

Weekly Messenger

March 26, 2021

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"Forty Days of Love"

This week, I want to encourage us to reflect on the acts of love we have experienced or are experiencing. A conversation recently reminded me of how my Mom used to dye eggs for Easter using onion skins for many years. The outer part of the onions had a dye they gave off so that when she boiled the eggs, the egg's outer shell turned a rich reddish-brown color. After the eggs cooled, she spent much time scratching the color from the onion skins off to reveal the white under the dye. In this way, she made intricate designs of flowers and messages. It would have been much easier to buy the egg dye kit, but she chose to give us gifts of love.

I am also noticing the wonderful crop of Crocus flowers someone planted along the church's west side (outside the kitchen). I'm not sure if someone planted more bulbs last fall, but the amount of blooms seems to have multiplied since last year. Whenever the bulbs were planted, it was an act of love.

A Facebook friend has recently taken to posting humorous memes on her page. Sometimes there are numerous posts in a day. Almost all of them make me smile and laugh. I recognize them as an act of love.

How about you? How is it going for you? Have you discovered new ways of showing others the love of God through these weeks of Lent? Have you come to recognize the things people have done for you as acts of love?

God doesn't expect us all to grow at the same rate. God doesn't expect each of us will see things the same way. God does expect our experiences will cause us to reflect and grow and appreciate the gifts we receive. Plainly put, God expects us to change over time and by the leading of the Holy Spirit to become more like God. That, I believe, is one of the greatest gifts of love any of us experience.

In Grace, Hope, and Love,

Rev. Don



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

UMW

All women of Utica Methodist are invited to attend the United Methodist Women's Meeting on Wednesday, April 7 in Fellowship Hall. It will begin at noon with each person bringing their own lunch and drink and we will socialize with one another with all covid protocols in place.

Our program will begin at 1:00 with our speaker being Sunhwa Hopgood, our Intern at Utica. She will share her life story as God has brought her to come here to be at our church. Let us get to know her on a more personal basis.

Thanks,

Kathy Weaver

THE THREE VACCINES FOR COVID 19

1. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are mRNA based. This just means messenger based. Pfizer and Moderna train your body to fight the virus. The body makes an immune response which gives you protection against the virus.
2. Johnson & Johnson inserts a virus (which is called a adenovirus) to do the same job. This is a common cold virus that has had its illness- causing genes removed, so you cannot get sick. Once the vaccine is injected into your arm, the virus (adenovirus) injects DNA into your cells. This creates a message telling your cells to fight against the virus. J& J is easier to manufacture and store. It is not as fragile as Pfizer and Moderna.

Both types of vaccines result in the same 'end-game' for the virus.

Regardless of which one is given, the vaccines are some form of protection against the virus.

Janet Stone

This was a paraphrasing of Dr. Fauci's words. Dr. Fauci is the director of NIAID (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease)

Thank You

Thank you to the Utica United Methodist Church family and staff for your many prayers, cards and support of Todd and Ashley during the past several years. You are definitely the hands and feet of Jesus.

Our sincere thank you,
Jim, Barb, Tim and Ashley Steggall

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry Team is working to create take home bags for Holy Week.

On Palm Sunday, March 28th, after both services a bag of Holy Week crafts will be available for you to pick up for your children or grandchildren.

Easter Sunday we will have goodie bags available after each in-person service for the children to take home. You may also pick one up to take to your grandchildren. Any extra bags left after the service will be made available outside the front door under the portico.

We are making a limited number of bags so when they are gone they are gone.

Holiday Office Closure

The church office will be closed on Good Friday, April 2nd and Easter Monday, April 5th. We send out both a printed messenger and an online messenger each week. If you have an article that needs to be run for the April 2nd Messenger it needs to be emailed to rachelle@uticaumc.org by Monday, March 29th to be included that week. Any articles received after March 29th for the messenger will go into the messenger on April 9th.

STARS/XCEL

We will once again be having our summer STARS and XCEL program at Utica United Methodist Church. Due to COVID it will be a Virtual program this year. The program runs for 6 weeks from June 14-July 22. Bags will be delivered to those within 7 miles of the church with the rest of the bags to be picked up by 3pm on Mondays. These bags will have informational materials, snacks, craft supplies and maybe some other surprise for the week. They will have an optional zoom meeting time and will have some YouTube videos for the kids. Flyers will be mailed out in the next couple of weeks. Registration will be available in the flyer as well as on our website.

For the STARS program, children must be 7 years old by June 14th to be part of the program. If you have children or grandchildren who might be interested in attending, you can always call the office to make sure they get put on the mailing list to receive the flyer.

S.T.A.R.S. Program Features:

- ★ Zoom meetings (optional) and YouTube Videos weekly: June 14th - July 22nd
- ★ Weekly delivery to your home of snacks, plan for the week, and any materials needed. (Delivery of materials is available for those within a 7 mile radius from UUMC. If you live further than 7 miles, you can pick up your packet/snacks at the church by 3pm Monday's.)
- ★ Possibility of Virtual Field Trips (as opportunities arise)
- ★ Six weeks of age-appropriate lessons, devotionals, activities and more!
- ★ FREE to ALL participants, thanks to the generosity of the people of the United Methodist Church
- ★ Trained and certified staff and volunteers through United Methodist Church Safe Sanctuary Program, trained to work with children and teens.
- ★ All events are planned to help develop your child mentally, artistically & spiritually

XCEL

For preteens grades 6 - 8

Register Online!
www.uticaumc.org/kidzone

Registration is limited!!

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

STARTING OVER

I knitted an afghan for my Granddaughter for Christmas. It was a moderately difficult pattern and after knitting for about 24 inches I discovered a mistake near the bottom. I looked at various ways to correct this, but it would be very tedious and difficult. So, I ripped out the whole thing and started over. Wouldn't it be great if we could do that in life? Just think, having a bad day, just go back to bed and start over. Life does not work that way, sometimes we are called to start over and sometimes to correct our mistakes. Sometimes the hardest words to say are, "I'm sorry." But what about when we are the ones being hurt. Carrying old hurts can be a burden, the load gets heavy and weighs us down. We cannot focus on the good things in our lives but instead carry around the old hurts and sorrows. I can be bad about this but when I went on the Emmaus Walk, I was able to set down those burdens at the Cross and let them go. But occasionally, I can feel them trying to crawl back on me and I must remember they do not exist anymore, because I turned them over to Jesus Christ and I bear them no more. It is hard when someone hurts you to let it go and to start over but that is what Christ calls us to do. Every day is a new day, a new morning, a new beginning. We are called to forgive others because he has forgiven us. Let us dwell on our todays and not our yesterdays.

Luke 6:37-38 Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use. It will be measured to you.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day, for the sunshine and the warmth. May we reflect that warmth in our lives as we forgive others and ourselves. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, be with him and his family. Grant them strength and blessings. Be with our staff and leaders, give them your guidance and protection and bless them. Be with our church community, may we work together for the good of all your children. Guide us as we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Be with our country and all its people, may we join as one seeking what is best for all. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Grace Epperson

Prayer Shawls

Do to Covid we have not been able to distribute our Prayer Shawls to people in need of them. If you are or you know someone that is going through a rough time or who has suffered a loss and could benefit from the comfort of a Prayer Shawl or lap robe please contact myself or the church office and leave a message for me. I will make sure that one is received.. Thank you, Grace Epperson (586-992-9945)

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

Communications Director

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.

Sunday Worship Times:

In Person Worship

9am - Piano/Hymns in
Fellowship Hall

10:30am - Praise Team in
Fellowship Hall

Online Worship

A blended recorded service
will be available online on
Facebook, Website and
Youtube Sunday mornings at
9am.

Children's Message online on
YouTube, Facebook and
Website by 9am Sunday's.

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!

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.