

Weekly Messenger

April 30, 2021

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"Do You Remember The Lessons Your Heroes Taught You?"

Often I have wondered how my parents and grandparents would have faced the days we are living in. I wonder what wisdom they would bring to our situation. As I wonder, I begin to think of the wisdom my grandmother passed along about living through impacting national and world events, and how they affected how she lived the rest of her life.

I also think of the many spiritual mentors who have taught me so much through the years. I recall Rev. Dick Lobb who baptized me, and from whom I learned many things as a new Christian. I think of Rev. Paul Doherty, and how he encouraged me to take what seemed like the biggest leap of my life as I responded to my call to ordained ministry. I also think of my in-laws, (who praise God are still with us) and of how they have guided and encouraged me in the faith. I think of my many clergy colleagues and friends who have listened, encouraged, and prayed with me. I think of my wife who was instrumental in my coming to faith in Christ.

Not one of these ever encouraged me to place fear over faith. A good deal of common sense, an unwavering trust in the Lord, and a non-stop calling to reach out and share the love of God is what I've learned.

Today I encourage you to reflect on the lessons your heroes have taught you. I hope your reflecting brings you happy memories, and a renewed resolve to act as a person who places faith over fear.

5 I also remember the genuine faith of your mother Eunice. Your grandmother Lois had the same sort of faith, and I am sure that you have it as well. 6 So I ask you to make full use of the gift that God gave you when I placed my hands on you. Use it well. 7 God's Spirit doesn't make cowards out of us. The Spirit gives us power, love, and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:5-7 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

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



UMW News

The Utica United Methodist Women would like to invite all women of our church to attend our monthly [meeting on Wednesday, May 12 in Fellowship Hall.](#) [We will gather for lunch at noon.](#) Please bring your own lunch and drink.

At 1:00 pm James McQueen will speak to us about Lighthouse of Oakland County.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

A SPECIAL TIME

This last week I was able to go to Illinois to see my Daughter and her family and especially my Great Grandchildren. Because I have been Vaccinated and tested, I felt secure in their presence and I was able to hug my daughter and my granddaughters and the little great grandchildren. It has been almost a year since I have seen them, and their growth amazed me. Now they are a three-year-old, a two-year-old, and a 15-month-old. When I saw them last July, we were not able to hug, so well over a year without little arms around my neck, over a year without the hugs of my Granddaughters, over a year without the hugs of my daughter. Although I had seen my daughter, son-in-law, one granddaughter and one great grandson at Christmas on their brief visit here, there was no hugging then. That they remembered me was amazing. The littlest one, 15 months, kept staring at me at first probably because she had just seen that lady on the computer in a zoom call. It was a wonderful visit full of laughter and play time. We even went to the Zoo for a Dinosaur exhibit which was a hit with the 2-year-old. The three-year-old claps out songs with his hands or taps them with his fork at meals. He taught me Baby Beluga and clapped the rhythm for his rhythmless Great Grandmother. My visit to Illinois was a long dreamed for visit and the answer to prayer. God has blessed me with this wonderful family, and I am a grateful Great Grandmother. When my husband and I married, it was my dream to have a family. When I realized that dream, I wanted to see them grow up into wonderful adults, then cancer struck, and I wanted to see them settled with people to love them and that prayer came true. But then God gave me more than I asked for, grandchildren, and I fell in love. I have fallen in love all over again with great grandchildren and I praise God for the gift and pray that I will be worthy of such a gift. It was a wonderful visit, and I am so grateful that I was able to do it. Thanks be to God.

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

Lord, we thank you for the day, for our families, for the Spring that brings new life. We ask Lord that you be with those that are suffering illness and grief. Be with those who are jobless and homeless. Be with those who have served their country in wars and now are suffering the effects of that service. Bless them and help them. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and be with his family. Be with those Pastors who are being moved this year, may they find a new and welcoming home, a family to be nurtured and to be nurtured in return. Be with our staff and leaders, guide them and our church. May we be the hands and feet of Christ in this place and in this world. In Jesus most holy name we pray. Amen.

Grace Epperson



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

The information provided below is to help inform you of Covid Vaccine information. If you have not received a COVID vaccine there are many options below on where to make an appointment and even some locations that have walk-in available. If you have questions about getting the vaccine please reach out to your medical provider before making a decision.

Covid Vaccine News

Macomb County is currently making vaccination appointments for anyone age 16 and older who lives or works in Macomb County. The Pfizer vaccine is the only one approved for those 16 and 17 years old. There is a specific place in Clinton Township they are vaccinating the teenagers. For those with access to a computer - go to macombgov.org to schedule an appointment. There are multiple vaccination sites available to choose from.

Covid Vaccines

This week we have been fortunate in having some different places reach out to the church to let us know about Covid Vaccine availability. If you have not had the chance to get a vaccine and are interested the following places have the vaccine available to you.

COSTCO

The Moderna Vaccine is available at COSTCO. There is no appointment necessary. The vaccine is FREE! If you have insurance they ask that you bring your insurance card with you. The Vaccine is available Monday-Saturday from 11am-5pm.

MEIJER

COVID-19 vaccinations are available for walk-ins or appointments. They have limited availability of the vaccine at every store. Walk-ins can visit your local Meijer Pharmacy. If you have a phone that you can text with - you can make an appointment by texting the word "COVID" to 75049.

To Text, open your messages. Create a new message. (You might have to click a square image with a pencil in it or a circle with a pencil in it.) This should open a new message window. In the TO: type 75049. Where you type a message type "COVID" and then send.

CVS/Walgreens/Rite-Aid Pharmacies

Please check their websites or talk directly to the pharmacy to find locations that have the vaccine and to schedule an appointment.

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!