



Weekly Messenger

August 28, 2020

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WOW, DID YOU EVER?

Did you ever think the church building would be closed and we would be meeting in the parking lot? Yet here we are! We are being fed and nurtured weekly as we sit in our cars and on the lawn. Amazing, isn't it? Sounds simple, doesn't it? [Cannot meet in the building, then we will do an online service.](#) Feel the need to be together in worship but still cannot be in the building, then we will have a drive-in service. It all sounds so easy. But have you thought about what went into these decisions? The first on-line service came with almost no warning. The Pastor and others more computer knowledgeable had to devise a way to do a service without being together, put it online, bring all the parts together and they had to do it in a matter of a few days. they had to communicate without being together, put their collective heads together (but not actually), figure out what would work, video from their phones (someone told me it took, I think, 15 takes to do just the offering piece one day, how frustrating that must have been), time everything, put it together and have it in place for Sunday morning to stream on the web site. I cannot begin to imagine the grit this took and the learning experience this must have been. But they did it, hallelujah and we were able to sit down in our jammies and watch and feel connected to the church we love. Then it was decided to bring us together, but not too close, in the parking lot. Another learning experience as now we are dealing with rain, heat, and sound needs. But speakers were placed, and people came, and we had the joy of seeing each other, but not too close, and having a worship experience. And every time I sit in that parking lot, I am reminded of John Wesley preaching in fields and barns and homes. Now, we are to have a new plan with meeting in the Parking lot and in the Sanctuary and frankly folks, I do not at this point know which plan I will go with. I know some folks prefer either Traditional or Contemporary music and this will push their decision. But I am a little more accepting of the different styles and find joy and worship in both. I keep saying the Traditional was once Contemporary (scary isn't it). In the beginning there was no piano or organ and worship music was made by tambourines, harps, lyres, cymbals, and pipes. The instrument did not matter but the worship and praise did and still does. I love our church and cannot envision ever churching anywhere else and I thank God for those who over these past months have worked hard to continue to give me that joy I find here, whether it be in front of my computer, in the parking lot or in the Sanctuary.

Grace Epperson

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Methodist Church
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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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.



"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. "

Matthew 18:20

Sunday Drive-In Service

While we cannot be inside a building we are still a church.

Blood Drive



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

We are scheduled to host a blood drive here at Utica UMC in our Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 from 12:00-6:00pm. **You have to make an appointment to give blood.** Go to www.redcross.org and search for September 8 and our church to schedule your appointment.

NO WALK-INS WILL BE TAKEN!

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Methodist Children's Home – Personal Hygiene Drive

For many years we at Utica UMC have supported the Methodist Children's home. This year the Together-In-Mission (TIM) group is again asking for your help in providing personal hygiene items for the resident children at the Methodist Children's Home. A list of "Wish list Items" posted on the MCHS website included a need for personal hygiene items so that each boy could have his own kit. Each personal hygiene kit will contain both consumable and non-consumable items. Please review the attached list of suggested items and participate in our collection drive to be held on Sunday, August 30th and Sunday, September 6th.

The Personal Hygiene Collection Drive will consist of donated items selected from the MCHS "Wish List" or financial contributions that will be used by TIM to purchase the needed items. We plan to have collection tubs located at the Canal Street entrance both weeks for your donations. Our goal is to provide each of the 50 resident children with his own personal hygiene kit during early September. Your assistance in making this collection drive a success will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Utica UMC – Together In Mission (TIM)

“Wish List” of Personal Hygiene Items

Consumable Items:

1. Body wash (sensitive skin brand)
2. Shampoo & conditioner (2 in 1)
3. Bar soap
4. Hand sanitizer
5. Lotion
6. Toothbrush & tooth paste



Re-Usable Items:

7. Towels
8. Wash cloths
9. Loofa scrubs
10. Toiletry bags
11. Bathroom / shower mats
12. Laundry bags (net or canvas with drawstring)



Financial donations also welcome

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

The Lost is Found

A while back someone had said how much we need Jesus to come and help us during this difficult time in our country. We are dealing with a Pandemic, but also with division and somehow that hurts the most. I suggested that Jesus was right here, just like he has always been, and he has not moved but we have. I believe he is right beside us and walks this walk with us. We have not lost him but sometimes he must feel that we have lost him. We tend to be a self-sufficient people full of ourselves, confident in our ability to handle things, sure in our opinions. But the title of this is "The Lost is Found." In June I had to have my drivers License renewed. This was the every other time when we must appear in person. I made the appointment but because of the Pandemic, could not get in until July. I appeared and things went well without a hitch. A few weeks later my new Driver's License appeared in the mail. I set it aside with the intent of putting it in my wallet. I thought the other day that I should put it in the appropriate slot in my wallet and went to do so but discovered that what I thought was the new license was the old license. I started to look for the new one. I could not find it! I went through mail and credit cards (found some that had expired years ago) and everywhere I could think of that I might have put the new license. No stone was unturned including the cushions in the chair. I continually uttered calming words to myself and prayed often and fervently. After two days of searching, I finally gave everything one more look. Then I went to the computer and made another appointment to have my lost license replaced. I filled out the forms and made the appointment for December 20th, the first available. As I finished and logged off the computer, I glanced at the desktop once more. There was a map of Michigan laying there. I picked it up to put it where it belonged, and underneath was not only my new Driver's License but a new credit card that I had wondered about but had not begun to look for yet. The license was right where I left it. Jesus waits for us to come to him, to find him as he walks with us. He does not leave us nor hide from us but waits patiently.

Matthew 11:28 Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Lord, we know you are near, and you will not forsake us. Lead us Lord as we seek to end this Pandemic, as we go through a tumultuous time, as we grieve for what we have lost. Be with those who are ill, those who are grieving, those who feel separated from you and loved ones, those who suffer physical hardships, the hungry, the unemployed, the homeless. Bring us together as a nation. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, be with his family as they grieve the loss of an Uncle and now a Nephew. Be with our Staff and our Leaders, strengthen them and give them your guidance. Be with our church as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ. Guide us in our future as you have guided us in our past. It is in the name of Jesus we pray. 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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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!