



Weekly Messenger

August 14, 2020

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I Expect You Do Too!

I see news coverage of healthcare workers who break down as they recount their struggles in caring for those afflicted with Covid-19. I read posts on Facebook from people I love and care about who are pleading for people to respect the stay-at-home order, so their relative who works in healthcare can see the numbers of patients sick with the virus diminish, and thus make their loved ones safer. I read stories of small business owners who worry they might not come back from the closure of their businesses.

Truth is, there is more than enough stress and worry to go around. Surely God does not call us to be immune to the circumstances of our lives. Worry and care are part of what makes us human and made in the image of God. Still, God never intended us to carry the weight of our circumstances alone, especially when God is so much better at carrying our burdens than we will ever be!

I pray you find the courage today to partner with God regarding the many things which burden your heart. I also ask you to give God your worries before you rest tonight. Allow God to take the burden tonight, and you'll likely find you it easier to allow God to take care of what worries you tomorrow.

"Give your worries to the Lord,
and he will take care of you.
He will never let good people down."
Psalm 55:22 New Century Version (NCV)

Always remember, God is faithfully working for your best!

Rev. Don

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Confirmation Class

Suzy Palmer has been working with our 3 confirmation students this summer. We have been using both online and in person social distancing to complete this class. On Thursday, August 20 at 6:30pm we will confirm Jacob Heldt, Will Phipps and Ashley Steggall in a small service here in the church sanctuary.

This service will be streamed live onto our church youtube account. Go to Youtube and search Utica UMC for our page. You may have to click on Utica UMC and then go to videos or it may just appear when you search the name. We will also be recording the service and have it available during church service on Sunday August 23rd.

Congratulations to Jacob, Will and Ashley on a job well done!



Final lesson and tie-dying shirts outside!



Reading from the bible and working on our lessons.

Computer Help Needed

We are working on live streaming our services on Sunday morning. Currently we are recording both an audio and video file and are putting them together to produce a video of the service. To be able to live stream the service we need volunteers to learn how to use the streaming program, set it up on Sunday morning and run the live stream. We are looking for someone with some computer knowledge especially if you are familiar with Apple products. Please contact me at rachelle@uticaumc.org or call the church office 586-731-7667 if you are interested.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

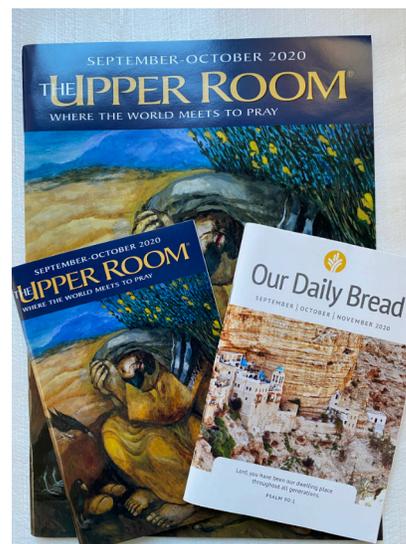
Returnable Cans and Bottles



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,

Upper Room and Our Daily Bread

New editions of the Upper Room and Our Daily Bread for September are now available. They are located just outside the office window. Next time you are here at the church, stop in and pick up a copy. The Upper Room are \$1.00 and Our Daily Bread is an offering.



Annual Golf Outing

Last week to sign up!

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

Looking Forward

Someday this Pandemic will be over. We look forward to that time. A time when we return to “normal.” We don’t know when it will come, the predictions are erratic. After all we are fighting a new virus. We are familiar with the rules during the Fall and Winter when we have to be careful and not shake hands and hug but that is transitory. This is going on during a time when we are normally having get-togethers and graduation parties, and weddings and receptions and going to the beach. This is not normal, and we don’t know when it will ever be normal again. We have gone through these times before during the Great Depression and during World War II. Even during Vietnam, things were not normal. We were divided then but not as badly as we are now. And we weren’t dealing with a Recession. As I was thinking about this, I thought of the Disciples. Their normal had been having a Leader who took on the role of teaching them and they followed. Suddenly they were alone and did not know what to do next. Jesus found them, in a room with the door locked, waiting, alone and insecure. He appeared to them. He gave them the same assurance that he gives us today. He was going ahead of them, he would be with them and he was sending them the Holy Spirit that would be with them always. He has given us all that gift. Sometimes life is just too rough, the road is too long, the struggle too hard but there is one who is with us. We can rely on Jesus, he sees our need and hears our pleas. We have all had times in our lives when we were lost and afraid, but Jesus hears us and will give us the strength to carry on. We take life one day at a time and we don’t worry about the tomorrows because God is with us. Meanwhile we do what we have to, we wear the mask, we wash our hands, we maintain distance, we are careful about ourselves and others and we obey the commandment to love each other.

John 20:19-23 On the evening of that first day of the week when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” after he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again, Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me. I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Lord, be with us we pray, may we feel your love and forgiveness in our lives. Lord we are living in a difficult time with a Pandemic, unemployment, people are suffering, we are a divided nation. Please be with us and heal our wounds. May we be more “Christ like” and forgive and accept each other. Be with our church as we seek a return to normal, help us to do this with patience and understanding and safely. Be with our Pastor, bless his Ministry as he leads us. Give him strength for the journey and your guidance. Be with our Staff and Leadership, guide them and give them your courage. May we all know we do not walk this journey alone but that you are with us through it all. Be with those who are suffering with illness, grief, and worry. We pray in Jesus name. Amen

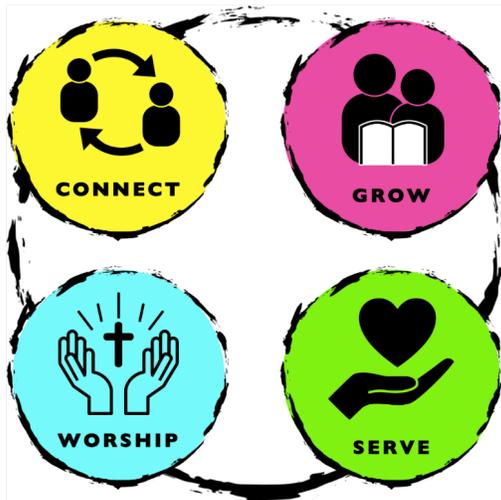
Grace Epperson



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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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!