

Weekly Messenger

April 23, 2021

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Utica United
Methodist Church
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(586) 731-7667
www.UticaUMC.org

"With the Same Love, With the Same Allegiance"

After everything they'd come to count on for three years of living and learning with Jesus was upended by the crucifixion of Jesus, the disciples had believed all was lost. Huddling together these men stewed in a soup of despair. They held on to their regrets, they worried together, and they feared together.

Into their locked room, Jesus appears. He greets them with the message they most needed, "Peace be with you." They had heard Jesus speak "peace" before, and they knew the power of it.

O my friends, allow Jesus to speak peace into your situation today. Allow the peace of Christ to cover all of your regrets, your worries, and your fears. Jesus loves you with the same love he had for his disciples, and his allegiance toward you is no less resolute than it was for them.

"It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

John 20:19-22 Common English Bible (CEB)

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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.

Its Boy Scout flower sale time!

Order forms will be available before and after services starting this Sunday

Scouts will be on hand to answer questions and take orders

Order forms must be turned-in by Monday May 10th and plants will be delivered on May 17th

Payment must accompany the order by cash or check (made out to Troop 80)

If you have questions call Gary Taylor (586)795-4630



MCREST Information

As we approach our second MCREST host week during the pandemic, the MCREST guests are still being housed in a local hotel to keep everyone safe. While we will miss the fellowship with the guests, we will be hosting from afar once again. Individuals and groups from UUMC will be delivering breakfasts, lunches and dinners to the MCREST office from April 25th - May 1st.

In other MCREST news, construction on the women's shelter in Mt. Clemens is slated to be completed this fall and they are currently looking for donations through their Amazon Wishlist. This year if you would like to support the MCREST program we will collect donations starting April 18 through May 2nd. The money collected will be used to purchase an item or a couple items from the MCREST Amazon wishlist. These items will be used in the women's shelter in Mt. Clemens. You can mail in a donation, drop it at church in person on Sunday mornings or give to MCREST on the e-giving site. Make sure to mark the envelope MCREST on the other line.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Hope and Gratitude

What have we learned in the last year? Will we be grateful for those things we have missed when they are returned to us? A friend took me to lunch a few weeks ago. It was so nice to sit down and be served and eat food that was hot and had not traveled in the car. Will I feel that way about all things as they are once again returned to us? What about going to a Movie, I have not tried that, and I think I will hold off on that for a while. Without Popcorn and the concession stand it just is not the same. The other day I realized I have not been in a Department Store since February 2021. I am a shopper, and this is unheard of for me. Will I return to my former ways or will I continue to shop online? Will Amazon give me rewards for best and most frequent shopper of the year? I have changed a lot of the things I do such as grocery shopping. I have my groceries delivered; I am not sure I want to change that. I rather like having a shopper. I do not think I ever really liked grocery shopping. It was just something I had to do to keep from starving. I am grateful that we have been able to return to Church. I have missed the sense of coming together for worship, the community. Now we are back in the Sanctuary and able to hear the organ and sing the hymns we love. We still wear masks and do our social distancing, but we are together as a church. As we return to normal, unless there is another surge, I hope we will appreciate what we have and the blessings we receive. We will mourn those that are lost and grieve for what once was but good can come from bad. We have proven that in our lives. We have found new ways of doing things with Zoom for meetings and visits with Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. May we not take for granted the blessings we have received. Good can come from bad. Christ proved it on the cross.

Colossians 3:15-17 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lord, we thank you for this day and for our blessings. Please Lord be with those loved ones and friends suffering from this pandemic, may they find health restored. Be with those who are suffering other illnesses, grant them peace and wholeness. Be with those who are grieving, may they be comforted by your love and the memories they share. Be with our Pastor and bless his ministry. Be with his family, grant them good health. Be with our staff and leaders, bless their work and give them strength for the day. Be with our church; may we be strengthened in our resolve and open to where we are needed. Lord may we all have the strength and resolve to do what is needed in this Pandemic so that we can emerge stronger, more faithful, more trusting. In Jesus name we pray, 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

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.

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. We are also allowing groups to meet inside once again. Please call the office to either set up a Zoom meeting or to schedule an in-person meeting.

Sunday Worship Times:

In Person Worship

9am -Organ/Hymns in
Sanctuary

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!