

Weekly Messenger

August 7, 2020

IN THIS ISSUE:

Front Page
Story
Continued..2

Fundraiser/
Thank You..3

UUMM
Annual Golf
Outing.....3

Weekly
Devotional..4

Church
Info.....5

Nailing Jello To A Wall

I don't recall who said it, but years ago I heard someone say, "If you want to get a laugh, tell God your plans." I've also heard it said, "I had my life planned out, and God said, 'Ha!'" Please indulge me in the bad theology (for I don't believe God delights in messing up the good planning we strive to make). It is just that the pandemic we are experiencing is making it rather challenging to make plans and be able to keep them.

I want you to know the Leadership Board wrestled with how we can safely return to worship inside the building, just this week. We wrestle with the desire to gather for worship like our hearts long to, and the desire to keep people safe. Another layer of what we wrestle with is how folks will take to returning to worshipping inside the building while needing to wear a face mask. We also wrangled with wanting everyone, whether they can attend in person, or attend via an online platform, to be able to worship on Sunday morning.

Allow me to share with you the plans we arrived at as we move forward:

We will continue our 9 am Drive-In worship format through the end of October.

As of the first Sunday of October, we will begin holding a worship service in our sanctuary. This service will offer organ music.

The preaching and my part of the worship leading will be done in the Drive-In format. There will be a video link projecting the message and announcements, prayers, etc. to the screens in the sanctuary.

While our Organist, David Fox, will offer music in the sanctuary, Mer, our Contemporary Worship Leader, and the worship band will provide music from the garage. (The challenge will be to time those musical selections to last close to the same time.)

Masks will be required at the service in the sanctuary, and at this time in our planning, there will not be congregational singing in the sanctuary. (We hope these restrictions will ease, and if they don't, we will try to offer a vocalist, so there will be a voice along with the hymns.)

As soon as we can get our technology needs caught up, we will begin to live-stream the worship service, so those who choose to worship via an online platform can join in on Sunday mornings.

continued on page 2

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

continued from Page 1

The Leadership Board is fully aware the plans we have arrived at will not satisfy all of our friends here at UUMC. We also realize as I hinted at with the opening of this letter, these plans are all subject to change. We appreciate you, and we want to do all we can to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with you and all of our community. We are working to do that in a time when working a plan feels very much like trying to nail Jello to a wall.

As more information is available, we will certainly share it with you!

May the Grace and Peace of Christ the Lord be yours!

Rev. Don



The Kitchen

The kitchen remodel is complete including some brand new art work on the walls. Thank you to all who worked hard on the kitchen from the beginning of the the remodel to the very end of it. If you are here and haven't seen the new kitchen take a minute to stop by and take a look. Hopefully some time in the future more people will be able to see and enjoy the new kitchen.



The green picture above the sink is Bayview.

The picture above the coffee maker is San Souci Palace, Cap Haitien, Haiti.

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,

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
Call No Dylor
Please join us for a fun afternoon of golf and fellowship. This is a fun day for all. You will be able to take and a golf cart at one of the new 18-hole courses. 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 almann114@gmail.com
\$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 almann114@gmail.com

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Car Trouble

My car had been stalling, not a lot, but I was a little concerned because it had never done that before. Then it stalled three times while I was leaving a parking lot and this little yellow light, that to me looked like a goldfish, came on and stayed on. I called my Son and he said to take it in to the dealer. Now my car is getting old, nine years to be exact but it only has 60,000 miles on it and 25,000 of that has been over the last 6 years. My driving has decreased greatly every year and for the last three years it takes me about a year to get enough mileage to justify an oil change. Even though I have always taken it to the dealer, they seemed less than happy to see meC and suggested nicely but firmly that I should take it someplace else because they were too busy or I could make an appointment and wait a week until they could get to it. They even pointed out the door just in case I, in my doddering old age, had forgotten what that large gaping hole in the wall was for. I asked them for the computer printout that said what the problem was and called my Son back. He said he would order the parts and could fix that at home, and I should bring it over on Saturday. I decided I needed to rent a car because I didn't want to drive with the little yellow light on. So, I called a car Rental and they said a car would be waiting for me on Thursday at noon in Romeo. On Thursday at noon I secured a ride to the car rental building. Imagine my surprise when the building was locked and closed. I went back home and called the number on the Confirmation form, and they said, "Oh, that office is closed." They offered to rent me a car from their location and I said two of my favorite words, "Cancel it!" I say this firmly and with gusto. I called my daughter-in-law and asked her to take me to an appointment on Friday and that was taken care of. On Saturday I took the car to my Son's and he fixed it in about 5 minutes which included the time it took him to get out his air compressor and his tools, and then he insisted on changing my oil which made the visit a little longer. I sat and talked with my Daughter-in-law and had a very nice visit with her and my Son. Then he gave me some steaks. You can't beat that service! As Shakespeare said, "All's well that ends well."

God is with us through the good and the bad, through the frustrations and the gratitude, through the check engine lights and the Son who fixes things for us and the daughter-in-law who drives us to an appointment.

1 John 4:10-12 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear Friends, since God so loved us, we ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Dear Lord, we thank you for family and friends that help us, we thank you for the love we show each other. May we carry that love in our hearts and give it to all we meet. Be with those who are ill, those suffering from the Covid-19 Virus, from those are fearful, and those who doubt. Be with our Pastor and his family, keep them safe, bless his Ministry. Be with our Staff and Leaders, guide them and inspire them. Be with our church, let us remember who we are, that we are loved by you. May we be the hands and feet of Christ. 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.

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.

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



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!