



Weekly Messenger

September 20, 2024

IN THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Events

Trunk or Treat

Road Rally

Oil Change Ministry

Mini Pantry

Organ Fund

Teddy Bears

Directory

Devotional

Back Page

"What Value Do We Show Them?"

A woman wrote to *Reader's Digest* to tell about an incident involving one of her five children. She said they had just finished tucking the kids into bed when three-year-old Billy began to wail. Turns out, he had accidentally swallowed a penny and was sure he was going to die.

Desperate to calm him, she said her husband palmed a penny that he had in his pocket and pretended to pull it from Billy's ear. Billy was delighted. In a flash, he snatched it from his father's hand, swallowed it, and demanded, "Do it again!"

Our children can turn our lives upside down in a flash. Their antics when they are young are entertaining and endearing. Jesus purposefully set people straight when it came to placing value on children. We do well to do likewise.

In 2018, my siblings and cousins posted comments on a Facebook thread where we celebrated what would have been our grandfather's 100th birthday. One of those comments spoke of how Grandpa always talked to us like adults; that is, he didn't talk down to us and always valued our perspectives.

As I thought about that comment and our scripture for this Sunday, I began to wonder how many of us treat our children (regardless of their age) as worthy of respect and as those whose opinions can open our understanding to new possibilities.

Allow me to encourage you to talk to your children, learn something new, and find out why they might see things differently. In doing so, we will show our children that we do indeed, value them.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Don



Utica United
Methodist Church
8650 Canal Road,
Sterling Heights, MI
(586) 731-7667
www.UticaUMC.org

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Upcoming Events

October

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

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. Sign up by October 6th.

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 \$7,225! We need just \$2,775 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.

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.

Teddy Bear Ministry

Teddy Bears have once again made an appearance in the Sanctuary. The Teddy Bear ministry was started as a way to share prayers and love for someone in need. The idea is the bears are loved on and prayed over and then can be taken to someone in the hospital, to someone homebound or sick, to someone maybe having some mental health problems as a way to remind them that they are loved, they have been prayed for and continue to be prayed for, and can be with them when maybe a person cannot. If you see a teddy bear in the sanctuary, feel free to love on it and say a prayer over it. If you know of someone who could really use a bear, please pick one up and take it with you.

New Phone Directories

I have no explanation for what happened to getting new directories this past year. I have taken it upon myself to create and print church directories here in the church. They are available to pick up and take home. I found some discrepancies in my records and also found for some of our newer members and constituents, I may not have had a phone number. Please contact the church office by phone or e-mail at office@uticaumc.org if there is any changes or updatesto your contact information.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

GET ME OUT OF THIS BARREL

When I was in Nurses Training one of my first patients was a former schoolteacher named Lucy Drake. Miss Drake was in a bed, immobilized with side rails up, and frightened and angry. Miss Drake would yell all day, especially when someone would enter her room, "Get me out of this barrel," I could imagine how she would think she was in a barrel. She had no view but from side to side and the ceiling and that was limited. I walked in one day and called her Lucy. A big mistake! She began yelling at me that students do not address their teachers by their first name and that to me she was "Miss Drake." I remembered after that to always address her as Miss Drake. Gradually Miss Drake grew quiet and unresponsive, and I had gone to a different floor and a different patient. I often think of this woman, once a schoolteacher, once given respect by her students, and then a helpless elderly lady. When days are bad and the aches and pains are bad, I turn my eyes to God and simply say, "Lord get me out of this barrel." Then I remember Paul in prison.

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he is writing from prison and in chains.

Philippians 1:12-14 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

There is a lesson here for all of us. When life puts you in a barrel, take advantage of it, use it for the good of Christ. How can we do this? Well, I could stop with the pity parties and appreciate what I do have and not cry for what is lost and what will never happen. I can share my love of and my faith in Christ. He has lifted me. I was thinking about prevenient grace not long ago. This is the grace we received from God before we knew him. I can see that grace in my life. He took a 3-pound infant and made her thrive. He put people in her path that helped her see possibilities. He did this before I came to him, before I knew him. "He loved me ere I knew him and all my love is due him." God has a plan for all of us. This time, this place, these circumstances are okay because God has planned for just such an occasion and he will not desert us. Thanks be to God.

Lord there are times in our lives when we feel lost, alone, confused. But you are there! You send your angels to help us. You use family and friends to lift us up and we are reminded of your grace and love. Help us Lord to be worthy of such a love. Be with our church, guide us and may we offer a path to you to all who enter our doors. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, grant him safety, and be with his family. We thank you for his service to this church and to all of us. Bless all who enter our doors, may they find you waiting.

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

