monthly meeting on **Wednesday, February 12 at noon** with a potluck luncheon. Each person should bring their own place-setting and a dish to share. The program: "A 150-Year Legacy of Giving" begins at 1:00 pm. The World Thank Offering will be taken during the program, and don't forget to bring soups or jellies for the Food Pantry!

(Executive Board will meet at 11:00 am.)

Blood Drive

There will be a blood drive in Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, February 11th from 12pm - 6pm**. You can sign-up in advance this Sunday, February 2nd or next Sunday, February 9th.



DONATE BLOOD +

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

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



Did that title peak your interest?? If this were the internet, that would be considered 'Click Bait'

What is Click Bait? It is content (on the internet) whose main purpose is to attract attention and encourage visitors to click on a link to a particular web page.

Although it is annoying, Click Bait *can* be harmless. However, hackers use 'click bait' in the hopes of catching a user off guard by getting you to click their link. If they can get you to do so, they can potentially trick you into installing malicious software (malware) on your computer. They could also send you to a phishing site ("the fraudulent attempt to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by disguising oneself as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication." -Wikipedia), or any other number of scam-related sites.



Examples of successful click bait headlines:

- Supermodels apply these three simple solutions to look young. Exclusive offer... get yours FREE!
 - Man tries to hug a wild lion, click to learn what happens next!
 - Download your FREE eBook (a \$250 value)
 - Eat this one food and live 20 years longer! Learn what it is!
- Don't fall for it! Stay away from ads that claim to be "exclusive", "shocking", or "sensational" footage. If it sounds too wild to be true, it most likely is.

Identify Click Bait

Does it seem too good to be true?

Does it smell phishy?

Does it ask you to install something?

If you answer YES to any of these... You are most likely being scammed! Always think before you click!

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

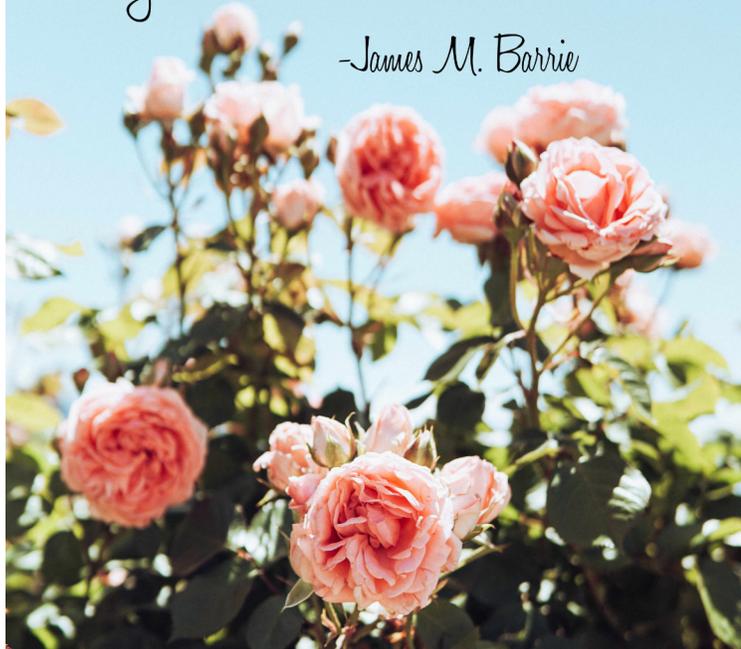
GRACE'S DEVOTIONAL:

"LONGING FOR WHAT WAS"

I have three grandchildren; two girls from my daughter, and a boy from my son. I was fortunate to spend time with them when they were little, and often did. I would drop my grandson off with his mom and take the girls to meet their mother. I am blessed that my grandson lives close by and stops by once a week to visit with us. The others live some distance away, in Illinois, so I don't get to see them as often. Last week, I decided to do some shopping and was led to a store that holds a lot of memories for me. It is the store where I would often meet my daughter for dinner. I would bring the two granddaughters to the restaurant, and my daughter would meet us after work. I did some shopping and then went to lunch. Having a new great granddaughter gives one an excuse to go shopping. At lunch I sat at a familiar table and watched a young girl with a Barbie Doll with very long hair. This brought back a memory of my granddaughters when they decided, for whatever reason, to give all their Barbie Dolls a haircut. They got in a lot of trouble that day. This prompted me to text my granddaughter to ask how things were going and to tell her there was a young girl with a Barbie with very long hair and I told her she needed a haircut (I hadn't). I got a laugh back and reassurance that all was well; mom, dad, baby and toddler are all doing fine. As a bonus I received pictures, always a wonderful treat. She seemed to know that Grandma was feeling nostalgic and yearning for those days when she didn't have to ask how things were because she was right there helping and spending time with all of them. I miss that, but time went by and they all grew up. This grandma is so grateful that she was able to have that special time with them.

*"God gave us memory so that we
might have roses in December."*

-James M. Barrie



**1 Chronicles 16:11-12:
"Look to the Lord and his
strength; seek his face
always. Remember the
wonders he has done."**

Lord, we thank you for the memories that we keep and the way they bless our lives. Be with our church that we may be a blessing to others. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and keep watch over him and his family. Be with our staff and leaders, bless them and keep them. Be with those who are suffering illnesses and those that are grieving, comfort them. Be with those that seek you, may they find you within our doors. We pray in Jesus name. Amen

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, February 9th

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY - Over 100 Years!

Wear RED to support American Heart Month

- 8:30am - Gosbells 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, February 10th

- 10:00am - Commit To Be Fit - Room 301
- 1:00pm - Prayer Quilting - Conference Room
- 6pm - Women's Emmaus 4th Day Meeting - Library
- 6:30pm - Church Unique - Room 302
- 6:45pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Music Room
- 7pm - "Into the Word" Adult Study - Conference Room
- 7:45pm - Gosbells Rehearsal - Music Room

Tuesday, February 11th

- 12:00pm - Red Cross Blood Drive - Fellowship Hall
- 6:00pm - MOPS (Moms of Preschoolers) - Library
- 7:00pm - ALS Support - Parlor
- 7:00pm - Finance Committee - Boardroom
- 7:30pm - ACOA (Adult Children of Alcoholics) - Room 104

Wednesday, February 12th

- 11:00am - UUMW Executive Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- 12:00pm - UUMW Monthly Meeting & Potluck - Fellowship Hall
- 4:30pm - KIDS Club - Fellowship Hall
- 6:30pm Men and Women's Step Studies - Room 104 & Library
- 6:30pm - Wednesday Adult Bible Study - Board Room
- 7:30pm - Worship Band Practice - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, February 13th

- 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 Recovery - Fellowship Hall
- 6:30pm - Celebration Place - Room 305
- 7:00pm - Thursday Adult Bible Study - Room 302

Friday, February 14th

♥♥♥♥♥ Valentine's Day ♥♥♥♥♥

Saturday, February 15th

- 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



“The Lord
shall guide thee
continually...”

Isaiah 58:11



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!

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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.

It's Still About Your Church

Jan 8, 2020 | [Arkansas United Methodist](#)



By Gary E. Mueller

Bishop of the Arkansas Annual Conference

I am ready to admit something I've been in denial about for a long time. Even though I've invested a great deal of blood, sweat and tears trying, I simply cannot fix what's broken in the United Methodist Church. I can't fix the polarization that now imprisons us. I can't fix the outcome of this May's General Conference. And I can't fix the uncertainty we face as a church.

Even more significantly, the Holy Spirit has helped me realize I don't have to fix the church. It belongs to Jesus, and he's got it covered. This doesn't mean I'm stepping back, shrugging my shoulders and saying, "It's going to be what it's going to be." Rather, I will be focusing on what Jesus is calling every United Methodist congregation in Arkansas to do – becoming the most Jesus loving, disciple-making and sharing Jesus' love church you can be.

I love the United Methodist Church and the way of being Christian it shares. But ultimately, local congregations matter more than denominations – even our beloved United Methodist denomination. People need your local church, not a denomination. Your community needs your local church, not a denomination. And most importantly, Jesus needs your local church, not a denomination.

This means the single most pressing task is enabling your church that has a unique location, is filled with a unique group of people and possesses a unique history to become the church Jesus wants you to be – a vital congregation that makes disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped and sent to transform lives, communities and the world.

Embrace your identity. Your church is literally the Body of Christ. So act like it! Love Jesus, follow Jesus, grow in Jesus, be transformed in Jesus and share Jesus in ways that make it clear whose you are. Get serious about investing in those things that form you as the Body of Christ: prayer, Bible study, involving people in intentional discipling groups and reaching out to your neighborhood in ways that touch real people in real ways with real love.

Live out your purpose. Jesus uses your church, and the disciples in it, to continue his mission of making disciples, forming disciples, and equipping and sending disciples to transform lives, communities and the world. Help people discover their spiritual gifts, bless them and then unleash them in your congregation and into the mission field that begins right outside the doors of your sanctuary.

Demonstrate the difference Jesus makes. Almost every congregation has figured out how to thrive with a diverse group of people who have perspectives that are diametrically opposed. Don't see this as a problem; see it as a wonderful opportunity to show how Jesus brings together people who normally wouldn't give each other the time of day. Keep people worshiping together on the same pew, praying together, studying together, serving together and caring for each other.

I want to be absolutely clear about something that some people may consider to be a scandalous idea. Yet I am convicted of its truth. The future of your church is not dependent upon what happens in the United Methodist Church. Don't let the uncertainty, or brokenness, paralyze you. Move ahead boldly and confidently. Your church will still be part of the Body of Christ. Your church will still make disciples of Jesus Christ. Your church will still form deeper disciples. And your church will still equip and send disciples to transform lives, communities and the world.

The painful reality is that we United Methodist Christians face an uncertain future. As Jesus leads us toward it, I want you to know something. I consider it an honor and a privilege to walk with you. I believe in you. I trust you. And, most importantly, I love you.