

Weekly Messenger

JUNE 19, 2020

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"ANOTHER ALTERED HOLIDAY" MESSAGE FROM REV. DON GOTHAM

This weekend our nation celebrates Father's Day. This year, our celebration will be altered from our usual celebrations (although not as altered as Mother's Day was). We've had lots and lots of altered days since Covid-19 set up shop among us. The way we've had to alter our lives and Father's Day has caused me to reflect a bit.

Technology has afforded me the luxury of staying regularly connected to our daughter and her family. I'm grateful for how I can spend time video chatting with our grandchildren, especially when I think of how, when I was a child, that was only possible in the cartoon, "The Jetsons." I've been able to tell our grand-babies, "I Love You," while looking at their faces. I'm so grateful for this blessing.

To honor me for Father's Day, our daughter and son-in-law have placed a brick in a walk at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio. I can't think of a more thoughtful and meaningful gift. In the Father's Day card that came in the mail today, our daughter wrote of how she hopes it becomes safe for me to get to Cedar Point this year, and that I will recognize the brick right away. The gift is so meaningful to me because of all of the years Elise and I had season passes to Cedar Point, and of our frequent trips there. So much of life was talked about on those trips. I wouldn't trade those times for anything!

As I thought of Father's Day and the way life has been altered because of Covid-19, I think of how grateful I took the time and put in the effort to build a solid, loving, lasting relationship with our daughter. Had our relationship been less, I wonder what stress these past months might have brought. Stress like we've known over these past months either shows the strength of our relationships or exposes their weaknesses.

I also believe the same is true with our relationship with God. If things are on a solid, loving, lasting setting, stress over things such as Covid-19 are met with unwavering trust. If things are on a shaky foundation, they can end up unraveling. It is true; God is unchanging. But, if in our hearts, we haven't built our relationship with God on that bedrock, we can end up unsure God cares when times get tough.

God wants to spend quality time with you. God wants to be part of the days and times when you are most content and excited about life and the thrills it has to bring. God wants to be with you in your celebrations, as well as your times of trial. Take the time to build your relationship with God. You will be glad you did!

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Don

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

"WORDS" BY GRACE EPPERSON

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL



I have always been amazed at how words can move us. They can make us laugh or they can make us cry. I loved English classes in high school and would have pursued teaching if I would have been able to afford it. I love the way people can use their words to move people. I loved the great writers from Shakespeare to Robert Frost, from Jonathan Swift to Emily Dickenson. In High School we were given an assignment to write a satirical story. My subject was thinly veiled racism. A group of us compared essays prior to handing them in and they all agreed that mine was the best. I had captured (according to others) the aim of the assignment. When the papers were returned mine had received the lowest grade among

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We all know someone who moved people with his words. Jesus used his words to accomplish his mission. Sometimes he used miracles, and in the end, he used himself. When he used his words, when people listened, he moved mountains.

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Lord, we ask that you be with us, that we be led by your words given to us by your Son. Be with our country, a country in turmoil from a Pandemic to racial unrest to political turmoil. Be with those who grieve, those who are ill, those who seek justice. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, be with him and his family. Be with our staff and leaders, give them wisdom and strength. Be with us when we start up church again, may we not forget that we are the church and we are the hands and feet of Christ. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

In-Person Worship Is Returning!!



THIS SUNDAY at 10am

For our Drive-In Service on June 21st, we will gather at 10am in our vehicles (or if the weather is nice, bring a chair!), and tune in to an FM signal in our cars to hear the music and the message.

Can't wait to see you!!

STARS

For kids
7 years old -
5th grade

and

XCEL

For preteens
grades 6 - 8

Register Online!

www.uticaumc.org/kidzone

If you are able, please consider donating some snack items for our STARS/Excel program. All items must be peanut free to be safe, individually wrapped, and shelf stable (does not need refrigeration). Here is a list of suggested items: Cheese-it Crackers, Goldfish crackers, Assorted bags of chips (potato chips, Doritos, cheese puffs, etc.), Assorted individual cookies such as Oreos, Animal crackers, Fruit snacks, Juice Boxes - all flavors are welcome.

Most of these items should be available wherever you shop (Kroger, Meijer's, Costco, Sam's Club, etc.). Please drop off at the church office during regular business hours, Monday - Friday. Do not take to the Kitchen area.

Thank You!

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Our Mission:

Inviting people to rely on Jesus to find unexpected purpose, peace, and joy.



Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 8am-4pm
Friday 8am-2pm

Phone: (586)731-7667

Our food pantry is open and available.



Deadline Information:

Items for The Weekly Messenger, The Weekly Prayer List, or Announcements should be submitted by the **Sunday prior to posting**. Submit to Charlotte@uticaumc.org, contact the office, or complete a form in the office.

Sunday Worship Times:

Visit our website for worship videos and **join our first ever "Drive-In" Worship Service THIS SUNDAY June 21st at 10am and the following 3 Sundays.**

Keeping ~Connected~

Stay in touch with us by following our Facebook page, subscribing to our YouTube channel, and checking our website (www.uticaumc.org).

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" page to sign up now! Emails are sent every Wednesday morning and Friday evening.

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.

Find us on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)!!

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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!