



Weekly Messenger

July 31, 2020

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What concessions have you made?

Just when I think we've hit the "new normal," I find need to make another adjustment to the demands COVID-19. Just today, I received word that our church conference this fall will be done on a Zoom format, and instead of an in-person meeting at the church. It is just one more concession we will make to the virus.

As I hear from members and friends of UUMC, I hear the same as it relates to their lives. Folks tell me they are tired of keeping distant - another concession. Folks tell me they are tired of not being able to feel safe going to their usual haunts - another concession. Folks tell me they are tired of not feeling safe to gather with their friends and family - another concession.

As I write to you, Laura's sister and her husband, along with her daughter and son-in-law have all been diagnosed with COVID-19, and our nephew's condition is very critical. We cannot gather with our family to support them at this time - another concession.

We have not however, given over to the virus our commitment to pray for our family. We have not given over our commitment to continue to be in contact through electronic means to offer our love and concern. We have not given over to the virus our belief in the goodness and love of God for all of the world. If anything, these conditions cause us to think of how we can make the goodness and love of God all the more real for the world we live in.

I know each of you have had to make concessions. I pray you too are unwilling to let your belief in the goodness and love of God be set aside as you make other concessions to the virus. I also hope you, like me, are committed to making it all the more real for the world we live in.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

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

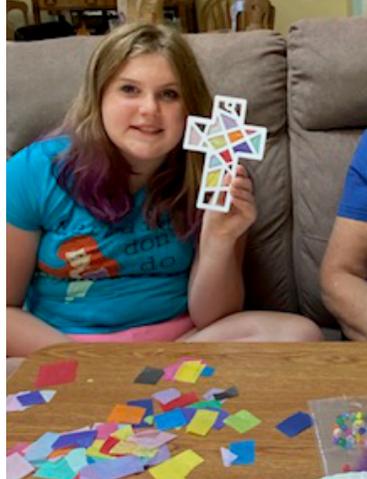
THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

S.T.A.R.S. VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMP & XCEL 2020



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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Returnable Cans and Bottles



Please bring in your returnable cans and bottles for our Eagle Scout fundraiser. These can be dropped off Sunday morning as you arrive for service, or bring them to the church during office hours. We have a room we are collecting them in so please leave them under the coat rack by the office,

Masks

Thank you to all of our mask sewers. These masks have made a tremendous impact on our community. As we continue to move forward and masks are required, we can use more to hang on our doors and offer to those who need them. If you are interested in making masks and need some direction, call the office at 586-731-7667 and we can connect you with patterns and material types.



Utica United Methodist Men's
24th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
1:00 PM | AUG 24, 2020
Sanctuary Lake Golf Course
1460 E. South Lake Blvd., Troy, MI
Title-Dyall
\$40 PER PERSON
WWW.UTICAUMC.ORG | CHURCH OFFICE: 586-731-7667

Annual Golf Outing

Please join us for a fun afternoon of golf and fellowship. This event is co-ed! Your \$40 includes 18 holes and a golf cart at Sanctuary Lake Golf Course. Don't worry about your lack of golf skills - we will be playing a "best ball" format. If you are interested in playing, or supporting the event financially, contact Al Manning at 586-995-0539 or via email at almanning114@gmail.com

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Aren't You Tired?

A friend called me today and she said to me, "Aren't you just tired of it?" She meant the Pandemic. When she called, I was working on Social Security and Pensions and although grateful I have both I was becoming frustrated. But this is a temporary blip and she meant the everyday stuff that is seeming to go on for a long time. These are problems that will be worked out but what about the stuff that has been going on since March? The trips to the grocery store where we have to make sure the cart is clean, we have our mask on, we have something to clean our hands after shopping, we make sure that everything we touch with our dirty hands after we leave the store is cleaned, then we take the groceries home and clean everything before we unpack then clean everything we have touched with our now again dirty hands. And pumping gas! Gloves, wipes, and mask required! We go to church and there is no touching and we see that friend that needs a hug and we cannot give it and we maintain our social distance, but we feel helpless and unable to comfort. These days may bring us some blessings, but we have lost something too. I see the need for masks and distancing, and I practice them because I care about other people. And that is what it comes down to. We care about each other. Before we could show it with a hug but now, we show it with a mask and a step back. It takes some adjusting and rethinking but I wear a mask because I care. I keep my space because I care. Oh, to have an attitude like Paul! Paul was on a mission and nothing would get in the way. The joy he had found on the road to Damascus would not be dimmed.

Paul was in prison. He was separated from friends, from followers and believers, separated from his mission. He and Silas were shackled by chains from their legs to wooden blocks. But Paul did not become defeated, he viewed his isolation and imprisonment as an opportunity and the sure knowledge that he was not alone, and he began to preach to the other prisoners and to the guards. He wrote his letters to his followers in Ephesus, Philippi, and Colossae. He used his time to further his work for Christ.

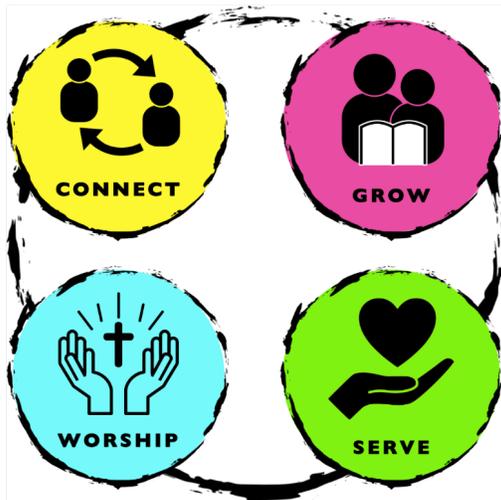
Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again; Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Lord, give us your peace and assurance. Our world is in disarray. Be with those who are ill and those who are suffering and grieving, give them your comfort. May we feed the hungry, comfort the sorrowful, and lead the lost. Help us to be the hands and feet of Christ. Be with our Pastor and his family, lead his ministry and bless and keep him. We thank you for his leadership. Be with our leaders and staff, guide them. We thank you for their work. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Grace Epperson

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.

Sunday Worship Times:

Visit our website for worship videos and **join us for "Drive-In" Worship Service at 9am on 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!

The weekly messenger will be sent on Friday's.

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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Child Care

Caitlyn Wilson

WHAT THEN SHALL WE SAY
TO THESE THINGS?
IF GOD IS FOR US,
WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

Romans 8:31

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.



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!