



Weekly Messenger

January 29, 2021

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"Do You Remember?"

Do you remember our Ash Wednesday worship service last year? Do you remember the pastor speaking the words, "Repent, and Believe the Gospel!?" Okay, I can't go on any further. This is a trick question because, if you remember, our Ash Wednesday Service had to be canceled last year due to the snowstorm that came that day.

We will be having an Ash Wednesday service this year, and I have great hope that it won't be canceled since it will be held online. But, you ask, "How can we have an Ash Wednesday service without coming to church to have the ashes imposed on us?" Well, we have a plan for that. The service will be online, and you are invited to come to the church on or before Wednesday, February 17th, to pick up a small container of ashes. During the service, you will be invited to impose the ashes on yourself.

The beauty of this approach is that you can impose the ashes on your hand, your arm, or if you are feeling confident in your ability to approximate the center of your forehead, you can put the ashes on your forehead.

To make things easier for you, we will have containers of ashes ready on Sunday, February 7th. If you come to the church between 9 and 10:30 am to receive communion elements for drive-thru communion, you can also pick up your ashes for the 17th.

Lent will soon be upon us, and I want to let you know our focus this year will be "Forty Days of Love." During the season of Lent, we will be challenged to show the people around us practical demonstrations of love. I can think of nothing better to help prepare us to celebrate a Holy Easter than we spend our days in Lent showing the love of Christ to others in practical ways. More to come!

May the Grace, Peace, and Love of Christ be Profoundly Yours!

Rev. Don

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Blood Drive

There is a blood drive scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2021 between 12:00 - 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Appointments must be made ahead of time through the Red Cross. Go to www.redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment. If you do not have access to a computer or internet please contact Al Manning (586) 463-0298 and he can help get you an appointment.



American Red Cross

Care Notes

Stephen Ministry has put out some new CareNotes on the table in the Narthex. These new notes are appropriate for the times we are living through now - Responding to Life's Challenges that are Out of Your Control and Prayers of Comfort for Times of Illness. Please feel free to pick them up when you are in the church.



Thank You Church

Jim and I want to thank our church friends for the lovely cards, thoughtful prayers and friendly phone calls we have been receiving and especially during my knee replacement surgery. We really appreciate all your love and thoughtfulness! Our love, thoughts and prayers are with you.

In love and friendship,

Barb and Jim Buckley

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Missed Opportunities

Did you ever think about wanting to do something and you let it slip by? You were too busy, too involved, work was too much, the timing just was not right. I have been there. Now I have other limitations, and the problem of being 85. The things delayed turn out to be the things denied. I always wanted to go on a Mission trip, but the timing was never right. I always wanted to travel to far off places and did have the joy of going to Israel but not to Africa (unless Egypt counts) or China or Japan. I wanted to go back to school but by the time I had the time and resources it was too much, and I was not really motivated anymore although I did take some classes at a Community College. Now it is too late for many of those things. Although, travel, but shorter destinations are still a possibility but not in the middle of a pandemic. I did get to enjoy a cruise and train trips and trips by air. God has been good to me with the opportunities offered. But have I told him “no” when he called me to other pursuits? Have I heard him calling and closed my ears? I have always had a “job” in church. Whether it was Pastor Parish, Administrative Board, Council on Ministries, Religion and Race Committee, Ushering, Prayer Ministry, Stephen Ministry, Communion, or any of the other areas I served in, I always believed in being involved. But has it been what God had called me to do? I recall a time when I thought of Ministry but quickly dismissed it, or all the times when I wrote poetry but never took it seriously, or I thought of giving children the joy of reading and thought no more about it.

Do we ever know the answer to that question, what has God called us to, or is it revealed when we stand before the throne?

All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go Lord if You lead me.

By Dan Shutte

Three times the Lord had called Samuel. 1 Samuel 3-8-10 The Lord called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So, Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, if he calls you, say,” Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel, Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”

Lord, we thank you for the day and for the challenges we face. May we know that those challenges only serve to draw us closer to you and your constant love. Be with those who mourn, those who face illness, those who are alone. Give us strength to face the day and hope for tomorrow. Be with our Pastor, bless him, his family and bless his ministry. Be with our staff and leaders give them strength and wisdom. May all we do be acceptable in your sight, Oh Lord, our strength and redeemer. Amen

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Ministry Team:

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Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs 8am-4pm
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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!