



# Weekly Messenger

May 10, 2024

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## "Keep Calm and Carry On"

Months before the Germans began their bombing campaign in Europe, the English government was expecting German aggression, so they created posters to bolster the resolve of their citizens to withstand the bombardments they knew would someday come.

Many people have adopted the words from the posters as a mantra for overcoming life's challenges. A loved one is diagnosed with cancer, and people recall the advice to keep calm and carry on. The unexpected death of a parent comes to a family, and the surviving parent helps their children to go on and honor their lost parent as they keep calm and carry on. An accident occurs, and it is going to take months of physical therapy to regain mobility and function in the ways one used to, and they steel their resolve to get through it as they keep calm and carry on.

Disappointments come, and celebrations come. Sometimes, the things we celebrate are the very things someone else is counting as a disappointment. Some would say that this is because the world we live in today is so broken. I would say this has been the truth throughout the ages. Think about how two people interview for a job. One gets the job, and one doesn't. The one who gets the job takes the organization in a direction the one who didn't get the job wouldn't have. The truth is, we all find our times of celebrating and being disappointed, and often, there are others who find the opposite to be true within the same situation.

We serve the God who is with us in our celebrations and our disappointments. We serve the God who is faithful regardless of any situation we experience. We serve the God who is unflappable. We serve the God who keeps calm and carries on.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

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# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Upcoming Events

### May

- May 12th – Happy Mother's Day – Sweet Treats Sale
- May 18th – Taco Dinner & Silent Auction 5:00pm

### June

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

## God's Country Church Mouse Program

### Items needed by the community of the Eastern U.P.

One of the services provided by God's Country Community Ministries to the community of the eastern Upper Peninsula include the **Church Mouse Program**. Many of us have visited the UP during the warm summer months to see the beautiful sites of nature and to explore the wilderness. Some of us may hunt in the UP or snowmobile or enjoy snow skiing during the winter months. For those of us who have never lived in this part of Michigan, we can only imagine the challenges of the long harsh winters that those who call the UP home, must have to tolerate. Many seasonal tourism jobs are closed for the winter and employment opportunities are very limited. This is the reason that the **Church Mouse Program** was created. To provide a place where the community's needy can come to obtain essential household goods, clothing and other items at... NO COST!! The free store is open every Wednesday to offer these blessings to the community.

Here is another opportunity for every member of Utica UMC to support our Together-In-Missions outreach. One of the goals of the Mission Team is to take items collected by Utica UMC to support the GCCM **Church Mouse Program**. A list of items was located in the bulletin on April 28th and more lists are located at the welcome table in Fellowship Hall and on the wooden table in the narthex. Items will be collected through June 9th. All items donated will be boxed and taken with the Mission Team to GCCM on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Fundraiser for God's Country Mission Trip

**Saturday, May 18th at 5:00pm**

As we continue to prepare for our Mission Trip to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the Mission Team is preparing this dinner as a means for including our church in our goal of bringing glory to God through our services to the community of the eastern part of the UP. In addition to the Taco Dinner & Dessert, we will have a silent auction for donated goods and services to support this Mission Trip. Some of the items to be auctioned include car wash tickets, meal gift cards, wine tasting certificate and many more items to bid on. We also plan to have a Mission Trip Presentation to review the types of services that are provided through the efforts of God's Country Community Ministries. This is truly a worthwhile opportunity for the Utica United Methodist Church to support the GCCM organization and to extend our reach by sharing God's love with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

With Appreciation, Your 2024 UUMC Mission Team

# 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.

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 on May 12th.

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. We are also accepting donations in support of the program. It roughly costs us about \$150 per kid to attend the program. That cost covers food, supplies and field trips for the 6 weeks. Donations can be made through e-giving and choose Stars/XCEL or you can write STARS/XCEL on the other line of your offering envelope.



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Born Again

Charles Colson was an Assistant to Richard Nixon. As he was facing his trial and incarceration a friend gave him the book "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis. Colson read it and became an evangelical Christian. He pled guilty to Obstruction of Justice and served 7 months in prison. While in prison he became involved in a bible study group and the Prison Fellowship Organization. He went on to support the Prison Fellowship and worked at reforming prisoners and helping families and prisoners. He wrote the book "Born Again." He went from being known as Nixon's "Hatchet man" to helping to save souls. He had been ruthless in his role in Nixon's administration, and willing to do anything, to a man who supported those in prison and their families. Colson was the author of over 30 books, a speaker to groups, a broken man rescued by a forgiving God. A man who led others to Christianity. A man who was born again. I have known people who have reformed themselves through the power of Christ. One was a friend of my brothers. Don had a rough childhood, poverty and abuse were part of his life. He was in frequent trouble. He had accidentally run over me with a bicycle when I was 3 or 4 and never failed to apologize to me whenever he saw me even years later. He had been shot with buckshot and lost an eye, dropped out of school, been involved in the assault on a young woman with 4 other boys and spent a year in Jackson prison. When my future husband and I were dating we were alone in the living room when there was a pounding at the door. I went to the door, and it was Don, covered in mud and water and asking for my mother. He had been running and hiding in ditches until he came to a safe place. I called my mother out of bed and told her Don was in trouble. He had been in a fight with some other boys, and they had torn up a restaurant and been arrested. The police when questioning Don had left him alone in a room with an open window. Don took off through the window and came to my mother for help. She had him clean up and called his girlfriend and she came and took him home. Now at that point I had not seen Don in several years, but he still apologized to me for the bicycle incident. After that I did not see or hear about Don as I was no longer living at home. Don was killed in an airplane accident several years later. He was in his mid-30's. In his obituary it said that he had children and had been active in the scouts and in his church and a quote by his Pastor about what a wonderful man Don had been and how he served the church. Don had found himself, had a family, and had found God. He received a second chance and was born again.

John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." John 3:5 "I tell you the truth no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh but the spirit gives birth to spirit.

Lord, we thank you for the blessing of this day. May all we do be pleasing to you. We thank you for our homes, for our food, for those who are in our lives. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. Comfort them. Be with our staff and leaders. Bless them and keep them. Be with our Pastor Don and Laura and their family. Keep them safe and be with them in all they do. Be with our church, may we be the voice of Jesus to others. Be with those who hunger and thirst for you God, may they find you here in this place. In Jesus precious 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 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](http://www.uticaumc.org)**

If you need assistance, call the church office.

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

