



# Weekly Messenger

October 29, 2021

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Stewardship  
Campaign

Pop Top  
Collection

UMW Meeting

Christmas Tea

Chancel Choir  
and Gosbells

Drug Take  
Back Day  
ReCap

GriefShare

Devotional

Back Page  
Info

## “Whatever” or “Whatever it takes!”

A motivational speaker once said there are two kinds of people in this world: those who say "whatever" and those who say, "whatever it takes." "Whatever" is the response of the shrug. It's a "who cares?" attitude, one of indifference and apathy. "Whatever it takes" is the response of the committed. It's a "can do" attitude that refuses to give up or give in. Think about those two responses when it comes to the Church's mission. Jesus said to love your neighbor. Whatever. Jesus said to go and make disciples of all people. Whatever. Jesus said there is more rejoicing over one sinner who is found than 99 that stayed within the fold. Whatever.

Now, let's change that response to "Whatever it takes." Jesus said to love your neighbor. Whatever it takes. Jesus said to go and make disciples of all people. Whatever it takes. Jesus said there is more rejoicing over one sinner who is found than 99 that stayed within the fold. Whatever it takes. Are you and I, like Paul, willing to do whatever it takes to win the world to Christ?

You have heard, and will continue to hear of the intentional work our church has undertaken to move in the direction we believe will put us on our best path forward in ministry. To make this vision a reality will require us to be willing to do more than shrug our shoulders. We are going to have to be a church who grabs ahold of the dream, and moves forward with gusto! Apathy is simply not an option.

Last week I encouraged us to pray, this week I am encouraging us to pray that God would bolster us with the resolve to move from a "Whatever" attitude to a "Whatever it takes" resolve.

In this with you, whatever it takes,

Rev. Don

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

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## POP TAB BATTLE

POP TABS should be turned in by Sunday, November 14. Every few count. We now have 6 good sized boxes collected.

Thank you all!!!

## UTICA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Our next United Methodist Women's meeting will be on Wednesday November 10 in Fellowship Hall. We will begin with a sack lunch at noon. Bring your lunch, and coffee and tea will be provided. At 1:00 we will participate in the World Thank Offering Program: EMBRACING CHANGE, SHARING GRACE. A special Offering will be taken for Missions as the World Thank Offering for the District.

## *Christmas Tea- Winter Solstice*

The annual Christmas Tea will be happening once again this year on Saturday, December 4th from 1:00-3:00pm in Fellowship Hall. The cost of the tickets is \$10.00 each proceeds from the tickets sales will go to McRest. Tea will be served by the UUMC Men's club. Menu includes a choice of soups, salad, sandwiches, desserts and many tea varieties. Live music and trivia will follow the meal. All ladies are welcome, invite your friends and family for this fun event.

Sign-ups begin on Sunday, October 31, 2021



## Handbell and Chancel Choir Returns!

Beginning Monday, November 1st the Chancel Choir will meet and rehearse from 6:45-7:40pm in the music room. The Gosbells will meet and rehearse starting at 7:45pm - 9:00pm also in the music room.

We are extending an invitation to all who may wish to become a singer or ringer. Please join us on November 1 for rehearsal. It is an exciting time to once again join together as a group and make music together.

If you have questions please see David Fox after service on Sunday or feel free to call or email.

## DRUG TAKE BACK DAY OCTOBER 23, 2021

On Drug Take Back Day, October 23, 2021, we collected 10.2 lbs of medications.

We received prescription medications. We received very little over the counter medications. We appreciate the help of the congregation and community in this endeavor. The Sterling Heights Police Department is always very supportive.

Anna and Mathews George have always been very helpful on this day.

Thank you

Janet Stone

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

This Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> is the fourth Sunday of our program *Fulfilling God's Purpose!* This week's theme is "Giving Joyfully and Cheerfully."

Jesus said, "Freely you received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). Billy Graham said, "God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with." As nice as it is to receive gifts, it is even more meaningful to give them. Finding joy in our giving, we begin to understand why Jesus said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35).

God is love (John 4:8), and he shows his love for us by giving. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). God never stops give to us. First God loved, then he gave, and he keeps on giving. Forgiveness, salvation, and, in fact, all we are and everything we have or ever will have are gifts from God. Please bring your Commitment Form with you to church or drop it off in the church office at your convenience.

As Jesus lived a giving lifestyle, we, through the working of the Holy Spirit, live a similar lifestyle. Through our giving, we worship him, express our thanks to him, and renew our commitment to him. When we give, we put our love for Jesus into action.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, we know how much you have given to us. You have held nothing from us. Help us to respond to your great love for us with generous and giving hearts. In your precious name we pray. **Amen.**

**Blessings on your journey as a steward!**



## **Celebrate Recovery/Grief Share**

As many of you are aware, a Grief Share Support Group has been in the planning stage. We have formulated the following plan to move this ministry from planning to action. The Grief Share Support Group will launch on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 6:30 PM. Prior to the launch, the Grief Share group facilitators will present SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS on November 18, 2021. This a two hour program designed to help people deal with grief during the holiday season. The period from Thanksgiving through the New Year can be a difficult period for grieving people. If you, or anyone you know may benefit from this program, please encourage them to sign-up for SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS and/or the GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP. If you have any question, contact Bob Clark, Patsy Clark, Anna Gilbert, or Ray Lake.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Balcony People

I read a book many years ago about the people we have in our lives. Some are “balcony people.” Those people who are waiting to cheer us on, to congratulate us when we do well and when we do not, they will be the ones who tell us to keep trying or to tell us what we did right. Other people in our lives are just there to tell us what we did wrong, how we really messed that up, or that we were not cut out for the job. I have had my share of balcony people, those who tell me that a devotional really spoke to them, or that they enjoyed them all, or that I did a decent job on a project. Some will say nothing and that is okay, but others will indicate they could have done whatever it was, better. I ran into a young Mother while waiting to get my Flu shot at the Drug Store. She was waiting for a prescription to be filled with a toddler. Now this toddler was active. The Mother would be answering a question or just turn her head for a second and off the toddler would go. We were near the rows and rows of Vitamins and Pain medications in their colorful bottles and that is where he would run. I was wearing a mask and she could see my eyes watching but could not see my expression and I am sure she felt it was one of disapproval. As I was leaving, she came over to pick up my cane which as I often do, I had dropped I thanked her as the toddler ran off in another direction and I said, “You know, you have the patience of a Saint!” Her whole face changed, and she thanked me. As she once again corralled the toddler, I told her of my times with two toddlers and the older one taking off with the younger one in a stroller and then hiding both and she told me of her little son hiding in the dress racks also and how frantic she felt. What I did not say to her was “You’ll wish they were this age again when they’re teenagers” or “they grow up so fast” because I also remember the feelings of fear that I was not doing motherhood well, that their actions were proof of my inadequacy and not only normal behavior. Everyone needs Balcony People in their lives especially a young Mother with an active toddler. I look at them and see amazing women, women with the patience of a Saint.

1 Thessalonians 2:7 But we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. Lord, give me gentle and smiling ways, keep my lips from hasty replies, so in years to come when my house is still, no bitter memories its rooms may fill. Anonymous.

Lord, be with those who are stressed but want your patience, those who strive to do well but need your strength, those who love so much but feel inadequate and need your comfort. Be with our church, may we practice kindness to others, be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, be with our staff and leaders, guide and direct them. Be with our country Lord, may we be united. We thank you Lord for your love that does not cease, for your strength that gives us courage, for your guidance that directs our days. In Jesus name, Amen

Grace Epperson

## **Time to Fall Back**



We have once again reached the time of year when Day Light savings ends and we fall back an hour. Please make sure to set your clocks back on Saturday, November 6th so your will arrive at the correct time for church on Sunday, November 7th. Sunday, November 7th is also All Saints Day and Communion Sunday. Please plan to attend such a special day in the life of our church,.

# 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](http://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](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

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.

