



Weekly Messenger

November 4, 2022

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He's Not Getting Political, Is He?

I thought the title of my newsletter article might catch your attention. I promise not to get political, but I do have a humorous story that somehow seems to fit in the season of unending political advertisements on our televisions, radios, and in our mailboxes. The story is from so far back in our history; I'm sure none of us voted in the election referred to, so I'm feeling safe about not treading on anyone's toes.

During one of President Theodore Roosevelt's political campaigns, a delegation called on him at his home in Oyster Bay, Long Island. The President met them with his coat off, and his sleeves rolled up.

"Ah, gentlemen," he said, "come down to the barn, and we will talk while I do some work."

At the barn, Roosevelt picked up a pitchfork and looked around for the hay. Then he called out, "John, where's all the hay?"

"Sorry, sir," John called down from the hayloft. "I ain't had time to toss it back down again after you pitched it up while the Iowa folks were here."

On Sunday, we will begin a three-week sermon series on the important topic of servanthood. Thomas Secker, who served as the Archbishop of Canterbury in the church of England, used to say, "God has three sorts of servants in the world: some are slaves, and serve Him from fear; others are hirelings, and serve for wages; and the last are sons, who serve because they love."

It is my prayer that we, each and every one of us, will examine our hearts and discover our motivations for service to God in these weeks. If we do, we could end up changing our lives, the church, and the world we live in – all for the better!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

Utica United
Methodist Church
8650 Canal Road,
Sterling Heights, MI
(586) 731-7667
www.UticaUMC.org

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Baldwin Center Update

Thank you to everyone for bringing in gently used Men's coats to donate to Baldwin Center. We have a total of 38 coats bagged up and ready to be delivered.

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.

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.

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.

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.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Christmas Bells are Ringing

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

Sunday, December 4th, 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

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

Second Chances

I was able to write four letters this week. One was to my Internist of 45 years who was retiring. We had grown old together, doctor and patient. We listened to each other's life events. He never failed to give me good advice and I hope on some occasions I returned the favor. We are the same age, and I knew this day was coming but I did not want to break in another doctor. When the receptionist gave me the news I began to cry, and I realized how much I had come to depend on his steadfast manner and his sense of humor and most of all his common-sense medical advice. We had aged together and had once known the jobs we did as young, hopeful, medical professionals. When I complained about having my heart listened to through a sweatshirt or sweater, he understood. That was not how we were taught to do it. We had become old fashioned together. He knew HIPAA before it was a law. He would not discuss or even admit he knew another patient. I liked knowing he would only discuss me with my other doctors when necessary. Although I have learned that he does discuss me with the surgeon who did my cancer surgery, and they refer to me as "A blast from the past!" When he was older, he quit doing hospital visits and would send his Associates to see me. They always reported to me that he said they had to be nice to me. I will miss him and will remember the jokes we shared and the times he helped me through difficult times. When I was diagnosed with cancer, he was the first one I called. The receptionist said, "He's expecting your call." He had already received the news and when I asked him if he would come and check on me in the hospital, he said he would be there every day and he was. I always complained that he would call me with test results so early in the morning that I was half asleep and could not remember what he said but I always remembered if it was good or bad and that was all I needed. I will miss him.

My second letter was to a friend recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She had always called me when she read my devotionals in the Upper Room. She is a wonderful woman with a great sense of humor and a beautiful attitude. We worked together for years.

My third letter was to a woman recently diagnosed with breast cancer. I hope my words of empathy and experience with this disease will strengthen and encourage her as it comes from a 37-year survivor. I have been on the heights when I realized I had survived but I have also been in the pits as I feared its return. I understand the days when emotions run rampant.

My fourth letter was a letter of condolence to the family of a nurse I worked with. She spent her last days fighting dementia. This smart, intelligent, hard-working woman did not deserve this ending, but no one does, her least of all. She was a wife of many years, a mother, a nurse, a Christian and a friend. She will be missed. I had run across a picture of the two of us together at work. I set it out with the plan to send it to her but never got around to it. I regret that I lost that chance to share with her that remembrance.

We have a God of second chances, God calls us to love one another. His forgiveness comes to us with our faith, and we embrace it. I find it harder to forgive myself. But this is also part of God's forgiveness, the letting go and beginning again. If we ask God to remember when we did something he forgave us for will he say yes or will he say that sin no longer exists. God allows us every day to start fresh to be renewed in our faith, to receive his grace yet again. He wants us to grow closer to him to his love and forgiveness. May you be blessed today by the love of God in your lives. We are a forgiven people. Not perfect but striving for perfection.

Jeremiah 6:16 This is what the Lord says: Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.

Lord, we thank you for the day, for the new beginning you bring to us every dawn. Another chance to follow your word. Be with us each day that we may follow your ways. Be with those who are ill and suffering from disease, and those grieving for loss of someone they loved, be with those who are seeking you may they see you in their day and in their night. Be with all that enter our doors may they find you waiting. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and grant him all good things, be with his family. Bless them. Be with our Staff and Leaders, give them insight and discernment. Be with our church may we truly be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. It is in his name 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

