



Weekly Messenger

July 24, 2020

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There is Something Happening....

There have been so many firsts this year. As a pastor, I've experienced ministry in ways I'd never expected. I've gone from a usual pattern of two worship services, one in the sanctuary, and one in the fellowship hall, to one service pre-recorded to allow for our church to worship online. Now, we are still producing an online worship service. Instead of pre-recording the message, it is delivered live from the back of a pickup truck, and many people are coming to worship outdoors in a socially distanced manner. Some sit in lawn chairs or on a blanket on the lawn and others remain in their vehicles. I had never imagined I would be a video preacher, and I had never thought I would preach from the back of a pickup truck, but in this year of firsts, I'm just rolling with it.

I want to tell you I am feeling the fire of the Holy Spirit in these outdoor drive-in worship services. Things are different, but things are also exciting. We don't have all of the same technology advantages we would have if our services were held in the building. The breeze blowing, an occasional dog barking, the sun lighting up the faces of those gathered all makes me think of how Jesus gave messages to those gathered in many outdoor places to hear what he had to teach.

There is something happening in these services, and if you have yet to come to check them out, I invite you to consider joining us at 9 am this coming Sunday. If you choose to remain in your vehicle, you'll tune to an FM signal, and hear the message and the music. If you are concerned about staying safely socially distant, you will be as distant as you choose to be. If you need the restrooms, know the building is open, and so are the doors. You won't have to touch a door to make your way in or out of the building.

There is something happening, so please come and take part in the way which makes you most comfortable.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

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

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Meet the Interns

Caitlin



Hi! My name is Caitlin. I am 18 years old and I am a student at Oakland University. I have a black dog named Jack, I like to go running, I have been riding horses for 11 years. After college, I want to go to medical school and become an orthopedic surgeon. This is my second year as an intern, and I look forward to this year's camp!

Natalie

Hey all! My name is Natalie, and I am 20 years old. I go to school at Grand Valley State University to study Speech-Language Pathology and French. I play the flute in the marching band, and I spend most of my free time reading and watching Netflix. This is my second year as a Mission Intern, and I look forward to working with the kids this summer!



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Meet the Interns

Sam



Hey everyone, my name is Sam Irish! I am a senior at the University of Michigan–Flint, majoring in Secondary Education. I have been apart of the Mission Internship Program for three years and this is my second year here at Utica! I am excited to get to know the kids this summer



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Pop Can Drive

Pop cans can be brought to the church for an Eagle Scout Project Fundraiser. If you have pop cans lying around and need a place to take them, consider bringing them on Sunday morning or anytime the church office is open. We will collect them by the office and take them to where they will be stored until the scout can return them.



A Note of Thanks

Dear Sewing Crew,

Thank you for your talent and creativity in the masks you made for others. My family has been using the masks for weeks now. We are blessed to have folks like you in our community. Hope you can use this small donation for your supplies.

God Bless you all,

Debbie



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Weekly Devotional: "Is It Over Yet"

If you have ever had surgery and received a General Anesthetic you know what it is like to be awake one second and waking up in what seems like the next second and saying, "Is it over?" Then you realize a lot of time has transpired in that brief moment.

Someday this long running double feature called a Pandemic will be over. What will we take from it? Will it just be a brief moment in our lives as we get back to where we were? Will we remember the lessons or just be happy to get back to where we were when interrupted? Will we remember what we lost and what we gained? We gained time but what did we do with it? It seems like a long time since March. The last time for some when they had employment, the last time for some when they went to school, the last time for some when they went to church, the last time for some when they saw extended family, the last time for a movie and dinner out, the last time for so many things. Vacations, weddings, showers and even funerals have been cancelled. When we do those things again will we have a new appreciation for them, will we savor them, will we watch and listen more carefully knowing that this moment can be taken away at any time, will we look at things and people anew realizing that this could be the last time? Life slowed down, days were longer, some cooked more from scratch, and some spent a lot more time with family. There were lessons learned. For me, it was that I didn't have to be so rigid about bath time for my husband, that I could relax and just enjoy the quiet, that supper could be breakfast, that ice cream and popcorn could be just as filling as meat and potatoes, that if he didn't get up until 2 PM the world wouldn't end. If I had known that the last kiss would be the last, that the last "I love you," would be the last, that the last time we talked would be the last or the last hug, would I have savored it more? One of the lessons from a Pandemic or from a death should be treasure the moment.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Lord, we come to you today with gratitude for all you have given us, for the food on the table, for the shelter of our homes, for the love of those around us, for our church, for our country. Be with us and as we gradually return to normal, may we appreciate what we have with a renewed gratefulness. Be with those who are ill, those who mourn, those who are lost. May all find your loving arms waiting to embrace and comfort them. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, keep him well and be with his family. Be with our staff and leaders, give them renewed strength and your guidance. Be with our church may we be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ as we seek to do your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

News From The Endowment Committee

For the past several years the Endowment Committee has been sending out a New Year's update, because of our current economic situation a mid-year update seemed appropriate. You may be wondering how our Fund is doing based on the ups and downs of the stock market. At the beginning of the year the Fund had a balance of \$235,819, the balance at the end of June is \$225,933 and this includes a withdrawal of \$6,000, so under the circumstances we are doing very well. The Fund continues to support the ministries of our church, so far this year the Fund has made the following disbursements:

\$500 Friend in Need Fund

\$180 Children's Bibles

\$800 MCREST

\$1,500 TV for outside worship service and to be used later inside

\$1,000 STARS

\$500 Summer Camp Grants – this amount will not be used this year

There is still \$1,850 remaining in the Fund for 2020, so if you are involved with a program and you need some financial support please contact the church office for an Endowment Request Form.

I would like to welcome Bob Mowers as a new member to the Endowment Committee, Bob is a long-time member and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the committee.

In the coming weeks the Committee will be meeting to draft a new charter. The one we have is considered archaic and needs to be changed. There are two major areas that will be changed. (1) what the money is spent on and (2) how we decide how much money each year we can spend. The new charter will be voted on at the Fall church conference. Prior to the vote you will be given a brief update.

Al Manning
Endowment Committee Chairman

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



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



Please join us for a fun afternoon of golf and fellowship. We'll start at 1:00 PM. You'll get to choose to hole out or a golf cart ride on the course with golf carts. Don't worry about your lack of golf skills - we will be playing a fun ball game. If you are interested in playing, or supporting the event financially, contact Al Manning at 518-731-3333 or amanning@ummc.org

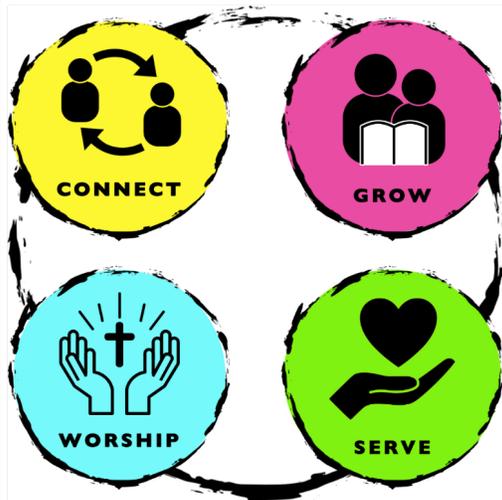
\$40 PER PERSON

WWW.UTICAUMC.ORG | CHURCH OFFICE: 585-731-7667

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](#)!!

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

Ministry Team:

Reverend Don Gotham
srpastor@uticaumc.org

Ministry Leader Intern
Sunwha Hopgood

Contemporary Worship Leader

Mer Renne
mer@uticaumc.org

Music Ministry

David Fox, Organist, Bell, &
Chancel Choirs Director
FoxDavidL@sbcglobal.net

Communications Director
Rachelle Heldt
rachelle@uticaumc.org

Secretary/Bookkeeper

Charlotte Ramsey
charlotte@uticaumc.org

Youth Leader

Suzy Palmer
suzy.palmer@uticaumc.org

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!