



Weekly Messenger

August 6, 2021

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"It's Time to Celebrate"

On Sunday, August 15, at both church services, we will CELEBRATE all the things YOU made possible through your gifts to the Brighter Future Building Fund. During services we will PRAISE GOD for providing for our needs. After each service ice cream novelties will be served in APPRECIATION OF YOU!

You may recall in 2017 and 2018 it seemed like we were playing Whac-A-Mole (and losing) with one thing after another needing urgent repair. The church roof was leaking badly, the HVAC system needed repairs, the kitchen hot water tank broke, the parking lot needed resealing, the parsonages needed repairs, and the boiler was aging!

Instead of waiting for the next unexpected thing to “pop-up” and raising money to pay for the repair (or taking out a loan), Trustees, Finance, and Leadership Board joined together and invited ALL OF YOU to step-up and raise money to tackle repairs and updates proactively. AND, STEP-UP YOU DID!

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, we raised over \$240,000 in the last 3 years for the Brighter Future Building Fund. These contributions were in addition to your regular giving to the Operating Fund and ministries. We were also blessed to receive \$170,000 from the sale of the Canal Parsonage, \$40,000 from an estate gift, and over \$20,000 in Consumers Energy and DTE Incentive Rebates (for the HVAC project). Combined, these funding sources provided over \$470,000 for us to use to make repairs and updates to the church and parsonage.

The joint Brighter Future Building Fund Group acted wisely as stewards of these resources. They identified 3 priorities to focus on:

1. a dependable church roof
2. reliable heating and cooling
3. overdue repairs and updates to the parsonage.

The projects completed in this 3 year period included:

- ★ Resealing the church flat roof (with a product that has a 25 year warranty) (\$52,000)
- ★ Resealing the parking lot (\$11,000 in 2018). Note: This needs to be done every few years. We plan to reseal the parking lot again later this year (\$15,500 allocated).
- ★ Repaying the remaining balance on the Conference loan from the previous roofing and parking lot repairs done in 2013 (\$14,000)
- ★ Updating lighting and technology which also improved energy efficiency (\$9,000)
- ★ Repairing and updating the Clinton River Parsonage (\$61,000)
- ★ Updating the church heating and air conditioning to eliminate dependence on the aging boiler.

Areas updated included the Sanctuary, Library/Prayer Room, classrooms on the west side of the building, storage rooms, and kitchen. This update also included an automated building control system which allows different temperatures and times to be set for individual rooms/areas depending on when they are being used. This allows us to heat and cool the building cost-effectively. (\$278,000).

It is for all these reasons (and more) that on August 15, we will PRAISE GOD and GIVE THANKS FOR ALL OF YOU!

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

August Theme Days



- 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 to be included in the messenger for the following week to share the fun with everyone.



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Book Sale!

The book sale is back once again, set up outside the main office. This is a free will donation sale, money can be left in the basket on the book sale table. Proceeds for this sale will go to our kids programs.



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 4th. 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 28th at 1:00pm in the Parlor (outside the Sanctuary). If you have any questions ahead of time, please contact Gail Blazinski.



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

CHANGES

If we have lived long enough we have had to embrace changes in our lives. From our beginnings we were faced with a changing world. We changed homes, we changed jobs, we changed schools. Just a few of the adjustments we make in life. Sometimes the changes are good and make us happy such as marriage, birth of a child, grandchildren, new jobs, new houses even a new car can brighten our lives. Sometimes the changes are life altering such as death of a loved one, loss of a job, divorce, illness, or loss of a home, or moving and losing friends. We have been undergoing changes in our church. Some of us embrace change ; others want things to never change. My daughter and son-in-law have moved several times. I asked my granddaughter Lauren, how she felt about having gone to school in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Minnesota . She told me that she felt it had been a good thing, that she could walk in to a room full of strangers and talk to people. She related that she knew kids that had never moved and that they were terrified of a room full of strangers. Change and her wonderful parents and the grace of God had given Lauren confidence in herself and her abilities. She had embraced change and grown from it.

In the bible, the disciples are at a loss after the death of Jesus. They have lost their leader, their teacher, their guide. This was the Messiah that they left their homes for, the one they dedicated their lives to, the one they were going to follow. Now he is gone and they don't know what they are to do. They have regrouped and are in disbelief at how their lives have crumbled. The women have gone to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus and have returned to tell them that he is not there. The disciples cannot believe it and even Peter when he sees the empty tomb and the strips of burial cloth wonders what could have happened. And then Jesus appears to two of them and walks with them on the road to Emmaus and so begins the greatest change ever. The disciples are soon emboldened, commissioned, and sent out to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. They receive the Holy Spirit and are given a strength they never dreamed of and Christ is with them and in them and he never leaves them.

Changes come into our lives and through them all, Christ is with us. We may not like the change and some are hard but He walks with us through our lives, the good and the bad. We need to grow from the changes into a deeper relationship with Christ, to rely on him and feel his presence. Some changes, like times, where we sit in church, what songs we sing, aren't really important when we consider why we are in church. We are here to worship the most holy God, the one who walks with us through the changes in our lives. Paul tells us in Philippians 3:12-14 "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do; Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Holy Lord, help us to trust in you, to rely only on you and to know that your love can take us through the storms and the changes in our lives. 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
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Rachelle Heldt
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Secretary/Bookkeeper

Charlotte Ramsey
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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!

