



Utica United
Methodist Church

Weekly Messenger

October 21, 2022

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"Finding Joy"

I came across this story, and I thought it offered a good lesson for all of us. I hope each of us can reflect and come to the same conclusion the accomplished architect did.

Architect Frank Lloyd Wright once told of an incident that may have seemed insignificant at the time but had a profound influence on the rest of his life. The winter he was 9, he went walking across a snow-covered field with his reserved, no-nonsense uncle. As the two of them reached the far end of the field, his uncle stopped him. He pointed out his own tracks in the snow, straight and true as an arrow's flight, and then young Frank's tracks meandering all over the field. "Notice how your tracks wander aimlessly from the fence to the cattle to the woods and back again," his uncle said. "And see how my tracks aim directly to my goal. There is an important lesson in that."

Years later, the world-famous architect liked to tell how this experience had greatly contributed to his philosophy in life. "I determined right then," he'd say with a twinkle in his eye, "not to miss most things in life, as my uncle had."

All too often, we cut ourselves out of the experiences where we can find joy in the name of expedience. All too often, our tongues are too sharp, our reactions too harsh, and our actions more like the Pharisees' than Jesus'.

Why is it that I can muster all manner of patience when it comes to my grandchildren but seem to be without patience with others who might even need it more?

Lord, help us to understand that art, poetry, music, and the things in life that bring us a sense of awe and wonder are not created by taking a deliberate, no-nonsense approach to life. Help us celebrate those whose paths make circles when ours make a straight line. Help us appreciate that not everyone will do everything the same way we do and that, ultimately, our differences make the world a more exciting place.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

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Methodist Church
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Sterling Heights, MI
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www.UticaUMC.org

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Adult Bible Studies - Check them out

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 called "Help is Here" by Max Lucado. This study is held 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.



Drug Take Back Day

Stop by the church on Saturday, October 29th between 10am and 2pm to drop off any expired or unused prescription or over the counter medications. Turning in these drugs allows for them to be disposed of properly and allows you to clean out your medicine cabinets.

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!”

On the third Sunday, October 23rd, in our three-week sermon and stewardship education program, we are focusing on the virtue of hope. Through the resurrection of Jesus, we, as believers, are given the victory over death and given the assurance of our salvation to come. Filled with the hope of eternal life with Jesus, we *“give [ourselves] fully to the work of the Lord, because [we] know that our labor in the Lord is not in vain”* (1 Corinthians 15:58).



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

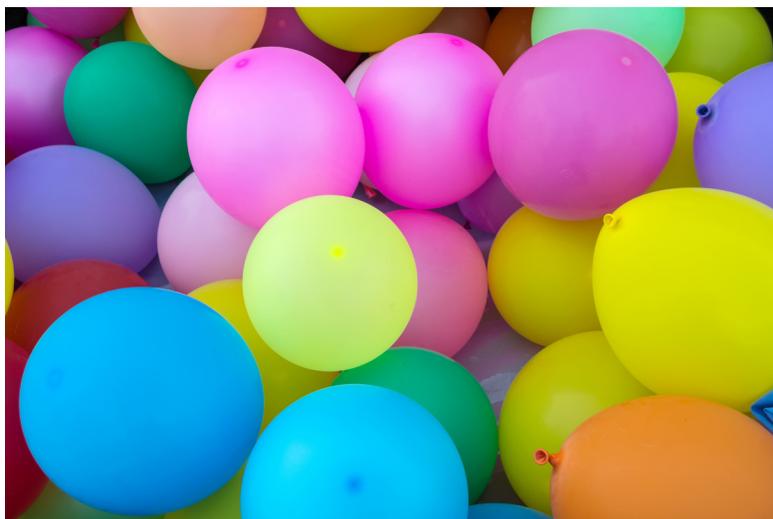
Happy birthday to.....



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 Theft

Recently I went to the grocery store and spent an obscene amount of money. I usually order online, and it helps curb my tendency to buy stuff that I sometimes never get around to cooking or impulse buying. When I got to my car with the groceries, I discovered under my purse three bottles of nail polish and two packages of lip balm. These were hidden from view under my purse and the alarm did not go off and I had not paid for them. I was sweating in the store and the older woman packing had insisted that she help me put my coat back on so I would not get chilled. This was after making a remark about the amount of ice cream I bought. By the time I arrived at my car and discovered the unpaid for merchandise I was having problems with shortness of breath plus sweating and needed to sit down and turn on my AC. I added up my pilfered merchandise in my head and it was around \$44. I thought I will just come back tomorrow. I did not make it back the next day, but it was on my mind. After church on Sunday, I decided to take care of this oversight and stopped at the store. I was going to pick up a prescription (robbery works both ways but I told the young man I was not going to kill the messenger) and then go to the customer service desk thinking they would give me ice cream for being honest. The service desk was closed as were the self-checkout lanes at one end of the checkout lanes. The lanes were all lined up, but I waited at the self-checkout lanes at the other end and got a spot. I usually avoid anything that says self-serve because I feel like it is taking someone's job and I want to create jobs not take one. I scanned my pilfered items and then it said, "take receipt." Not being familiar with the self-serve lines I asked the woman next to me if the receipt in between the registers was hers. She said she hoped not because it looked like it said \$999. I choked a bit and there were a lot of nines on the slip, but the total was \$28.99. One item was free when two others were purchased. I had actually paid less than if I had bought them on Friday. I thanked my Lord, that watches over me, and happily went on my way. I thought for sure the alarm would go off when I entered the store or when I left but all was quiet. It also did not go off on Friday when the pilfered goods were in my basket. I also forgot to make an appointment for the third time for my Covid Booster, so I am on a roll with that. I did get the annual flu injection a couple of weeks ago.

God is with us in the big things and in the small things. God us good

Exodus 20:3-17 You shall have no other Gods before me. Do not make idols of any kind. Do not take the name of God in vain. Remember the sabbath and keep it holy. Honor your Father and Mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's property, nor his wife, nor his servant or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Lord, be with us each day. May all we do and say be acceptable to you Lord. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. Comfort them. Be with those who are fighting cancer and those with chronic illness. Be with those who are far away from loved ones may they stay connected and may the comfort each other in times of sorrow. Lord be with our church may we be your church and the church you want us to be. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and be with his family. Bless our leaders and our staff, lead them and guide them. Lord, may we be the hands and feet of Jesus the Christ here in this time, in this place. All these things we pray in the name of Jesus. 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

