



# Weekly Messenger

June 11, 2021

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## "Our Spiritual Rest Stop"

As I watched the news coverage telling how many of us Americans are getting on the road or taking to the skies these days, I began to think of some of the challenges I've encountered in taking a road trip lately. Where can one stop when they need a restroom? If you are like me, you tend to stop at a typical fast-food restaurant. But finding a restaurant that allows us into their building is a challenge these days. If traveling on the expressways, we might better plan to use the rest stops.

While the fast-food restaurant can be more convenient (especially if you are a bit peckish), rest stops usually provide a beautiful garden and a better area to stretch our legs. When traveling with youth to and from the ICHTHUS music festival in Kentucky, I've had meals cooked on a grill at those rest stops, held worship, and even served holy communion.

Life seems to be rapidly returning to the fast pace we were accustomed to before the pandemic forced us to slow down. With this rapid pace, we need a spiritual rest stop. I believe worshipping with our fellow Christ-followers is just the right place to get the renewal we need. Think of it: when we come to worship, we let the stress of the day dissipate; we drink in the garden of the music played and the musical garden of the voices around us, and we hear God's word proclaimed. Truly worship is our spiritual rest stop.

This summer, I pray you to find your way to the spiritual rest stop your soul needs. Come, be refreshed, allow your heart to soar, and the restrooms here are much cleaner than any fast food joint!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

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# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## STARS/XCEL

We still have openings for children interested in being a part of the STARS program this year. If you know any children please pass along info about the summer program or have them call the church office to get more information. Registration forms available in the office or online in the Kidzone on the website.

STARS needs your support. Please consider the STARS program when you give to the church. Any extra that you can give to STARS will be helpful. Donate online by selecting STARS/XCEL or write STARS on the giving line of your envelope.

Snack donations are also welcome. We ask that all snacks be shelf stable, individually packaged and peanut free. You can bring in donations starting this week to either the office during normal office hours or look for a rolling cart or tub on Sunday mornings near the coat racks at the entrances.

8oz. water bottles

Juice boxes - apple or fruit punch

Kool-aid or Capri Sun pouches

Cheez-Its

Crackers

Cookies

Chips

Goldfish

Pretzels

Fruit Snacks

Applesauce or Fruit Cups

## Red Cross Blood Drive

The next blood drive at UUMC will be on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00 - 5:45. To make an appointment you can either contact the Red Cross (1-800-733-2767 or website [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)) or call Al Manning at 586-463-0298.

**Volunteer(s) are needed.** If you can't donate blood but would like to help, contact Al Manning. You can volunteer for any amount of time, you don't have to stay for the entire blood drive. Help is needed in the canteen area. You would pass out beverages and goodies to those after they have donated. Let AL know when you want to volunteer and he will put together a schedule.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## UMW Collection for Abigayle Ministries

The United Methodist Women will be collecting diapers in size 6 and baby wipes beginning in June and continuing until September 5th to benefit Abigayle Ministries. Look for the UMW bin in the narthex. Donations can be brought on Sunday mornings or during normal church business hours.

## Congratulations to our Graduates



## Thank you

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the beautiful cards, phone calls and of course – the mountains of prayers through that whole ordeal. I love you all!

Debbie Pelton

## Let's "Shower" our newest baby!

We are collecting diapers size 2 and up as well as baby wipes to shower Hailey Vago and her son Cartier Dior Vago. We will be collecting on June 20th and June 27th. See the crib near the sanctuary to drop off the diapers and wipes.

## Michigan Annual Conference – Ministerial Appointments

If you are interested in seeing the ministerial appointments from the 2021 Michigan Annual Conference, there are some print outs available on the buffet in the Narthex (the table where we used to keep the tea bags).

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Years ago, when I was in Nurse's Training, every three months a group of Student Nurses were sent to Northville to become familiar with and able to work with patients undergoing Psychiatric Treatment. It was a far different time than now and there were many that were placed there by family with a Judge's orders or by criminal court orders. It was an interesting and challenging experience. One patient that I have always remembered was placed there by her family with a diagnosis of Paranoid Schizophrenia. She felt her need to be there was a huge mistake and would talk about it all the time. They had told her she was going to Harper Hospital, which she liked, and instead placed her in an institution. She needed help to be sure, but she felt that a huge mistake had been made and would talk about it all the time. She was Jewish and wore a tattoo of a number on her arm. She had previously been taken to a destination, not of her choosing and had managed to survive horrors that she kept locked inside. I cannot imagine her fear in that horrible Concentration Camp. She was placed there, not because she had done anything wrong, but simply because of who she was. We are living in tumultuous times in our country when people are attacked, not because they have done wrong, but merely because they exist. The woman at Northville had been placed in a Concentration Camp, not because she had done anything wrong but because she was Jewish and because she existed. She had reason to be paranoid.

Luke 10:25-37 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus, "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" Jesus replied, "How do you read it?" He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself." "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied, "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply, Jesus said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan as he traveled, came where the man was, and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an Inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the Innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any expense you may have." "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the Law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Lord, be with us this day, help us to see others as your children. Help us to accept and love in your name those that may not dress as we do, may not look as we do, may not agree with us on the issues of the day, the poor, the sick, the demon filled. Help us to be your example of love, the same love that Jesus taught us, to accept, forgive and love in his name. Be with our Church, help us to be the Church you want us to be. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve and those that seek you, may they find your peace and strength. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, watch over his family. Be with our Staff and Leaders, give them strength and clarity of purpose. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Ministry Team:

Senior Pastor  
**Reverend Don Gotham**  
srpastor@uticaumc.org

## 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](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. 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.

### 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!