



Weekly Messenger

January 15, 2021

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"A New Opportunity"

I think many of us become cynical as we grow older. When I was younger, and someone said they had an opportunity for me, my ears perked up. These days, when I hear those words, I start to wonder what job someone is planning to lay upon me. I write today to let our folks know we have a new opportunity.

While we have been able to put together an online worship service almost every week since the pandemic affected our ability to gather in person, there are some folks who can't use the online platform. We have hit on what we hope is the right opportunity for these folks. Beginning Monday, February 1st at 10 am, we will be playing the same worship video those who watch on Sunday online see. The difference will be that the video will be played here in the fellowship hall. Because of the heating and air-conditioning project, the fellowship hall is the best place to offer this worship experience.

We will be observing strict social-distancing, and we will be sure to take all of the cleaning and sanitizing measures necessary to keep people safe. We are asking those who are able to watch the worship service online would continue to do so. This opportunity is meant to meet the needs of those who cannot use the online format.

The plan is to play the video promptly at 10 am each week. The doors outside the fellowship hall will be unlocked, as well as the main doors.

We will need a few people to volunteer to take on running the projection, so if you would like to volunteer, please reach out to the church office to connect.

Peace,

Rev. Don

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2021 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

WARMING CENTER

This year, our church will host the Warming Center during the week of 1/24/21. However, there will be unique changes this year, first being that we will NOT be housing any guests at our church. (The Warming Center and McRest have formed an alliance this year to assure the homeless are taken care of, and received a COVID grant from Macomb County to provide housing assistance to our guests for this year.) Guests will be provided shelter at a hotel near the McRest facility at NO cost to our church. The various volunteer churches will be responsible to provide a cold breakfast and lunch, placed in a single bag and delivered to the McRest facility. We will not be responsible for the cost nor the preparations for dinner.

The following are other pertinent details: All food for these bagged meals will be purchased and bagged by Bob and Debbie's kitchen team. We are requesting donations of money to allow us the flexibility to purchase items needed as information comes in on which combinations work best. At this time we are being asked to feed 120 guests per day.

How you can help:

Donate Money! You can donate through your mailed offering by writing Warming Center on the line or through e-giving and select Warming Center to make your donation. All money given will be used in the purchase of the needed food items to bag for the guests.

Volunteer your time! We need people to come and help put together the bags of food. The hope is to have five volunteers per day. Food preparation will be daily starting Sunday 1-24-21 starting at 9am until the last day Saturday 1-30-21. Safe distancing and face masks will be required. Please contact Bob MacKool at rgmackool@gmail.com to volunteer – please indicate all days available to help in your e-mail.

Stephen Ministry Opportunity

Have you ever thought about being a Stephen Minister? Have you heard about Stephen Ministry but not sure what it is all about? Now is your chance to find out. Stephen Ministry is now offering online training classes.

Stephen Ministry is now offering a live, interactive online training class for Stephen Ministry Leaders.

The class consists of:

- About 20 participants
- 10 sessions of 2-1/2 hours each, spaced over five or ten weeks, with the options of morning, afternoon, or evening sessions
- An engaging blend of teaching methods - presentations, group discussions, videos, skill practices, breakout activities, question-and-answer times, and more.

For a 3-minute video, FAQs, sample schedule, and more, visit stephenministries.org/bridge.

Please contact Sheila Manning if you have an interest in becoming a Stephen Ministry Leader - phone 586 463-0298, email manningsk@comcast.net.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

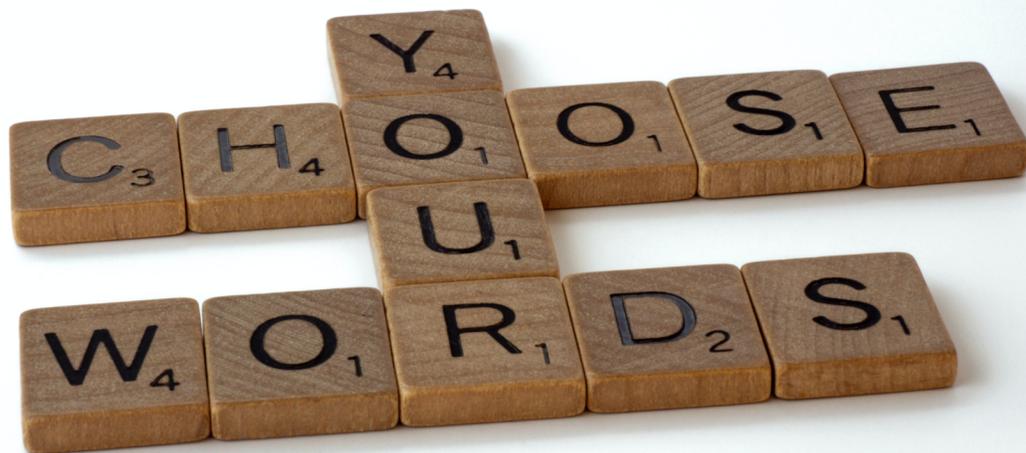
WORDS MATTER

I loved Literature classes. I loved to read, and stories were my lifeline. I learned more than enjoying a good story from books, I learned life lessons. I learned about other lives and was transported to other times and places, and I learned the power of words. In Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, Shakespeare wrote of Marc Antony telling a crowd of the death of Caesar. He said he would say nothing about Caesar's deeds, he would not relate all Caesar had done for the people, because he was there to bury Caesar, not to praise him. By the end of his talk, he had succeeded in turning the people against those that had murdered Caesar. The power of words. We had to do a fair amount of memorization in High School and this included Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. These were powerful words and with them you realize that Lincoln had a great task in front of him. His words were the beginning of the healing of a fractured nation. Words matter. We memorized Henry Wordsworth Longfellow's Psalm of Life. "Tell me not in mournful numbers life is but an empty dream, for the soul is dead that slumbers and things are not what they seem, Life is real, life is earnest, and the grave is not it's goal, dust thou art to dust returnest was not spoken of the soul." Words matter. Our teacher had a message in the front of the classroom, "This above all, to thine own self be true." Words matter. The words we speak on social media or to others matter. Great orators can move people with their words, words can wound, and words can heal, words can lift us up and make us better or words can wound us and make us lower than we are. When I think of words I think of Peter. Peter had denied knowing Jesus, not once, not twice but three times. Luke 22:62 and he went outside and wept bitterly. Words matter.

John 21:15-17 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again, Jesus said, "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, You know all things, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

Lord, may we be a better people, may we realize that our words matter. Be with those that are ill, those that grieve, those that suffer. Be with our church, be with our leaders, may we be a sanctuary for those who seek you. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, be with him and his family, grant them good health. Be with our families, bless them. Lord, we thank you for those that touch our lives, for our families, for our church family, for our friends. May we soon be back together again and may this pandemic end. May the lessons learned from this past year make us a better and more grateful people. In Jesus name, Amen

Grace Epperson



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Ministry Team:

Senior Pastor
Reverend Don Gotham
srpastor@uticaumc.org

Ministry Leader Intern
Sunwha Hopgood

Contemporary Worship Leader

Mer Renne
mer@uticaumc.org

Music Ministry

David Fox
Organist, Hand Bell & Chancel
Choir Director
FoxDavidL@sbcglobal.net

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Rachelle Heldt
rachelle@uticaumc.org

Secretary/Bookkeeper

Charlotte Ramsey
charlottte@uticaumc.org

Youth Leader

Suzy Palmer
suzy.palmer@uticaumc.org

Sunday Morning Child Care

Caitlyn Wilson

Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs 8am-4pm
Friday 8am-2pm

Phone: 586-731-7667

Food Pantry available
by appointment only.

Deadline Information:

Items for The Weekly
Messenger, The Weekly
Prayer List, or
Announcements should
be submitted by
Wednesday each week.
Submit to
charlotte@uticaumc.org
for announcements and
prayer list and to
rachelle@uticaumc.org
for the Messenger and
Electronic Sign
or call the office.

Our Mission:

Inviting people to rely
on Jesus to find
unexpected purpose,
peace and joy.

Keeping Connected

Stay in touch with Utica United Methodist Church by checking our website (www.uticaumc.org), following us on Facebook (Utica United Methodist Church) or subscribe to our YouTube Channel (Utica Umc).

If you are not signed up for the Weekly Messenger email, you can do so on our website by clicking on the "More" tab and going to "Weekly Messenger" page to sign up now!

We have an account with both Webex and also with Zoom for groups to meet via telephone and video calls.

Sunday Worship Times:

Find us on Facebook, Website
or YouTube channel for our
Sunday Worship Service at
9am.

At this time we are taking a
break from in person
gatherings. Please stay safe.
Stay home if you are sick.
Wear a mask when you go
out. Wash your hands or use
sanitizer often.

We will follow John Wesley's
summary of God's directives
to all people - **"Do No Harm,
Do Good and Stay in Love
with God!"**

Donate Online:

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!