



Utica United
Methodist Church

Weekly Messenger

October 15, 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

Stewardship
Campaign

Help Wanted

Popcorn and
Apple Pies

Pop Top
Collection

BFBF Update

Devotional

Back Page
Info

From "I Mind My Own Business" to "Knowing My Business."

Old Frank was a farmer in his small community. There were four churches in town, and it was a stretch to find all four hundred souls there. The attendance varied among the churches. From one that was quite full to the one that had just a few, the town's people showed up to church almost every Sunday. Noticeably absent from any of the churches was the old farmer, Frank.

Frank was a pleasant guy. In fact, he was the guy many farmers turned to for wise counsel on the art of farming. Over his seventy-seven years, as pastors of the four churches came and went, Frank, got pretty good at making it clear he wasn't interested in attending their church.

Frank would say, "I mind my own business, take care of my family, and the rest is just fluff." Pastor after the pastor had felt set aside by Frank. One day, a new pastor came to town. It wasn't long until he'd learned of Frank. The green pastor showed up at the local café one morning, where all of the farmers gathered in the morning to talk and have breakfast. He introduced himself to Frank. The two men walked outside to the parking lot, and Frank was quick to give him his brush-off saying.

The people of the church were shocked to see Frank and all of his family in church where the new pastor was serving the following Sunday. Frank stood before the congregation and asked to be baptized. From that Sunday on, Frank was always at church.

One of the farmers asked Frank if he suddenly became concerned that he was getting old and needed to gain some assurance before he met his maker. Frank replied, "No, it wasn't that." He explained how he had used the line of minding his own business with all of the other pastors, but this pastor took the time to explain what my business truly was. Frank said, "I still mind my own business, but now I know my business."

Friends, the art of sharing our faith can seem like it is best left to a professional or someone who has taken extensive training. The truth is, the wall someone puts up when we try to share our faith can provide us with a glorious opportunity to share how Christ has changed our lives. We don't really have to be artful, just caring enough for the other person to invest in the conversation.

I pray God gives us courage and perseverance to share the greatest gift we can!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

Utica United
Methodist Church
8650 Canal Road,
Sterling Heights, MI
(586) 731-7667
www.UticaUMC.org

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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 on Saturday, November 27. The UMW will be collecting the pop tabs from now until November 14. 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.



BRIGHTER FUTURE BUILDING FUND UPDATE

We are pleased to let you know we have received \$84,230 in pledges over the next two years (now – October 31, 2023) for the next phase of our Brighter Future Building Fund. Thank you! Any contributions after August 31 of this year will be shown on your giving statement as “Brighter Future Building Fund 2” whether it was for the previous phase or the new phase. All of the funds received will continue to be used to ensure our church building, parsonage, and property are well maintained and kept in order so they will be an inviting place for others. In the next few months the Brighter Future Building Fund Core Team (representatives from Trustees, Finance, and Leadership Board) will meet to consider potential projects and discuss goals and priorities. We are also continuing to complete several projects from the previous phase. Thank you again for your faithful commitment to Utica UMC and everyone we serve.

Last Call – Sunday, October 17th

Sunday, October 17th is the last Sunday to place your Apple Pie Order. If you want to purchase a yummy pie from the UMW ladies this is your last chance to get those orders in.

Boy Scouts are also selling popcorn after service. See their table if you would like to support the boy scout troop and get some popcorn. This is the last Sunday to purchase from our boy scouts.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

This Sunday, October 17th is the second Sunday, of our program ***Fulfilling God's Purpose!*** This week we focus on the theme "Witnessing for Jesus."

God's plan for his people has always been that we take responsibility for sharing the Gospel. Paul tells us, "*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors as though God were making his appeal through us*" (2 Corinthians 5:20). Knowing that God "*wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*" (1 Timothy 2:4), we have a great privilege and responsibility as Christ's ambassadors. With the Holy Spirit working in and through us, we can faithfully and boldly proclaim the Gospel to those around us.

Through Jesus, we know the Father. Through Jesus, the Father has come to us. Through Jesus, we have life everlasting in Heaven. This is the Good News that we as Witnesses for Jesus will want to share.

Prayer: Dear Lord, grant us passion and boldness to be the effective witnesses you want us to be. Place in us compassion for others. Help others see your love within us. We pray that you will bless our program ***Fulfilling God's Purpose!*** In Your precious name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessings on your journey as a steward!



Drug Take Back Day - Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 10am-2pm. Stop by the church under the portico and drop off your unwanted or expired medications. They will be disposed of in a proper manner. Please call the church office if you have any questions regarding drug take back day.

HELP WANTED

GriefShare Facilitator/Coach

GriefShare is a biblical, Christ-centered support group ministry. Like Celebrate Recovery, GriefShare is a worldwide ministry. More than 17,000 churches across the globe have been equipped with the GriefShare program. We all know, it hurts to lose someone. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. **Training provided.** Contact Bob or Patsy Clark

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Things are Not What They Seem

I went shopping the other day for groceries. I went to my favorite market. It's always crowded but I thought the Parking Lot did not look too bad. When I went in there seemed to be just too many people. So, I tried to hurry. As I was walking by the snacks, I noticed a small sign that said, "Chocolate Covered Cashews." Now who could resist that. I love chocolate and I love cashews. I tossed them in the cart and looked forward to some cashews with chocolate. I finished my shopping and went on my merry way while thinking that this trip cost me more than the delivery of my two children. I put away the groceries and opened my cashews. They tasted funny and they looked funny. But I thought they had perhaps broken the cashews into bits and I ate some. 2 days later, after nibbling on them I decided to turn the box over and look at the label. I had been munching on chocolate covered banana chips. I thought, "How disgusting." The label I had read in the store must have been in front of a misplaced box. I wanted cashews not bananas. Who does that to a banana anyway? I thought of all the times my expectations had not met my reality. Like the time I bought a Coach Purse for a very good price. It turned out to be a fake. Or the time my Mother tried to tell me I would like beets and the reality was I never tried another beet. Actually, I don't think I even tasted the beet, I could tell by looking at it I would not like the taste (yes, I was that kind of child). I thought of all the people who are like this about church. Sometimes they have had a bad experience, or they have preconceived ideas about what it should be like. Someone once asked me if it was true that all Christians were rich. I asked for some clarification about the question and then explained that in terms of money the answer was no. He was disappointed because he thought that being a Christian was like winning the lottery. I told him it is, but you have to wait a long time to collect the prize. I had no idea what to expect when I first walked into a church, but I was greeted warmly and made to feel welcome. I think about that day and what would have happened if I had been ignored and or treated as if I was sitting in the wrong pew. In no other place do first impressions have such a lasting impact.

Luke 15:3-7 Then Jesus told them this parable: Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it. And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep. I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

Lord, be with us this day. We thank you for the blessing of the day. Be with those who are grieving, give them your peace. Be with those who are ill, give them your healing touch. We ask your blessings upon our church. May we be a blessing to those in our community but also to each other. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and be with his family. Be with our staff and leaders, give them your guidance as they lead our church. Be with our country, may we celebrate what we have in common while accepting our differences. In Jesus name 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

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.

