



Weekly Messenger

May 3, 2024

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"Taco Dinner & Dessert Night"

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



Utica United
Methodist Church
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Sterling Heights, MI
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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Upcoming Events

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 – 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

Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

The jigsaw puzzle exchange back in January was a success and we would like to hold another puzzle exchange on 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.

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.

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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.



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MCREST Update

On behalf of the UUMC MCREST leadership team, we would like to thank everyone that made a donation of food, money and time to help serve our guests throughout the week with the MCREST program.

We are very fortunate to have your support which helps us continue our mission work every year. We were able to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner each day to those experiencing homelessness. As with every year, we sincerely enjoyed the opportunity to do God's work and your support ensures that we can continue this effort in the future.

Thank you again!
UUMC MCREST Leadership Team

Cass Community Services "Hands With Detroit" Utica UMC Participation

So what does God's work look like? Is it feeding the homeless or building a ramp for the disabled? Many opportunities to do God's work were offered last Saturday at Cass Community Services. Although a small representation of the Utica church, several of us traveled to Detroit to spend the afternoon SHREDDING!! Yes... shredding!

Here is a brief excerpt from the Cass Community Services' website:

Document Destruction Program

Paper document security is just as important as electronic security. Research shows that most identity thieves obtain information through traditional paper-based sources rather than electronic channels.

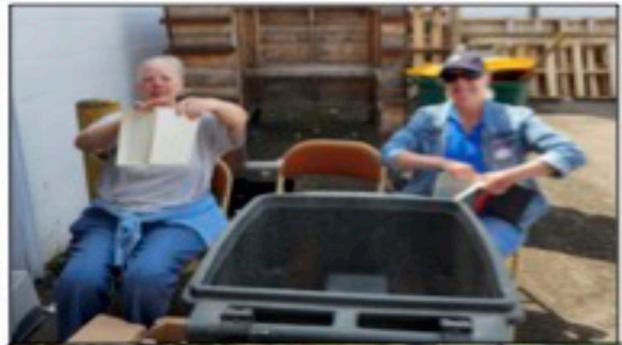
Every day at Cass Community Social Services, Green Industries' employees are responsible for destroying sensitive documents for security-conscious customers. Since 2007, the workers have serviced documents for doctors, lawyers, accountants and other professionals, all while providing vital jobs for workers with disabilities.

While there were a variety of work projects to assist the Cass Community Services ministries, our group elected to assist with the paper shredding program offered by Cass. If you have ever wanted to take your old school books and "tear them to pieces", then you missed a great opportunity to fulfill your dreams while also serving God!! In all seriousness, this step in the shredding business is critical to enabling unwanted, hard cover books to be recycled. The following photos provide a brief description of the process:

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Cass Community Services "Hands With Detroit" Utica UMC Participation

Step 1 – Tear the covers off the book and rip pages into groups of 5 or less.



Step 2 – Separate colored and glossy paper from white paper.



Step 3 – Load paper onto conveyor to the shredder and baler machine.



Step 4 – The finished product is shredded paper bales.



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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. This is the last chance to bring in items for MCHS.

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-Noon. 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.

United Women In Faith

The United Women in Faith would like to invite all women of our church to attend our meeting on Wednesday, May 8th at noon in Fellowship Hall. We will begin with a potluck luncheon. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Drinks are provided. At 1:00 we will have a program with Bob Dewar from Meals on Wheels. Come join us!

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Friends

I don't know how people who are alone function without the contact of friends, family, or neighbors. I have some friends that I have known for most of my life, 70 some years. Many are gone. Some friends that I have known for less time but are in my life now. I spoke with a friend not long ago that I have known for over 70 years. It always amazes me that it is like picking up a conversation that we are continuing from yesterday. We met in Nurses Training. We were both unable to swim and were very thin. She learned to swim I didn't. We both ate little but shared eggs. She liked only the white portion, and I liked the yoke. She would eat two whites and I would eat 2 yokes. We both went through heart aches and trials. Our friendship has lasted with her living up north and me living here. We have only seen each other a few times in these last years, less than years ago. We were better at physically connecting a long time ago, but families, jobs, and distance have kept us apart. Now we use the phone. I also have friends from right now. Some are younger (although not by much, the things we have known are still relatable and we share memories of how it used to be) and have been so good to me. Even my hairdresser this week reminded me that she has been doing my hair for over 24 years. My friends and I go out to lunch, they insist on driving me to doctor appointments and even though I tell them, I can do it myself, they come with me, and I am so grateful. There are those who remember me when there are evening services at church, and they know I no longer like to drive after dark and they offer me a ride. I went out to lunch three times this week and enjoyed it so much. I have been able to get out more and that is a blessing and to get out with friends is a double blessing. As I was thinking of my good fortune with friends I thought about Jesus. He, of course, had the 12. They traveled together, ate together, slept together, and he taught them and prepared them for their mission. Jesus also had friends that he could visit with, even though he was still the teacher. He had Lazarus and Mary and Martha. He stayed with them and talked with them. Mary had washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. When Lazarus had died Jesus came and raised him from the dead.

John 11:5 Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

John 11:35 Jesus wept.

Lord, we thank you for the gift of friends and for the memories we share with those we've known for so long. We thank you for new friends and for the joy they bring into our lives. We thank you for our church, for our Pastor and ask your blessings on him and his family, and for those who work so diligently to do those things that further your kingdom and our service to our community. We thank you for those who use our Pantry and for those who leave things for others. We thank you for those who seek comfort in the veteran's memorial, and we thank you for their service. Be with those who are alone, may we reach out to them and comfort them. Be with our country Lord, bring us together and may we find kindness and tolerance in each other. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

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 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



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

