



Weekly Messenger

June 18, 2021

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"Meet our Stars Interns"

Our Stars/Xcel program is up and running! We have started our six weeks with 21 campers. The camp is virtual this year coming out of Covid. Each week the campers receive a bag of lessons, crafts and snacks. We provide them with all the supplies to create their crafts including sending them crayons, markers, glue sticks, etc. Thank you for your monetary donations and your food and drink donations. It is not too late to sign someone up for camp and you can still bring in items that they can use for snacks. Please make sure everything for snacks is prepackaged and ready to go.

Jennifer Palazzolo is back as our Camp Director. She has been working to keep in contact with our campers as well as trying to plan virtual and in-person field trips for our campers.

Natalie Crossen is a third year Mission Intern here with us again. She is a senior at Grand Valley State University and plays in the marching band.

Sam Irish is also a third year returning Mission Intern to our program. He is attending the University of Michigan-Flint and should be graduating this winter.

New this year is Casey Kendall. Casey just graduated from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. After her time with us a Mission Intern she will be living in Northern Virginia to complete her certification to be a Child Life Specialist.



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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Red Cross Blood Drive

The next blood drive at UUMC will be on Tuesday, June 22nd 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) 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.

Together In Missions - Thank You

THANK YOU UUMC!!

Together-In-Missions would like to say THANK YOU for all the donations to the Rochester Area Neighborhood House.

We were able to collect a lot of items that was on their wish list along with a \$100 donation that will absolutely make an impact on their inventory needs.

The manager at RANH was so appreciative and grateful for the donation. UUMC is always so generous and we appreciate all that you do.

*God Bless,
T.I.M.*



Stephen Ministry Conference

Stephen Ministry Network of SE MI is holding its annual fall conference on Saturday, November 6, 2021. The topic is Forgiveness and Dr. Ronald Ramsey is the keynote speaker. You will be able to attend in-person at Stoney Church or virtually. Flyers are available at the church with more information about this conference. Please contact Sheila Manning with any questions.

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.

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.

Water for Life - Liberia

Together-In-Missions is seeking your help to donate towards a mission that UUMC has helped in the past – Water for Life-Liberia

Please look out for the water bottle stations set up at both services on June 27 and July 4 and join us in helping others to seek clean water. You can also send a monetary donation with your offering. Just mark Water for Life - Liberia on the other line. With your help and prayers, please take a bottle of water and leave a donation so that community members, especially women and children, will not have to walk long distances to fetch for water.

The Water for Life project is a grassroots initiative and seeks to address the water and sanitation needs of the affected communities through the following means: Seek resources (funding) for the construction of 40 wells and 30 toilet facilities within communities and schools . Those communities include: Bong, Maryland, Grand Bassa, and Gbapolu Counties. 2. Set up community structures and leadership that will supervise and coordinate the wells and toilets. 3. Strengthen existing community structures and leadership for the supervision and proper management of the facilities. 4. Mobilize, train, and educate the various communities on water and sanitation and other developmental initiatives. 5. Promote the rights to access clean and safe drinking water, good sanitation facilities, health, and development at the grass-roots level in post-war Liberia.

Together-in-Missions thanks you for your help!



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

LIFE'S BLESSINGS

We find such joy in the blessings of life. The birth of a child is among life's biggest blessings. A friend and I upon seeing a small child hugging its mother, were talking about the wonderful, trusting hugs we had received from our own children. The way those little arms fit around your neck and held on to you. Unfortunately, the time passes so swiftly and before you know it, those hugs are gone and are replaced with other hugs, just as welcomed, and comforting but not the baby hugs you treasured. But if we are lucky, we receive those hugs once again from Grandchildren and if we are super blessed, Great Grandchildren. We were having this discussion at Comerica Park while watching the Tigers win a ball game, sitting in the sunshine, eating a Hot Dog, with an iced cold lemonade, cheering for our Baseball Team, relaxing, and just enjoying being there in the company of each other, another one of life's blessings. I attended my first Tiger Baseball game 79 years ago, on my 7th birthday and Baseball has always held a special place in my heart. The Safety Patrol Boys were going, and my brother was going. It was at Briggs Stadium. My Mother was an escort and took me too since it was my Birthday. To go on my 7th Birthday was a thrill, but to go to celebrate my 86th birthday is a blessing. We could not go to baseball games last year, so we had not gone since September 2019. And I confess that during last Summer, with the isolation in a Pandemic, I feared that I might never know this joy again. The Pandemic has given us an appreciation for those things we took for granted before. The family gatherings, the weddings, the graduation ceremonies, the proms, the parties, the baseball games. Sitting at that Baseball game with a friend, feeling the warm sun on my face, the cooling breeze that gently blew, singing the National Anthem, the crowd, although a little sparse, just over 9,000, yelling and cheering, the sound of the bat hitting the ball, the moan as a fly ball is caught by the other team, the laughter and joy at just being there and sharing something we both love was a special blessing to treasure.

This was God's promise to us:

Ezekiel 34:26,31 I will bless them and the places surrounding my hill. I will send down flowers in season; there will be showers of blessings. You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture are people, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign Lord.

Lord, thank you for the blessing of this day. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve, may they be comforted by your love. Be with those who seek you, may they find their way. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, grant him safety and your protection. Be with his family, bless his Son-in-law and family as they begin a new chapter in a new church. Be with our church help us to be the hands and feet of Christ here in this place. Be with our Staff and Leaders, lead and guide them. We thank you Lord for the easing of the pandemic, may we remain vigilant. Lord may we be faithful servants and may we do your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

Grace Epperson



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Ministry Team:

Senior Pastor
Reverend Don Gotham
srpastor@uticaumc.org

Contemporary Worship Leader

Mer Renne
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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

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 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

If you need assistance, feel
free to call the office!

