



Weekly Messenger

November 1, 2024

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I found this guide posted by the seminary president from which I graduated. He wrote that he doesn't know the author, nor do I. I am sharing it with you now as the tension of our political season is growing each day. I hope you find some peace in these ten items.

Also, as someone who works at the polls, I invite you to consider taking advantage of the remaining days of early voting. Save yourself the long wait on election day by voting early. This coming Sunday is the last day of early voting.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

THE CHRISTIAN VOTER'S GUIDE // By Brian Zahnd

1. The political process, while necessary, has little to do with how God is saving the world.
2. The fate of the kingdom of God does not depend upon political contests.
3. Don't be naïve, political parties are more interested in Christian votes than they are in Christian values.
4. The bottom line for political parties is power. The bottom line for a Christian is love. And therein lies the rub.
5. While in pursuit of the Ring of Power, you are not permitted to abandon the Sermon on the Mount.
6. If your political passion makes it hard for you to love your neighbor as yourself, you need to turn it down a notch.
7. Your task is to bring the salt of Christian civility to an ugly and acrimonious political process.
8. To dismember the body of Christ over politics is a grievous sin.
9. Exercise your liberty to vote your conscience and conviction, while accepting that other Christians will do the same and vote differently than you.
10. It's more important that your soul be filled with love than it is for your political team to win the game.

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

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Thanksgiving Dinner at the Baldwin Center

Once again, the Utica United Methodist Church will be donating pies for the Thanksgiving Dinners served to the clientele by volunteers at the Pontiac Baldwin Center. Our church has provided pies for many years now, but we have lost track of exactly when this tradition began. If you know when our church began this annual Thanksgiving tradition, please contact the church office to share.

Fresh fruit and pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving dessert is a wonderful blessing to cap off a turkey dinner with all the fixings. If you would like to support this ministry, please bring your donations to the church on Sunday morning, November 24th for delivery in the afternoon. This year again, pie donations are requested to be “store bought” pies and not homemade pies. Cream pies should not be donated due to the need for refrigeration.

Last year we also collected men’s winter coats for donation to the Baldwin Clothes Closet. This year we were asked to provide “snack items” to be included in bag lunches served to the guests. Snack items can include any small packaged goodie such as a pack of cookies or donuts, peanuts or cashews, granola bars, cheese & crackers, trail mix, chips, etc. Please provide only individually packaged items (i.e. no bulk packages).

If you would like to know more about the Baldwin Center and the ministries offered in the Pontiac community, please plan to join the Women of Faith at their Wednesday, November 13th meeting in the Fellowship Hall. A representative of the Baldwin Center will be sharing information about the various services offered to the community. The presentation will begin at 1:00 PM. Contact Debbie Foskett at 248-894-7547 with any questions.

THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROUS FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS YOU MADE DURING OUR “EXCEL IN THE GRACE OF GIVING” STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM!

“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did to me” (Matthew 25:40). So speaks our Lord to you, the faithful members of our church. As we share our time, talents, and money through our church, we fulfill Christ’s command to *“feed [his] sheep”* (John 21:17). Our gifts support the ministry and mission of our church within its walls and beyond.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

As we contribute our blessings, those who observe this generosity are encouraged to become givers themselves. More importantly, God is honored as we use the gifts he has given us to serve others. Our service, done in his power and for his sake, will reap heavenly rewards as we hear our master say, *“Well done, good and faithful servant!”* (Matthew 25:23).

Thanks again for your generosity!



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UPDATES from the MINI PANTRY

As the cooler weather approaches we are in need of the following items for our Mini Pantry:

Soup
Boxes of Potatoes (any kind)
Cans of Gravy
Boxes of Stove Top Stuffing
Cereal
Pancake Mix and Syrup
Small Jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Your generous heart is evident week after week. The "Wagon of Hope" continues to be filled with necessary food items and in return the Mini Pantry continues to be restocked Sunday - Friday.

With Grateful Hearts

The Mini Pantry Crew.

Quilted Items - Fund Raiser in November

Beginning November 3rd before and after worship Debbie Foskett and Martha Powers will be selling quilted items as a Fund Raiser for our 2024 Church Apportionments.

There will be various sizes of oversized quilted hot pads for casserole dishes as well as some matching sets of regular size and oversized hot pad holders.

Martha has been sewing Soup Cozy's. We will have a soup cozy with coordinating soup bowl, a package of Motown Soup and a small package of crackers packaged in a clear cello bag with ribbon.

This project showcases how God uses each of us by sharing the gifts and talents we have been blessed with to further His kingdom.

We hope that you will find an item for yourself or for that "special someone" in your life. 100% of the monies collected from the sale of these items will go towards our apportionments.

United Women in Faith

All women are invited to attend the UWIF meeting on Wednesday, November 13th in Fellowship Hall. We begin with a potluck luncheon at noon. Bring your own place setting and a dish to share. Drinks are provided.

At 1:00pm our speaker will be Liz Longley, the new coordinator of Baldwin Center. Remember to sign up to bring pies for the Thanksgiving Dinner at Baldwin. We will be transporting them there on Sunday, November 24th at 12:30. Also bring individually wrapped snack items for lunches provided by Baldwin every day. We look forward to seeing you at UWIF.

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Smashing Spooktacular Super Success

Our SPOOKTACULAR BOO BASH was more than a success. It was a SMASHING SPOOKTACULAR SUPER SUCCESS and we, Utica United Methodist Church Family and Friends deserve a “Well Done Good and Faithful Servant”. Over 225 children made their way down Trunk or Treat Alley for delicious treats donated by the “Trunk Owners” and other members of our church. We “RAN OUT” of Hot Dogs, Chips, Pop, Nachos and Cheese. We showed the Love of Christ to all who entered our Parking Lot and Church Building.

Some parents asked to see our Sanctuary. Others filled out a small questionnaire while eating in Fellowship Hall. And still others asked about our church and shared they were searching for a church and found us to be kind and loving.

On October 26th we went about the business of “building the kingdom” and then sharing it with all who attended this wonderful event. Thanks be to the power and presence of the Holy Spirit who provided us with the opportunity to showcase our gifts, talents and witness for Jesus.

Ron and Martha Powers and TEAM!!!



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

FOOTSTEPS IN THE SAND

I had just finished a Prayer Quilt. It is a simple pattern, just 2 blocks, spaced one after the other. I do not do complicated. This quilt spoke to me. One piece is two sets of footprints embedded in a sandy beach walking together, the other is a blue pattern that looks like waves. It is based on the idea of a person looking at their life and there are two sets of footprints walking along a sandy beach, their footprints are sometimes not visible. They are talking with God and ask, "Where were you God when my footprints are gone; through the darkest days of my life you are not walking with me." God replies, "When you only see one set of footprints that is because I was carrying you." Sometimes, illness comes, sorrow comes, failure comes, our mistakes become our downfall and we feel alone and deserted by a God who has promised to never leave us. But God carries us when we are too weak to walk, when life becomes going through the motions, when we are hurt the most by those we trusted the most. I thought of someone I love going through an exceedingly difficult time, facing the possible loss of her life from cancer at a young age and at the same times the cruel betrayal of the person she loved. I want her to know that God walks with her and although she might not see her footprints, it is because he is carrying her, and he is weeping for her. I do not believe that God gives us cancer to bring us closer to him, but I do believe that when cells in our bodies produce a cancer, God weeps for us and holds us closer to him. He uses our sorrows and defeats and illness to draw us closer. He does not use the drunk driver who takes a loved one to bring us closer but uses the loss to bring us closer. He is the great comforter not the avenger that takes away someone or something to punish us. Even in the midst of our sorrows he holds us in his arms and weeps with us.

Isaiah 40:11a He tends his flock like a shepherd. He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.

Psalms 91:4 He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

Lord, we ask that you be with those that are suffering in grief and illness, those that are broken-hearted, those that are alone, those that hunger and thirst, those that cry out to you in their need. May we be the hands and feet of Christ to those that seek you, give us just a glimmer of your compassion and your love for others so that we may serve you. May we see each person as you see them, worthy of forgiveness, worthy of love. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, be with his family. Be with our staff and leaders, bless their service. May we listen for that voice, that leading that draws us to those who seek you and may we answer. In the name of Jesus, 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

