



Utica United
Methodist Church

Weekly Messenger

February 16, 2024

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"What R U Up 2?"

First, Thanks to the parishioner who sent me a list of suggested things we can fast from during Lent and work to make it a permanent practice. Since our theme for Lent is "What r u up 2," I thought I'd turn the "fasting from" statements into things we could choose to be up to and ask God to help us make these the things we are always practicing.

1. Let's get up to saying kind words and put away those that hurt.
2. Let's get up to living lives filled with gratitude and not choose to focus on new ways to be sad.
3. Let's get up to showing the people around us the patience they need to grow and thrive and move past the anger that stifles what God wants to do.
4. Let's get up to being hopeful people who see the promise of what can be rather than falling into pessimistic patterns.
5. Let's get up to really trusting God with all of our lives and stop letting worry sap our strength and peace.
6. Let's get up to finding the beauty of simplicity and put aside our bent to complain.
7. Let's get up to being playful again and let go of the pressures that steal the smile from our faces.
8. Let's get up to filling our hearts with joy and banish the bitterness that pushes others away.
9. Let's get up to living lives filled with compassion toward others and stop trying to find fulfillment in selfishness.
10. Let's get up to pursuing reconciliation with others and realize grudges only make us miserable.
11. Let's get up to listening to God and realize too much of our own words isn't good for us or anyone else.
12. Let's get up to being people of prayer instead of people who end up praying the mess we made because we didn't talk to God can somehow be fixed.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Warming Center Update

We have decided on Friday March 8th, Saturday March 9th, and Sunday March 10th at 2:00 pm for making lunches and the dinners.

100 Dinners – Friday, Saturday, Sunday

100 lunches – Friday, Saturday and Sunday – Not Bologna, Turkey, Ham and cheese, and peanut butter / Jelly?

Additional Support Needed:

- General Shelter Funds – We are getting no federal funding
- Food & Meal Donations
- Beverage Donations
- Operating Supplies (janitorial supplies, kitchen supplies, check-in supplies)
- Bus Passes – we suggest purchasing Reduced 4 Hour Regional Passes that are good for both DDOT & SMART buses. They are only \$0.50 per pass. To adequately provide bus passes for our client, the cost would be approximately \$840 per week. That would be 2 bus pass for each person up to 120 clients

Volunteers Needed:

5pm–9pm (2–4 volunteers) – Kitchen – preparing and serving meals

6pm–10pm (4–8 volunteers) – Check In – includes security, checking bags, distributing linens, providing names tags and numbers, etc.

11pm–6am (1–2 volunteers) – Overnight – washing linens, assisting clients if needs arise at night, etc.

6am–10am – (2–4) Check Out clients in the morning, help with setting up breakfast and general clean up

Please note that there will always be a MCMM staff member on site. If you have more volunteers, we will find them a job to do. And if you have less volunteers, we will make it work! We are grateful for whoever is willing to help the MCWS out.

Also need help sorting donations of clothing and food.

Please give me a call or text with any questions.

Ron Borgacz 586-243-5538

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Mini Pantry on the MOVE

The Mini Pantry has outgrown the space we created in the beginning of this ministry. On Sunday the items were relocated to the lower level, utilizing the space previously used by the Food Bank. Our next step is to organize and continue to rotate product to avoid any expiration of your donations. We are also using a model for other local Food Pantries in which we have determined how much food we will place in the Mini Pantry weekly. We want to be sure we are providing fruits, veggies, protein, breakfast cereal as well as cleaning and hygiene products. Of course some food items will continue to be “on hold” until we are beyond the risk of freezing. As you shop remember that the items listed below are safe and continue to be in demand as we redirect the needs of the Mini Pantry.

- Dry soup mixes.
- Boxes of flavored rice (example Rice-a-Roni)
- Boxes of scalloped and au gratin potatoes
- Boxes of Jell-O or pudding
- Family size cereal rather than individual serving sizes.
- Pancake or waffle mix
- Microwave Popcorn
- Powdered Milk
- Packaged pasta mixes (example Knorrs noodle mixes)

We have discovered our main need no longer focuses on the “homeless population” , rather than those who for various reasons, suffer from food and hygiene insecurities. We also are working to determine if we have such insecurities within our own congregation and if we do how can we lovingly serve our brothers and sisters in Christ.

With thanks and gratitude,
The Mini Pantry Crew

CHILI, SOUP, AND DESSERT COOK-OFF Sunday, February 25, 2024 4:00 PM

It's time to look for your favorite recipes and some new ones. We will be having a Chili, Soup, and Dessert Cook-off on Sunday, February 25 at 4:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.

- Sign-up sheets will be available starting February 11. You may enter in one or more categories and you may enter more than once in each category.
- Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 entries in each category and for the top overall entry.
- Come Sunday, February 25 at 4:00 PM and sample all the entries. You don't need to enter to participate. “Vote” with your dollars (or \$5's or \$10's or more) for your favorite entries in each category. Vote as many times as you wish.
- Bring your friends and family – they will enjoy wonderful food and fellowship with us.
- Proceeds will be used to support the United Methodist Conference through our Ministry Shares.

Office Closed

The office will be closed on Friday, February 23rd and will close early on Thursday, February 22nd for vacation. Please make sure all business with the office is done earlier in the week or it will be taken care of the following week.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

The Disciples

How did the Disciples come about. They were simple men going about their lives. Fishermen, a tax collector, but all became followers of Jesus Christ and all he had to say was "follow me." They laid down the nets they were working on, set aside what they were doing and followed this man. What of the families who depended on them? What of the job they were doing? None of them said, "Wait while I train someone else to do this task." "Wait until a better time when I'm not too busy. Wait until the children are grown. Wait until I can get a replacement for my job." They simply heard a man walking by saying, "Follow me." Do you ever hear that voice calling to you and do you heed the call? Do you ever sing the words, "I have heard you calling in the night." I will go Lord; I will hold your people in my hand." and thought of the nagging voice that sometimes speaks to you? I think every follower of Jesus has heard that voice. I have answered that call many times but the times I regret are the calls I didn't answer. I always felt called to go on a mission to a foreign country but never did. Oh, I contributed money, I made dresses and donated clothing. I bought Christmas gifts and contributed cakes and I worked midnights for a couple years for MCREST and helped serve dinners yearly, but I never fulfilled my call to go to a foreign country to serve people. I was a Registered Nurse. and I am sure my skills would have been utilized but I will never know that joy of giving that would have come to me and to others I might have helped. Now at 88 I think of the things that I didn't do. I never learned to swim like Esther Williams, how in the world did she smile underwater? I can't dance or sing or look like Betty Grable, both of these things were goals as a young child but the thing that most disappoints me is that I never went on a foreign mission. But I hope God will look at the things I did do and not at my failures. I served in the church and sometimes the jobs were small and sometimes they required a lot of effort but always God was with me. We have a forgiving God and that gives me hope that he will forgive me my shortcomings and my failures.

Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord if you lead me, I will hold Your people in my heart. I the Lord of wind and flame I will tend the poor and lame I will set a feast for them my hand will save. Finest bread I will provide 'til their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord by John Michael Talbot

Lord, may we answer your call when we are called to serve in your name. Be with us Lord, grant us courage in all things, strengthen us in our weakness. We thank you for all we have, for our shelter, for the food on our tables, for those who surround us with love, for our health and well-being, for all the days you give us. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve, comfort them. Be with our church may it truly be your church. Be with our fellowship as we serve each other. In Jesus 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 - Friday
8:00am-2:00pm

Mini Pantry

Food and Monetary
Donations are being
accepted.

Suggested foods are eat
and go items (tuna packs;
cracker items; granola
bars; fruit cups; salty
snacks

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/Bookkeeper

Rachelle Heldt

rachelle@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 Rachelle Heldt

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



CELEBRATE RECOVERY
God Never Wastes a Hurt!