



# Weekly Messenger

July 12, 2024

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## "A Weakness Made Perfect"

In their book, *Watersheds*, Robert & Jeanette Lauer tell the story of the late professional baseball player Roy Campanella, who was confined to a wheelchair following an accident, found an important resource in his faith. He had felt only anguish and despair immediately following the accident, and he spent many nights crying himself to sleep. He healed poorly in those first few months, and one day, his physician came in and told him frankly that the current trajectory of his journey toward healing didn't look good.

Campanella knew that he would never leave his wheelchair. All of his life, he had found help in his faith. And now, from the depths of his despair, he turned once more to the Lord. He had a nurse read him the Twenty-third Psalm, and from that moment, Campanella improved. He began to believe, even in the midst of his despair, that God was on his side. He surrendered his weakness to God.

Sometime later, Roy Campanella had an encounter with an elderly woman in Florida. He was sitting in his wheelchair at a ballpark when he noticed a crippled, elderly woman working her way slowly up a steep ramp. She had braces on both her legs and a crutch, but she struggled up the ramp until she reached him. Then, panting from her exertion, she looked at him and then took his hand in hers. And she thanked him for her life.

She had been a patient in the same New York hospital when he was recovering from his accident. A stroke had left her paralyzed on one side of her entire body, and she had lost her will to live. But the doctors told her about Campanella and his courage and faith in the face of overwhelming adversity. His story of finding hope in his time of weakness was what she needed to move forward. And so, she had traveled over a thousand miles to meet him in person and thank him.

Life beats us all up. God gives us the choice of turning over our wounds to Him to infuse His power into them and give us opportunities to do extraordinary things. God don't wish any hardship or trouble into your life, but only that you allow Him to take what has already been put there to be elevated to a weakness made perfect.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Don

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# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Upcoming Events

### August

- August 16th – Summer Picnic at Jimmy John's Field.

Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:20

### UPDATES from the MINI PANTRY

The Wagon of Hope continues to be a source of inspiration to us week after week. The generosity of this congregation knows no end and the blessings continue to multiply as the needs are met by each of you.

We are asking you to “**place a hold**” on the following items for a few weeks:

1. Peanut Butter & Jelly
2. Cereal
3. Mac and Cheese
4. Pasta in a can

#### **Items needed:**

1. Cans of Fruit
2. Soup
3. Ramen Noodles
4. Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juice (family size)
5. Powdered or Shelf Stable Milk

We give thanks with a grateful heart for the support and encouragement received each week through your donations.

Together UUMC is “**Making a Difference**” in the lives of those in need.

With gratitude,

The Mini Pantry Crew

## Summer Picnic at Jimmy John's Field

Mark your calendars....We are planning an evening out at Jimmy John's field on Friday, August 16th. Come watch the Woolly Mammoths Vs. the Unicorns. Gates open at 6pm. First pitch is at 7:05. We will have seating in the party patio area, a group photo on the field, a welcome message on the scoreboard, fireworks after the show and so much more. Food includes hot dogs, bbq pulled chicken, baked beans, chips and cookies. Tickets are \$38.00 a piece and will be on sale on Sunday mornings. Please see Al Laity for tickets and more information.

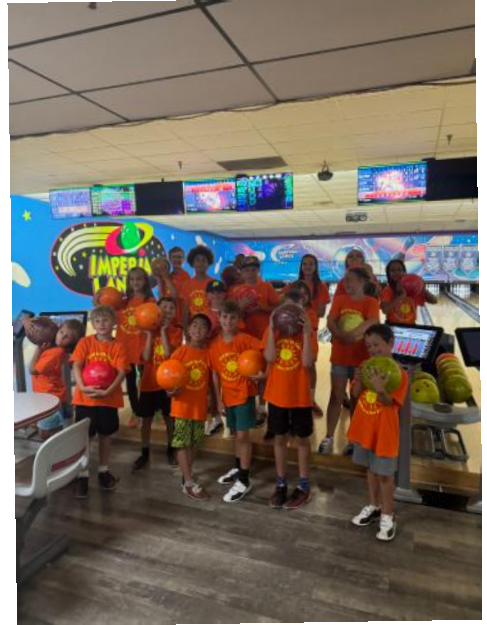
## Office News

Starting July 5th we will begin summer office hours. The office will be closed on Fridays starting July 5th through August 16th. If you need to be at the church on a Friday, please make sure you have a building key or make arrangements ahead of time to get into the building. Rachele will be on vacation starting July 14-23. Someone will be in the office to answer phones or respond to any questions while she is away. Please e-mail the office at [rachele@uticaumc.org](mailto:rachele@uticaumc.org) with any updates to the prayer list or messenger while Rachele is on vacation. These items will be updated on July 24th upon her return. There will be no online service on Sunday, July 21st. The online service for Sunday, July 21st will be available later that week.



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## STARS/XCEL Bowling Photos



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## RULES TO LIVE BY

Growing up I had no rules other than those in school. At home bedlam ruled. I skipped school for the first time in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. I felt it was too cold to go out for recess and so myself and a friend left at recess. We went to my home expecting to find our mothers since they were always together. They weren't there so we continued to her home which was about a mile further and across John R. They were not there either, but it was warm, and we had paper dolls, so we stayed there. Our parents found us about 6PM, we had left school about 10 A.M. Our parents had ended up calling the teacher when we hadn't come home to my house. We weren't in any trouble, but my mother did say she wished I would not cross John R without someone older. I could see the wisdom in this, so I agreed. If my children had done this, I would have been extremely upset. Nothing was said to us at school, nor was it ever mentioned again at home. When I smoked my first cigarette at 9 years of age, my mother found out and only said she thought I should wait until I was older. I said okay and did not tell her that I hated the taste and had no plans to try that again.

Wolves had more rules than I did. I made my own rules and used them to make myself safe. One of the rules I had was that I could not date until I was 15. When I was 12 or 13 a young boy asked me to go to the movies with him. I told him about this rule. My Mother and his mother had set this up. When my mother heard that I could not date until I was 15, she was furious and was waiting at the corner when I came home from school. She stood there screaming at me that I was a liar, that there was no such rule. Now I had invoked this rule because I really did not want to go to the movies with Johnny. Why I came up with 15 I don't know but I probably read it in a book. When my mother finished her screaming, I very calmly said, "I think it's a good rule and I'm going to keep it." She turned around and walked home. I had found my power.

When I went into Nurses Training there were rules that were plentiful. We had to be in our rooms studying from 7 to 9 PM during the week. Weekends we could sign out and go home (and only home) or we could have one 12:30 and one 2 a.m. For someone who had had no rules this was hard for me to adjust to but I knew rules like not going out alone but in pairs or more, being in by 9 PM unless we were signed out were designed to keep us safe I just wasn't used to people telling me what I could and could not do. But I adjusted and always felt safe.

God gave us rules to live by called the 10 Commandments. These are big rules meant to help us live together. In Deuteronomy 5 they are listed by Moses. 1. You shall have no other Gods before me. 2. You shall not make idols. 3. You shall not take the Lord's name in vain, 4. Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. 5. Honor your Father and Mother. 6. Do not murder. 7. Do not commit adultery. 8. Do not steal 9. Do not lie 10. Do not covet your neighbors' possessions.

Lord, we thank you for this day. Be with us in all we do and may we remember your rules for our lives. Be with our Staff and Leaders, bless their mission and their work. Be with Pastor Don, bless his ministry and be with him and his family. Be with our church may we remember that it is your church, and we are your workers. Be with our Country may we find peace and love for each other in our hearts as your children. May we remember not just who we are but whose we are. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson