



Utica United  
Methodist Church

# Weekly Messenger

March 1, 2024

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Warming  
Center

Mini Food  
Pantry

Cook-off  
Results

UWIF

GCCM Mission  
Trip

Devotional

Back Page  
Info

## "March Prayer Focus"

March always offers us a "Season of Change". This year is no different as we continue our Lenten Journey to the Cross. In the weeks ahead we will share and remember the Last Supper, Judas as he betrayed our Lord and most importantly claim and proclaim once again...the Tomb is Empty...HE IS RISEN!!!

Psalm 121:1-2. ...I lift up my eyes to the mountains- where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth."

Heavenly Father,  
I \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name) come to you this day and in every new day that awaits me with awe in what YOU, O, Lord "gave up" for me.

I want to "lift up" my entire being, honoring and serving you first, last and everywhere in between, not just during Lent but throughout my earthly life.

Lord there is no reason for me to fear or doubt your calling upon my life. I only need to "look up" to remember you "took up" the cross for my sins and in your resurrection I have the promise of eternal life with you.

You are the maker of heaven and earth and that includes me, your humble servant. Lord as I walk in remembrance the path of your death and resurrection I believe that YOU will continue to "call me up" as a broken vessel to serve a broken world. Lord, my faith "looks up" to you. You are the creator of everything good and perfect. For my life and for so much more, I give you all the praise and glory this day and always.

AMEN

FAITH STEP:

Let me be "up to something good" this day.

Written by: Martha Powers

Utica United  
Methodist Church

8650 Canal Road,  
Sterling Heights, MI

(586) 731-7667

[www.UticaUMC.org](http://www.UticaUMC.org)

# 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

## 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 Knorr's 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

# **THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

## **COOK-OFF RESULTS**

Congratulations to all of our cook-off prize winners.

### **OVERALL BEST CHEF - 2024**

Jerry Westover – Venison Chili

### **CHILI CATEGORY**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jerry Westover – Venison Chili

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Kathy Kamlay – Tailgate Chili

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Charlotte Ramsey – Pork & Black Bean Chili

### **SOUP CATEGORY**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Don Gotham – Hungarian Mushroom Soup

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Laura Schneider – Chicken & Dumpling Alfredo Soup

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Charlotte Ramsey – Ham & Potato Soup

### **DESSERT CATEGORY**

1<sup>st</sup> Place (tied): Debbie Pelton – Coconut Chiffon Pie

1<sup>st</sup> Place (tied): Dave Miller – Mrs. Truman's Famous Ozark Pudding

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Don Gotham – Mrs. Patten's Cherry Cheese Bars

We want to thank everyone who came to support our cook-off and all our entrants. We raised \$860 for our Conference Ministry Shares with our “votes” at the cook-off. This makes ALL of us winners and the Conference too! Plus, those who attended were able to sample lots of great chilis, soups, and desserts.

There are still some fantastic cookbooks and cooking magazines on carts near the office. These will be available for a free will donation again this Sunday, March 3. Don't miss your chance to take some of these home with you. The donations will also go towards our Conference Ministry Shares.



United  
Women  
in Faith

The United Women in Faith will be meeting in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 13th at noon. We will begin with a potluck luncheon. Please bring a dish to pass, your own place setting and an item for the mini food pantry.

At 1:00 Patsy Clark will explain how Celebrate Recovery can help you, your family or friends.

All women in the church are invited, hope to see you there.



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## God's Country Community Ministries

A few weeks ago, we had our missionary, Randy Hildebrant provide an update on the ministry he serves. Randy serves God's Country Community Ministries (GCCM) located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Our church has been invited to join with GCCM on a mission trip to the Upper Peninsula in June of 2024. In the coming weeks Together-In-Mission (TIM) will be soliciting the level of interest from our church in being part of a team participating in a mission trip. The skill levels of the team will determine the type of work that the team performs. Many details are flexible at this time so our main objective is to share the information we have and discuss schedule and work scope with those who may feel a calling to support this ministry. More details and sign up sheets will be available starting Sunday after service.

This mission trip will provide an opportunity for those who want to be a part of a Christian-based team of disciples and want to use their capabilities to help others in need. In addition to ourselves, the trip will enable us to extend an invitation to our friends, adult children and grandchildren (15 years and older) to accompany us on a spiritual mission. For those who have never participated in a mission trip, here is your chance to enjoy the beautiful Upper Peninsula while allowing your "light to shine" on the children of God served by GCCM. We are looking to get a group of 10 to 15 individuals to join the mission team. Please stop by the table after service to pick up an information packet and let us know of your interest. At this time we will not be looking for a final commitment to the trip, rather we are trying to identify those who may be interested in the trip.

TIM is excited to offer this opportunity to bring glory to God through a mission trip to "God's Country". If you are not able to participate in the mission, but would like to assist with supporting this trip please watch for ways to help as details of the mission trip unfold. We are thankful to God for guiding us to this occasion to use our talents to serve our Father in heaven. May He bless our efforts.

### Together-In-Mission Group



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Kind Deeds

Soon in our Christian Faith the son of God, Jesus Christ will once again suffer death on the cross. We have been asked to not “give up something,” but to do something for someone else for Lent. Lately I have been the recipient of kind deeds. My Son calls me frequently, runs errands for me, and makes sure I get to church each Sunday. This is not new, he has been doing this for years. Friends take me to Dr appointments (which are increasing as I age) and for tests which I have had a lot of lately. For one test that lasted three hours, one dear friend took me and stayed until another friend then came to wait and take me home. I don’t have to ask they just insist on helping me even with the laundry! This one dear friend not only came over for lunch which she and another friend provided but did some laundry while they were here. Another friend came one evening and brought me “Pasties” for supper and sat awhile and we were able to catch up on our lives. Other friends that live close by took me to the Ash Wednesday Service, something I would not have been able to do without their kindness. I know these people are the ones who would have done acts of kindness without prompting because that is who they are, but they have made me grateful for their presence in my life and they have brought me joy during a trying time. I thank God for all the prayers, the words of encouragement, the cards, and all the kind acts given so freely and with love. God has blessed my life. I have had 39 wonderful years since a cancer diagnosis and have seen my children age, grandchildren married and two of them become parents, and experienced the unique joy of great grandchildren, all of them with a sharp mind and a great sense of humor (the oldest a very smart six, who calls me Great Grandma Grace or GGG for short.) I love hearing them laugh at knock-knock jokes and have sent them all joke books. God has blessed me with a sense of humor that has been with me through poverty, sorrow, trials, and loss and has been with me on the best days of joy and love, second chances, gifts, great friends, and God’s blessing of a long life that gave me children, grandchildren and wonder of wonders, great grandchildren. God gave me people who have surrounded me with love and encouraged me to come from a life that could have been my undoing and took that young girl and helped her change her life for the better. Good deeds? My life has been filled with the good deeds of God fearing and loving people since I first entered a church, a 15-year-old wearing clothes she made in Home Economics Sewing class and those people too many to count, gave a young girl hope and showed her a path and with God changed her life.

“You raise me up so I can stand on mountains. You raise me up to walk on stormy seas I am strong when I am on your shoulders, you raise me up to more than I can be.”

\*Lyrics from “You Raise Me Up” by Josh Groban

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day. May we be worthy of it and may we feel you with us in all things. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. Be with those who hunger for your word. Be with our Pastor and his family, keep them safe; bless him and guide him in all things as he shepherds us. Be with our church, may it always be your church. Be with our leaders and our Staff may they be guided by you in all things. 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](mailto:srpastor@uticaumc.org)

### Music Ministry

**David Fox**, Organist, Bell, & Chancel Choirs  
Director

[FoxDavidL@sbcglobal.net](mailto:FoxDavidL@sbcglobal.net)

**Mer Renne**, Contemporary

Worship Leader

[mer@uticaumc.org](mailto:mer@uticaumc.org)

### Communications Director/Bookkeeper

**Rachelle Heldt**

[rachelle@uticaumc.org](mailto: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](http://www.uticaumc.org)**

If you need assistance, call the church office.

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

