

Weekly Messenger

MAY 8, 2020

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"IF THERE WAS ONE LESSON" FROM REV. DON GOTHAM

If there was one lesson drilled into my brain growing up, it was the need to "think before I spoke". I heard that counsel from my grandmother, my parents, some of my aunts, and a few of my teachers along the way.

I like to think I've learned that lesson. Yet, just about the time I start to become smug about it, is the moment I wish I could retract words that have just sprung from my mouth.

The days we have been living through have provided time. Many have time to binge-watch their favorite TV series or find a new one to watch. I know I am impressed with the folks who tell me they've found time to clean out their closets, or do other deep cleanings. Some folks have had a great deal of time to devote to the tasks they might otherwise set aside.

How many of us can say our extra time has been spent living up to or living into the lessons those who deeply loved us tried to teach us? How many of us are deeply convinced our parents, grandparents, aunts, and the teachers who poured into us would be proud of how we have used our time, or of the words we've spoken in these days? Ultimately, can we rest well knowing God is pleased?

14 Let my words and my thoughts
be pleasing to you, Lord,
because you are my mighty rock
and my protector.

Psalm 19:14 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

TALENT SHOW / PHOTO CONTEST

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

Create a video of you performing your talent, or send photos of you/your hobby -whether it be a painting, a costume you've created -perhaps you have a beautiful garden? Share them with us!

Submit videos and photos to
bmiller@uticaumc.org by
Friday, May 8th, 2020

**Videos cannot exceed 5 minutes in length.*

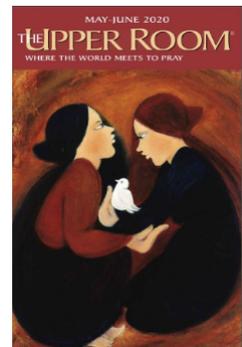
**Please limit photos to 10 photos per person.*

If you have any questions or need help sending files, call the office or email Beth Miller.

*Happy
Mother's Day*



*Sunday,
May 10, 2020*



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.

Homemade Face Masks Available for YOU

Face masks are available outside the front doors at church to anyone who would like one. You can come by to pick one up anytime.

If you would like to help in the effort, whether it be providing supplies or helping to sew, please contact Rev. Don.

srpastor@uticaumc.org

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

GRACE'S DEVOTIONAL:

"LAUGHTER IN CHAOS"

I love satire and jokes. There is nothing funny about a pandemic, yet sometimes we receive a joke, or a satirical remark, and we can see the humor in our situation. Now, it isn't funny... There is so much sadness in this scourge; it becomes about losing a loved one, or having a life threatening disease, dying alone, the loss of jobs and income, etc. But there are other aspects that we can find humor in our situation. For example: the stay at home rule. Personally, I feel like I am in the movie, Groundhog Day. I have check my phone to see what day it is. I don't know how many remarks I have received that have made me laugh, such as from an elderly couple: "Does anyone have ideas for the perfect murder,(asking for a friend) or the harassed and overwrought Mother, "Is it too soon to tell an 8 year old, 'You've graduated, now get off the wall."

I recall, when my Mother died, we were at the funeral home for visitation when I heard my (then) two teenagers laughing from across the room at something they found very funny. I went over to find out what was so funny. A little back story: I had an Uncle that was a bit eccentric. His wife, Edith, had died and was cremated. When he would come to visit after that, his girlfriend, Rose, would be sitting in the back seat of his coupe. We wondered why she could not sit in the front seat where there was more room. It seemed that he had brought Edith and she was in a small box occupying the front passenger seat. Then when Uncle Herb died, he was also cremated. Back to the laughing teenagers... My two teenagers were looking at an attractive urn that was sitting on a table. One of them, and trust me their Mother knows which one, suggested to the other that someone must have brought Uncle Herb to the funeral home. This caused the two of them to laugh uproariously. I must admit that I found that funny and started laughing. I knew my Mother would have laughed too. We need to grieve, and we also need to laugh.

We have lost much, from our security in our health to the loss of loved ones, the loss of jobs and income, or simply going to a baseball game or a movie. We have gained a more relaxed time from sitting outside on a warm day to doing a project that we had been putting off because of a busy schedule, even the challenge of "doing" and "being" the church has been a learning experience and one that will make us better, for some there has been more time as a family. I am reminded of the lines from Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever.

Lord, we ask your blessings upon us. Be with those who mourn, those who have suffered loss, those who are ill and those who are fearful. Remind us that you are with us through this, that you will not abandon us. May we feel your presence in all we do. We thank you and praise you for the blessings in our lives, for family and loved ones, for shelter and food, for those who reach out to us in our need. For those who make the masks and for those who take them. Be with our Pastor and bless his ministry and be with his family. Be with our staff as they continue to serve us. Be with those who serve by giving their talents to the services we are privileged to enjoy. We are grateful for all those that lend their talents to bring us your word. Be with our country may we be as one. In Jesus name, we pray. 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.



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,
Sterling Heights, MI
(586) 731-7667
www.UticaUMC.org

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.