



Weekly Messenger

May 17, 2024

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"Amen"

I volunteer to write a prayer for our church Messenger. The pressure of submitting a prayer is immense, with exhaustive hours of thought, sleepless nights, worry, anxiety, etc., etc. With help from the Holy Spirit, I came up with the following prayer titled, "AMEN." The prayer is simple, easy to read and memorize.

What does the mind conjure up when we say the word *amen* out loud? What are the words and phrases we place in front of that word?

Successful surgery. Amen.
Near miss with a car accident. Amen.
Grandchildren. Amen.
Church family. Amen.
Sunset. Amen.
Employment. Amen.
Great Pastor. Amen.
Volunteers for Warming Center, STARS, MCREST. Amen.

My list goes on and on. I suspect your list does too, and after thinking about 162 facts before the *amen* statement, you may come to the same conclusion as me. Saying *amen* is important, it is the concluding word of affirmation when talking to God. Consider how many countless people have said this same word over the last 2024 years! How many times has it been uttered? How many life and death moments? How many mundane moments?

Here comes the tough part for me. Have I considered all those events in my life that I should have used the word *amen*, and didn't? I should have acknowledged my Lord, but I did not. That was my mistake.

Lord, help me not to miss any more *amen* moments for I wish to love you with all my heart and all my soul and all my mind. Amen.

Written by Bob MacKool

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Upcoming Events

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 16th.

Boy Scout Flower Orders

If you placed an order for flowers with the boy scouts, the pick-up date is on Monday, May 20th after 7pm. If you have any questions, please ask Gary Taylor.

Used Book Sale

The Used Book Sale will be up through Sunday, May 19th and will be coming down the following week. There is still time to shop for books. Please just make a donation towards the Adult Mission Trip for the books you take. There is a box to place money in by the book sale tables. You are welcome to stop in and look at books during the church office hours. Thank you to those who helped run the book sale last week, who set it up and a thank you to those who have purchased books and supported the Mission team.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Mini Food Pantry Update

*** Just when you think you have it all figured out ...

*** When you think you fully understand the needs of those seeking food.....

*** You soon realize there is still more to learn.

Last month (in 1 week) we stocked the pantry Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday X2 and again the following Sunday. Each time our pantry we depleted of food staples. WHY? How could that be?? What changed???

We realized that at the end of the month families are running out of Food Stamps and/or Bridge Cards so therefore the contents of our Mini Pantry becomes a necessity for them to bridge the gap until the new month's benefits start all over again. Your continued support has been overwhelming and allows our church to continue to meet the needs of those suffering from food insecurities as well as hygiene insecurities. What ever was placed in our combination pantry someone needed.

We will continue to update the sign inside the lobby next to the Wagon of Hope with ongoing food items. Staples that are always in need are:

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Cereal (large family size 1 per box, not double bags inside 1 box)

Pancake Mix and Syrup

Tuna Fish or Chicken in a Can

Dehydrated Potatoes, Stuffing, Gravy and other Dehydrated Packets of Food

...Do small things with great love.

Mother Teresa

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

Mother's Day

As with many 'holidays' not everyone has happy memories of the recipient of our joy. I know my mother earnestly tried to be a good Mother and she was many times just that. She had had an unhappy childhood and was burned out on "motherhood" by the time she became a mother. She was the oldest girl in a family of eleven children. She had to quit school at the age of 10 to help with the babies. She was resentful that she had to give up her childhood to parent her parents children. It could not have been an easy time for her. She had to watch as everyone else went off to school and received an education while she was left at home doing the raising of children. She did love her brothers and sisters and bore them no resentment but did let me know quite frequently that she was tired of children. She had only wanted two and I was the third. Then she became a grandmother at a very young age and suddenly again loved children. She was a good grandmother, but I was hesitant to have her too involved in my children's lives because if they said they wanted to burn the house down, she would have helped them find the matches. Her grandchildren could do no wrong. I understood this more fully when I became a grandmother, but my grandchildren were truly perfect and still are, as are my great grandchildren. I reminded my children this week of how I loved the way they would wake me up when they were little, they would come into the bedroom thinking I was still asleep and stand beside the bed asking each other if they thought I was awake. My son would then pull my eyelid up to see if I was sleeping. I would then grab them and pull them up on the bed and tussle with them. I loved it and they did too. It was such a fun way to start the day. What they didn't know was that I woke up when their feet touched the floor and waited for them to come "wake me up." I loved our mornings and knew that whatever the day brought we had started it out with hugs and laughter.

I hope all who read this has happy childhood memories of their mother or the person that filled that position for you whether it be stepmother, grandmother, older sister, brothers, neighbor, teacher, friend, aunt, or whatever person in your life that loved you, cared about and cared for you. I had so many that contributed to that role, the teacher that made sure I learned to read and then had me tutor others, all the teachers through school that encouraged me and motivated me, the friend that talked with me as a teenager, the Pastor who took time to talk with me and advise on the path he felt I needed to take to make my life better. And the God who was with me through all my life, who took a baby that weighed less than 3 pounds and saw her through pneumonia, cancer, polio, and numerous trials and blessed her life with children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. To God be the glory! Proverbs 1:8-9 Listen my son to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

We thank you Lord for all our days. We thank you for parents who led us and for the children who bless us. We thank you for the mentors you have sent into our lives. For the family who are like friends and the friends that are like family. May we be deserving of your gifts. Be with our church Lord, may it be pleasing to you, be with our Pastor and his family Lord, watch over them. Be with our staff and leaders Lord and those that serve our church. Be with those that suffer from hunger, homelessness, war and oppression. May we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this time and in this world. 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

