

Weekly Messenger

November 19, 2021

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“God’s Dream for Utica UMC continued”

As we continue to present information to inform folks about God Dreams, this week we are going to cover the values that were seen as unique to our church. As stated in the prior articles the four elements 1) Mission statement, 2) Strategy, 3) Values, and 4) Measurements are like the four sides of a picture frame with the Vision the picture. Last week we went through why the mission statement was updated and the strategy for the mission statement.

In developing the picture frame, the Church Unique team was guided through a process to identify values that represented shared convictions of Utica UMC. These values are not the only values we have but are the values which are the strongest in guiding our actions and reveal our strengths. The list was purposefully limited by the process to keep things focused, making it one of the items that makes our church unique:

- 1) **IMPACTFUL WORSHIP** –We honor God and Jesus Christ at all times; through worship services, group activities, music, art, and programs.
- 2) **MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS** – We aim to build worthwhile connections with all people around us in order to grow God’s Kingdom and to build our faith.
- 3) **CARING OUTREACH** – We aim to reach beyond our personal selves and beyond our physical church to be examples of Jesus Christ’s love.
- 4) **ACTIVE FAITH** – We continuously strive to learn Jesus’s teachings and apply those lessons to daily life; believing that God is the Father and Jesus is our Savior.
- 5) **HEARTFELT SERVANTHOOD** – We support one another and seek to show our neighbors the love that Christ was sent to share.

These five values are unique to our church and influence the direction of our ministry, and serve to guide decision-making, both large and small.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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. If you have any questions, contact Bob Clark, Patsy Clark, Anna Gilbert, or Ray Lake.



Love Loaves Returned

This Sunday, November 21st is the day we will be collecting the love loaves. If you still have your loaf and cannot be here on Sunday, please stop by and drop it off at the church during regular office hours.

Church Office Closed

Thanksgiving is approaching quickly. The church staff is able to take time off to enjoy the holidays with their families. That being said, the church office will be open during normal hours on Monday and Tuesday, November 22nd and 23rd, and will be open until noon on Wednesday, November 24th. The church office will be closed for Thanksgiving, November 25th and on Friday, November 26th.

All articles for the Messenger for the week of November 26th need to be in to Rachelle by Monday, November 22nd at 2pm. All articles received after 2pm will be included in the Messenger for December 3rd. All business needs you may have in the church office need to be taken care of Monday and Tuesday of next week. Please enjoy this season of Thanksgiving.

Pop Tab Results

Thanks to all of you for bringing in Pop Tabs. We turned in 7 boxes weighing 73 pounds which equalled approximately 105,000 tabs. What a great job supporting the Michigan Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor. Funds are used to support families who have seriously sick children at U of M Mott Children's Hospital. The Ronald McDonald House provides housing and food for the families while their children are being treated at the Hospital. Your support was appreciated!

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Pies Needed for Baldwin

Bring your Pies this Sunday, November 21st to be given to Baldwin. Remember pies need to be fruit, pumpkin or nut type pies. They need to be ready to eat. Baldwin does not have the ability to cook the pies or to keep pies in a refrigerator.



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.

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.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

The Day I Knew There Was a God

The Day I Knew There Was a God was the title of Pastor Don's Sermon this past week and I must admit I was distracted by the title. My mind began to think about when I knew there was a God. Was there a specific time or event? The sermon was about Ruth, Naomi, and sacrifice, dedication, love, and faithfulness but also about Jesus' love for his friends Lazarus, Mary, and Martha and the shortest verse in the Bible, 'Jesus wept.' As I listened my mind kept returning to the title. Was there a day, a specific time, an event when I knew? I thought back to my journey. It began with a very vengeful God. When I would hurt myself with a stubbed toe or some other instant hurt, my mother would tell me that I must have done something wrong, and God looked down and punished me. I associated God with bad, with vengefulness, with my lack of "grace," for want of a better word. God increased his vengefulness when he took my brother who was my protector, my advisor, my listener. I prayed for death to this vengeful God, and it was only when I had polio and did not die, and I asked why, and the answer was that God wanted me to live. It was the first time I had ever known God to be a forgiving God, a forgiving God that saw my pain and forgave my angry and heartbroken words. This was a God I wanted to know. Then I began my journey to believe, to know and to trust in God. But in truth our journey starts long before we know there is a God our journey starts before we are born. God sees the promise in us and loves us and has a plan for us even then before we are formed, that is God's Grace. Our journey may not be in a moment or in a day but in a lifetime, for each journey is unique.

Psalm 100 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his, we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise, give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Lord, we thank you for the gift of this day, may we be worthy of it. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve, comfort them. Be with our church, may we truly be the hands and feet of Christ, may we feed the hungry and aid the homeless. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and watch over him and his family. Be with our staff and leaders, bless their work and guide them. May our country truly be the United States, and may we remember those who have sacrificed so much for us. In Jesus name, 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.

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. 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.

