



Weekly Messenger

September 6, 2024

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"Not New, but Still Relevant"

Over the past few years, I have been taking reading suggestions from family and friends. Our daughter suggested I read the Anne of Green Gables series by Lucy Maud Montgomery. I have read the first four books, and while they were written many decades ago, I chuckle when I read phrases such as "Folks nowadays." The truth is, the very things people are complaining about today in terms of the lack of social graces and care for others is nothing new. There is a reason to raise the matter, but we shouldn't come to believe we are facing unique things in our generation.

When preparing for this coming Sunday's sermon, I was taken with a quote from the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, who died in 1944. His unique take on helping his listeners to grasp the truth of what God understands to be important isn't new, but it is still relevant for our greater grasp of God's truths. Here is what he wrote:

"Two young vandals in London wanted to bring confusion to a very famous store. The vandals broke in during the night but didn't steal or damage anything. Instead, they simply rearranged the price tags--putting a \$50 price tag by a \$5,000 item and a \$1,000 price tag next to a \$50 item. Then, they watched the next morning with a kind of sinister delight as shoppers became ever more confused."

Temple continued, "The God of the universe created the world exactly as God wanted it to be, putting the highest value on items like faith, honor, character, compassion, commitment, sacrifice, servanthood, and eternal life. During the night, the thief came in and switched the price tags. God said the things that are worthy in life are the things which our society so often neglects or ridicules. God declared the things that have little value are the things on which our society places the highest value. Someone has come in and switched the price tags."

My sermon for Sunday is titled "A Clash of Teachings." I will discuss how what Jesus taught and what the world teaches are at odds. I look forward to sharing the message with you.

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
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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 "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

Sometimes we take things for granted. Then, something unexpected happens and we realize how much we truly appreciate it. This was true last year when a power surge caused the organ to fall silent. It took weeks to repair it. And, while we continued making joyful noises for the Lord with the piano, bells, and voices, we missed the organ. When the organ finally resonated throughout the sanctuary again, we appreciated it more than before.

The organ fell silent because a power surge caused the “switching system” to fail. This control system directs the wind through the pipes based on which keys are pressed. All of the electronic cards in the switching system had to be replaced. And, a number of other things which failed have also been repaired. Even now, there are a few things left to do. A power suppression system was also added to help prevent this from happening again. We used money from the Pipe Organ Fund to pay for the repairs which have cost about \$5,000 so far.

Between now and the end of September, we want to replenish the Organ Fund with what we have used for the repairs (\$5,000) and also add an additional \$5,000 to the fund. The Pipe Organ Fund will then be available to use for additional things to be repaired which have been discovered and for future updates/additions to the organ. Things which need repair/updates 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.

The pipe organ has 3 key boards (manuals) with 61 keys on each. Additionally, the pedal board has 32 pedals. This makes a total of 215 keys and pedals that the organist plays. You are invited to symbolically “buy” individual keys or a chord or an octave for your contribution. Please designate “Organ Fund” on your offering. Contribution amounts you may wish to consider include:

- Manual key = \$20
- Pedal board key = \$50
- Chord (3 keys) = \$75
- Octave (8 keys) = \$200
- Or, a gift amount for any number of keys or a wooden pipe or an electronic card, etc.

Note: 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

United Women In Faith

All women of the church are invited to attend the Fall UWIF meeting on Wednesday, September 11th in Fellowship Hall. We begin with a Potluck Luncheon at noon. Please bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Drinks are provided. Take this time to fellowship with other women of the church and meet new friends.

At 1:00 we have a guest speaker named Doug who will be sharing about O.A.T.S. – Offering Alternative Therapy with Smiles.

Please contact Kathy Weaver 586-260-8814 with any questions.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

God's Wonders

I receive a Newspaper that covers Washington Twp., Romeo, Bruce Twp., and Armada. It has the obituaries for who has passed away in the area and how many times the Romeo Police answered calls, The Sheriff's report, old pictures of "remember when" and most of them are so old I don't even remember except for a couple weeks ago when they had a picture of the "Urban" Street Car and I realized this was what my Dad referred to when he talked about taking the Inter Urban from Royal Oak to Romeo to deliver newspapers. It is an interesting paper, small in pages but interesting in content. They cover the council meetings, and a resident can read about what is happening. Right now, there is a lot of discussion about the property that the former Romeo Middle School sat on as developers want to put in condominiums and people are protesting and wanting to maintain the older look of stately old homes in the village. There is a column that I really enjoy by Garrison Keillor, who some of us will remember from Prairie Home Companion. This week his column was about his trip to the Grand Canyon. He rose early at 5 a.m. and hiked to the rim and watched the sunrise. Now I have seen the Grand Canyon a few times but never at sunrise. He talked about how the sight made him feel like he was looking at one of God's miracles. I remember feeling the same way (but not at sunrise). It is a beautiful sight and humbles one as they look at the miracle of it. He said it was like being in church. When we went to Israel and were traveling from Austria to Germany the tour bus stopped, and we all got off the bus and we were at the most beautiful spot. It was a valley with mountains in the background and in the middle was a small white church. All I could think of at that beautiful sight was "God you made the world so beautiful." Sometimes the sight of the natural wonders of this world makes us grateful that we are here in this place God provided for us. When we were in Bar Harbor, Maine I rose early and sat on a bench near the Atlantic Ocean and watched the sunrise. There was nothing between me and that beautiful body of water but green grass, rocks, and sand. I remember praying in that setting and thanking God for the beauty of the day. It was so peaceful and beautiful. We can pray anywhere but to pray in the peaceful quiet of a beautiful place seems to fill one with gratitude for a giving God. Add to it the songs of the birds greeting the morning and it is like a slice of heaven here on earth. Do you have that beautiful quiet place in your memories? A place where God was near, and you were peaceful? I hope you do and that you hold it in your heart and remember. I hope you have a place like that now. Perhaps a meditation garden or just a peaceful spot. When I walked five days a week I would go to the playground and sit on the bench by the basketball hoop. It was always so early that children weren't out playing. It was quiet and surrounded by trees and the yellow chickadees and robins would be flying around and you could hear birds greeting the morning with their songs. I loved that spot, and the quiet beauty of the day would lead me to prayer.

For the Beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and minds delight. For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight.

For the Beauty of the Earth by Folliot S. Pierpoint

Lord, hear our prayer. We thank you for the day given us, may we treasure it like the gift it is and use it in your service. We thank you for the beauty of this earth you have given us, may we never forget it is a gift to be treasured. Be with our families and our church, grant each your loving care. Be with our Pastor as he leads us closer to you. Bless him and be with his family. He is a gift. Be with our staff and leaders, give them guidance and your holy spirit as they seek to do your will. Be with those who mourn the loss of loved ones and those who are ill. Ease their pain. Be with those around the world who are facing loss from fires in Hawaii, those in Albania embroiled in war and invasion and, those in Haiti who are facing lawlessness and danger and be with those who are trying to survive and those in Florida recovering from storms. We thank you Lord that we have food and shelter and are safe. Be with our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren as they begin their school year. Keep them safe and from harm, grant them your tender care. In Jesus name 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



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

