

# Weekly Messenger

November 11, 2022

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## Lessons Learned

When I first joined a church. I chose the Methodist Church because I had been baptized in the Methodist Church in Royal Oak when I was an infant. I was accepted into the church with open arms and made to feel that I belonged. There was no youth program although there were a few youths but none that attended regularly. I was not at the church long before I was given a "job." I was to tend the nursery on the rare Sundays' that it was necessary. I did that for a while and then I was in Nurses Training and living in Detroit. There I visited any patients that came in from my home church. A few of us visited various churches in the area and we found that people would feel sorry for the poor students so far from home and would have us over to their homes for Sunday Dinner. We were well fed at school, but a home cooked meal tasted good. We did that until our group was on different schedules and did not have Sundays off consistently. When I graduated and married and had children in school, I slowly returned to church. I taught 4- and 5-year old's and wrote letters to our college students and worked a couple of hours a week in the office. I gave of myself what I was able to give. When we moved to 26 Mile Road we went to the local Methodist Church. I became active in Social Concerns and ushered. Although our reception at the church was great, I soon found that I should not ruffle feathers. When I wanted to Usher one gentleman would make a remark as he walked by about "women libbers." When I joined the Women's group, they were entrenched in their ways and not receptive to any new ideas. Politically I was a lone wolf. When there was a ministerial change, I began to drift away from my purpose for church. I served on Pastor Parish Relations Committee and there were issues. I sought other pastures. I came to Utica. The first Sunday the newly formed Bell Choir was playing. There were all women ushering and they did this once a month. No one talked to me, but I did not care about that. I needed to get back to why I went to church. I needed to return to Jesus. I went to both churches for a while and then as I felt my purpose returning, decided to join Utica. My husband was not happy as he fit in very well at the smaller church and was directing the choir and serving on the Administrative Board. I suggested he stay there but he wanted to come with me. So, we both joined, and he found new purpose with the UMM, serving on Memorials and car shows. Changing churches can be very painful but with time I cannot imagine being any other place. When we joined, we were given a card to fill out. On it was a line that read, "Where would you like to serve?" When I first joined a church, serving was a natural extension of our giving. I do not think I have ever been without a "job." Most times it was several jobs. I have been blessed that when I saw a need that could be filled, I was given permission to fill that need. Prayer quilting, communion, ushering, preparing the bears for the pews, coffee hour for the Contemporary Service when it was in the sanctuary, greeting, Prayer Shawls, funeral luncheons, Christmas Teas, even making cakes. teaching Sunday School. All these were jobs I filled when I saw a need. While my real "job" might be serving on Administrative Board, Trustees, Council on Ministries, Religion and Race, Pastor Parish Relations or Staff Parish Relations, or Stewardship campaigns and I was a Stephen Minister. Some of these no longer exist and I hope it was not anything that I said that caused their demise and just that our focus changes. Although Jesus calls us to give from our abundance or our widows mite and he also calls us to serve, at 87 I have slowed down and no longer do so much but I have watched others picking up the needs. I thank God that he led me to Utica where I have been given that opportunity so willingly. Do you hear that still small voice in the night?

1 Samuel 3: 10 The Lord came and stood there, calling out as at other times, "Samuel, Samuel" Then Samuel said, "Speak Lord for your servant is listening."

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Continued from page 1...

Lord, we thank you for the day. We thank you for those who served our country and for those who died in the wars. Thank you, Lord, for the safety and freedoms they have protected for us. Be with our country Lord may we be as one, unified and honoring those who have gone before. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve, may they be comforted. Be with our church Lord, may we find the path you have chosen for us in all things. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, be with him in all things. Bless his family. Be with our staff and leaders, guide and protect them. May we be the church you see in us, the hands, and feet of Jesus Christ. May we hear that still small voice calling us to serve. Amen

Grace Epperson

## Pies for Baldwin

It is also time once again to be thinking about bringing in Pies for Baldwin. Sign up sheets will be out in the Narthex and in the Fellowship Hall. Pies need to be shelf stable and already baked. We are asking for Pies to be brought in on Sunday, November 20th to be taken over to Baldwin Center for their Thanksgiving meal.

## Cookie Walk



*Cookie Walk*  
**Saturday, December 10**  
**10am-Noon**  
\*open to the public\*

This year we will be opening our Christmas Cookie Walk to the community and congregation on Saturday, December 10th (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. Flyers will be available in the bulletin this week to hand out to a friend or neighbor. Sign-up sheets for cookie bakers will be available this Sunday. You can always call the church office to sign-up as well.

## Media Release Form

We are asking all members of the congregation to please fill out a media release form. They were available on Sunday in the bulletin and in Fellowship Hall on the tables. We have more available in the office and around the church for you to pick up and fill out. The form gives us permission to use your photograph and/or your first name on our Facebook page, on the website and in the messenger. As events happen again in the church, we want to be able to share photos taken and need to make sure we have permission to do so. There is also a space that says I DO NOT wish for my photograph, and/or name to be used. We want to respect people's wishes in regards to their images being posted and used. Thank you to those who have filled out a form already. If you haven't please pick one up and fill it out.



## Angel Tree

This year we have the opportunity to purchase and Angel ornament for our Angel Tree. These can be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$15.00 per ornament. The money raised will be used towards the ministries of the church. There is an order form available in the bulletins this week and we are asking for payment to be included with your order form. There is a limited quantity available so make sure to get yours soon.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



## PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO ENSURE WE MEET OUR YEAR-END FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

As we near the end of the year, Finance Committee is asking for your help to ensure we meet our year-end obligations for November and December. We have approximately \$90,000 remaining in expenses. This includes: Compensation (\$38,000); Utilities & Upkeep (\$28,140); Ministries & Administration (\$12,355); and Conference Pensions & Ministry Shares (\$10,645).

Our average monthly income this year has been about \$28,000. This means we will be about \$34,000 short of what we need to meet all of our obligations. The carry-forward funds we have been using are nearly depleted. So, we are asking for everyone to give extra if you are able to ensure all our expenses will be paid. We will be “lighting the stars” in our banner to show our progress. Please do what you can to ensure all the stars are shining brightly by the end of the year!

### Stewardship Update:

Our stewardship program focused on giving as one key to our growth as stewards. Throughout the program, we were reminded that giving expresses our gratitude to God for who he is and what he has done for us through his son, Jesus. We have received pledges totaling \$254,770 so far. If you have already made a pledge - Thank You!! If you have not yet made a pledge, we ask you to prayerfully consider doing so.

### Motown Soup

**MOTOWN SOUP**  
Good for you, Good for the Community!

**OPEN HOUSE**  
November 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>  
Lower level, Trinity Lutheran Church (Handicap Accessible)  
45160 Van Dyke - Utica, Michigan

With your support, ALL of our profits in the last 17 years have been given to Michigan homeless shelters, food banks, soup kitchens and free clinics.  
An accumulated total over \$1,635,000

**NEW FOR 2022**

- \* 3 New Mini Soup Mixes- Chicken Pot Pie, Lasagna, & Lemon Orzo
- \* Peanut Butter Cookie Mix
- \* Cauliflower Delight Soup Mix
- \* 5 New Labels for Build-A-Box
- \* New Basket Box Choices
- \* The Mini Ten Variety Box

**2022 CRAFT SHOW SCHEDULE**

Sept. 24 & 25	Festival of the Senses - Clinton Township
Nov. 5	St. Malachy Craft Show - Sterling Heights
Nov. 5	Dakota High School - Macomb
Nov. 12	Saline Middle School - Saline
Nov. 12	Alternative Christmas, Hope Lutheran - Farmington Hills
Nov. 19 & 20	<b>Open House, Trinity Lutheran Church - Utica</b>
Nov. 19	Plymouth Canton High School - Plymouth
Nov. 26 & 27	Ford II High School - Sterling Heights
Dec. 2 & 3	Lutheran High School - Westland
Dec. 11	Holly Walk at Van Hoosen Farm

Go to our website at [motownsoup.com](http://motownsoup.com) for the most up-to-date scheduled in-person craft show appearances.

Need to save time? Motown Soup can ship your gifts right from our Open House! Bring your address book. Hand select your gift, choose a greeting gift card (sign and write your personal message), and insert in your gift. Shipping charges are calculated and we'll take care of the REST! All as an extra service to you - our VALUED CUSTOMER!

Have you tried Motown soup? This is a non-profit company housed at Trinity Lutheran Church on Van Dyke. Their profits over the last 17 years have been given to Michigan homeless shelters, food banks, soup kitchens and free clinics. If you have not heard of them, consider checking them out during their open house on Saturday, November 19th from 10am-5pm or on Sunday, November 20th from 9am-12:30pm.

They have soup mixes, cookie mixes, mini soup mixes and so much more.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Who Needs Recovery?

I get asked from time to time, “Do I need recovery?”

I love the question because the answer is easy. It’s the same answer every single time: “Yes, you do.”

Everyone needs recovery from something. Why? Everyone is broken, for “*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23 NIV).

All leaves little room for questions. Everyone is included. Sin affects all people.

Sin leaves us broken and estranged from God. Every single problem in our lives—from relationships to finances to our health—comes from the brokenness in this world.

There are only two kinds of people: Those who understand they’re broken and need recovery, and those who are in denial.

So, what’s this universal brokenness about? Humans want to be in control. We want to decide what’s right and wrong on our own. And the more insecure we are—the more out of control we feel—the more we try to control.

It’s a problem that began with Adam and Eve. God put them in paradise and told the first couple, “You can do anything you want in this entire paradise except this: don’t eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Then, of course, they made a beeline for that tree. They wanted to control paradise, to set their own agenda. And so do we. Every single one of us wants to be in control and at the center of the universe. We all have areas in our lives we want to control.

So, yes, we all need recovery.

But those who are involved in Celebrate Recovery® know that there is also good news. There’s a path to recovery, on which we can all find recovery the same way, whether our brokenness is emotional, spiritual, financial, sexual, or in any other area of our lives.

We find this path to recovery in the Bible. It’s the original recovery manual. The 12 steps involved in Celebrate Recovery are all found in the Bible.

Celebrate Recovery is a second-chance grace place. I think every church should be a place where people are given the opportunity to start over. No matter how they’ve messed up, a fresh start is possible for everyone.

Once people realize they need a second chance in life, God often brings them to Celebrate Recovery. The moment they begin following Christ, they start healing. Then God takes the pain of their past and turns it into a ministry.

Next time someone asks you if they need recovery, say yes. Then tell them about a place for second chances. Tell them about Celebrate Recovery. Who knows how many people could be impacted by that invitation?

Bob & Patsy Clark

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## *Christmas Bells are Ringing*

**2022 Handbell and Pipe Organ Christmas Concert  
Featuring: The Gosbells Handbell Choir**

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 3pm**

**Utica United Methodist Church  
8650 Canal Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314**



**Presented by: The Music Ministry of Utica United Methodist Church**

**\*\*Concert Admission is Free\*\***

An afterglow of light refreshments will be enjoyed by all at the conclusion of the concert!

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



October 5, 2022

11 / 1568

Utica United Methodist Church  
8650 Canal Rd  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314-1605

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*"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs."* Part IV Sec.1.120 Book of Discipline

Dear Friends in Mission,

**Thank you!**

Your financial support is enabling Global Ministries to fulfill the mission of the Church through evangelism and church growth. And through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in more than 60 countries.

United Methodist missionaries come from many places and backgrounds, witnessing and serving in dramatically different locales and cultures, engaging in a range of activities and professions as pastors, educators, congregational and leadership developers, regional coordinators for UMCOR, agriculturalists, health coordinators, and doctors.

Thank you for actively partnering with Global Ministries as we move forward in establishing over four hundred new congregations and faith communities in nations around the world. I ask that you pray that others will participate in this exciting movement of the Spirit through evangelism and church growth.

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

<b>Supporting</b>	<b>Gift Amount</b>
UMCOR - Where Most Needed	\$ 300.00
UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Gift Amount</b>	<b>\$2,800.00</b>

Date Received 04-20-22

<b>Supporting</b>	<b>Gift Amount</b>
UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery	\$ 125.00
Temba Nkomozepi	\$1,120.00
Randy Joe Hildebrant	\$1,120.00
<b>Total Gift Amount</b>	<b>\$2,365.00</b>

Date Received 06-22-22

<b>Supporting</b>	<b>Gift Amount</b>
UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery	\$ 75.00
UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery	\$ 50.00
<b>Total Gift Amount</b>	<b>\$ 125.00</b>

Date Received 07-13-22

<b>Supporting</b>	<b>Gift Amount</b>
Haitian Assets for Peace International (HAPI)	\$ 300.00

Date Received 09-07-22

Account #58804

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## 12 Days of Giving

**Day 1 - Cereal or Oatmeal**

**Day 2 - Baking Supplies - vegetable oil, flour, sugar, cookie, cake or brownie mixes**

**Day 3 - Canned Vegetables**

**Day 4 - Hygiene items: bars of soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush**

**Day 5 - Canned Chicken or Tuna**

**Day 6 - Spices - Cinnamon, Pepper, Salt, powders (garlic, onion, chili, etc.)**

**Day 7 - Boxed Potatoes or Stuffing**

**Day 8 - Canned Ravioli, SpaghettiO's, etc...**

**Day 9 - Canned Soups**

**Day 10 - Shelf Stable Milk or Powdered Milk**

**Day 11 - Kid Friendly Snacks - crackers, applesauce, fruit snacks**

**Day 12 - Household supplies - laundry soap, paper towel, toilet paper, dish soap**



I have a Thanksgiving challenge for you...set up a box in your home and each day add an item until you complete all 12 days. Bring this in to the food pantry as a way of giving back to someone else less fortunate during this holiday season. A couple other suggestions would be saltine crackers or oyster crackers to go with soup and we can always use boxes of noodles and spaghetti sauce. Hope to see a lot of boxes brought in in the coming weeks!



# 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

