



# Weekly Messenger

September 11, 2020

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## "What is God Up To?"

There are times when certain scriptures keep coming to my mind. I recall my final semester of seminary, and a passage from the Psalms keep creeping into my thoughts, multiple times a day. It continued to happen almost every day of the semester, and it wasn't a passage I was studying in any of my classes. The scripture was Psalm 121. The portion I couldn't seem to escape was in verse one, "I lift my eyes to the mountain. From where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth."

In my final semester of seminary, I injured my knee and then had an operation to correct the problem. The surgery resulted in a massive staph infection, and I came close to losing my life to the infection. As I laid in the hospital bed, there came a time when I began to cry out to God, asking why I had been forsaken. We had been faithful to respond to God's call, and it was seeming as if all of the sacrifices were going to be for nothing. God began to show me my mountain to overcome was overcoming the infection, and the one who would be my help was the Lord.

Lately, I've had the lyrics of the song, "The Love of God" rolling through my mind. The lyrics touch my heart, and I'm beginning to wonder for what the Lord is preparing me. What cup will be sent my way? Who will I need to reassure of the limitless bounds of the love of God?

Since the lyrics are now in public domain, I want to share them with you.

**The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell  
It goes beyond the highest star  
And reaches to the lowest hell  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care  
God gave His Son to win  
His erring child He reconciled  
And pardoned from his sin**

**Could we with ink the ocean fill  
And were the skies of parchment made  
Were every stalk on earth a quill  
And every man a scribe by trade**

**To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole  
Though stretched from sky to sky**

**O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure  
The saints' and angels' song**

I pray you are listening to know what God is up to in your life!

Rev. Don

Utica United  
Methodist Church  
8650 Canal Road,  
Sterling Heights, MI  
(586) 731-7667  
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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](mailto:rachelle@uticaumc.org) or call the church office 586-731-7667 if you are interested.

**Save the Date**  
**Sunday, October 4th**  
**@ 2:00 p.m.**

2020 Utica/Sterling Heights CROP  
Walk  
Hosted by  
Christ Lutheran Church  
12500 Canal Road, Sterling Heights,  
Michigan



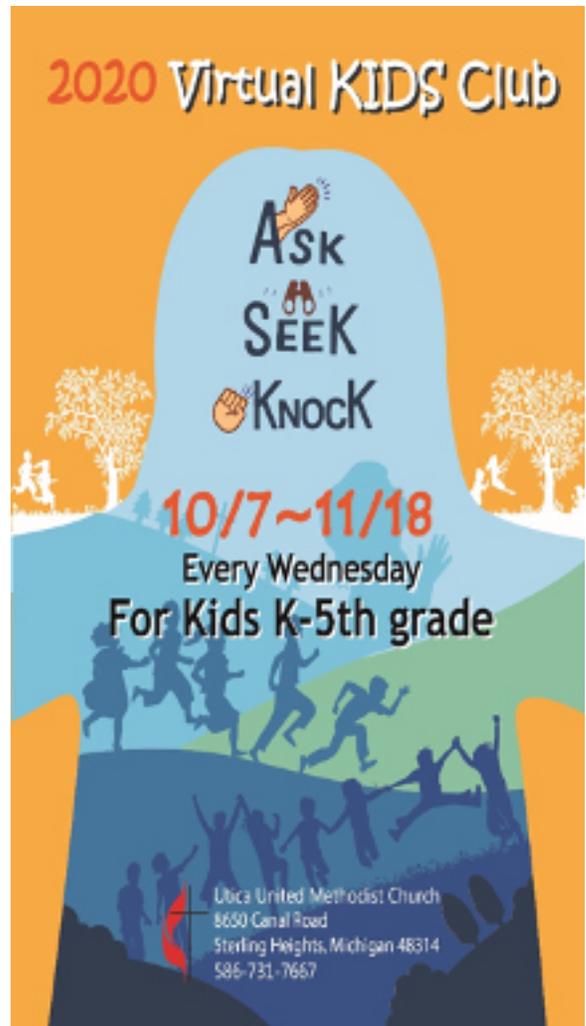
- Sign-ups begin Sunday after service – pick up a donation envelope from Sheila and Al Manning (sitting on the lawn)
- On-line donations are encouraged this year. If you take an envelope, a link is provided to set up your fundraising page.
- There are many ways for our church to participate – teens can get credit for service hours or honors society, support walkers by pledging, you can walk / bike in your neighborhood or treadmill if you cant make the actual walk, if you cannot walk then become a rocker and get an envelope or rocker form to get sponsors.
- 75% of donations go to Church World Services to alleviate hunger in poor communities throughout the world; 25% of donations stay in our community, going to Macomb Food Bank to support local hunger and poverty fighting programs.
- **We need 2 drivers at rest area to drive people who cant make the entire walk back to the church and to hand out water – no apples this year.**
- Prepackaged refreshments will be provided on return to Christ Lutheran Church.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Utica United Methodist Church Fall Virtual KIDS Club

We are so glad to introduce ASK SEEK KNOCK 2020 Virtual Kid's Club. This is a great program for children and will teach the importance of how God takes care of His children. Our staff has been working hard to prepare the best Virtual Kid's Club experience for your child and we are excited to see the great things God has in store for us this year.

Please join us for Utica UMC's Virtual Kid's Club. It will be held every Wednesday, beginning on 10/7 at 4:30 pm until 11/18 for 7 weeks. Before & during Virtual Kid's Club, every child is given their package every week which will either be dropped off at home or picked up at Utica UMC. This program will include Zoom meetings and pre-recorded videos on YouTube for Sing & Play, Bible Stories, Crafts and other activities.



### FEELING CRAFTY?

Do we have the outlet for you!

Kids Club will be returning this fall by way of a virtual program. Each week, the children will receive a lesson, a snack, a music piece and a craft. The program will be led by our new Pastoral Intern, Sunhwa Hopgood. She has selected the theme, the weekly lesson focus and the craft.

Where do you come in? We need a volunteer for each week to video themselves assembling the craft. You can choose 1 week or any part of the 7 needed. Since everything will be ready for you, you can video weekly, or video your weeks all at once.

Contact Peggy Miller to hear more or sign up (586)254-4932 or text (586)557-0208.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## WIDOWS ROW

Years ago, in church we had a row where a group of women sat together. They were all widows. We dubbed the row, "Widows Row." They were all older but clung together. I was shocked the first time someone referred to me as a widow. I had not thought of that designation for myself. Today, as I write this, is the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of our marriage and I have been a widow for three months. I have not had a chance since last year to adjust to sitting in church alone but somehow it seems more foreign to me now. I was used to sitting by myself for many years while my husband sang in the choir. It was not unusual for me to attend dinners by myself as he worked in the kitchen. But then even though I was alone I knew he was nearby and that I was part of a two. Now my Son goes to church with me and that is a comfort and special to me. I have received phone calls and messages from so many in the church. Good friends who care. Their calls and notes are appreciated, and their words of comfort show caring and understanding hearts. Christ tells we are not alone, that he walks with us and will not desert us. Sometimes he uses friends who call and talk and understand. This is how we show we are the church. I look forward to the time when we can all be together again, gathered in the Sanctuary or in Fellowship Hall. Able again to hug and offer words of comfort to each other. Some who have passed away during this pandemic will be absent in body but will be with us in spirit. There will be an empty seat in the pew.

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times.

Lord, thank you for the church, it binds us together. Thank you for the services we have where we can gather on the grass and in our cars. We are blessed by your love and the love of each other. Be with those who grieve, those who are ill, those who are hurting and alone, the hungry and the lost. Be with those in our Military as they serve our country. Be with our Pastor and his family. Bless his ministry, give him strength for each day as we continue to go through this time of Covid 19. Be with our leaders and our staff, encourage them, give them strength for the day and faith for tomorrow. Be with our country as we go through these difficult times. Lord may we seek to obey the commandment of Christ in Mark to love our neighbor as yourself. 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](http://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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## Ministry Team:

Reverend Don Gotham  
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Sunwha Hopgood

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Youth Leader

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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](mailto: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](http://www.uticaumc.org/e-giving)

If you need assistance, feel free to call the office!