

Weekly Messenger

October 14, 2022

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"How Many Times"

I think we are all familiar with the passage in Matthew 18 where Jesus was asked how many times to forgive; Jesus surprised those listening by telling them not just to forgive but seventy times seven. That's a lot of forgiveness!

Last week I ordered some pajamas for our grandchildren. I felt confident enough to make the purchase without reaching out to our daughter to confirm what was needed. And when I did discuss it with her, she informed me I had bought a duplicate of what our granddaughter already had. So, when the delivery arrived, I marched myself to the store to return the online order and purchase another set of pajamas.

We grandparents find we have an endless supply of patience for such transactions when it comes to our grandchildren. The need to return it was on me, but even if it hadn't been, I would have returned the item without the fuss because it was something for our granddaughter.

If we can find the patience to persevere when it comes to our grandchildren, why is it too often in short supply when it comes to interacting with others? And why can it seem to be in especially short supply when it comes to how we interact with church people? I'm not pointing fingers, and I don't have a particular situation or person in mind, so know I'm not taking a swing at anyone. I have, though, seen it happen time and again where someone gets all bothered over a perceived slight, friendships are severed, or folks stop coming to church altogether.

Maybe we should ask God to give us "grandparent's patience" when dealing with everyone we encounter. The Lord knows we all hope others can extend the same to us! Let's be the people who go back to scripture and remind ourselves just how many times Jesus calls us to forgive because the truth is, he called us to forgive so many times that we would lose count and keep on forgiving.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

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Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Join us on Tuesday, September 20th at 11:30am in the Conference Room for a study of "The Lord's Prayer" by Adam Hamilton. Call the church office if you are interested in attending or have any questions. Being that this study begins at 11:30am please feel free to bring a sack lunch to eat while attending this study.

Food for the Body and Soul - Thursday's at noon

Food for the body and soul bible study will begin on Thursday, October 6th at noon in the conference room. This is a sack lunch and study program that will be studying the book of James. Please contact the church office with any questions or if you are interested in attending.

Into the Word Study - Monday night at 7pm

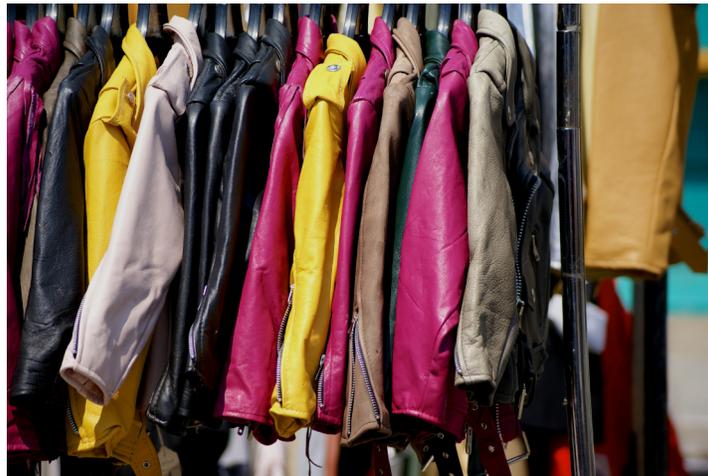
Into the Word will be starting on September 19th and will be studying the book of Ezekiel.

Thursday Night Bible Study - 7pm Conference Room

This bible study will be studying the book of Romans and will begin on Thursday, September 15th.

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:30pm

Cookie Miller is hosting a bible study on Wednesday Nights at 6:30pm in the Conference Room. You are invited to join the youth and KIDS Club for dinner at 5:45pm before attending class at 6:30. The first class was on Wednesday, October 12th. If you are interested, please join us next week.



Coats for Baldwin

For the month of October, Together in Missions, will be collecting gently used **Men's** coats for Baldwin Center. We will have portable coat racks available outside the main office for you to bring in and drop off coats. You may bring coats in during office hours or on Sunday mornings. Last day to collect coats will be October 30th.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

HELP WANTED

theLanding™
Celebrate Recovery® for Students

The Landing is Celebrate Recovery's student ministry geared towards Junior High and High School age students. This curriculum is designed to mirror the same material as the adult Celebrate Recovery curriculum, only packaged for students.

The Landing exists to provide a safe place for our students to process life and the struggles that accompany it, provide tools to help them live emotionally and spiritually healthy lives, and point them towards the freedom found in Jesus Christ.

Through the Landing, our students can find a safe place to find help, hope, and healing through engaging the recovery principles and growing in relationship with Jesus Christ. Ultimately, this ministry can help students learn how to break cycles of dysfunction and provide tools for them to live free and healthy lives.

We need adult leadership for this important ministry. Our young people face a far more challenging world than we could have imagined when we were teens.

“Grow as Stewards through Faith, Love and Hope!”

This Sunday, the 16th in the second Sunday in our three-week sermon and stewardship education program discussing the virtues of faith, love, and hope, we are focusing on love. Because God has first loved us, we can share his love with others. Jesus said, “. . . *love your neighbor as yourself*” (Matthew 19:19), and, “*if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us*” (1 John 4:12). Love seeks the best for others. God's love in us will compel us to love him and others.



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Happy birthday to.....



Yes, that's right, Utica United Methodist Church will be celebrating 200 years of ministry in 2023!

In order to help us celebrate, we are looking for any old photos or memorabilia that you might have. Photos will be scanned and returned to you. Memorabilia will be handled on an individual basis.

If you have any items you would like to share, or questions, please contact Peggy Miller 586-254-4932 or the church office 586-731-7667



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

The Pater Noster

While going through some pictures this week, I found an album of pictures of Israel that were from a trip in 1984. In them was a picture of a place called the Church of the Pater Noster or Our Father. This is located near the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. This church contained illustrations of the prayer, "Our Father," translated into 62 languages. I was fascinated all over again as I looked at these pictures. I was intrigued and mesmerized by Israel. To be in the same land that Jesus walked in was humbling. To see the Sea of Galilee where Peter and others fished, and Peter briefly walked on water until his mortal self- told him it was impossible and so he started to sink, was amazing. I, who could drown in a teacup actually floated in the Dead Sea. We stayed in a kibbutz beside the Sea of Galilee for a few days and to wake up and see the sun shining on that Sea was like receiving a blessing. To see the history and the struggles of the Jewish people to build their homeland there was intriguing. Our tour guide was a woman from Massachusetts whose Jewish father had talked for years about returning to the homeland but passed away before he could. She and her husband took their children on a trip to Israel in her Father's memory. They were there and learned about the history and the centuries old struggles and stayed for a few weeks. They returned to the U.S., quit their jobs and sold their home and belongings and moved to Israel. It was the home of her roots. I was fascinated by their history and their love of their "homeland." Israel was a country divided even then and when we went to Bethlehem our tour guide had to wait just outside the city while we had a Palestinian guide for Bethlehem. It was a fascinating place and a very memorable trip. We have been studying the "Lord's Prayer" in a bible study class. I am anxious to show the class these pictures. When I saw the pictures of this fantastic building housing all the beautiful translations of the Lord's Prayers, I was reminded of a book I owned years ago. The book was a collection of pictures that depicted Jesus as he is seen in different countries. His features change depending on the nationality. He can be blue-eyed white or dark-eyed dark skinned, slant eyed or round eyed according to where the country is. We tend to see him as a version of ourselves. He is seen differently by different people but his love for us and his love for others never changes. I have always known that he may look different, but his love and his lessons remain the same. His appearance doesn't matter and neither does ours, it is his love and his message for each of us that matters. We are as one when it comes to the "Our Father" prayer no matter the translation.

Matthew 6:9-13 Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen

Dear Lord, we come to you today with gratitude in our hearts. May we be good stewards of what you have given us so that others may be fed, clothed, and housed. Be with our Pastor bless his ministry and be with him in all he does. Be with our staff and leaders, bless their work and bless their efforts, be by their side. Be with each of us and our families, strengthen us and watch over us. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve, comfort them. Lord help be the church you would choose us to be. A church where all are welcome and valued. Be with our country Lord, unite us where we are divided, heal us where we are broken, protect us and our children where there is danger, be with us when we doubt, be with us when we think we aren't enough, and may we feel your strength in us when you say we are enough. In the name and love of Jesus who died on a cross for our salvation 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 3:00pm 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, Thursday, 6:30pm

