



Utica United  
Methodist Church

# Weekly Messenger

June 25, 2021

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## "I'm planning on visiting my mom and my grandma..."

No friends, I haven't lost my marbles. I haven't lost track of the fact that these women who nurtured me well in my life have passed into their eternal rest. I am planning to buy some strawberries to make freezer jam, and each time I make the jam, I fondly remember making the jam with these ladies.

I get to recall the fun we had picking the berries, cleaning them, and so on. Making the jam will also bring memories to mind of the multiple jars of the tasty treats we used to spread on toast or pancakes, or even on a scoop of vanilla ice cream (which was my dad's favorite way to use the jam).

I write to tell you about this because of an essential facet of our faith. Did you know the Judeo-Christian faith was the first to keep track of history? Pagan religions believed many things, but most of them believed that things circle around and happen again. Holding the pagan view of how life happens negates any importance of history because the belief is it will all happen again.

Think about it: Moses and the burning bush, or Daniel in the Lion's Den, or even the birth of Jesus - were it not for the tracking of history as necessary to our faith, we would have lost our chance to learn lessons or be inspired by these critical events.

I pray you to find opportunities to visit those who guided and inspired you to be the person you are. I also pray you to reflect on the lessons they taught, especially the lessons on faith. I know I am looking forward to my visit and reflections.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

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# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Stephen Ministry Conference

Stephen Ministry Network of SE MI is holding it's 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.

## Pulled Pork Fundraiser!

On Sunday, July 18th we will be having a pulled pork fundraiser to support our STARS Interns. This is a free will donation fundraiser. Pulled pork sandwiches will be available to take home after both services.

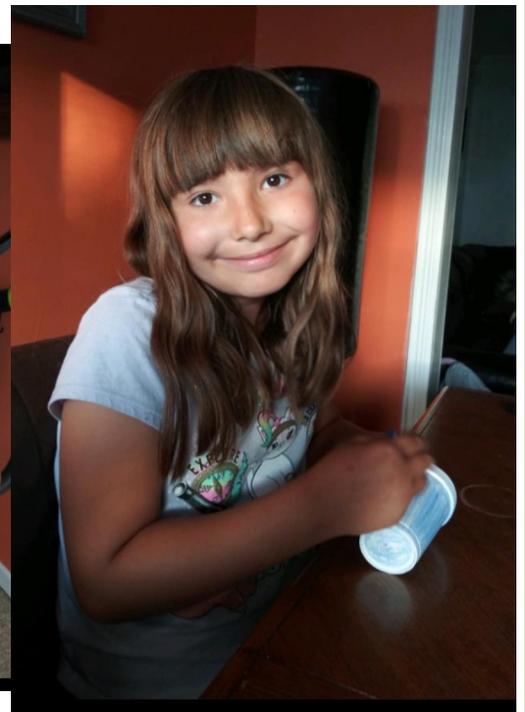
## STARS Needs

We are entering the third week of our STARS program. We are still in need of drinks and snacks to send home to the students. If you are able to bring in juice boxes or mini water bottles that would be appreciated. We can also use more prepackaged snack items.

## A Look at Week 1 of STARS

Ari and family doing crafts

Savanah working on crafts



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## 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. This is our last Sunday to collect for Hailey. See the crib near the sanctuary to drop off the diapers and wipes. Thank you to everyone who has donated thus far.

## ***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!**

## Celebrate Recovery

Do you have any Hurts, Hang Ups or Habits? Are there things that are holding you down? Celebrate Recovery can be a place for you. Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to learn how to cope with hurts, habits and hang ups in your life. Meetings are on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and see what this ministry is all about.



Courtesy of Water for Life

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Appreciation for Teachers

Will we return to normal, or will there be a new normal? Will parents appreciate their children's teachers more? I worked as a Parent Aide in my children's Elementary School and helped with the children that needed more attention. Attention the teacher with 25 to 30 students had no time to give. There was a little girl from France in first or second grade who could not grasp the meaning of numbers. She could not add 2 plus 2 or any other numbers. She was becoming frustrated as we went over and over the pages. Finally, I told her I would tell her a secret. I had a terrible time with math. When I complained at home, I was told that girls could not do math. I did not, thank heavens accept this. I discovered on my own, that 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 all had points and then would add the points in the number to the other number. Now I was not using my fingers and as far as anyone could tell I was merely looking at the numbers. I showed this to this little girl, and it was like a light turned on. She grasped the meaning of the numbers. I knew that the larger numbers would be easier for her if she had the confidence to do the smaller numbers. At least it worked for me. She ran over to the teacher and excitedly told her she could add. When the teacher asked her how she had learned, she would not tell her except, "It's a secret." The teacher came to me and said, "What did you do?" I said, "You won't like it." She said, "Look at her, whatever it was, it worked." The girl was running around the room adding up everything in sight. So, I told the teacher my long-held secret. Working as a Parent Aide put me in the unique position of seeing teachers up close. I saw their failures and their successes, their faults, and their merits. Some were gifted and some were okay. But all wanted their students to have success. We entrust our children to teachers on a daily basis unless we home school, this was not available when my children were little. Although, there was much they learned at home; the joy of reading, math used in cooking (no better way to learn fractions), language skills (although some had to be unlearned if watching Dad work on the car), and basic manners. Most of all they learned Faith through prayers, Bible reading, and church attendance. My children learned patriotism when taken to the Polling Place for voting, parades as Mom and Dad showed respect for the Flag, for Veterans and we all wore MIA bracelets, and the way we loved this country and respected our leaders even when we disagreed. Learning does not all happen in school or in church, a lot of it is learned in the home.

Proverbs 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it.

Lord, we have come to the end of a difficult school year, bless those who have worked so hard to bring learning to their students. May our new normal be a deeper appreciation for those we entrust with our children and their learning. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. Be with those who seek you and if they are led to our church may they be accepted and led in your paths. Bless our Pastor and his ministry, watch over him and his family. Be with our Staff and Leaders, guide them and protect them. Be with our church, may we be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. In the name of Jesus, 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

## 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 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!

