



Weekly Messenger

April 19, 2024

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"It Doesn't Change"

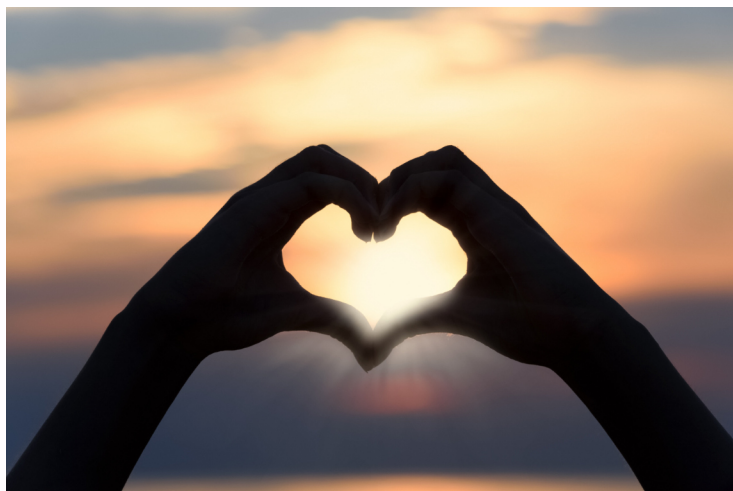
This Sunday we will consider how the world knows love. We will consider what it takes to be sure our witness is authentic. Over five hundred years ago, Teresa of Avila wrote these words. They are as meaningful and important today as they were then.

Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks upon this world with compassion.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, and you are his body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

The next time you wonder how the world has come to the place where you ask where the compassion has gone or where is the kindness toward others that we used to know? I think you must also ask yourself if you are living to be an expression of the compassion and kindness, that is, the love of Christ to the world around you?

"We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16

Looking forward to worshipping with you,
Rev. Don



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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Upcoming Events

April

- April 21-28 – MCREST Week
- April 27th – Van Dyke Clean-Up
- April 28th – Sugar Cookie Kit Orders Due (Support Mission trip to UP)
- April 28th and May 5th – Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

May

- May 10th – Used Book Sale 9am-2pm
- May 11th – Used Book Sale 10am-Noon
- May 11th – Plant Swap 10am-Noon
- May 12th – Happy Mother's Day

June

- June 1st – Car Show 9am-3pm
- June 10th – STARS/XCEL begins 9am-2pm
- June 16th – Send off of Mission Trip to the UP

Spring Themed Sugar Cookie Kit

For a limited time we are offering a Spring Themed Sugar Cookie Decorating Kit.

These kits include the following and will be packaged together for pick-up at the church on Sunday, May, 5th:

- 1 dozen spring themed baked sugar cookies
- Buttercream Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Sanding Sugars in a variety of Spring colors

All Sugar Cookie Decorating Kit orders are due no later than April 28th. The cost of each kit is \$20.00 payment collected at time of kit pick-up. Please contact Martha Powers at 586-703-1668 (cell phone) or email at ron_martha@att.net to place your order. There will only be 24 kits available so please don't wait – order today!

Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

The jigsaw puzzle exchange back in January was a success and we would like to hold another puzzle exchange on April 28th and May 5th. Please bring in your used puzzles and we will set out tables for everyone to browse and pick up some new puzzles to do. You do not have to donate a puzzle to take a puzzle. Puzzles can be brought in anytime during the week between 8am-2pm and left with the office, or can be dropped off under the coat rack on Sunday morning.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



GOD'S COUNTRY MISSION TRIP - BAKE SALE

What a HUGE boost to our God's Country Mission Trip. Thank you so much for the tremendous support from the Bake Sale. Thanks to the many bakers who donated the delicious baked goods! Thanks to the many generous buyers for your donations. Thanks to God for His love and guidance. The Bake Sale raised \$994.00. Thank you Utica United Methodist Church.

The next meeting for the mission trip team is on Tuesday, April 30th at 7:00pm in the parlor.

Van Dyke Clean-up

On Saturday, April 27 (8:45- 11:00) our church has the responsibility of cleaning up the debris that has accumulated on the berm of Van Dyke between 21 and 22 Mile Road. Please sign up to help on Sunday after services with the Weavers or call us at 260-5935.

MCREST Week

MCREST week begins on Sunday, April 21st. Please make sure if you volunteered to help out that you know what day and time you will be in to help. We will continue to accept monetary donations for MCREST. If you haven't been able to contribute and feel this is a worthy cause, please write MCREST on the other line of your giving envelope or write MCREST on the line of a pew envelope and that money will be used to help support the MCREST team.

Native American Sunday

Thank you to those who gave a little extra for Native American ministries. This is one of the special giving Sundays that we support through the entire Methodist Church. We will still accept donations for Native American Sunday through April 28th. Just write Native American Ministry on the other line of your giving envelope.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Mini Food Pantry Update

We survived our first winter with the Mini Pantry....what a blessing to be able to still meet the needs of those with food insecurities. For the next month we will focus on prepackaged side dishes.

- Au Gratin Potatoes
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Cans of Whole White Potatoes
- Cans of Gravy
- Bags of Dressing
- Condiments
- Fruit Juice (half gallon)

Your continued support has allowed UUMC to ministry to the needs of those families in our neighborhood. In doing so we have been blessed by random cards and notes of encouragement from those who pass by our church.

A friend loves at all times.
Proverbs 17:17

STARS/XCEL Summer Program

We are gearing up for our Summer Camp STARS and XCEL program which runs for 6 weeks starting June 10th - July 18th. Jennifer will be back as our site director. It sounds like 2 of our previous interns will be returning for another summer with us. We do need 2 more interns. If you know of anyone who is 18 years or older and is looking for a summer job, please put them in contact with the church office and we can get them directed to the application process or answer any questions.

Exciting news is our courageous van drivers have agreed to drive again for us this summer and Debbie Pelton has agreed to head up the kitchen. If you are interested in helping with the kitchen this summer, please reach out to Debbie.

Do you have a fun or unique hobby? Do you like to share your hobby with others? We would love to provide our summer campers the opportunity to learn new hobbies and experiences. Some examples have been button/pin collection, coin collections, wooden craft painting, card making, and an introduction to a leader dog. We will have sign up sheets out soon for you to volunteer. It will be helpful when you sign up to indicate which day of the week might work best for you to come in and also whether mornings or afternoons are better for you.

Registration is now open for our campers. You can find a link to the online registration on our website under the Kidzone for STARS and Youth for XCEL or you can scan the QR code below.



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.

Used Book Sale

The church will be hosting a community used book sale on Friday, May 10th from 9am-2pm and again on Saturday, May 11th from 10am-Noon. Start cleaning up those book shelves and bring in your used books to donate for the sale. The used book bins will be back out by the entryway at the front door and also by the entryway near Fellowship Hall. If you have a large quantity of books, please e-mail the office at office@uticaumc.org or call the office at 586-731-7667 to let us know how many books you are bringing and if you need help unloading them from your car.

Plant Swap

We will be having a Perennial Plant Swap on Saturday, May 11th from 10am-2pm. Please bring transplants or plant seeds in individual containers and labeled to swap. If you have plant books, please bring them in for the used book sale and we can highlight a table for plant books! This will be a fun event where you can come and swap your plants outside and head inside and purchase some used books. Make sure to tell your friends and neighbors.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Places in the Heart

I do not very often recommend movies, but I do recommend “Places in the Heart.” Sally Field does one of her best roles. She is a wife and mother when the story begins and soon a young black youth accidentally kills her husband. The youth is then brutally killed by others. Sally Field’s character faces the life of a mother without a husband during the Depression. It is going to be a hard life. But then someone brings a blind man as a boarder to her home. A black man comes and joins them as she shows mercy towards him, and he helps her grow cotton. She makes enough money to save her home from the bank and to continue giving to those with less. She takes on the role of Mother and Father with her children and she always shows mercy to those less fortunate. They thank God always for what they have. A tornado hits the town and people suffer. But all these things are not what intrigues me about this movie. It is the last scene that has always touched me. It is Sunday morning, and they are gathered in their small church. When we first see the congregation, it is a sparse crowd but as they pass communion the seats are full. There are many there, and you see the presence of those who are gone from their midst taking communion. The Pastor speaks words of love and mercy from the bible. The choir rises and sings ‘In the Garden.’ A very familiar hymn to many of us and is based on Mary seeking Jesus at the tomb. Communion is being passed as the choir sings. Soon you see people who are gone. A woman who was living in her car and was killed in the tornado, others that had killed as part of the “Klan.” Communion comes to Sally Fields character, and she passes it to her husband whose presence is still beside her, he passes it to the young boy beside him who is the one who killed him and says, “Peace of God.” Forgiveness abounds in this small church. It reminds me that people are not always judged by what is in their heart but by the cruel hate that is in other hearts. That forgiveness can come to all that seek it and that we are blessed when we give it to others.

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Lord, be with us this day, may all we do be pleasing to you and done to your glory. Be with those who suffer, who are at war, who hunger, who suffer disease, those who grieve. Lord, we live in a world where war never ceases. May we reflect your love and mercy to all we meet and may we be a better people. Be with our church, may it be your church. Be with our Pastor, bless his service to us, be with him in all he does. Bless his family. Be with our leaders and workers in the church, strengthen them and may they feel you in all that they do. May we be the hands and feet of Jesus in all we do and say in this place and in this time. In the name of Jesus 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: canned
meat, pancake mixes and
syrup, small peanut butter
and jelly, boxes of
crackers.

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

Announcement Loop/Vertical TVs—

End of day on Tuesday each week
Messenger Articles and Prayer List by

Noon on Wednesday each week.
Announcement made during service

by 1pm Friday

E-mail rachelle@uticaumc.org or
office@uticaumc.org

E-Giving

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

