

# Weekly Messenger

July 16, 2021

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## "Put it on Your Calendar"

Hi Friends,

I want to be sure and give you a heads-up regarding a special celebration on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> after each service. I'm not going to spill the beans as to what we will be celebrating, but I want to be sure you will plan to be in worship that morning to help us celebrate. We are planning to have some ice-cream novelties to help us celebrate, too. I'm looking forward to celebrating along with you, so save the date!

The upcoming celebration isn't the only thing to look forward to in August. We are itching to put a little spunk into our gatherings, so we are introducing some themes for all of us to participate in for the Sundays of August.

August 1<sup>st</sup> will be Hat Day. Have you a hat you haven't had a place to wear for a while. Well, here's your chance. Guys, let's not be outshined by the ladies. Let's all plan to find the right Chapeau and wear it proudly!

August 8<sup>th</sup> will be Hawaiian Day. Do you have a shirt folks tell you isn't appropriate for Sunday morning because it is such a loud floral print? Do you have a dress that has an explosion of Hibiscus flowers that you rarely wear for fear of being the only one in the room with such exquisite taste? Well, fear not. I'm looking forward to the group photo for this Sunday!

August 15<sup>th</sup> will be Michigan Sports team day. You can wear your Tigers, Lion, Pistons, Red Wings, U of M, MSU, etc. Sorry to those who haven't seen their way to rooting for teams from the Great Lakes State, but wearing something from Ohio will surely elicit frowns.

August 22<sup>nd</sup> will be Western Theme Day. Pick out your ten-gallon hat, plaid shirt with the pearl buttons, bolo tie, blue jeans, and cowboy boots to celebrate the day. You may have to watch an old John Wayne movie to get some inspiration ahead of time.

August 29<sup>th</sup> will be Stars & Stripes Day. You can approach this one from the patriotic slant or choose to come dressed in outfits that have stars or stripes. If done right, you might attract more attention than you did on Hawaiian Day.

Amid all this fun, we will joyfully worship our God, hear the word of God read and expounded upon, and draw closer to Jesus. I'm looking forward to it!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Memorial Garden Update

Thank you to everyone that brought in Pop Cans last year for our garden project. We had enough money that we had someone design the garden look with plant suggestions, bought the plant material and had them install the plants for us. Special thanks to Roger Ramsey and Todd Sample for helping to prep the garden and finish the garden after the plantings. Thanks to Ray Wiegand's Nursery for the materials and planting them. Make sure you go out the back doors by the memorial garden and take a walk along the side of the building.



## August Theme Days



- August 1st (HAT Day)
- August 8th (Hawaiian Theme)
- August 15th (MI Sports Team Day)
- August 22nd (Western Theme)
- August 29th (Stars and/or Stripes Day)

Starting in August we are encouraging you to join the fun of special dress days. The above Sundays show the suggested theme for each week. If you have something to wear for each theme please wear it to church that day.

I encourage you to take photos during these Sundays and submit them to [rachelle@uticaumc.org](mailto:rachelle@uticaumc.org) to be included in the messenger for the following week to share the fun with everyone.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## STARS Pictures



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## What's Your Story?

How did you come to your faith? Everyone has a story. For some it just was, they attended Church, faith was strong in their home. For some who were exposed to the church all their young lives, it was just expected and there was no one moment. For others there was that time, that moment, that experience that solidified their faith. For me it was not a moment but moments that led me to that firm belief in God and caused my faith to grow. I was 15 and there was an offer of jobs for youth at Christmas. The Federal Department Store in Ferndale had asked the school for workers. I, being 15, required Working Papers. I needed my Birth Certificate to apply. When my mother found my Birth Certificate there was another form there. I had been baptized as an infant in the Methodist Church in Royal Oak. There was a place I belonged. I had for a few years, since the death of my brother been wondering about this vengeful God that had taken him and left me very much alone. I was curious and wanted to know more. In a few months I sought out the Methodist Church about a mile from my house. I walked in and must have looked alone and confused or perhaps I was just a stranger, and they were all about taking in strangers. I was greeted warmly like they were expecting me. I sat down in a pew, the back row just in case I was frightened off. I looked around and when the music started, I did not know what to do; people stood up and started singing. An older woman came over and sat next to me. She pointed out the numbers on a board hanging at the front of the church and showed me the hymnal and how to find the hymns posted on that board. She helped me find my way through the service. She stayed by my side and guided me through my first ever church service. I had found my place but now I needed to find my God. Little did I know he had found me. There were more experiences until I had that one moment when I knew that Christ died on that cross for all of us including me. But that church taking in a strange teenager 71 years ago was the beginning of a journey that continues today.

Paul told the story of his conversion and his journey. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 For when I came to you brothers. I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

Lord, be with us this day. Be with those who are ill and suffering, those who are grieving, those who are hungry and those with no shelter. Give us wisdom and resources to help those who are in need. May we be the hands and feet of Christ. Be with our Pastor, bless him and bless his ministry. Be with his family, grant them your guidance and protection. Be with our Staff and Leaders, give them wisdom, strength, and purpose. Be with those who have suffered loss in the Condo collapse in Florida, may they feel strength and courage as you envelope them in your love. Be with our church as we seek to find our way back to normal, guide us and strengthen us. Be with those who are absent from us, may they feel empowered and strengthened as they find their way back to our services. We thank you Lord for our stories that have led us closer to you. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Grace Epperson



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Celebrate Recovery

At Celebrate Recovery we learn to deal with our hurts, habits and hang-ups. So just what are these hurts, habits and hang-ups we talk about at Celebrate Recovery?

**A hurt, habit, or hang-up is anything that hinders your walk with God.**

**HURT:** The feeling of being hurt is an emotional reaction to another person's behavior or to a disturbing situation.

(Abuse, abandonment, codependency, relationship issues, etc.)

**HABIT:** A habit is an addiction to someone or something.

(Alcoholism, drugs, food, gambling, sex, shopping, smoking, etc.)

**HANG-UP:** Hang-ups are negative mental attitudes that are used to cope with people or adversity.  
(Anger, depression, fear, unforgiveness, etc.)

Reduced down to a single word....sin. We're told in 1 John 1:8 *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*

Join us on Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM. The program begins with a time of praise and worship, followed by the Celebrate Recovery Lesson for the week or a moving testimony; after which the group breaks off into gender specific Small Group Open Share groups.

Those who know me are aware of my Tidbits of Wisdom List. This is #212. "The first step to knowing God's plan for our lives is the commitment to see ourselves as we really are." And #209 says "If you are not a success by God's standards, you have not achieved true success."

## Celebrate Recovery - The Road to Recovery - A Journey of Discovery



# 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!

