

Weekly Messenger

MAY 15, 2020

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

"TALENTED 10-YEAR-OLD INSPIRES OTHERS DURING PANDEMIC"

BY KUDZAI CHINGWE | MAY 13, 2020 | UM NEWS

The voice of a 10-year-old United Methodist is transcending the global pandemic.

Britney Sadete, a young leader at Hunyani United Methodist Church, released her first album, "Tsitsi Dzake," just days before Zimbabwe declared a nationwide lockdown on March 30 to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

For some struggling with fear and grief, her music offers an escape and a message of hope.

Charles Kamutando, evangelism and worship chairperson at Hunyani United Methodist Church, said Britney's singing has been a blessing for many.

"Her music has helped us a lot, because it also preaches to people, especially her latest single, 'Tsitsi Dzake (Give Me Jesus).' It carries a lot of biblical meaning in today's world where COVID-19 has wreaked havoc among humanity," he said.

More than 290,000 people have died worldwide from the coronavirus, and there have been 36 confirmed cases in Zimbabwe and four deaths, according to the latest Johns Hopkins University data.

Britney, who serves as the district junior Sunday school lay leader and junior evangelism and worship chairperson at Hunyani, recorded her album on Jan. 8 on her 10th birthday. It was released March 24.

Her performance of "Oh Bvumai Ndifambe Nemi (Walking With God)" has more than 100,000 views on YouTube and hundreds of positive comments.

The hymn, about making a commitment to God during trials and tribulations, is fitting during the global pandemic

"I enjoy music and I want to inspire people so that they witness the greatness of God through music," Britney said. "When I was going to church with my parents, I was inspired by how the church was glorifying God through music. I thought if I can follow suit, I will make a difference to (those) my age."

In 2019, she participated in The UMC's Got Talent festival at Cranborne United Methodist Church, where she took first place in the under-12 category and second place overall.

Bishop Eben K. Nhiwatiwa, Zimbabwe Episcopal Area, said The United Methodist Church recognizes that the future of any church is in the hands of children like Britney. (Continue reading on page 3.)

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



TALENT SHOW/ PHOTO CONTEST

Saturday, May 16th
at 4:00pm via Webex

JOIN INFORMATION

Saturday, May 16, 2020 4:00 pm | 2 hours

CLICK HERE TO JOIN!!

Meeting number: 291 929 015

Password: 2020

Join by phone (You won't be able to see the videos/photos that are being shared this way, but you can participate in the conversation!)

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

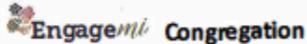
Access code: 291 929 015

If you have issues when joining, please call Beth Miller at 586-713-8822 for help.

UTICA UMC RECOGNIZED BY THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



April 25, 2020



UTICA UMC

Congratulations! The Board of Global Ministries of the Michigan Conference The United Methodist Church gives thanks for the remarkable mission endeavors in which you have been involved this last year! Two years ago the EngageMi Mission Engagement Program was launched and you have embraced the challenge of comprehensive LEARNING, GIVING and ACTING that is the heart of Second-Mile Giving beyond Ministry Shares. The Advance missionaries and mission projects of the General Board of Global Ministries and the Christ-Centered Mission and Ministries agencies of our districts and conference are recipients of your amazing generosity, of gifts given in His spirit to those with whom you serve, to your congregation and to those you serve around the globe. Your stories of "Ministry With" are heartening and inspiring and have assuredly graced many lives. Thank you for sharing your creative projects and your enthusiasm with us!

May your incredible efforts to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, to bring Christ into the midst of daily lives, continue to encourage and energize second-mile giving in your congregation, in your community, in the world.

In Faith,

Brenda

Brenda DuPree, Chair
Michigan Conference The United Methodist Church
Board of Global Ministries
248-202-4746

*Thank you, BARRY and TEAM!
How great that your focus has
been on EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
and on BASIC NEEDS - here & globally.
IT IS VERY TIMELY today to have
emergency stops in place & to
be able to help feed people.
God Bless,
Auntie*



2019

Utica UMC

Is hereby recognized by

The Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church

Rev. Paul Perez

Rev. Paul Perez, Associate Director for Mission & Ministry

Rev. Karen Williams

Rev. Karen Williams, Board of Global Ministries, The Advance

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

"TALENTED 10-YEAR-OLD INSPIRES OTHERS DURING PANDEMIC" -CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"We take seriously the words of Jesus Christ ... 'Let the children come to me.' Letting the children come to Jesus Christ can be by encouraging them to express their talents as Britney is doing," Nhiwatiwa said.

"The church plays the role of the mentor. We thank Britney's family for giving their talented daughter some space and encouragement. To Britney, I say, 'Keep on climbing the ladder of success. The sky is the limit.'"

Barnabas Mutonga, Zimbabwe East Conference music director and one of the founders of The UMC's Got Talent, said the church has discovered notable talent since the festival's launch in 2018. In addition to Britney, he said, four other participants have found success in the music industry.

Britney said she got her start by singing songs from the United Methodist Hymnal during her free time. "My parents assisted me on the tunes and to understand the meaning of the songs," she said.

Her mother, Ndiudzei Sadete, said that while she had reservations at first about her daughter pursuing music, Britney has been able to balance her responsibilities with ease.

When the lockdown isn't in place, she follows a strict schedule.

"After school, I start by doing my homework, then church work ... I then help my mother to do household chores, so that both of us can have time to practice music," Britney said. "If God wishes, I see a bright future ahead of me as an upcoming gospel musician in Zimbabwe and the region."

Her mother said she and her husband, David, want to support Britney's dreams.

"With the little we have, we want her to enroll in music college so that she can gain skills. Our prayers are for God to give her wisdom so that she can witness her talent coming to fruition."

The Rev. James Matsungu, Britney's pastor, said he is very proud to have the special young girl among his parishioners.

"Britney is talented with a beautiful voice and (she) is very humble. She is improving by the day and her music is maturing like wine," he said. "She has inspired many children to love music and explore their talents."

Matsungu said Britney's success inspired Hunyani United Methodist Church to host UMC's Got Talent festivals at the circuit level.

"Through that, a lot of talents are being identified and the church is becoming vibrant by the day," he said.

Washington Magomo, Chitungwiza Marondera District lay leader, applauded Britney for her leadership in the church.

"Britney is very intelligent and full of confidence when she coordinates junior church ministries. She does not consider her age as a limiting factor, but she looks at the office she holds and does what is right," Magomo said.

During the 2019 Zimbabwe East Conference at Old Mutare Ehnes Memorial United Methodist Church, Britney performed in the presence of conference leaders, including the bishop and his cabinet.

"She sang 'Walking With God,' an emotional song, and she broke down on stage, but she braved it out up to the end. During this COVID-19 pandemic, the song is very relevant. We need God's power to pull through," Magomo said.

Ellen Kazizi, Britney's fifth-grade teacher and choir leader at Nettleton Junior School, called Britney multitalented and said she has inspired many children.

"She is a very prayerful person, a chorister, intelligent and disciplined person. When she stands before children and staff members, she possesses great confidence — (no stage fright)," said Kazizi, who allowed Britney to join the school choir, which is usually reserved for sixth and seventh graders.

Britney also does well in academics. "Her class position is between 11 and 12 in a class of 65 pupils," Kazizi said.

She said the girl is an inspiration for her classmates. "I always tell them that Britney puts God first before everything, hence she is excelling."

Britney said she refers often to Philippians 4:31: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

"The manner in which I execute all my assignments, taking into consideration my age, it is because of God who strengthens me," she said.

Chingwe is a communicator for the Zimbabwe East Conference.

News media contact: Vicki Brown at (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umnews.org. To read more United Methodist news, subscribe to the free Daily or Weekly Digests.

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/talented-10-year-old-inspires-others-during-pandemic>

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

GRACE'S DEVOTIONAL:

"KINDNESS IN CHAOS"

Have you experienced kindness in these days of turmoil? A dear friend of mine sent me a note to tell me of an unexpected kindness she had received. She wrote, "I received a special blessing yesterday and I wanted to share it with you."

"I had determined to get the front yard raking done and, in fact had gotten the easy spots done without too much difficulty, though it took a long time because of all the rest breaks I took! I was, therefore, finally out by the road trying to deal with the Maple leaves that fell so late last fall. If I could just get them all raked into a circle around the trunk of the tree, I would count it success because then I could more easily bag them if I ever could get my hands on more yard waste bags. I was thus engaged when I heard a voice, "Do you need some help, ma'am?" I looked around and there was a young teenage girl across the road standing with her bike. I acknowledged that this was a hard job whereupon she said she could help me. I replied that I only had one rake, but she said she could finish raking the leaves up for me. She walked her bike across the road, leaned it up against the telephone pole and took the rake from me. I said, "Okay, you rake, and I'll pick up the sticks." (of which there were many...a whole Winter of God's wind pruning). I offered her a can of Ginger Ale, all I had, but she declined, saying she lived nearby and would get a drink when she got home. When she finished, I asked her name and told her she had made my day and was a true blessing to me because the leaves had been bothering me but the guy I contacted for Spring yard cleanup wanted \$600 which I couldn't pay, so it's been a little at a time on my own. She said, "Well, it looked like you were struggling, and I just wanted to help." I sent her off with God's blessing and more gratitude than I've felt in a long time."

My friend wrote me "another evidence of God looking out for His own. He is so good... all the time, and it seems even when we least expect it."

A special "Thank you" to the friend who shared this with me. I did ask her permission to share this story.

When my friend shared this with me, I thought of all those who would have kept on going and not given a thought to a woman struggling to rake her leaves. I thought of the bad rap some of our teenagers receive. Sometimes it seems lately as if there is so little kindness and caring in our world. But many people, when given the opportunity, will help. In the offering and the accepting, these two gave each other a gift.

Luke 10:25-28 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind,' and 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

Lord, we thank you for your angels that help us in our need. Bless this young girl who sought to help a stranger. Be with those who are suffering in this Pandemic Lord, those who work the frontline, and those who are ill and those who grieve for loved ones lost. Be with those who are suffering Lord and battling cancer and terminal illness, be with their families give them your strength. Be with the lonely and the lost. Lord, bless our Pastor and his ministry, be with his family, be with our Staff and those who are preparing our service, bless their work and be with them. Be with our church family, strengthen them. We thank you Lord for the ways you bless us, for the angels in our lives. Amen

Grace Epperson

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

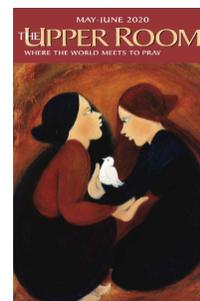
Caitlyn Wilson

Custodian

Rachelle Heldt

Sunday Worship Times:

Our Sunday Worship will be available in video form on our website (www.uticaumc.org) and Facebook page on Sunday morning.



The Upper Room daily devotional May/June Issue Available Free outside the front doors of the church.

This issue is also available as a Downloadable PDF.

Visit: <https://www.upperroom.org/special-editions>
or contact the office for assistance.

Current
Worship Series:
Heart of
the Matter

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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Keeping ~Connected~

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.