

Weekly Messenger

September 10, 2021

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"Be Gentle"

As I began to consider what I would write about for this week's newsletter, the upcoming anniversary of September 11, 2001, came to mind. Then, I began to consider what words I could offer to mark the passing of twenty years since that day, and I struggled to find the eloquence required. Rightfully so, the media outlets are presenting various interviews with those who had firsthand accounts and other insights into the terror that day brought to our nation. I cannot offer those sorts of reports, nor should I try. I do have something to offer, though.

I want to challenge all of us who remember that day to be gentle with those who don't have a memory of it. I recall how the video clips of the planes flying into the towers were shown over and over. I remember the coverage of "ground zero." I even remember coming to the point where I couldn't watch more coverage for my mental health. To escape for a while, I changed the channel to a cable network that I knew wouldn't be airing coverage of the attacks, to discover a chyron on the screen inviting me to tune to news coverage, as our country had been attacked.

I will carry these memories with me through the rest of my life. September 11, 2001, was defining for our country and the world. I also know some were too young to remember or not yet born when the events of that day unfolded. Our need to remember where we were when the planes hit the towers can seem strange or morbid to them. We can choose to criticize them for not grasping the changes that came to our world because of the terrorists, or we can gently share how we were hurt by the loss of innocence thrust upon us.

We who lived the experiences of September 11, 2001, carry emotions and strong convictions because of what we experienced. Those who don't have a memory of that day are nonetheless burdened by the way that day changed our lives. They've never known going to an airport and not having to wait in a TSA line. They've never known a time when our country didn't have a Department of Homeland Security. Their ability to tour the national treasures like the White House, the US Capitol or even the Capitol Building in Lansing significantly changed from what we'd known before.

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In high school, I learned the quote, “Those who forget their history are condemned to repeat it.” I believe there is much wisdom in this quote. Likewise, I think there is much to be gained by helping those who didn’t experience what those of us who are old enough to remember September 11, 2001, to learn what we felt, the stories of lives cut short, and the reasons why our lives changed. I only ask that we do it gently.

From scripture, I find the wisdom the Apostle Paul has to share, “Children obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart.” Colossians 3:20–21. Like the lessons our country has needed to learn from significant events dating back to the revolution where we gained our freedom, those who didn’t live the experiences need to grow in their understanding. Let’s do our best to give them our perspectives gently, so they don’t lose heart.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don



Sunday School Update

In-person Sunday School starts this Sunday, September 12. Classes for elementary, middle school, and high school children will be available during both the 9:30 AM and 10:30 AM services. We’re looking forward to seeing you!

If you have a child or teen who is interested in participating in-person or if you know a child or teen who may be interested, please invite them to join us!

Brighter Future Building Fund

We invite you to **join us** as we embark on the **next phase** of the **Brighter Future Building Fund** (BFBF). **Our goal is to raise \$200,000 over the next 2 years** with projects being completed over the next several years as funds are received. Please **prayerfully consider your 2 year commitment to the Brighter Future Building Fund** (*in addition to your on-going commitment to the Operating Fund*). **Commitment cards may be returned on or before September 26** (in church, by mail, or by dropping it off at the office). Thank you for your faithful commitment to Utica UMC and everyone we serve.

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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.)

*****Please bring a sack lunch to eat at noon.*****

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.

POP TAB BATTLE



What can you do with your pop can tabs?

You can help by collecting the tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor, Michigan and win over the collectors for the Ronald McDonald House in Columbus, Ohio. This is a competition between the two colleges that will be decided at the Michigan/ Ohio State game November 14. The UMW will be collecting the pop tabs from now until Thanksgiving Weekend. Ask your family, friends, and neighbors to also collect the tabs.

Collecting pop tabs is a great way to teach others about philanthropy and the importance of recycling while raising money to help sick children and their families at the hospital.

Place the pop tabs on the coat racks at either entrance.



Join us every Thursday at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall for Celebrate Recovery. This is a worship service and a 12-step God based program to help out with life's hurts, habits and hang-ups.

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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.**

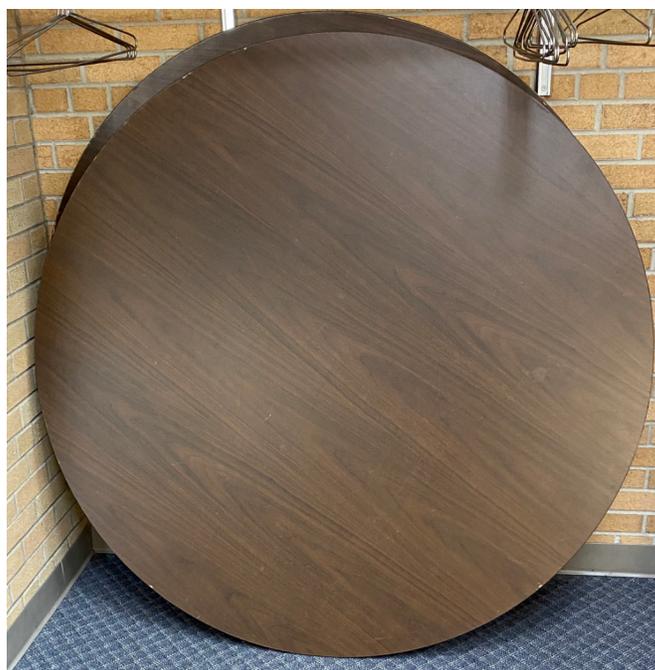
There are many volunteer opportunities available in the following areas: Set-Up, Take Down, Reception, Refreshments, Guest Fellowship, Supplies Purchase, Safety Check, Supplies Distribution. **Sign ups are available after church Sundays.**

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.

60" Wood Topped Round Tables

We are continuing to update our church in many ways. One such way is by replacing our wood topped round tables with molded plastic tables. The benefit of the plastic tables is they are light weight and easy to move for anyone. We have acquired 6 new plastic tables. We have 5 wood topped tables available to you for a donation. First come, first serve and you need to be able to haul it away. See Pastor Don if you are interested in taking a table.,



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Becoming like Cheese

A lot of things must age before they become mellow like cheese. I think that is happening to me. I have become calmer in situations that would have set me off in a rant years ago. For instance, I went for a test this week. This test uses dye which I am supposedly allergic to, so I must pre-medicate with Benadryl and Cortisone. My neighbor Jo took me to the hospital for the test which takes about an hour. On arrival I went up to the reception desk and told them who I was and that I was preregistered, and paperwork was done. The first young man who called me over merely told me to wait where I had been waiting prior to him calling me up to his desk. The elderly woman at the desk took my name and began looking at her sheet for my appointment. She then started repeating my name, JoAnn, JoAnn, as she looked at the sheet. I said, my name is Grace Epperson. She repeated JoAnn Ellison. I then said my name again and she said JoAnn Epperson. The woman in the line to my right yelled, "I'm JoAnn." This seemed to get her attention as I said, "I'm Grace." She then kept looking up Grace Ellison. I gave her my name again and she finally found it. Then we discussed a wheelchair because I do get short of breath walking. There was a wheelchair sitting right there but for some reason she did not want to take the last one so left the desk to wander about, I think I saw her looking in the Gift Shop, for a wheelchair, she finally came back and took the one sitting in the lobby. Then we were off to the Lab waiting area. That was uneventful and after over an hour of waiting, the Lab Tech came to take me for the test. When we arrived at the actual Lab, I explained to her that I had pre-medicated but with the wait I wondered about the effectiveness of the Benadryl. She asked me why I would pre-medicate for a Calcium test. I said, "I'm here for an Angiography." She said your appointment is for a Calcium test. I said, "That is not the appointment I made and showed her the order form. She said she would make phone calls. After a while she came back and said the problem was solved, they would do both. It took some time for them to find a vein and utilized an Ultrasound to find it and we were off and running. I then had to have more Benadryl and then Nitroglycerin because my heart wasn't beating strong enough. I did what I had to do while joking with the people and laughing at the mess-ups. When they took me back to the lobby, my poor neighbor Jo had been waiting patiently although she did have them call and check to see if I was okay. Then I thought what has happened to me. There was a time where instead of being pleasant and smiling about it all, I would have demanded action and raised the roof at the incompetence. Heads would have rolled. Letters would have been sent. It dawned on me that I have mellowed. I think God has taken a feisty, ready to demand action, righteous woman and turned her into mellow cheese. He is giving me a tolerance for mistakes, at 86 I've made a few. I don't think I am like this in all situations, I get upset and angry about cruelty, hungry children, people who are unkind to others, and all sorts of injustices in our world but I think God doesn't object to that. In fact, I think that God wants us to react to the injustices of this world with righteous anger. To protect the vulnerable, to love and nurture children, feed the hungry, to help our neighbors, to help when people are subjected to injustice, to help victims of disasters. To use our anger and respond with action, kindness, and the love of God. Maybe this is why I have lived so long and survived so much; God is still teaching me his lessons.

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude; it is not self-seeking.

Dear Lord, thank you for the lessons you teach us in our daily lives, for the love and forgiveness you give us, for all the blessings of this earth and the people that inhabit it. Be with us each day, may we feel your strength, your love, your patience. Be with those who are suffering from Hurricanes and floods, and earthquakes. Be with those who are hungry, may we share our bounty with the less fortunate. Be with our church, may we reach out to those needing help and to those who seek to know you. Guide us in our quest to be the hands and feet of Christ. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and keep him safe. Watch over his family. Be with our staff and leaders, guide them as they lead our church. Be with those who are grieving and those who are ill. In Jesus name, Amen.

Grace Epperson

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Ministry Team:

Senior Pastor
Reverend Don Gotham
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Contemporary Worship Leader

Mer Renne
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Music Ministry

David Fox
Organist, Hand Bell & Chancel
Choir Director
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Communications Director

Rachelle Heldt
rachelle@uticaumc.org

Secretary/Bookkeeper

Charlotte Ramsey
charlottte@uticaumc.org

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!

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

9:30am - 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.

Thursday Nights

Celebrate Recovery at
6:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Celebrate Recovery is both a
worship service and a 12 step
God based program to help
with life's hurts, habits and
hang-ups.

