

Weekly Messenger

May 7, 2021

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

"Thanks, Moms!"

In my life, I have been blessed to have three moms – my mom who raised me until she was taken by cancer, my stepmother who picked up the baton of motherhood for my brothers and me, and my mother-in-law. All three of these women blessed my life richly. With my mother-in-law being the only one left, I am excited that she will be coming to celebrate Mother's Day weekend with us.

My mother was devoted to us. She taught us songs to sing and helped us with homework. From her, we learned how to laugh and be silly. She loved us deeply. In those days, things were approached differently with a cancer diagnosis. Hospitalizations lasted longer, and that was hard on her and us. When she got sick and after she died, I learned how the love she had invested in her family and friends came back to us tenfold.

My stepmother taught me so many of the life skills I needed to know. She was an amazingly talented artist, and the items she created and gave us are some of the most treasured things we own. Through her love, I learned the importance of perseverance, creativity, and patience.

My mother-in-law is lovingly referred to in our family as St. Mary. She is a woman whose devotion to God has nourished my own journey in the faith. Her childhood challenges left her with lifelong learnings that impacted how she approached raising her own family. There is no one I could more want in my corner than her.

As you come to Sunday, I hope you take some time to reflect on the gift your mother has been to you. And, if you like me are blessed to have been "mothered" by more than one amazing woman, I hope you will take stock of those additional blessings, too!

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.

Register Now!

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

Adversity

A friend and I were talking one day, and we began to talk about how the bad things that had happened in our lives had served to strengthen us and give us growth in our faith. When bad things happen, it can be hard for some to continue to believe in a God that would cause such things to happen. After all, we are taught as young children that if you are good, God will be good to you. My Mother, bless her, would tell me if I tripped or stubbed my toe or was hurt in any way that God looked down and punished me. That I must have transgressed in some way. When I had cancer, someone asked me if I still believed in God. I thought it a strange question and thought about it for a minute and said that my belief had only strengthened. I did not believe that God looked down and “gave” me cancer, but that God was there to help me through it, no matter the outcome. He did not plant cancer cells in my body, I could not believe in that vengeful God, but he wept for my trials and helped me through them. No matter the outcome, he walked this walk with me. He used this trial to draw me closer to him. He strengthened me and gave me a secret gift; he gave me hope and courage. He taught me in that time to be grateful for the good days and to endure the bad days. He taught me to hug those I love today and to forgive the small stuff and, in the end, it is all small stuff. My friend spoke about the things he is grateful for, his child, and his parents and God’s love and mercies. He appreciates each day and though he has trials his attitude is amazing, and he seeks God’s help in meeting those trials and feels blessed. Thanks be to God in all things.

Isaiah 30:20-21 Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it.”

Lord, we thank you for this day. Lord, we have all known the pain of adversity in this last year. Be with us, we pray, strengthen us, and guide us. Help us Lord to return to “normal” but to not forget the lessons learned. The pain of loneliness, the pain of loss, the pain of helplessness as we watched loved ones become ill. May we treasure each day and find the hope and peace that can only come from you. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, be with his family, keep them safe and well. Be with our leaders and our staff, bless them, and bless all they do for our church, strengthen them. Thank you, Lord, for your blessings and the gift of each day. In Jesus name, 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!