

Weekly Messenger

October 7, 2022

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"Her Mean Parents"

There is a writer I miss dearly. Her wit was fun to read, and her way of helping readers absorb truths was inspired. I am referring to Erma Bombeck. One of Erma's most-loved writings was on having the meanest parents in all the world.

Erma wrote about getting spankings when she disobeyed, while her friend next door didn't get spankings. She had mean parents. She told about having to eat vegetables while her friend next door didn't. Her parents were mean. Erma wrote about having to go to church every Sunday while her friend next door got to have fun. She was saddled with mean parents. She had to work for her allowance while her friend didn't have to do anything and got four times as much as she did. Her parents were just plain mean. When Erma turned sixteen, she had to earn points to be able to drive the family car, while her friend's parents provided him with a brand new luxury automobile. Her parents were mean, and her friend had it made.

When Erma turned thirty, she realized her perspective was wrong all those years. She was experiencing the pleasure of work, the reward of recreation, the strength of a healthy body, the bonds of a strong marriage, the inward confidence that comes from faith, and the wonderful supportive fellowship that comes from the Church as a community of believers.

As for her friend, things were not going so well: he was not finding his niche in the workplace, nothing seemed to satisfy him, and he was having difficulty getting along with people who were not willing to do everything just as he thought he knew it ought to be done, his marriage had not lasted even two years, his body was getting out of shape, and he evidenced a cynical outlook without any under-girding that comes from the assurance of faith.

I thought of Erma and her story of having mean parents a couple of months ago. A pastor I know told me he had stopped preaching on giving because it got under the skin of his parishioners. He even told me I should stop being so mean.

I believe that as followers of Christ, we have a need to give. I believe there are rewards we experience as we participate in furthering the kingdom of God. I contend the lessons taught to me in years gone by about giving continue to bless and inform me and nurture my walk with God.

We are beginning our three-week stewardship series. I am excited for us to consider giving in the context of faith, love, and hope. I pray you can see there is no meanness involved and that you will celebrate the lessons that have strengthened you through the years.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Don

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Fall 2022 Conference
Saturday, November 5th 8:15 am – 2:45 pm
Presented by:
Stephen Ministry Network of Southeast Michigan
YOU ARE NOT ALONE:
MENTAL HEALTH & STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry of Southeast MI is holding their annual conference on November 5 at St. John's Armenian Church in Southfield. The subject of the conference is Mental Health Awareness. We are going to try to carpool from our church. Endowment is providing a limited number of tickets, so if you're interested in attending let us know. If you have any questions or want to register for the conference, please contact Sheila Manning - 586 995-4658, email manningsk@comcast.net. A flyer is available on the church website and we will have some copies available at the church.

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

This Sunday, October 9th is the first Sunday of our three-week sermon and stewardship education program focusing on the virtues of faith, love and hope. This week our focus is on faith, which God graciously gives to us. Through faith, we acknowledge God as our Creator and Redeemer, and we are made right with him. In our sermon message, we will see that our stewardship is the evidence of faith. Faith leads us to action. Our faith empowers us to be God-pleasing stewards.

Wednesday Programs

Kids Club and Youth Group has started. Thank you for all the volunteers who have signed up. Please continue to lift up this ministry in prayer as we do have a good turn out of Youth, but are not there with Kids for Kids Club. If you know any kids, let them know about our program. Registration is still available on the website and we do have flyers available in the office.

Apple Pie Time

It is once again time to think about purchasing a yummy apple pie from our Women's group. Order forms are available in the Sunday bulletin and in the church office. The cost of pies is \$12.00 for a regular size pie and \$6.00 for a small pie. Please contact the church office with any questions.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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 looking to restart her Wednesday Night bible study. You are welcome to join the Youth and Kids Club for dinner at 5:45pm in Fellowship Hall and then join Cookie for bible study at 6:30pm. Please contact the office if you are interested in joining this study.



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

CELEBRATION PLACE

Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Luke 18:15 NIV

“The Celebration Place dream is to put Celebrate Recovery out of business by breaking the cycles of dysfunction in our families.” —John Baker, Founder Celebrate Recovery

Children have hurts, hang-ups, and habits too. Celebration Place is a 52-week complementary children’s (K – 6th) resource to Celebrate Recovery. So while adults explore topics that bring healing and wholeness, kids discover the same truths in age-appropriate ways!

Celebration Place gives kids...

- Hope for all the amazing things God has in store for them
- Truths that help them overcome life’s challenges by learning to lean on Jesus
- Joy as they embark on a wonderful, year-long journey of songs, games, videos, impactful experiences, and great conversation
- Friendships with other children

It has everything you need to lead kids as they make Jesus the enduring, rock-solid foundation of their lives. Celebration Place is designed to inspire kids with hope, joy, and happiness while they learn to rely on God.

How it Works:

Weekly lessons follow a two-hour schedule that includes songs, small groups, crafts, learning centers, games, teaching times, and free play. Every lesson closes with a time of commitment, reflection, or worship—and the child version of the Serenity Prayer.

During small groups, kids use their Celebration Place Journals to get in touch with their feelings and record their thoughts. Then kids tear out their Celebration Place Journal pages and take home the family conversation starter that’s included on the reverse side. This unique aspect of the journal opens the door to healing communication by teaching kids to talk to each other, talk to God, and talk to their parents.

If you have children, grand-children, or know people who do, and they could benefit from the ministries of Celebration Place and Celebrate Recovery, tell them of these wonderful ministries available at Utica United Methodist Church. We meet each week on Thursday, 6:30 PM. We look forward to meeting you.



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

What we Give

I was speaking to a friend this week and we talked about our children. She had 5 and I had 2. We spoke about the things we worried about when they were small and the things we worry about now. The love of a parent is always being challenged. When they were little, we worried about injuries and illness, then when they were teenagers, we worried about what temptations were they being faced with and what they were worrying about, then they married and left home and the worries continued. She spoke of her daughter's problems with love and a stable marriage and her hope for her, I spoke of my worry that they weren't taking care of themselves (this came from a Mother who had watched their sugar intake, no sugar coated cereal in our house, made sure they ate well and healthy, took them to the doctor and dentist for well visits and made sure they went outside for fresh air, made sure they had swimming lessons, made sure they had padded headboards because no child of mine was going to the ER at 11 pm because they were jumping on the bed and hit the wooden headboard). I admit to being overbearing. We have never stopped being the Mother. We decided we had signed up for a lifetime commitment. Now she has one child facing disease and one that died several years ago, the one she still weeps for at night when the house is still and quiet. Through it all God has been with us in all things, the good and the bad. One thing is true that when you have a child, a tiny being that you hold in your arms at birth but in your heart forever, you are truly bound by that love you feel. I remember a Mother whose child was arrested and sent to prison for vehicular homicide. He had drugs in his system. Her anguish was horrible, her heartbreak was palpable, her worry profound and she defended him. I felt her pain, this was her son, a part of her. His mistakes in life had led him to a bad place. But God still loved him and still felt sorrow for both he and his mother and this was not the plan God had for his life. Would he not hear the pleas of the child of a mother whose heart was breaking? Jesus in his final witness while hanging on a cross forgave and gave mercy to a thief who was beside him and gave his mother another son to care for her. I still pray as I have for over 60 years for the safety of my children, Grandchildren and Great grandchildren, they are the heart of my heart. Now imagine how much our loving God loves each one of us. He loved us before we were born, while still in our Mother's womb, before we knew him, he loved us. That is God's grace. We cannot decide on our own if we are loved because God has loved us from our beginning and had plans for us. We do not always live up to his plans, but he still loves us. We cannot run from it or escape it; we are loved by a forgiving God and a God filled with hope for us. We just must seek him. He sees within us as a Mother sees that tiny being and knows this child will be loved forever. Babies grow close to our hearts, and they never leave. And then God sends us Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren and we see in them their parents and a God that loves them. God blesses us daily with love and the gift of those small beings that hold such promise, grab onto our hearts, and never leave. Sometimes we make a life by the love we give to those we have been given. Praise God

Isaiah 66:12-13 For this is what the Lord says: "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.

Holy Lord, we thank you for the day and for the promise you see in each of us. Be with us, guide us and may we prove to be worthy of the love you have given. Be with our families and our church families. Be with our church, may we be the church you seek us to be. A church where all are welcomed. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and his family. We thank you for his leadership and for his faith that leads us closer to you. Be with our church leaders, guide them and protect them. Lord, our country is divided, may we see what we have in common rather than those things that separate us. Watch over the children in school. Protect them and keep them safe. Be with the people in Ukraine, give them protection from a war. Be with the people in our midst who are ill and those who grieve. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

UUMC School Supply Donations Update Methodist Children's Home Society

During the month of August, donations for school supplies were collected for the students who are residents at the Methodist Children's Home in Redford, MI. What a tremendous response we received as the following photos highlight the items donated. On behalf of the recipients of these supplies, a heartfelt thank you from Together-In-Mission (TIM).

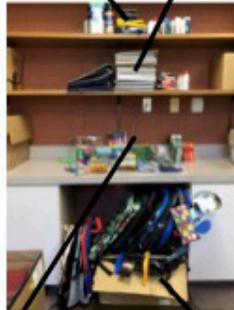


9 Cans of Shave Cream
111 Disposable Razors
31 Deodorant Packs



2 Binders
17 Spiral Notebooks
34 Glue Sticks
5 Bottles of Glue

METHODIST CHILDRENS HOME
SCHOOL SUPPLIES DONATED BY
UTICA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Thank You for your support
Together In Mission (TIM)



18 Boxes of Crayons
9 Packs of Markers/Highlighter
13 Packs of Colored Pencils
10 Packs of Lead Pencils
10 Packs of Ink Pens
5 Packs of Erasers
8 Packs of Mechanical Pencils



34 Backpacks
1 Pad of Construction Paper

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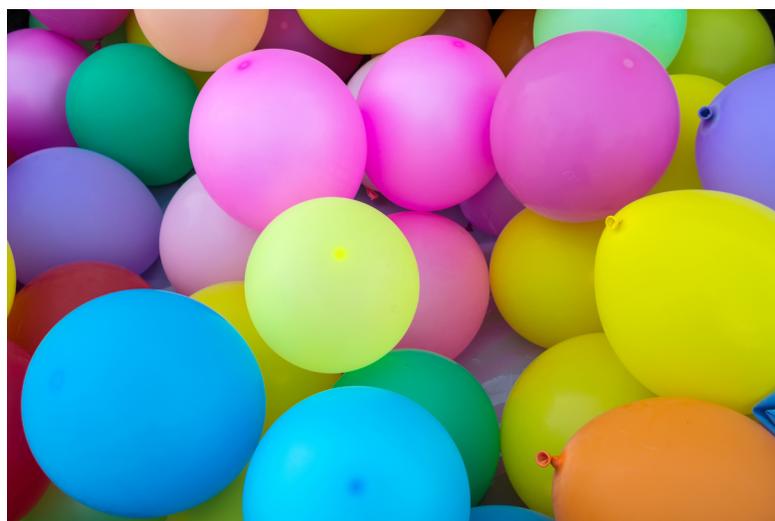
Happy birthday to.....



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

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

