



Weekly Messenger

APRIL 10, 2020

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A WORD FROM THE PASTOR: "A FEW THINGS"

First – I miss you. I miss interacting with you, so I am setting up a virtual get-together. Please, if you can, join me on a Webex gathering to have a cup of tea and catch up.

We will gather virtually on Wednesday, April 15th, at 10 am using Webex. You do not have to download or install anything if you choose to join via.

How to join the meeting:

1. Go to www.webex.com in your web browser
2. Click "Join" in the top right of the screen
3. Enter this number in the "Meeting Information" box that appears: 626 212 757
4. Next, you will be asked for the password, which is: 1234

If you would rather call in from your phone:

Dial 1-408-418-9388 and enter the access code: 626 212 757 (if you are asked for a password, it will still be 1234).

Second – If you cannot access the Easter service online, we would like to make a DVD, or a CD of the service to send to you. If you need one, please contact Charlotte (by calling the office and leaving a message) so that we can get it out to you.

Lastly – Some folks have stepped up to help fund the MCREST ministry and to support the Easter offering. If you haven't yet, I encourage you to do so. The dollars you contribute change lives for the better!

May the Holy Spirit guide you in these days,
Rev. Don

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

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

United Methodist Camping and Retreat Ministries offers a Virtual Day Camp experience

United Methodist Camping and Retreat Ministries has created a virtual day camp opportunity during this difficult time in our world. Each day, campers can log in and follow a day camp session, exploring topics such as Spiritual Development, Nature Exploration, STEM, Music, Art, Social/Emotional Learning, Exercise, and more. Camp Without Boundaries, a virtual day camp, is a free gift from the UMCRM community. Discipleship Ministries would like to share this creative camping experience with you and the campers in your home.

<https://virtualdaycamp.wixsite.com/umcrm>



Due to the current circumstances, our church will not be able to host MCREST this year in order to keep every safe. However, **the Utica UMC MCREST Team will still be providing meals** to the guests through the MCREST office and any other way they can help. The MCREST team is asking for monetary donations and/or gift cards from Meijer or Kroger.

You can give your donation via E-Giving on our website:
www.uticaumc.org/e-giving

Any extra money will be donated to the program to help with hotel costs where the guests are staying.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Fund Dropdown optional

FUND

Choose a Fund

Just make sure to select the MCREST option from the fund dropdown.

AMOUNT

\$



Holy Week Services will be on our website

Maundy Thursday | Good Friday | Easter Sunday

www.uticaumc.org

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

GRACE'S DEVOTIONAL:

"ALONE"

I have always needed my alone time. It helps me clear my head and think, but this is almost too much. I don't mind being alone... my husband is still here, but not. It is the staying in that bothers me. The not going out and hopping in the car to run errands. Not going to a restaurant -somehow eating food from a carry out box is just not the same as sitting down and being waited on by the waitstaff. That's okay for pizza, but not for other meals. I know that I will have to face no driving in the future, but it's too soon. (I'm sure whenever that happens it will still be too soon!). To pass the time, I have cleaned the pantry and thrown away expired food. That was a lesson in itself. How could I have food that expired 3 years ago? That's just wasteful! I have done laundry and caught up, but that task is never ending. I only have so many pairs of pajamas! And how in the world do we know what day it is when every day is the same? The "no church gathering" is abhorrent to me. How can church be closed? It can't! We keep on being the church. That is the one positive in all of this. We can be the church; we can take it with us wherever we go. I was even nice to a telemarketer the other day, but I still miss the gathering!!

Jesus had his alone times.

Mark 1:12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. Mark 1:35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Matthew 14:23 After he had dismissed the crowd, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.

Matthew 26:36-44 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will but as you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away, unless I drink it, may your will be done." When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So, he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time saying the same thing.

In all these times Jesus was not alone but was with God. So, it is with us.

Lord, we are going through difficult times, there is disease tearing through our land. May we know that though we are isolated we are never alone that you are near. Be with us, heal our world. Be with those who fight this every day in their work; the medical personnel, the first responders, the people who work so we can still buy the necessities of life, those who reach out to help. Be with our country Lord that we may become kinder with each other. Be with our Pastor and his family, bless his ministry and keep them all safe. Be with our staff and leaders, keep them safe. Be with those who are suffering loss and are grieving. Be with those who are fearful, give them strength, be with those who are ill, heal them, be with those who are hurting, may they feel your comfort. All these things we pray in Jesus name. Amen

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

God Works in Mysterious Ways

When I was asked if I would be interested in calling people to see how they were doing, and if they needed anything, I thought, why not? I am trained as a Stephen Minister and I certainly have enough time right now -I can do this. I was given my page of people. As I looked it over to see if I knew anyone, I found that I recognized half the names. Most people answered my calls, some I left a message. Meeting someone new at church is not the same as meeting someone new on the phone. I had more time to get to know them. I want to share with you a story of one of my calls.

The second name on my list was a women I did not know. I called her, introduced myself, and we had a very pleasant conversation. She told me she is doing ok and didn't need anything at this time. It was the second week that the story begins...

During our conversation she told me that she was making face masks. At the time I thought, that is nice. That evening on the news, the experts were now saying that face masks might be helpful -not mandatory, but wouldn't hurt. I thought "where am I going to get a mask? I can't even find toilet paper." Then I thought of the women that is making them. I called her and asked if I could have a couple of her homemade masks and she said sure. I later found out that she was also making 10 for the church. Since I was picking up my two, I told her I could also deliver the other 10 to the church. Everything worked out just fine.

If I did not call this generous women, I would not have known about the masks she was making. God does work in mysterious ways.

Al Manning



A picture to brighten your day!
Andrew Lawson is holding the rainbow he previously created at Lake Huron Retreat Center during God's Treasures Camp

**It won't always
be this way.**

A white dove is shown in flight, facing right, holding a green olive branch in its beak. The dove is positioned to the left of the main text.

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:

Our Sunday Worship
will be available in video
form on our website and
Facebook page on
Sunday morning.



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:

Please call before coming in
to the office.

Phone: (586)731-7667

Our food pantry is still available
by appointment only.

Like us on Facebook!

Utica United
Methodist Church
8650 Canal Road,
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Classes/Studies

While all activities
and gatherings are
on pause, please
stay in touch by
following our
Facebook page,
checking our website
(www.uticaumc.org),
and following the
Weekly Messenger.

If you are not signed
up for the Weekly
Messenger email,
you can do so on our
website by clicking
the "More" tab and
going to "Weekly
Messenger".

In addition, we have
set up an account
with Webex for
groups to meet via
telephone and video
calls. We will
continue to do our
best to keep
everyone connected
during our time apart.



You can 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.