

Weekly Messenger

June 17, 2022

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“Why Do They Do That?”

Today I find myself asking “Why do they do that?” The question brings to mind the questions of “Why?” that my grandchildren ask. Still, I think we are naturally curious. Curiosity about our environment helps keep us safe, helps us improve our situation, and helps us to be better at contributing to the needs of the world around us.

While shopping at a “warehouse-style” store, I was confronted with a loud beeping contraption coming toward me with no pilot on board. The markings indicated it was cleaning the floor. The loud beeps emanating from the machine were hard on my ears. When asked by an associate at the store how I was doing today, I told her I was fine, but I didn’t appreciate the loud beeps coming from the floor cleaning machine. I suggested that it would be better if it were used when the store was closed, and customers wouldn’t have to hear the noise. She explained it had to run during operating hours, as it also keeps track of inventory. I shared I thought it was too loud, and made for a poor shopping experience. She responded by telling me it has to be this way. I found her explanation unacceptable.

I also received an email telling me Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain is now the second-longest serving monarch of all time. The pictures accompanying the article showed her both on the day of her coronation, and in a recent photo. In the coronation photo, she was shown in a royal robe and it was trimmed with white and black fur. I always wondered where that fur comes from, so I looked it up on Google. It comes from an animal called an Ermine. The black spots on the fur trim of the royal robes are the tails of the Ermine. The rest of its fur is white. The royals use it because it symbolizes purity. Mystery solved. Been wondering about that one for a while now.

All of this makes me wonder what the world sees when they contemplate the church. We have our customs, and some of them we come to accept without thinking much about. Are we ready to answer if the people of our community ask us, “Why do you do that?” I hope so. If you have questions about why we do things, I’d like to know what they are. I might be able to shed some light.

Mostly, I hope we help the world to know why Jesus laid down his life. The people around us need to know they don’t have to strive to become good enough or to fix the mistakes they’ve made in hopes of earning God’s favor. We need to help the world know we serve the God of grace, and God’s grace is just as much for them as it is for us.

God loves you, and there is nothing you can do about it!

Rev. Don

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



Hi, my name is Natalie Crossen, and this is my fourth year working with STARS and Xcel. I am 22, and I just graduated from Grand Valley State University with a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Starting this August I will be attending Wayne State University to pursue a Master's Degree in Speech Language Pathology. I can't wait to work with the kids this summer and to share God's Message!



Hello, My name is Rachel Yung and this is my first year interning STARS/XCEL. I am now going into my freshman year at Michigan State University studying Political science-Prelaw. I was in the Beyond Xcel program about 4 years ago as a camper! I so excited to be with the kids this summer and teach them about God!



Hi, everyone! I'm Liam O'Connor, and it's great to be working with you all this summer. Can't wait to make some great memories! I'm 20 years old, and I study history at Michigan State University, and my dream is to become a lawyer, so I can help as many people as I can! Great to meet you all!



Hi my name is Marisa Soltman, I am going to be a junior at Cleary University this coming fall, I am a sports promotion and management major, and I also play lacrosse and run cross country there! I have worked in my own church for many many years, volunteering, teaching Sunday school, and I also went on a mission trip to Belize in 2020. I am very excited to grow my relationship with God and help your kiddos do the same, while having tons of fun this summer!

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Celebrate Recovery – An Umbrella Ministry

In January of this year Celebrate Recovery expanded its ministry to include GriefShare. This 13 week program was offered at Utica United Methodist Church and also offered at Town Village Senior Living Center. We anticipate offering this ministry again in September.

Plans are in the works to add additional support groups under the Celebrate Recovery Ministry Umbrella.

- DivorceCare is a 13 week ministry for those seeking healing from the pain of separation or divorce.
- DC4K – DivorceCare for Kids is also a 13 week program, a proven and powerful ministry for 5-12 year olds. DC4K makes it easy for you to help children who are hurting and confused by the divorce or separation of their parents. This ministry parallels DivorceCare for adults.
- Single & Parenting another 13 week ministry. In today's cultural trends have produced the skyrocketing number of single-parent families. Other people don't truly understand how tough it is to be a single parent—day after day after day. Sometimes you want to give up. And that's a normal reaction—Single & Parenting is a ministry which helps develop skills and support single parents.
- Chronic Joy is a resource ministry dedicated to compassionately serving those affected by chronic illness, mental illness, chronic pain, and disability and their caregivers by providing accessible, easy-to-use, faith-based, educational tools and resources. Chronic Joy is an ongoing support group which meet weekly.
- **The Landing** – Celebrate Recovery for teens. Being a teen was difficult in “our day”, but today....teens face things that you and I never imagined.

These ministries have amazing outreach potential for Utica United Methodist Church, BUT these ministries need facilitators. Pray, ask God if He is directing you to become involved in one of these ministries. If you discover that this is a direction God is inviting you to go, have a conversation with Bob or Patsy Clark



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Fall Down, go boom?

When our children were little and they would fall down, I would pick them up and ask, “Did you fall down and go boom?” We would talk about it and they would get kissed on the hurting parts and a lot of Band-Aids. It is amazing how a Band-Aid can soothe a child. This time I was the one to fall down and go boom. I was watering my plants on the porch and tripped over my own feet. The watering can went one way and I went the other way. When I landed, I hit my back on the edge of the cement step from the porch to the patio. That hurt but I immediately moved my arms and legs, so I wasn't too worried. Of course, I had left my cell phone in the house and had thoughts that I might lie there until my son came over on Sunday. The crash had been heard by my next-door neighbor who thought one of my hanging planters had fallen. When she came out to check I called her, and she came over to assist me and had her husband call EMS. I was bleeding from some minor scrapes and hurting in others. EMS transported me to the hospital where they checked my back and did x-rays. I was found to have a minor fracture of the transverse process of a vertebra. A little tiny bone but essential. This will take some time to heal, about 4 weeks of rest and then gradual recovery. I finally have an excuse to lay around all day and watch mindless TV. My first thought and the thought that cheers me and makes me feel blessed is that it could have been so much worse. No major bones were broken, I needed no stitches, I had not hit my head, this is important because when you are on blood thinners this means more tests, a possible overnight in the hospital where they wake you to see if you are alert and not speaking in tongues. I thank God that it wasn't worse, and that God was with me through it all. He strengthens me with his presence, and I know that no matter what I face, I am not alone. My son, bless him, came to the hospital and picked me up once again (he is getting really good at this). Friends have called, brought food, cleaned my kitchen up, picked up the stuff I drop on the floor and brightened my days. God is good, all the time, God is good. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to heal.

Psalm 121- I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you does not slumber; indeed, he who watches over you will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you—he is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the lord will watch your coming and going, both now and forevermore.

Lord, we thank you for the day, for the warmth of Summer, for the coolness of each breeze. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. May their pain be eased in their illnesses and in their grief. Be with those who seek you, may they find you in our midst. Thank you, Lord, for those who do your work in the church, be with them and strengthen them. Be with our Pastor, give him your blessings and keep him safe and bless his family. Be with our staff and leaders, guide them in their work. We thank you Lord for each day. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES:

9:30AM

with Organ, Choir and Handbells
in the Sanctuary

10:30AM

with our Worship Band
in Fellowship Hall

Online Worship

A recorded service will be
available online on
Facebook, our church website and
on YouTube beginning at
9:00am each Sunday.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday

8:00am-4:00pm

Friday 8:00am- 2:00pm

Food Pantry

Our food pantry is
available to those in need
by calling the church office
and making an
appointment.

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider.

Keep Connected

If you are not signed up for our
Weekly Messenger email, you
can do so on our website by
clicking on the "More" tab, then
"Weekly Messenger"; on that
page you will find a place to
register for our weekly email!



*"Like" us
on
Facebook!*

Our Mission

Inviting people to rely
on Jesus to find
unexpected purpose,
peace and joy.

Ministry Team

Rev. Don Gotham

srpastor@uticaumc.org

Music Ministry

David Fox, Organist, Bell, & Chancel Choirs
Director

FoxDavidL@sbcglobal.net

Mer Renne, Contemporary
Worship Leader

mer@uticaumc.org

Communications Director

Rachelle Heldt

rachelle@uticaumc.org

Secretary/Bookkeeper

Charlotte Ramsey

charlotte@uticaumc.org

Deadline Information

Articles for advertising/
announcements must be submitted to
the office by 4:00pm on
Wednesday of each week.

Messenger: Email to Rachelle Heldt
Prayer List: Email to Charlotte Ramsey
or call the church office.



Going on vacation; can't make it to church?

How about using E-giving so you can still give your offering for
those times when you can't be here **The E-giving tab is on our
church website: www.uticaumc.org**
If you need assistance, call the church office.

Celebrate Recovery



**Celebration
Place**

The Celebrate Recovery Children's Ministry
Thursday evening beginning at 6:30pm
in Room 305



Meetings take place at 6:30pm every Thursday in
the Wesley Board Room
(near the Main Office area).