



# Weekly Messenger

August 20, 2021

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## "Our Glorious Adventure"

In one of his great children's fantasies, Scottish writer George MacDonald told about a girl who grew up in a messy home, where everyone was always angry and mean and selfish. Her clothes were never cleaned. Her hair never got brushed, so they called her Tangle. One day Tangle was sent away from home. And she was left alone and hungry in the great forest. She would have died if a kind bird hadn't led her to a house in the middle of the forest. There she met a kind woman. And the kind woman took her in. She gave Tangle a delicious meal, washed her clothes, and gave the girl a place to sleep. When Tangle woke up the following day, she sent the girl on a grand journey with many new experiences. Till she finally came to a palace so beautiful that she stayed there forever.

In truth, the story is not just about a little girl at all. MacDonald was writing about you and me and the community around us. He was writing about how the world can be quite ugly and make us feel dirty and alone and helpless. But there's a kind lady in this world. She's the Church! The Church of Jesus Christ! And the church bathes us in the waters of baptism. And the church feeds us with the Word of God and sacrament. And the church clothes us in the uniform we need to wear to share the love, grace, mercy, and faith with others. Because we came to the church, we find ourselves embarking on many adventures. Then, one day we find ourselves led into the very palace of God! It's a wonderful story! And it's happening to you and me right now! But here's the thing: We can't forget how the church brought us in when we were dirty, frightened, and weary. Our calling is to find all of the "Tangle's" we can and help them find their wonderful story and end up at the palace one day.

Our church has a mission. We exist to invite people to rely on Jesus to find unexpected purpose, peace, and joy. If we embrace it wholeheartedly, this mission will help us to encounter many, many "Tangle's." As one who the church helped to clean up, I am excited about the future we have before us. It will be a glorious adventure!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Don

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# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## August Theme Days

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.



More Pictures from Hat Day! Look at these fun hats everyone wore.

## United Methodist Women

Our September UMW meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15 in Fellowship Hall at 12:00.

*(Note this is not the normal meeting week.)*

We will begin with a potluck luncheon at noon. Remember to bring your own table service and a dish to share.

At 1:00pm Susan Meyer from Abigayle Ministries will speak about the new things going on in their Ministry.

All women of the church are welcome to attend.

# **THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

## **Book Sale!**

Last Shopping Day Sunday, August 22nd. We are now offering fill a bag for \$1.00 or any donation is accepted. Bags are located on the cart with the money box next to the book table. Pick you favorite books or those you might want to read!

## **UMW Collection**

The United Methodist Women are collecting diapers size 6 and baby wipes now through September 5th for Abigayle Ministries. There is a collection tub in the Narthex with UMW sign on it. Please place diapers and wipes in the tub. This is a wonderful ministry to support.

## **Christmas Tea Planning Meeting**

The Christmas Tea is returning this year and is scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in helping out in any way, or just want to learn more about the Tea, please come to a planning meeting on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am in the Parlor (outside the Sanctuary). If you have any questions ahead of time, please contact Gail Blazinski.

## **Red Cross Blood Drive**

Save the date – Utica United Methodist Church will be hosting the American Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. You can schedule a time with the Red Cross either online or call 1-800-733-2767 or 1-800-Red-Cross. More information to come next week.

## **Service Time is Changing!**

Starting on September 5, 2021 we will be changing the time of our 9am service. It has been decided that we will have a 9:30am service in the Sanctuary and 10:30 service in the Fellowship Hall. Please make sure to mark your calendars!

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Oil Change Ministry

The Free Oil Change Ministry is scheduled to be held at our church on **Saturday September 25, 2021 from 9 am to 3:30 pm**. The Free Oil Change Ministry provides oil change and fluid top offs for single parent, low-income homes. The Free Oil Change Ministry 2021 is supported by our church, as well as Trinity Lutheran and King of Kings Lutheran Churches.

With the complications that Covid 19 provided us, we were unsure if we would be able to provide it to the community this year on an in-person basis. Last year, Sterling Quick Lube at Van Dyke and 17 Mile Road provided an oil change, fluid top off and tire inflation check to 46 of our guests. We printed out vouchers to 61 people that called in requesting this assistance.

After discussing the many challenges, it was determined that rather than abandon this ministry when there is such a need, we would not be outsourcing the work this year. We decided that we would like to personally assist our guests. This allows us to make our guests aware of additional offerings which our church provides (i.e. Kids Club, Bible Studies, and Food Pantry), as well as invite them to visit our church on Sundays.

**There are many volunteer opportunities available in the following areas:** Set-Up, Take Down, Reception, Refreshments, Guest Fellowship, Supplies Purchase, Safety Check, Supplies Distribution. **Sign ups will be made available after church beginning on Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.**

If you feel moved to make a monetary donation for the upcoming year, please note on your check the Oil Change Ministry, or if you want to donate cash see Ron Borgacz or Bob Baldwin and we will make sure it gets deposited.

Thank you for supporting this much needed ministry during this uncertain time. We are very grateful for the continued support of our congregation.





# 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!

