

Weekly Messenger

November 12, 2021

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Methodist Church
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“God’s Dream for Utica UMC continued”

As shared in the *Messenger* last week, our church leaders have worked through a thorough process to develop a vision to utilize the gifts of our people best. One step of the process was to create a new mission statement. Particular effort was put into creating a mission statement that is clearly understood by both those already considering Utica UMC their church home and those who are not yet a part of our church for many reasons. Our new mission statement is: “Inviting people to rely on Jesus to find unexpected purpose, peace, and joy.” Our team believes this statement makes our mission clear and easily understood.

Another element of the vision frame is the strategy. The strategy is the “bridge” (in the form of a picture) which creates a relationship between the mission and all of our ministries/activities. It also builds a relationship between the individual ministries and activities. After prayerful consideration, the team chose four words to depict our strategy – Grow, Connect, Serve, and Worship. The thoughts behind each of the words are:

Worship –

- I invite others to worship with me.
- I actively participate in worship.
- I help with the worship service.

Connect –

- I share life experiences and accountability with others.
- I join in church-wide fellowship activities.
- I participate in small groups and studies.

Serve –

- I help others who may not know God to experience his love.
- I help others continually develop life skills by participating in and helping with church ministries and programs.
- I help others by participating in and helping with programs beyond our church.

Grow –

- I continually grow as an individual and a Christian.
- I seek and take opportunities to strengthen my relationship with God
- I seek and take opportunities to develop life skills continually so I am a better individual and encourage others to do the same.

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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The figure below was developed to highlight the strategy and continually remind us of it.



To make people feel comfortable jumping in where they are, we developed a circle as a symbol to show our strategy. Each of the four parts of this symbol is important and each is meant to invite people to experience the other three.

Some people will start with Connect, where they join with others and build relationships that matter. Others will begin with Servanthood, where they work to meet needs inside and outside the church, thus fulfilling their passion for making a difference for the sake of Christ. Still, others will start with Worship and the impact of the message, choirs, the worship band, and more. And, there will be those who jump in because they feel a desire to grow in their faith and see our church as the next step in that journey.

Next week we will talk about values and self-measurement.

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.



SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

GRIEF SHARE®

www.griefshare.org/holidays

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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 are out, stop by a table after service.



Prayer Shawls Needed

Calling all people who knit or crochet, we are in need of more prayer shawls. If you have some already made, please bring them to the church. If you knit or crochet and haven't made a prayer shawl before, we have patterns available at the church. Please contact Grace Epperson about the patterns if you are in need of one. This is a wonderful ministry to be a part of and a great way to share your talents with others.



Pies Needed for Baldwin

Together In Missions is once again collecting pies to deliver to Baldwin. We are the only supplier of pies. Pies need to be delivered to church on November 21. Pies need to be ready to eat, **No Cream Pies!**



Wanted: Sunday School Teachers for Youth

We are looking for one or two more individuals to help teach our middle and high school students (6th – 12th grade) at the 9:30 am service. We need teachers for the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. This would enable us to offer Sunday School every week for this age group! Currently, we are using “Talk Sheets” for our lessons to start discussions on a variety of topics. Or, you are welcome to use other lesson material. Please contact Mary Dolenga if you are interested in helping.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

What Would Jesus Do?

Isaiah 28:16 So this is what the sovereign Lord says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation, the one who trusts will never be dismayed.

Ephesians 2:19-20 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's peoples and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

I was wondering about the use of the word cornerstone in reference to Christ and realized that the cornerstone was also referred to as the foundation stone in the construction of a building. It is the stone on which the rest of the stones are placed. The strength of the building depends on the foundation and the cornerstone is the beginning of the foundation. Christ is the cornerstone of the church. The very foundation of our existence as a church. I came to the church as a teenager with no biblical or church background. But I came with a thirst for God and that continues even now in my sunset years. I was unknowledgeable and eager to learn, and I landed in a church that was eager to take this fledgling and make her their own. They helped me with my desire to learn about God and Jesus and John and Charles Wesley and Francis Asbury. Methodism strengthened and honed my faith. It became a big part of who I am. This desire to help me in my faith walk continued in that church and the next and finally in the church I have now attended for over 40 years. Christ became not just the cornerstone of the church but the cornerstone of my faith. What amazes me about these men from the son of God to the builders of our church is that they all suffered moments of self-doubt and found their saving in prayer and work. Jesus in the garden, John Wesley at Aldersgate when he felt his heart strangely warmed and his faith became personal and Charles who put his faith to music and wrote over 5,000 hymns, and Francis Asbury who for 45 years helped form a connectional church while riding a horse and traveled 265,000 miles. Christ must remain the cornerstone of the church, the solid rock we stand on. The expression "What would Jesus do" was popular for a while, we need to let it guide us again. What would Jesus do about racial inequality? He taught us this in the story of the Good Samaritan. What would Jesus do about our neighbors we disagree with? He taught us this when he said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." What would he say about airplane rage, road rage, and people just mad at the world rage? Jesus said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Forgive because we have been forgiven. Friendships, families, marriages, are often torn apart because we do not forgive each other. "Lord help me to be more forgiving, as you have forgiven me, may I forgive others. Lord, may we put down the mad and pick up the cross and follow Jesus."

Lord be with us this day and all our days. Help us to be more forgiving. Be with those who are suffering illness and those who are grieving loss. Be with the hungry and the lost, the homeless and those who are without hope. May we find ways to reach out to those who seek to know you and may we show them your love in thought, word, and deeds. Be with our Pastor and bless his ministry, be with our staff and leaders guide them and give them your strength and lead them in all they do. May we truly be the hands and feet of Jesus in this place and in this time. Amen

Grace Epperson

Chair Exercise

Chair Exercise has started back up. If you are interested they meet on Monday and Thursdays at 10:00am in Room 301. All are welcome to join our Commit to Be Fit Group for Chair Exercise. Contact Ruth Charlton with questions.

POP TAB BATTLE

Last day to turn in POP TABS is Sunday, November 14th. Every few count. We now have 6 good sized boxes collected. Thank you all!!!

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Angel Tree

This year we will be offering you the opportunity to purchase an Angel ornament in honor or in memory of a special person in your life. Your request will be recognized in the Sunday, December 19th bulletin. The ornaments will be on display on a tree outside the church office for the Advent season. You may take home your ornament on the 19th or after the Christmas Eve Service.

The cost of the ornament is \$20.00. Order Forms will be available in the bulletin starting this Sunday, November 14th. Payment is due at the time you turn in the order form. Forms can be turned in with offering on Sunday morning, brought to the office during normal business hours or you can call the church office to reserve an ornament and mail your payment to the church.

Supplies are limited so make sure you order soon. The money from the sale of the ornaments will be used toward Haiti Student Scholarships.



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.

