



# Weekly Messenger

April 9, 2021

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## "The Unseen"

The unseen ministry of a pastor is something that I think everyone hopes happens. All of the congregation would like to believe when they come to the pastor for counsel on a particularly sensitive matter; the pastor will hold in confidence what has been shared. I contend every parishioner deserves to have this kind of trust with the pastor.

What you may not have known is that during this unsettled time of the pandemic, there has been a marked increase in the number of people needing this kind of pastoral care. Understandably, lives have become unsettled, and when things get unsettled, people need to make sense of them and find a way to bring them into a better balance.

I'm not lifting this to you to elicit any thanks or praise. Instead, I share this to let you in on one of the ways our church has continued vital ministry in a time that could be thought of as downtime. I count it an honor to walk with folks through the valleys and the peaks of life and help them see where God can be found all along the way.

Your faithful support of the ministry of our church ensures the seen and the unseen ministries flourish. I write to express my heartfelt appreciation for your continued faithfulness in stewarding the blessings God has bestowed upon you.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

Utica United  
Methodist Church  
8650 Canal Road,  
Sterling Heights, MI  
(586) 731-7667  
[www.UticaUMC.org](http://www.UticaUMC.org)

# 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. There is a link to an online registration form on our website in the KidZone.

## Drug Take Back Day

# Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired  
medication for safe disposal  
Saturday, **April 24, 2021**

**Utica United Methodist Church**  
**8650 Canal Road, Sterling Heights, Mi**



## Harmony Circle

Harmony Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 1pm in the Parlor.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Looking Up

I recall the night skies of my youth and of my children's youth. The night skies were so beautiful without the distraction of the streetlights; we had none. When our children were 10 and 12, we moved out into the country and we could once again view the night skies without the distraction of the city lights. To see the meteor showers and the constellations was a gift. There is such beauty in a star and moonlit night. In years past, long ago, the ships and travelers steered their course by the stars. God has made the world so beautiful and with such purpose. We can find our North, or we can see the phases of the moon and know when Harvest time is, we can look up and see the position of the Sun and tell the time of day. We can watch the Sun rise and set and marvel at the beauty in both. When we were on vacation traveling in New England, we were in Maine and there was a spot in Acadia Park where if you stood you could be the first person in the United States to see the Sun rise. How can we look at our world and not be amazed at an awesome God? I do not know how people exist without faith. How can you look at the birth of a baby and not believe in God? When I was in Nurse's Training, we had to attend 20 births, somehow, I had snuck in almost 30. I was at 28 when they caught it. I had tears flowing at every newborn cry and cried for the one who did not make it. One of my biggest thrills was the night I was on call for the Operating Room and one of the surgeries was a Caesarian Section for the delivery of twins. A double miracle! I cried at the delivery of my 2 children, such miracles! I thank God for them and the Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren they have given me. May I never cease to be amazed at God's creation, from a newborn baby to the wonder of the sky. \* "Oh Lord my God when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee, how great thou art, how great thou art!"

Genesis 1:23 God saw all that was made, and it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning—the sixth day.

Lord, we thank you for the wonder and majesty of our world. We thank you for each day, for the sunrise and the sunset. We thank you for the people you put in our lives, for family, for friends and for those special angels we encounter. Thank you for our Pastor and his family. Bless his ministry and keep him safe. Thank you for our staff and leaders, bless them. Thank you, Lord, for your son Jesus, thank you for the atonement of our sins. May we be worthy of your blessings. Be with those who are suffering Lord, from illness and hunger and for those who grieve. May our church be the hands and feet of Christ in this building, in this city, in this country and in this world. We are grateful for this day and for the hope of tomorrow. Amen

Grace Epperson

\*How Great Thou Art by Carl Boberg



# 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](http://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](http://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.