

Weekly Messenger

December 11, 2020

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"Plans That Don't Seem to Make Sense"

This past Sunday, I mentioned in my sermon how God's sending a baby seemed like a strange and impractical way to bring the world what it needed. I noted how given what we know on the other side of that baby's arrival, Bethlehem's baby was precisely what the world needed. Sometimes the plans we make, and the timing of them can make folks scratch their heads.

The Brighter Future Building Fund team has considered the bids from contractors to address the heating and air-conditioning needs of our church and are excited to let you know we are moving forward with the proposal from Andy's Statewide. The work will commence soon, which seems like a strange time to install air-conditioning. Still, with the church being in a season of not being able to use the building, it is an opportune time to get this work done!

The heating and air-conditioning project is the most extensive and most costly of the Brighter Future projects. The cost will nearly deplete the funds we have on hand. We want to express our deep gratitude for the faithfulness of you, our congregation, in making this and previous projects possible!!

If you were waiting to contribute to the BFBF fund until a significant expense was coming, now is the time to respond. If you set aside giving to the BFBF fund, thinking funds wouldn't be needed until things return to normal, please consider giving.

We are so excited to accomplish this part of the Brighter Future projects, as it will bring us greater energy usage efficiency. The Trustees have been working on achieving greater energy efficiency for many years, and this project will take us a long way toward our goal.

With a grateful heart,

Rev. Don



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Holiday Pet Help



For many of us who have pets, we simply buy food along with our other groceries and don't think much of it. However, for those who depend on a Bridge Card or food pantries for their food, pet food and other supplies aren't available. During the Christmas season there will be a shopping cart near the front doors where you can drop off your pet supplies (food, treats, cat litter, etc.). If this program is successful we may continue it throughout the next year.

2021 Offering Envelopes

Your 2021 offering envelopes are ready and may be picked up in the office during regular office hours. The office is open from 8am-4pm Monday-Thursday and from 8am-2pm on Fridays. If you already know that you cannot make it in to pick up your envelope in person please contact the office by phone or e-mail charlotte@uticaumc.org and we can get those out in the mail to you. Envelopes not picked up by December 15th will be mailed out to you at that time.

2021 Calendars

We have 2021 calendars available for pick up in the office that were provided by Sullivan Brothers Funeral Home. You may stop in to pick up a calendar during church office hours. There are available on a first come, first serve basis until supplies run out. Sorry, we are not able to mail these calendars.



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

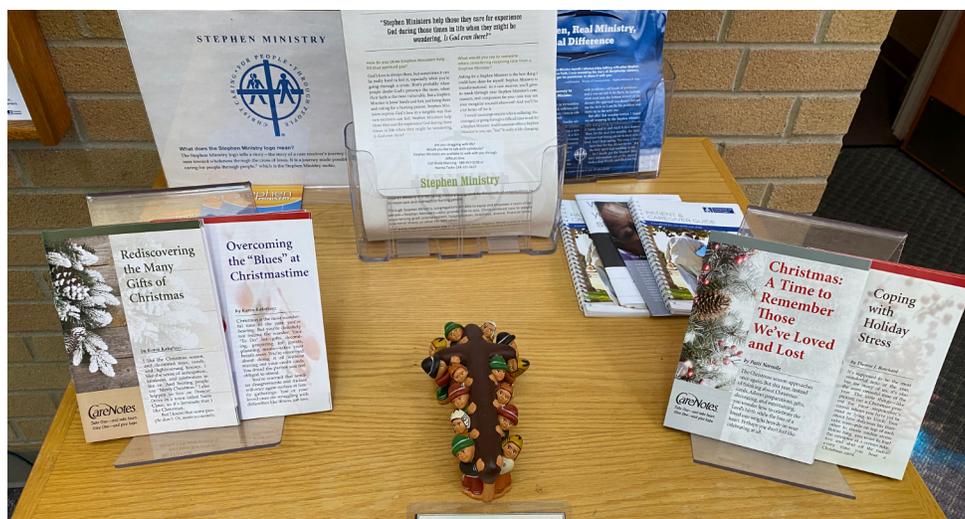
The Brown Bag



Have you ever stopped at a light or stop sign and noticed a homeless person with a sign asking for food. What did you think? What did you do? Did you turn your head and try to ignore them? Like most people you probably waited for the light to change and drove away. How did you feel that you did not help the person, after all we are Christians and are expected to help others.



We have all read the scripture that says “for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink”... The King will reply “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me”. (Matthew 25: 35-40). This has been a difficult year for everyone, but it has been extremely difficult for the homeless. We have all heard the saying to “brown bag it”, referring to carrying our own lunch instead of buying it. Well, get out the brown bags. Here is a suggestion that might work for you. Keep a brown lunch bag in your car with the words PRAISE GOD on it and fill it with some things that might help someone. Things you could put in the bag could be granola bars, peanut butter crackers, certificates, candy, water, mask, your favorite scripture, use your imagination. When you stop and see someone asking for help, simply smile and give them the bag and say God loves you. Do something special this Christmas. When you get home get out your Bible and read Proverbs 11:25.



Care Notes



Stephen Ministry has set out some Holiday Care Notes on their table in the Narthex. If you find you are struggling this season, please stop by during office hours and check out the holiday care notes that are available to you. They also have a wall of care notes for all sorts of needs located just above the table.

