



# Weekly Messenger

MARCH 13, 2020

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## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR: COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

Dear UUMC,

This week I have (as I imagine you have) had numerous letters from business leaders and financial institutions regarding how they are dealing with the Covid-19, or Coronavirus. These letters refer to strengthening their usual precautions, and delve into passing along sound advice on personal prevention strategies. I appreciate knowing the restaurants I dine in, and the stores I shop in are taking seriously their efforts to slow and stop the spread of this virus.

I have been monitoring the advice from the state and federal governments, as well as awaiting word from our own bishop. Bishop Bard sent his communication to me on Thursday. I will continue to monitor guidance from these reliable sources.

We have made the decision to further adjust how we will have our coffee time and the treats we serve. All of the changes have been made with the concern for how we can stem the transmission of any germs. We will also be doing our best to keep our frequently touched surfaces disinfected regularly. To keep our surfaces clean, we will need a group of volunteers to assist with these measures. If you are interested, please contact Charlotte in the office.

I have been informed of other United Methodist Churches who have made the decision to only offer worship services over the internet. Still others are asking church attendees to practice social-distancing, by spreading out in the worship space. We will be practicing the social-distancing strategy this coming Sunday in both worship services. We will adjust as many of our practices to stay as safe as we can. Further, we are also ramping up our ability to share the messages online.

As I write this, it is our plan to gather for worship on Sunday. If that changes, we will reach out via our robo-call system, place a notice on the Facebook page of our church, as well as the church website. If you are not receiving robo-calls from the church, please reach out to the office to be added to our call list. If we are informed by government officials the concern of the spread of the virus warrants us not gathering for worship, we will comply.

While I look forward to seeing each of you in worship on Sunday, I don't want to endanger anyone's health. If you are under the weather, I am pleading with you to stay home, and avoid the chance of spreading whatever you have to someone else. If you feel skittish about going out, know I respect your feelings, and know I bless you to use your best wisdom on this matter. If you have a compromised immune system, please stay home.

In January, when I learned of how this virus was spreading so quickly in Wuhan, China, I invited us all to pray for the arresting of the spread, and the return to health for those affected. I renew that invitation with you again. Let's pray, let's wash our hands frequently, keep our hands away from our faces, and be the wise, compassionate, gentle, generous, loving people we are called to be.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Don

Utica United  
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# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## From the CDC: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

### How COVID-19 Spreads

#### Person-to-person spread

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

#### **Can someone spread the virus without being sick?**

- People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).
- Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms; there have been reports of this occurring with this new coronavirus, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

#### Spread from contact with contaminated surfaces or objects

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

#### How easily the virus spreads

How easily a virus spreads from person-to-person can vary. Some viruses are highly contagious (spread easily), like measles, while other viruses do not spread as easily. Another factor is whether the spread is sustained, spreading continually without stopping.

The virus that causes COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and sustainably in the community ("community spread") in some affected geographic areas.

### **Watch for Symptoms**

Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.\*



### **Steps to Prevent Illness**

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

#### Take steps to protect yourself

- Clean your hands often (washing and sanitizer)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with others who are sick

#### Take steps to protect others

- Stay home if you're sick
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Wear a facemask if you are sick
- Clean and Disinfect

**If you feel sick, call your doctor. For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/covid19](http://www.cdc.gov/covid19)**

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Methodist Children's Home Society

As we look for ways to continue to support the children living at the Children's Home, a review of their website at [www.mchsmi.org](http://www.mchsmi.org) discovered a "Wish List" of items needed. While many items are listed, it was decided that a request would be made for personal hygiene items. Although many children would prefer sporting goods or other items of entertainment, the self-esteem of children who do not have simple hygiene items of their own, suffers. Children living in an institutional setting have precious few items that belong to them. Basic things that most of us take for granted must be shared with others. That is why Together-In-Missions has planned a drive to supply personal hygiene items for these children.

For 2 weeks, **beginning on March 22nd** we ask the congregation for your support to bring a personal hygiene item from the following "Wish List" to be donated to the Methodist Children's Home. There will be a marked bin at each worship location (i.e. Sanctuary / Fellowship Hall) for these items to be placed. Please note that while consumable items are needed, many of the items listed can be reused. We ask that each of you pray for these children, that such a simple gift would be a reminder that God loves them.

### "Wish List" for Personal Hygiene Items:

- Body wash (for sensitive skin)
- 2-in-1 Shampoo & Conditioner
- Bar soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Lotion
- Toothbrushes
- Tooth paste
- Towels
- Wash Cloths
- Loofa Scrubs
- Toiletry Bags
- Bathroom / Shower mats
- Laundry bags (net or canvas with drawstring)



For those who may wish to supplement their personal hygiene donation(s) with something more entertaining, it is recommended that a gift card be considered. They are always welcomed by the children. These include gift cards to:

- Local grocery stores
- Movie theaters
- Entertainment (i.e.: Dave and Busters, etc...)

## A Little Change Goes A Long Way

Macy's of Lakeside has chosen the Macomb Food Program as a beneficiary of the "A Little Change Can Go A Long Way Campaign".

Throughout the month of March, we invite customers to give back by rounding their purchases to the nearest dollar and donate to make a difference in our community.



## #Lifeframe Photo Project For Lent

Each week we invite you to take photos of "life moments" (it doesn't have to be a selfie!) through the lens of your camera and post them to our church's Facebook page: @UticaUnitedMethodistChurch and type #lifeframe in your post.

If you are not on Facebook, we still want you to participate in this fun project. Everyone is invited to visit our "Photo Booth" (located outside Fellowship Hall). There you can take pictures of yourself -silly or serious!! We will be creating something very special out of the collection of people in this church.

### *Friendly Reminder:*

If you have changed your contact information, let the office know. There are times that we will call via "robo-call" to let you know of service times changes due to weather or other such situations.

*~Thank You~*

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## GRACE'S DEVOTIONAL: "VANISHING CREAM"

I was a child that had a lot of freckles. This caused me to be teased and I disliked them immensely. I hated being called Freckles or Freckle Face. I decided one day to do something about this problem. My Mother had Vanishing Cream. I took it and rubbed it on my face fully expecting to get rid of my dreaded freckles. Nothing happened. I was very disappointed about this. My Mother suggested that, as I had a Doctor's appointment soon, that I ask the Doctor for a solution to my problem. When I was with the Doctor, I mentioned that I had tried Vanishing Cream on my freckles and that it didn't work, and I wanted something to get rid of my freckles. He took this very seriously and looked at me and said he didn't understand why I would want to do that. He then told me that freckles were very special, not everyone could have them, and he wanted me to know that every freckle represented a spot where I had been kissed by the sun. I didn't know that and was not only appeased but proud that the sun had chosen me to kiss. My freckles never bothered me after that. I loved this Doctor until I was 5 and he betrayed me and took my tonsils out.



Wouldn't it be great if we had a Vanishing Cream to take away our troubles? We could just make everything bad disappear. But as Christians we have something better. We have a God who loved us before we were born. He may not give us a Vanishing Cream to get rid of our troubles, but he does something better. He takes them on his shoulders, and he carries us through the storms and the bad times and the days when we want to give up. He doesn't cost \$4.99 at the Drug Store and doesn't come in a jar with an expiration date. He is the everlasting God and loves us freely. When we disappoint and fail, he never gives up on us.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Lord, Thank you for your daily presence in our lives. Thank you for the love you have given us. Thank you for those times when you carry us, when we are weak and lost, when we don't know which way to turn. Be with those who are suffering, those that have received life altering news, those who are grieving, those who are seeking you. Be with our Pastor and his family, bless his ministry. Be with our staff and leaders, guide them as they seek to do your will. May we be your church, may we be the hands and feet of Christ. May all who enter our church find you waiting to change and make their lives better. In Jesus name, Amen.

Grace Epperson

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## This Week's Calendar

### Sunday, March 15th

#### **Blood Pressure Sunday**

- 8:30am - 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

### Monday, March 16th

- 10:00am - Commit To Be Fit - Room 301
- 1:00pm - Prayer Quilting - Conference Room
- 6:00pm - Trustee's Meeting - Board Room
- 6:45pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Music Room
- 7:00pm - Women's Emmaus 4th Day Meeting - Library
- 7:00pm - "Into the Word" Adult Study - Conference Room
- 7:45pm - Gosbells Rehearsal - Music Room
- 8:00pm - Together In Mission (TIM) Meeting - Room 301

### Tuesday, March 17th

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

### Wednesday, March 18th

- 10:00am - Faith Circle (A UMW Group) - Room 104
- 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

**KIDS Club - CANCELLED**

### Thursday, March 19th

- 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 21st

- 8:30am - UM Men's Breakfast - Fellowship Hall
- 9:00am - Church Unique - Room 302
- 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



Tissot, James Jacques Joseph, 1836-1902. The Tribute Money, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

## 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,  
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## 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](http://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](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.