



Weekly Messenger

APRIL 17, 2020

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A WORD FROM THE PASTOR: "SOMETIMES UP, SOMETIMES DOWN"

Tuesday morning, before I took my shower, I watched a heart-warming news story about the way healthcare workers were celebrating the patients who overcame Covid-19 by singing to them as they were discharged from the hospital. After my shower, I was heart-broken to hear how some nurses are being evicted from their apartments because the management considers them to be a health risk to other residents because they might have been exposed to Covid-19. I went from celebrating the goodness of the human spirit, to wanting to shake people for acting in fear.

I wrote the following as my Tuesday Facebook message. I pray we all find the strength to respond to all through the lens of faith, hope, and love.

Peace and persistent prayers,
Rev. Don

SOMETIMES UP, SOMETIMES DOWN

Sometimes the news I consume lifts me up and speaks to me of the beauty of how people are living their lives as examples of Christ-likeness. Sometimes the news I consume makes me angry for how people allow fear to dictate how awful they treat others. Even today, I've encountered stories of both sorts.

Let's make a pact. Let's agree that when we feel ourselves giving in to fear, and considering making plans to take care of ourselves at the expense of someone else, we will remind ourselves of the "Love Chapter" in 1 Corinthians. Specifically, let's ask ourselves if what we are going to do matches up with verse 13.

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(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](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 among other things. 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

Or, you can mail your donation to the church (address on last page of messenger.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!

Fund Dropdown optional

FUND

Choose a Fund

AMOUNT

\$

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

Rev. Don's message continued from page 1:

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."
-1 Corinthians 13:13 King James Version (KJV)

"I may speak in different languages of men or even angels. But if I do not have love, then I am only a noisy bell or a ringing cymbal. I may have the gift of prophecy; I may understand all the secret things of God and all knowledge; and I may have faith so great that I can move mountains. But even with all these things, if I do not have love, then I am nothing. I may give everything I have to feed the poor. And I may even give my body as an offering to be burned. But I gain nothing by doing these things if I do not have love.

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not become angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs done against it. Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices over the truth. Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always continues strong.

Love never ends. There are gifts of prophecy, but they will be ended. There are gifts of speaking in different languages, but those gifts will end. There is the gift of knowledge, but it will be ended. These things will end, because this knowledge and these prophecies we have are not complete. But when perfection comes, the things that are not complete will end. When I was a child, I talked like a child; I thought like a child; I made plans like a child. When I became a man, I stopped those childish ways. It is the same with us. Now we see as if we are looking into a dark mirror. But at that time, in the future, we shall see clearly. Now I know only a part. But at that time I will know fully, as God has known me. So these three things continue forever: faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love."
-1 Corinthians 13 International Children's Bible (ICB)

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

GRACE'S DEVOTIONAL:

"PHONE CALL"



I received a phone call this morning from someone who I thought was a friend, his voice was so familiar. We began chatting and I soon realized it was not a friend, but a wrong number. As we began the conversation and I realized he was not who I thought he was, our conversation took on the manner of old friends talking after an absence of a long time. He asked me where my city was located, and I told him. He stated he had worked in radio in Adrian, Michigan. I mentioned having visited Adrian

several times for the UMC Annual Conferences. He told me of teaching Sunday School in a UMC Church in his hometown of Perrysburg, Ohio. He told me a funny story of discussing "In the beginning" with his students and how much he enjoyed teaching and being United Methodist. We did not speak of the "virus" and hoarding, and how the quarantine has brought out the best and worst in people, or of how the UMC is facing the very real prospect of being split and which side we are favoring. Somehow we came to the old days, we spoke of the early days of watching television and someone asking him what a test pattern was and how small the screen was and how great we thought it was to watch and how amazed we were. We mentioned Kukla, Fran and Ollie, and Monday Night Wrestling. We spoke of the things we had in common because of our age and left behind today's worries and fears.

When it came to politics, we discussed Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower and how we had both seen them on their train campaigns as they were running for President. He, as a young boy, had seen Truman as he spoke from the back of a train and had been able to shake Truman's hand. I and a large group of other seniors had left school one beautiful afternoon to see Eisenhower greet a crowd from the back of a train. Somehow, I was reminded of the quote from John F. Kennedy in 1961 in his address to the Canadian Parliament, "What unites us is greater than what divides us." We found a common bond of faith and age and I was glad I answered the phone.

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Romans 15:7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Lord, we thank you for those precious moments in our lives when we find kindred souls. We thank you for the joy of each day and for your love that gives us the strength for each day. Be with those who are suffering from the Virus that has come to us, be with those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, be with those who didn't get to say goodbye. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, keep him safe and be with his family, be with our church family and give them strength and may they feel the love of the church community lifting them up. Be with our staff as they bring us our services and continue to fill the needs of the church. Be with those who serve by tending to the sick in hospitals and nursing homes and be with our first responders. All these things we ask in Jesus name, Amen.

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Ministry Team:

Reverend Don Gotham
srpastor@uticaumc.org

Contemporary Worship Leader

Christopher Heldt
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Music Ministry

David Fox, Organist, Bell, &
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Charlotte Ramsey
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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!

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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.

Thank You Note

*We would like to thank our church
family for the care, concern, prayers,
cards and calls during our time
hosting the Covid-19 virus. Unlike
a good guest, it did not take its cue
to leave but lingered for almost 3
weeks; it has now finally left us and
we are almost fully recovered
(Thank God!!!). We hope everyone
is staying healthy and safe.*

*Thanks again and God bless you
all!!*

The Schneider Family



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.