



Weekly Messenger

October 16, 2020

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Moving Forward

When I think of the plans I've made and had to throw out in 2020, I almost get dizzy. With the number of times I've had to adjust over the past seven months, it almost seems like making concrete plans is a thing of the past. Still, I believe God still calls us to use our best logic and make plans.

The Leadership Board met last week to make plans of how we could move forward with plans to re-enter our worship spaces fully. The board talked through the issues and came up with plans. I am writing to share the plans with you.

Our last outdoor worship service will be on October 25th. The weather won't provide us the conditions we need to continue to offer that format beyond the end of October. On November 1st, we will have one worship service in the sanctuary at 9 am. It took some weeks to work out the details of setting a sound and video system up in the garage, and it will take some time to put it all back together in the fellowship hall. On November 8th, we will have our service in the sanctuary at 9 am, and the band-led service in the fellowship hall will be at 10:30 am. This shift of a half-an-hour will resolve issues for children and parents of children whose young tummies are more schedule focused.

To highlight:

- October 25th -final outdoor service for 2020.
- November 1st - one worship service in the sanctuary at 9 am.
- November 8th - 9 am service in the sanctuary with organ and hymns.
- November 8th - 10:30 am band-led service in the fellowship hall.

As mask-wearing is still regarded as a key factor in diminishing the spread of COVID-19, we are maintaining the requirement for those inside the building to wear a face mask. We are also continuing with our social distancing protocols. Further, we continue to sanitize surfaces after meetings take place, including worship.

As we move into November, we are also going to have a season of thanks. Our worship services are going to be geared to helping us find our footing of thankfulness as the people of God. We will challenge ourselves to live out the admonition of 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." There certainly has been plenty for all of us to get twisted up about this year, so it will be good for us to work on our attitudes of gratitude.

Let's keep moving forward. Let's keep listening for the leading of the Holy Spirit, and responding by following where we are led.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



October 24, 2020 is National Drug Take Back Day from 10am till 2pm.

Please bring all medications in plastic bags and out of bottles. No syringes. We will have a drive by where the driver will empty their bags in a large container. We are only collecting the items by weight and not by count. You will not come in close contact with anyone. Safety precautions and social distancing is being maintained. For those individuals who will not be able to do drive by, we will have Dettera bags for medication disposal. There will be more information and directions forthcoming regarding these bags. Any questions, please call Utica United Methodist Church at 586-731-7667 or Janet Stone 586-254-2627.

CROP WALK RESULTS

It was a year full of obstacles with the pandemic and the rain on the day of the walk. But as the result of much prayer, the skies cleared and the rain stopped just as we began to walk. Many thanks to all who supported CROP Hunger Walk in any way - donations, walking, biking, rocking, etc. It is a very worthy cause and \$3,593 was raised between UUMC and Christ Lutheran - UUMC \$1,045 - Christ Lutheran \$1,408 - Online \$1,140. 25% or \$898.25 stays in our community to support the Macomb Food Bank.



Thanks again for your support,

Sheila and Al Manning



Trunk or Treat

October 31, 2020 from 2-4pm. We need volunteers to bring their trunks and candy to pass out to the kids. Cars will be socially distanced, masks and gloves should be worn while passing out treats. We have some games for the kids that we might ask you to help oversee as well. Please call the office at 586-731-7667 to sign up you and your car.



This is your last Sunday to order Apple Pies!

If you love apple pies and haven't ordered yet get your orders in. If you want to order pies you can get a form on Sunday mornings or pick one up at the church office. You can also call Ruth Charlton at 586-731-8477. Please leave a message if you cannot get a hold of me. We will not be making a lot of extras so please order. If we need to we will have another work time later in the month. Thank you in advance for helping with our mission projects.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

FOOTSTEPS IN THE SAND

I had just finished a Prayer Quilt. It is a simple pattern, just 2 blocks, spaced one after the other. I do not do complicated. This quilt spoke to me. One piece is two sets of footprints embedded in a sandy beach walking together, the other is a blue pattern that looks like waves. It is based on the poem of a person looking at their life and there are two sets of footprints walking along a sandy beach, their footprints are sometimes not visible. They are talking with God and ask, "Where were you God when my footprints are gone; through the darkest days of my life you are not walking with me." God replies, "When you only see one set of footprints that is because I was carrying you." Sometimes, illness comes, sorrow comes, failure comes, our mistakes become our downfall and we feel alone and deserted by a God who has promised to never leave us. But God carries us when we are too weak to walk, when life becomes going through the motions, when we are hurt the most by those we trusted the most. I thought of someone I love going through an exceedingly difficult time, facing the possible loss of her life from cancer at a young age and at the same time the cruel betrayal of the person she loved. I want her to know that God walks with her and although she might not see her footprints, it is because he is carrying her, and he is weeping for her. I do not believe that God gives us cancer to bring us closer to him, but I do believe that when cells in our bodies produce a cancer, God weeps for us and holds us closer to him. He uses our sorrows and defeats and illness to draw us closer. He does not use the drunk driver who takes a loved one to bring us closer but uses the loss to bring us closer. He is the great comforter not the avenger that takes away someone or something to punish us. Even in the midst of our sorrows he holds us in his arms and weeps with us.

Isaiah 40-11a He tends his flock like a shepherd. He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.

Psalm 91 4: He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

Lord we ask that you be with those that are suffering in grief and illness, those that are broken hearted, those that are alone, those that hunger and thirst, those that cry out to you in their need. May we be the hands and feet of Christ to those that seek you, give us just a glimmer of your compassion and your love for others so that we may serve you. May we see each person as you see them, worthy of forgiveness, worthy of love. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, be with his family. Be with our staff and leaders, bless their service. May we listen for that voice, that leading that draws us to those who seek you and may we answer. 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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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!

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.