



Weekly Messenger

September 3, 2021

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"If We Truly Believe..."

Are the words we speak, and the actions we take representative of someone who believes in Jesus and all he taught? If we believe in Jesus, the world should be seeing and hearing from us things they don't hear or see from those who don't believe.

I learned the story of a missionary who had been sent to share the gospel in India near the end of World War II. After many months the time came for a furlough back home. His church wired him the money to book passage on a steamer but when he got to the port city, he discovered a boat load of Jews had just been allowed to land temporarily. These were the days when European Jews were sailing all over the world literally looking for a place to live, and these particular Jews were staying in attics and warehouses and basements all over that port city.

It happened to be Christmas, and on Christmas morning, this missionary went to one of the attics where scores of Jews were staying. He walked in and said, "Merry Christmas." The people looked at him like he was crazy and responded, "We're Jews." "I know that," said the missionary, "What would you like for Christmas?" In utter amazement the Jews responded, "Why we'd like pastries, good pastries like the ones we used to have in Germany." So, the missionary went out and used the money for his ticket home to buy pastries for all the Jews he could find staying in the port. Of course, then he had to wire home asking for more money to book his passage back to the States.

As you might expect, his superiors wired back, asking what happened to the money they had already sent. He wired that he had used it to buy Christmas pastries for some Jews. His superiors wired back, "Why did you do that? They don't even believe in Jesus." He wired back: "Yes, but I do."

It has to matter! It has to matter that we believe in Jesus, and it has to matter to more than just us. The world we live in is craving to find the difference that has come into our lives because we believe in and belong to Jesus.

Let's show the world through our words and our actions that we truly believe!
Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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.

UMW Collection

This is the last Sunday to collect diapers size 6 and baby wipes 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.

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 from Noon to 6pm. You can schedule a time with the Red Cross either online or call 1-800-733-2767 or 1-800-Red-Cross. You can also call Al Manning at 586-995-0530 with questions or for help with scheduling. There are still spots available and blood is in high demand, please consider signing up and donating if you are able.



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL – STARTING SEPTEMBER 12

We are planning to **start in-person Sunday School on September 12**. Classes for elementary age children will be available during the 9:30 AM and 10:30 AM services. Classes for youth will be available during the 9:30 AM service. We are also considering continuing to make video Children's Messages.

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, we'd like to know! **Please look for the Sunday School Sign-Up Sheet after both services starting August 29. Or, send an email to: UticaUMC.chimin@gmail.com** (UUMC Children's Ministry email). This will help us have a better understanding about who and how many to expect. Of course, even if you don't sign up, the children and youth are always welcome to attend! We're looking forward to seeing you soon!



SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train children in the right way, and when old they will not stray." (NRSV) **Are you able to volunteer one or more Sundays each month** to help with Sunday School for the children or youth? We are looking for several more adult volunteers so that each person will only need to help one or two times a month. Curriculum material is available. If you would like to learn more about this wonderful opportunity please contact Mary Dolenga or send an email to UticaUMC.chimin@gmail.com (UUMC Children's Ministry email).



**YOU'RE INVITED TO A TOWN HALL
about the Brighter Future Building Fund
Wednesday, September 8 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary**

Our goal is to raise \$200,000 in the next 2 years (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2023) as we continue to be stewards of all God provides by ensuring God's House is inviting and in order. At the Town Hall we will share information about what we've accomplished in the last 3 years, share information about additional projects that need to be done, and answer your questions. If you aren't able to attend the Town Hall and have questions, please contact the church office and someone will reach out to you.

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.**

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.

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 December 12. 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.



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

The Bumble Bee

Remember learning to ride a bike? Or teaching your children to ride. I remember riding my brother's bike. I loved it, I loved the freedom it gave me, however because it was a boy's bike, I didn't like it when my pant leg was caught in the chain. My children learned to ride and took to it easily. My Son had learned and shortly it was my daughter's turn. I planned to get up on Saturday morning and help her. She came in the bedroom and woke me to tell me I could continue sleeping because she and her brother had already been outside, and he had taught her. I had mixed emotions about this, I was disappointed that I was not going to be the one to help her accomplish this growing up step but very proud that big Brother had taken it on. My brother had helped me learn and then left me to perfect the skill. He had joined the Army at 17 and was gone from my life in a short while. Children learn when given the opportunity and support and sometimes just the opportunity. I rode that old bike for a long time, and never did I ride it that I didn't think of the brother that had left it to me. A child that is told that they are not good enough or that are told that they cannot accomplish something will have a hard time believing in themselves. When I had trouble with Math, I was told that girls did not have the ability to learn math. I did not for a while even try but then I saw others doing Math and I began to challenge myself and I gained my math skills that I needed. Sometimes when no one else believes in us, we must believe in ourselves and a God who walks with us and his amazing love. A God who loved us before we even knew him.

*Aerodynamically the bumble bee should not be able to fly, but the bumble bee doesn't know that, so it flies anyway. (*A quote from Mary Kay Ash) The bumble bee just gets up and flies. No one tells it that it can't do it and the bumble bee believes that it can, so it flies. It just trusts.

Charles Wesley was filled with joy and gratitude and was so excited, he said, "If the Lord would give me wings, I'd fly." John Wesley replied, "If God bids me fly, I will trust him for the wings."

I look back on my life and think of the things I have done and the times when I felt it was all about me and I realize that God walked that walk with me. That he took away the stumbling stones that were in my path and led me forward. The times he gave me courage to stay the course, the times opportunities appeared, and all was well. The times he walked with me, and I felt his strength and knew it was not my own. The times his angels here on earth stepped up to help me. I am filled with gratitude and love for an awesome God and his earthly angels.

Hebrew 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Psalms 91:2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.

Lord, we thank you for the times we have known you are near, for those times when you walked with us as we went through trials. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and watch over him and his family. Be with our Staff and Leaders, guide and protect them, give them purpose and guidance. Be with those who grieve and those who are ill. Be with those who have not returned to services, guide them, and bless them. Be with the refugees from Afghanistan may they find peace and rebuild their lives. Be with our military guide and protect them. Be with the families that have lost loved ones, may they be comforted and may they feel the gratitude of a grateful nation for their sacrifice. It is 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), 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.

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!

