



Weekly Messenger

March 29, 2024

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"And Best of All"

At the end of his life, John Wesley, the founder of the movement called Methodism, was speaking to those gathered near. Wesley's strength and ability to speak were ebbing. He greeted loved ones who gathered, sang bits of a hymn, and expressed his wishes for his funeral. While all of what he spoke that day was inspiring, the phrase that speaks loudest, in my opinion, was his saying, "And Best of all, God is with us!"

Wesley was known for his Easter greeting of, "He Is Risen!" He greeted friends, colleagues, and congregations with those words. And, as you know well, those he greeted would reply, "He Is Risen, Indeed!" Wesley wanted everyone to know the importance of serving a resurrected Christ. He wanted everyone to know this truth because of what it means for each of us every day of our lives.

When we have and keep a resurrection mindset, something happens to us. When we know that our savior lives and that we will live forever with Him, we can face today's struggles. When we know and own within our hearts the promise of spending eternity with God because of what Jesus did for us on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we find courage that would otherwise be denied to us.

Easter provides us with the blessing that we don't have to go through life uncertain about what will happen at the end of our days. That blessing is meant to change things for us right now, not just when we pass from this life to the next. Easter blesses us with hope, cheer, purpose, and joy because, best of all, God is with us!

Because He Lives,

Rev. Don

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 1st. Have a Happy Easter!

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

MCREST Update

Hello Church Family – UUMC will be hosting MCREST the week of April 21 – April 28 offsite again this year. We will be commuting each day to the women's shelter in Mt. Clemens and also providing meals to the group of 30 men who will be housed in a hotel.

At this time, we would like to ask for your help in donating the following items:

- Sweet and salty pre-packaged snacks
- Bottled water
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Juice boxes
- Fruit cups/pudding cups
- Cereal
- Instant oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Pop tarts

Paper products:

- Heavy duty paper plates
- Paper towels
- Napkins
- Plastic ware (forks, knives, spoons)
- Zipper close sandwich bags
- Large brown paper lunch bags

We will be collecting these items starting Sunday, March 24th thru the week of April 14th. Please place the donated items on the cart located by the coat rack. Also, there will be sign-up sheets coming soon for volunteers needed to help make lunches as well as helping at the shelter.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, it would be greatly appreciated. You can submit your donation to the office with the 'memo' marked MCREST.

Any questions, please contact Linda Baker at 248-515-1977 or lbaker@sirco-associates.com

As always, the MCREST team thanks you and appreciates all your help!

God Bless,

MCREST Leadership Team

Special Giving Sunday's In March

We have had a couple of special Sunday's here in March. March 10th was UMCOR Sunday. We collect money along with all other United Methodist Church's to fund the day-to-day cost of running UMCOR. This ensures that when a need arises, and money comes in for that need 100% of that money goes directly to that cause. If you would still like to donate to UMCOR Sunday, it is not too late. Use the special giving envelope of your own envelope and write UMCOR Sunday on the other giving line.

By now you should have received your Easter letter in the mail. There is now an option on the e-giving website to give to Easter. If you would prefer to donate through online means, please use the Easter option to give to Easter offering. Otherwise please use the Easter envelope provided in the letter, and there are some Easter envelopes available in the pews on Sunday morning. The Easter offering is going to support the missionaries Randy Hildebrant and Temba Nkomozepi.

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God's Country Community Ministries



This article will provide an update concerning our Utica UMC mission trip to God's Country Community Ministries in the UP. Our application has been accepted and we have been assigned the period from June 16th to June 22nd. We will depart from Sterling Heights after church services on Sunday, June 16th. We will work on a ministry project starting Monday and continuing through Friday morning. On Friday afternoon, we will visit some of the local attractions possibly including the Tahquamenon Falls or Kitch-Iti-Kipi Springs. Then on Saturday, we will return home to prepare for the coming week. We currently have 14 team members who plan to participate in the mission trip. We will be holding our first Mission Team Planning Meeting on Tuesday, April 2nd at 7 PM to share more information about the trip and to begin planning details in preparation for our trip. All those who may have interest in participating as a part of the team or to support the team with whatever needs are identified, are welcome to attend.

This mission trip to God's Country is being performed on behalf of the Utica United Methodist Church. The outreach is a church-wide effort to share our love with those in need who live in a harsh winter climate for much of the year. Those who are not available to participate in this mission trip are welcome to come to this meeting to learn how you might become a part of the mission. We will need your help to purchase materials to support our project work while at the mission site. We will also be looking to bring items requested on the ministry's "Community Needs List" to address the clients who rely on Director - Randy Hildebrandt and his GCCM team to share God's love in the UP.

Hands With Detroit

Consider how you can "get up to something" and think about helping support Hands with Detroit. See the flyer on page 5 for more information. There are ways you can help support by either volunteering your time and sign up to go and serve in Detroit on that day, or by purchasing a needed item from their amazon list and having it sent directly to Cass Community services.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Together In Missions

Each month, T.I.M. will highlight a ministry that Utica UMC is supporting. For the month of April, we will again be highlighting the Methodist Children's Home in Redford. In the past, our support has included Easter Baskets, hygiene products and sporting goods products also Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers.

The following is the opening of their history:

MCHS Family of Services, originally named Methodist Child Care and then Methodist Children's Home Society, was founded in 1917, a year in which Detroit factories were busy turning out war material for the conflict in Europe. When a disastrous epidemic of influenza hit the city, children whose parents died were often left without friends or relatives to care for them. Such was the plight of numerous children discovered by members of the order of deaconesses of the Methodist Church, when making their rounds in the residential sections of Detroit industrial areas.

To hear more about this ministry, join us for a tour of the facility on May 7th. We will be leaving our parking lot at 10 AM and should return around 1pm.

Please sign up on the sheets in the parlor or in the Fellowship Hall so we can be sure we have adequate transportation arranged.

Another way to help continue our longtime support of the 70 children and youth of this ministry is by donating personal hygiene supplies for boys. Items to consider include brush, comb, hair picks, soap, deodorant, razors, shaving cream. Please drop the items in the boxes provided in the narthex or near the back entrance. Items will be delivered during our tour on May 7th.

Youth Cooking Class with Chef Josh

On the 2nd Saturday of each month the youth are invited to a cooking class with Chef Josh. This is open to all Junior high and Senior high youth grades 7th-12th. The class runs from 9am - Noon. Please contact Peggy Miller by phone or text at 586-557-0208 with any questions and to reserve your spot so that enough food can be purchased on that Saturday to cover all in attendance. Next class is on Saturday, April 13th. Please let Peggy know if you will be in attendance.

United Women in Faith

All women are invited to the monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 10th beginning with a potluck luncheon at noon in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Drinks are provided.

Our program will be on Prayer and Self Denial beginning at 1:00pm.

Hope to see you there.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

The Holiest of Days

Jesus has Risen. He will be with us in glory but on this day, Easter Sunday, Jesus Christ has risen!! The cross is empty, the tomb is empty. Jesus Christ is risen. Glory be to God! We celebrate the empty tomb! He has not left us without his love and mercy, he abides with us and intercedes for us. He gives us strength for the day and when we are immersed in sorrow it is Jesus we seek. Who better to comfort us than one who loved us so much that he gave up his life for us. Can you feel him when sorrow seems to be winning in your life, can you feel him when you are at your lowest? He is there holding you in the storms, coming to comfort you. You are his blessed child, and he does not forget his own. We gather to celebrate Easter Sunday, the holiest of days. We sing "Christ the Lord is risen today," and our "Hallelujahs" ring out. Gone is the sorrow of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Sunday is with us. May we carry that joy with us in all our days, may it be in the kindness we show others, in the way we treat those we disagree with, in the ways we are with those who are different from us, in the way we hold all the children, not just our own, in the way we recognize the humanity in each person we meet. I hope on this Easter Sunday you feel Christ's love in your heart.

John 20:26-29 A week later the disciples went to the house again and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God." Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Lord, we thank you for the risen Lord Jesus. He is with us in our days and in our hearts. May we heed the words of Jesus to care for one another. Be with our Pastor, bless him and keep him safe as he serves you and brings us closer to you. Be with his family. Be with our staff and leaders, bless them and guide them. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve, may we give them your comfort and love. Help us to reach out to the hungry and the homeless, the hopeless and the lost. May we give them not only food and clothes but your word in our actions. Be with our church may it be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Happy Easter!!

Grace Epperson



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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.



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



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.

