



Weekly Messenger

September 13, 2024

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"Here I Raise My Ebenezer"

"Samuel took a large stone and set it up between Mizpah and Jeshanah and named it Ebenezer, for he said, "Thus far the Lord has helped us.""

I was taking a walk one day and as so often happens a tune was stuck in my head. It was Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing. The line "here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come" kept playing in my head. When I returned home, I looked up Ebenezer and found that it means "stone of help." I found that the Israelites had repented after having sinned against God. God responded by giving them victory over the Philistines. The stone represented the restoration of their relationship with God. A monument to God's help, God's faithfulness, God's eternal promise. The stone represented a fresh beginning, a reversal of course and it was a reminder that God's mercies are everlasting, and His promises are forever.

When something happens that changes the course of our lives, we never count the days we had the problem but the time that has passed since. I don't even remember how long I had cancer, but I can tell you how long it has been since I was cured. I can't remember how long I was sick with Polio, but I can tell you the moment when I knew that God had a plan for my life. A former alcoholic can give you the time they have been sober, the time since they, with God's help, changed their course. There are times in our lives that take us in a new direction. We continue to blame ourselves for our past, what we should have done differently, how we have sinned against God and others. We need an Ebenezer stone in our lives to remind us that we have atoned, and forgiveness has been given and we are going on a new path. And as we follow that path the Ebenezer stone reminds us that God is with us through it all.

Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Jesus Christ, is calling us up to heaven. Philippians 3:13b-14

Grace Epperson

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Upcoming Events

October

- October 12th - Road Rally
- October 26th - Trunk or Treat/Spooktacular Halloweeny Boo Bash
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Road Rally/Scavenger Hunt

We will be having a Scavenger Hunt and Road Rally on Saturday, October 12th at 2pm. Save the date, invite your friends and join us for fun, fellowship and food! Follow the clues, explore our local area, search for items and have a blast. Once you have safely made it back to church, we will be having pizza, salad and dessert. Sign up sheets will begin on September 8th. There will be a \$5 entrance fee per person paid on the day of the event.

Spooktacular Halloweeny Boo Bash Trunk or Treat

You are invited to join us on Saturday, October 26th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm for the Spooktacular Halloweeny Boo Bash to be held in our very own Parking Lot.

Trunk or Treat will be the highlight of the event however we have lots more coming your way.

Trick or Treat Bags will be provided for each child attending. A special Thank You to Peggy Miller for taking on this task as well as ordering additional gifts for a special Treasure Hunt during the event.

A "Craft Station" lead by Gary Taylor is on the agenda.

Bob and Patsy Clark will lead the Welcoming Committee with Cider and Donuts for all our guests.

Debbie Pelton is taking charge once again in the "witches kitchen" with some ghoulishly delicious treats for all the goblins.

Heather Sample will be stirring up some wonderful potions in the Popcorn and Cotton Candy Spook House.

A Photo Station will be in place for Family Photo Ops throughout the afternoon.

Kathy Borlas is offering her creative talents in the Field of Games.

Liza and Jim Young will provide some wonderful Monster Mash Music for the event.

The team has been organized and is in place. Plans will continue to evolve over the next month.

We will be in need of many volunteers to make this year's Trunk or Treat a successful event in which we minister to our neighboring families and show the Love of Christ to all in attendance.

Please reach out to the folks taking the lead on specific tasks for the event. They will need your help and your willingness to volunteer will make everyone's job lighter.

There will be a Mass Mailing in early October. Please offer your services to Mary Dolenga.

In the event of inclement weather we will need to shift our plans to an indoor event. This will require many folks for set up on Friday and tear down Saturday afternoon.

Please accept this as your "official invitation" to join me and those who have already committed to leading a specific task/job.

Sign up sheets for "Trunks" participation in the event will be available on Sunday, October 6th for both services. Please contact Martha Powers with questions at (586)703-1668

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD

Between now and the end of September, we are trying to raise \$10,000 for the Pipe Organ Fund. As of Sunday, September 8 we have raised \$6,980! We need just over \$3,000 more to reach our goal. The poster on display by the church office shows our progress. We are marking the keys on the 3 keyboards and pedal keyboard displayed, as if we were playing a glissando. A glissando is the musical term for when you rapidly slide one or more fingers over the keys gliding from one note to the next. Won't that be a joyful noise when all the keys have been played (filled).

Late last year, the organ fell silent because a power surge caused the "switching system" to fail. This control system and a number of other things which also failed have been repaired. These repairs cost about \$5,000. There are also several additional things to be repaired which have been discovered so we are trying to raise an additional \$5,000 (\$10,000 total). Things which need to be repaired/updated include:

- Repair/replace one of two cracked wooden windchests which hold the festival trumpet pipes
- Re-leather the sub-base 16" pipe rank (44 wooden pipes). The leather on each pipe is placed around the tuning stopper and enables the pipe to be tuned and to stay in tune. It dries out over time and no longer stays in place, causing the pipe to go out of tune.
- Replace the electronic cards in the combination action system which allows the organist to preset different groups of stops.

Gifts of any amount will be appreciated. Please designate "Organ Fund" on your offering. All contributions will be comingled in the Pipe Organ Fund to be used for any project or update.

With your help, we will be able to continue making joyful noise to the Lord and worship the Lord with gladness for years to come.

Psalm 100:1-2: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing." (NRVA)



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

"The Call - Bible Study

The Call Bible Study will begin on Tuesday, October 1st thru November 5th. We will meet in the Conference Room from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. The Call book is available for purchase through amazon. Please contact Martha Powers with questions, cell #586-703-1668.

Thursday Night Bible Study

The Thursday night bible study led by Don Weaver will begin on Thursday, September 12th in the Parlor at 7pm. All are welcome and invited to attend. Please let us know by the 6th of September if you would like to attend so that we can have enough materials available. Contact Don Weaver at 586-260-8814 to reserve your spot or to ask questions. Hoping to see you there!

Monday Night Study

The Monday night bible study will begin in the middle of September and will be finishing 1 Corinthians and follow it up with a study on 2 Corinthians. This study meets on Monday Nights, at 7:15pm in the Conference Room.

Food for the Body & Soul Bible Study

Food for the Body and Soul Bible Study will begin on Thursday, September 12th and meets at noon in the conference room. They will begin with a study called "The Jesus Paul Knew" and books are available for purchase for \$10. Bring your lunch and enjoy a time of fellowship and bible study. Please speak with Joan Sanders if you have any questions regarding this study.

UPDATES from the MINI PANTRY

The Mini Pantry is in need of:

Canned fruit and canned vegetables.

Pasta and cans of spaghetti sauce.

Boxes of scalloped potatoes, mashed potatoes, hamburger helper

Thank you for your continued support.

We continue to be blessed by the congregational support and continue to bless our community.

With Grateful ,

The Mini Pantry Crew

Oil Change Ministry

The Oil Change Ministry is scheduled for Saturday, September 28th in the parking lot. This is a joint ministry with Trinity Lutheran Church and King of Kings Lutheran Church. Please consider signing up to help with the different areas on that day, or if you are unable to physically help, consider a monetary donation to help cover the cost of the oil change. This program is for single parents who may just not have the funds to cover the cost of car maintenance. Monetary donations can be made out to Oil Change Ministry and put in a pew envelope or written on the other line of your offering envelope.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Potlucks

If you have ever read the writings and musings of Garrison Keillor, you have probably read his assessment of Methodists. He seems to dwell on Potlucks. He admires them and thinks they are a Methodist “thing.” He obviously likes Potlucks. We also love Potlucks. They are part of us. To bring a dish to pass and have people say they are happy that you brought that again is a joy. We become known for our “dishes.” I was once called the “Chocolate Lady” by some young children. They knew me when they saw me not by my actual name but knew me to be the Chocolate Lady. Because of this they often received special gifts of chocolate left at their house. They were adorable children. This did not however work for adults. Well, sometimes maybe. Potlucks are often the start of friendships, the trading of recipes, and give us a feeling of belonging to a community. We don’t have them as much as we did in years past, but we do have our Chili cookoffs and dessert sales. When I was on Religion and Race Committee, we had themed pot lucks with Mexican food, Italian food, etc. I shared my recipe for Cannoli’s (go to Italian bakery buy one Cannoli per person plus one extra, eat extra one in the car.) In the Bible meals taken together are often mentioned. From Christ’s feeding of the 5000 to his quiet gatherings with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, to the Passover with the 12, Jesus liked to gather with friends and share a meal. Usually, Jesus was served the food that was provided by others but sometimes he served the food. When we receive Holy Communion, we are reminded that we eat the bread and the juice that represents the body and blood of Jesus, shed for many, shed for us. It brings us closer to Christ and closer to each other. I have for a long time been in the habit of praying for people as they go forward for Communion, not a long-involved prayer but just a silent prayer for gratitude for the individual or prayer for them and for a blessing for them. We are a community and as such we care for and about each other. As we once shared food at Potlucks, we now can share blessings for each other. I have often been the recipient of food provided by members of our church. Some was brought and served to me after surgeries. Some more recently after I fell last November. The first time this happened was after I had been diagnosed with Cancer and had surgery. A woman from church called and said she would like to visit. She came out with another woman, and they carried in silver tea pots, and scones, and cakes, and all the makings of a Scottish tea. I was floored and sat on the couch in my bathrobe and received a gift I still treasure, the gift of hope and love wrapped up in a tea sandwich.

Luke 22:19-20 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you, do this in remembrance to me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for you.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day. We thank you for our many blessings. For the food on our table, for the love of family, for the blessings of each other, for our very being. Be with us and may we be the hands and feet of Jesus here in this place and wherever we go. Be with our Pastor, bless his Ministry and be with him and his family. Help us Lord that we may be kind to each other and a blessing in all we do. We are living in a tumultuous time; may we show the love and kindness of Jesus to each other. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve, give them the comfort that only comes from you. Be with our staff and leaders, guide and bless them. Be with those who travel, grant them safe journeys and bring them back safely. All these things we ask in the mighty name of Jesus. 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



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

