

Weekly Messenger

May 14, 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

STARS/Drug
Take Back
Results

Devotional

Rochester
Area House

Alter Flowers

Back Page
Info

"You are witnesses of these things."

This week I was introduced to a distant relative. The connection happened because of a DNA test. The man hadn't realized he had an ancestor with the name of Gotham, and I had no idea I was related to someone with his last name.

The family connection is not close. His great-great-grandmother was a sister to my great-great-grandfather. Neither of us ever had the opportunity to meet the relatives that connect us. Still, we spent almost an hour on the phone gaining a clearer understanding of what each could share with the other when it came to our ancestors.

The hoot in the whole thing is that I was his grandparent's pastor for two years, and while he was a teenager, he had attended church and heard me preach. He had only come with his grandparents a couple of times (since his family regularly attended a different church).

The whole time I shared what I knew about my ancestors, I was wishing I knew more. Sadly, the people I could gain a more thorough understanding from have all passed away. I can trace back to my 12th great-grandfather, who was born in 1580, but learning the story of the lives and passions they held seems to be beyond my grasp.

All of this made me think of Jesus interacting with the disciples after He was resurrected and before He ascended to heaven. Our Lord spoke of how repentance and the forgiveness of sins were to be proclaimed to the nations. He went on to tell the disciples, "You are witnesses of these things." Luke 24:46.

As those who continue the ministry Jesus entrusted to the disciples, we have the calling to be witnesses to what our Lord taught. Through the gift of the Bible, we have a clear understanding of who Jesus is and the passion of his life. Let us take up the call of our Lord to be the witnesses and tell the world all about Jesus!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

Utica United
Methodist Church

8650 Canal Road,
Sterling Heights, MI

(586) 731-7667

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.

Register Now!

Drug Take Back Day Results April 2021

On April 24, 2021 UUMC collected 27.8 pounds of medications.

We wish to thank the UUMC parishioners, as well as the community for their support in collecting these medications. We also wish to thank the Sterling Heights Police Department for their continued assistance. The volunteers, Anna and Matthews George, were extremely helpful.

Thank you,
Janet Stone

Scout Flower Pick-up

If you purchased flowers from Boy Scout Troop 80, you may pick up your flowers on Monday, May 17th in the church Parking Lot at 7pm. Please contact Gary Taylor if you have any questions or if you need to make other pick up arrangements at 586-795-4630.



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Mothers

We all had a Mother. We all, whether we knew them or not, loved them instinctively. Some had Mothers who left them or were divorced and shared them. Mothers who passed at a young age while they were but children. Mothers who were distant or cruel or unloving. Mother's Day is not always a happy remembrance, but for most of us, it does bring happy memories. I always want to be aware that it is not a happy occasion for some. I loved my own Mother, but she was not perfect, but she did her best. She was a wonderful Grandmother and Great Grandmother. But she often said she had been a Mother her whole life and was tired when she had children. Her Mother had 11 children and my Mother was the oldest girl and quit school at the age of 10 to help at home and then had her own first child at 17. Her version of her childhood, and the version I heard from my Aunts, were completely foreign to each other. I was not a perfect Mother and consider myself lucky that my children turned out without any major problems; at least to me they seemed perfect. As I watched them as parents, and now 2 of my Grandchildren as parents, I realize that somewhere along the way I did something right. Motherhood is a challenge to some and seemingly effortless to others. When my children were little, I had a poem, a prayer, on the refrigerator:

"Oh give me patience when wee hands tug at me with their small demands, give me gentle and smiling ways, keep my lips from hasty replies, so in years to come, when my house is still, no bitter memories its rooms may fill."

Some days I read that poem many times. The proof in that is that I still remember it and my oldest will be 60 this year. I hope most of all that my children knew how much I loved and adored them, and that their childhood was filled with a loving, full of pride, mother who still can feel the hugs from long ago. Psalm 139:13-14 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Lord, we praise your name for you loved us before we were born, before we were formed you loved us and had a plan for us. Thanks be to God. We thank you for our days and for the love we have found in our lives. We ask that you be with those who suffer illness, those who suffer loss. Comfort and heal them. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and watch over his family. Be with our staff and leaders, give them strength for the day and vision for tomorrow. Be with our church, may we be the hands and feet of Christ. May we know peace and love in our lives and may we give it to others. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Grace Epperson



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Altar Flowers are available again for the 9:00am Worship Service

If you would like to reserve a vase of flowers, just contact the office by phone, in person, or via email to charlotte@uticaumc.org with your requested date and if they are in honor or memory of a person or event (birthday, anniversary, etc.). The cost is still \$20 per vase.

You may put the money in with your offering or drop the funds off to the office. Your information will appear in the Bulletin which will make its return appearance on May 9th.

ROCHESTER AREA NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Rochester Area Neighborhood House Inc., a nonprofit human service organization, founded by communities of faith in 1968, assists our neighbors during times of hardship. We partner with the community and other social service providers to help those neighbors toward self-sufficiency. Sudden job loss, divorce, death of a spouse. Life circumstances can change everything for anyone. RANH recognizes the basic need of residents in crisis and responds with emotional and financial assistance. Founded in faith, RANH believes people helping people in the model of a strong community.

OUR MISSION:

Neighborhood House walks the path toward self-sustainability with our neighbors during times of hardship.

OUR VISION:

Neighborhood House envisions a community of neighbors helping neighbors thrive.

OUR IMPACT:

Neighborhood House serves over 3,000 households per year. In the communities we serve, 25% of families are living paycheck to paycheck or worse. We are the only one-stop-shop human services agency in our area. In 2020, our services included distributing 224,348 meals, providing over 1,000 children assistance with our seasonal programs (Holiday, School Supplies), 13,374 clothing items distributed at our Clothes Closet, and 876 sustainability services provided. We rely on our neighbors, both individuals and organizations, to help make these numbers possible.

In continuing our efforts to fulfill our support in our ministries, the Together-In-Mission (TIM) group would like to ask for your assistance in helping support Rochester Area Neighborhood House with their growing needs. Their current wish list includes the following. The most critical of these items are the bed pillows and women's underwear.

New items: standard size bed pillows, women's underwear, men's underwear, kitchen towels, kitchen utensils, pull-ups

New or gently used items: adult pajamas, casual plus size clothing, adult active wear

There will be two collection dates on May 16th and 23rd. Please place your donated items in the bin under the coat rack in the front or back of the church entrance.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT,
Together In Missions

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

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!