

# Weekly Messenger

October 28, 2022

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## November Prayer Focus

I am not an English major; I am far from it and limit my written words simply because creative writing is not one of my God-given gifts. I am fascinated with the English language and the skill with which others pen so eloquently words and thoughts on paper.

This fascination is especially true of the Bible. An excellent example is the book of Proverbs, where sometimes just a few words offer powerful messages and life lessons for all.

When I read the Bible, I intentionally examine the written word and marvel at the choices used by the author. I also study with equal fervor what is “NOT” stated.

In Matthew 6:9-13 The Lord’s Prayer begins with two very simple words, “Our Father.” At that moment (with a smile on my face), I stop and reflect upon the power and meaning of these words. Jesus taught this prayer to his disciples. He didn’t begin this prayer with the many words we assimilate with GOD...sovereign, almighty, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, supreme-being, king, or the many other names used to describe his Father. He chose two words that reveal the role of God (Father) and the relationship we are privileged to have with God (Our).

We are not hired hands; instead, we are the children of God! And God our Father wants his children to grow, mature, and seek His guidance. God calls us to follow Him. He calls us to live our lives in a way that emulates the life Jesus lived, for He is our perfect role model. Our Lord stands before us with open and loving arms awaiting our arrival, where He will provide us with the best robe and kill the fatted calf for a feast when the prodigal returns.

Let’s pray: Our Father, we anticipate that moment when we can see you face to face and simply say, Father. Until that day comes, Lord, continue to help us grow in faith and strive to follow Jesus as closely as we possibly can. Let us learn from the words He spoke and the love He lavished, and may we continue on the path to righteousness, using humble prayer to light our way.

A big thank you for this month’s prayer focus which was graciously provided by Bob MacKool.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Adult Bible Studies - Check them out

### Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Join us on Tuesday, November 8th at 11:30am in Room 302 for a study of "Prepare the Way For the Lord" 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.

### Alter Flower Order Forms

Order altar flowers for 2023 by filling out a card for the Sunday you would like the flowers (9:30am service only). Cards are located on the table in the Narthex. No payment is due until the week you receive the flowers. Drop the card in the basket provided at the table. **Please do not take cards home!** You may contact Charlotte in the office with any questions or to email your order if you are unable to be here to fill out a card.

### Office Closure

The office will be closed on Friday's through the end of the year. The office will be open Monday - Thursday from 8am-4pm if you have any business to do with the office during the week.

### COOKIE BAKERS NEEDED

This year we will be opening our Christmas Cookie Walk to the community and congregation on Saturday, December 10 (10 AM - Noon) and to the congregation on Sunday, December 11 (after services). So, we will need LOTS of cookies. If you are a cookie maker you may want to begin purchasing supplies while the price is right. If you are a cookie connoisseur or you simply enjoy eating cookies, mark these dates on your calendar and let your friends and family know. Sign-up sheets for cookie bakers will be available after services beginning November 6.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## WE LOVE CR

Out of all the ministries we have at our church, Celebrate Recovery is our favorite.

CR is all about changed lives—and that’s the biggest thrill of our life. If you want to know what makes us tick, it’s pretty simple: changed lives.

All we need to do is hear one story of a life changed—a marriage saved, someone who kicks an addiction, someone liberated from codependency, a family restored—and we’re good for at least another month. Changed lives keep us going.

We’ve never been around a ministry that sees so many lives changed by Christ as Celebrate Recovery. It’s a life-change machine—and we love it!

We know that God didn’t design the church to be a hotel for saints. He designed it to be a hospital for sinners. Celebrate Recovery ministry demonstrates this on a weekly basis.

But if our Celebrate Recovery ministry is going to be a hospital for sinners and an incubator for changed lives, it needs to be supported by every member of our church, by word and by action. We all know family members and friends and acquaintances who could benefit by this ministry. Have you shared how Celebrate Recovery can change lives? Do you know how CR works, the issues it can address?

The first time people show up at Celebrate Recovery it’s a big step. They probably aren’t sure what to expect. They may be afraid of being put on the spot. They may be afraid of talking about the issues that brought them to CR.

So we need to do everything we can to minimize their concerns. How do you do that? You do that by familiarizing yourself with the ministry.

Celebrate Recovery is an “out-reach” ministry. Every ministry in every church experiences a constant tension between “service” and “serve-us.” Most ministries end up tipping the scales toward meeting the needs of the people already there. Those are the people who are serving in our ministries already. They’re the ones you talk to on a regular basis. You know their needs much more fully than you know the needs of those who haven’t yet stepped foot into any of our ministries.

But if you want to see God change lives through any ministry, you must *intentionally* tip the scales the other way, toward the new-comer. It requires a safe environment for believers as well as unbelievers at the expense of our own preferences, traditions, and comfort. It requires enormous spiritual maturity to voluntarily move out of the comfort zones we’ve created for ourselves. That’s what Jesus modeled throughout his ministry. He once said, “*Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve*” (Matthew 20:28 TLB). Until this attitude of unselfish servanthood permeates the minds and hearts at Celebrate Recovery or any ministry for that matter, we won’t successfully reach new people.

One great way to making the ministry of Celebrate Recovery thrive is to remove as many barriers as possible, the misconceptions, and focus on finding freedom from the hurts, hang-ups, and habits the world we live in affords us all.

Like we said before, changed lives make us tick. It’s what we love about Celebrate Recovery. We hope changed lives mean as much to you as they do to us.

You have an opportunity to see changed lives every single week at CR. Join us—and see what God does in people’s lives when you show them the love of Jesus.

Bob & Patsy Clark

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Our Vision in Action

The main idea of our church's new vision is to transform ourselves into a church that purposefully grows disciples of Jesus Christ by loving and serving our community. We recently had two wonderful opportunities to serve our community.

We had the oil change ministry where we partner with Trinity Lutheran and King of Kings Lutheran churches to change the oil in the cars of single parents. This year they served 57 guests. There are some pictures below to show the work effort.

The church also received a call from the City of Sterling Heights. There was an older woman in need of help cleaning up her flower beds for the winter. We had some wonderful volunteers that went out to this person's home and spent a Saturday cleaning up. The bottom two pictures below show some of the workers and the amount of yard waste that they cleaned up.



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## A MUSTARD SEED

When I was 18, I purchased a Lucite pendant that contained a mustard seed. I was going into Nurses Training, away from the only place I had ever known and where I was not happy. Going to a strange place filled me with angst. Would I succeed, would I make friends, would the subjects be too much, would I be in an atmosphere of acceptance or just a stranger still wandering. My first day I met others who also were wondering about their decision. There were a lot of rules about curfews and weekends about going out alone, about hours to be spent studying, even about the proper way to pour tea, it seemed that almost every aspect of our lives had a rule. We were expected to obey all the rules, or the consequences were spelled out. It was mostly a loss of privileges, such as if you did not sign out where you were going or you were late getting back you didn't have the privilege of going out again for a while. I had never had a rule in my life except the ones I made for myself. No one had ever said, "Be back by this time." A lot of time when I went out the guys had to be home at a certain time, so we used their rules. At first, I worried that I would not be able to abide by all the rules, but I soon adapted. I was worried about the academics, would I be able to keep up, 40 hours of classes was certain to generate a lot of homework. I soon learned that we all had a lot of the same worries and despite the difficult schedule there was time for pinochle tournaments, gathering in the lounge, going to the show, grabbing a bite at the Waffle Shop nearby, "How fast can you take a bath" contests and just plain craziness. We flourished and became fast friends. One friend and I shared our breakfast eggs. I loved the yolks, and she loved the whites so I would get two yolks and she would get two whites. We still laugh at that and recently admitted that when we eat eggs, we think of each other. There were trials to be sure, days when we thought we might not make it, we saw many drop out and their rooms sat empty as a reminder (1<sup>st</sup> year thru 3<sup>rd</sup> year were housed on separate floors). On those days when I wondered if it was worth it, like the time I covered 2 pediatric units and the nursery plus the Urology floor on Midnights and had a baby die. That night was the worst night I had ever had, and quitting was certainly on my mind. But the Head Nurse of one of the pediatric units and the nursery who found out what I had been through the night before went to the Nursing Department and it was determined they would never do that again to a Student Nurse. That was when I grabbed my Mustard Seed Pendant and held on and read Matthew 17:20. That was when I trusted God to get me through. A very bad night had deepened my faith. God would not leave me in my pain, God would not leave me with my sorrow and my defeat. He has proven that many times in my life. Our God is an awesome God and does not leave us alone in this world.

Matthew 17:20 "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Lord, we thank you for the day you have given us. May we use it in your service. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. Be with our Pastor, bless him and bless his ministry. Be with his family. Be with our Staff and Leaders may they find you in their midst. Be with our country, may we recognize what unites us instead of what divides us. We thank you for our church, may we be as one in service and unity, be with us in all things. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson

## United Women In Faith

All women of the church are invited to attend the November Meeting of UWIF (formally UMW) on Wednesday, November 9 in Fellowship Hall. We will begin with a potluck luncheon at noon. Each person should bring a dish to share and their own place setting. Beverages will be provided.

The program will begin at 1:00. We will be learning about some of the ministries that our World Thank Offering Supports. At the end there will be a World Thank Offering taken to support these and other Ministries that the UWIF financially supports.

# 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](http://www.uticaumc.org)**  
If you need assistance, call the church office.

**Celebrate Recovery, Thursday, 6:30pm**

