



Weekly Messenger

October 11, 2024

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"Excel in the Grace of Giving"

This Sunday, October 13th is the first day in our stewardship program "Excel in the Grace of Giving." God's grace and love enable us to be faithful and generous in our giving. We are blessed to be blessings. May the Lord bless each of us with the spirit of the Macedonians who gave beyond their ability because they first gave themselves to the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:3-5). As we give, God fills us with more so we can keep on giving and, in the process, give honor and praise to God.

Why Christians Give

In the beginning God gave, and he continues to give. God's character is to give. Out of his love, God gives humanity a beautiful and majestic place to dwell. Our heavenly Father loves us so much that he holds nothing back from us. *"He who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all ... how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"* (Romans 8:32). To give and to keep on giving is the essential nature of God, who is love. All that we are, have, and hope to be our gifts from God.

Acknowledging God's ownership is the basic principle for Christian giving. King David said, *"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it"* (Psalm 24:1). When we give our gifts to God as grateful and faithful stewards, we are merely returning to him what he has already given to us. Paul asks in Romans 8:7, *"What do you have that you did not receive?"*

Wholehearted and unconditional giving has its source in God who himself gave unreservedly. Because of the awesome love shown to us at the cross, we give. God, abiding in us, enables us to give, for, through Christ, we have his very nature, a giving nature. We become more Christ-like as his love for us and within us opens our clenched fists and breaks down our natural desire to put ourselves first. Then we can experience the joy of giving and **excel in the grace of giving.**

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Upcoming Events

October

- October 20th - Annual Church Conference 3pm via Zoom
- October 26th - Trunk or Treat/Spooktacular Halloweeny Boo Bash

Utica United Methodist Church - Annual Conference

Our annual church conference is coming up on Sunday, October 20th at 3pm. The conference will be held on Zoom. The PPRC meeting is at 12:30pm. If you are on PPRC please make sure you have the appropriate zoom link for that meeting. If you would like to be part of the church conference - please contact the office by either calling or by e-mail so you can receive the zoom information and a conference packet.

Spooktacular Halloweeny Boo Bash Trunk or Treat

A sign up sheet will be available today for those willing to participate in the Trunk or Treat portion of our "Spooktacular Halloweeny Boo Bash" on Saturday, October 26th from 1pm-4pm. Please contact Martha Powers at (586)703-1668 with any questions. Continued updates will be available each week.

UMCOR - US Disaster Relief for Hurricane Helene

If you would like to help support the relief efforts from Hurricane Helene consider donating to UMCOR. 100% of the donations made goes to the relief efforts for those affected by the hurricane. You can donate directly to UMCOR at <https://advance.umcmmission.org> you will need to look for US Disaster Relief Advance #901670 or you can simply write USDR Hurricane Helene on the other line of your offering envelope.

3rd Quarter Giving Statements

The 3rd quarter giving statements are ready to be picked up. The statements will be available to pick up at the church outside the Sanctuary. They will be out for the next couple of weeks.

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be a red cross blood drive here at the church on Tuesday, October 15th from 11:00am-5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. To schedule an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: UTICAUMC or call 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767).

See the flyer in the narthex or on the welcome table in Fellowship Hall for more information.

Stephen Ministry Annual Conference

The Stephen Ministry Network of Southeast Michigan is holding their annual conference on Saturday, November 9, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church Utica. The topic this year is "Life with Hospice." We will cover all aspects of hospice care, including palliative care, aftercare, and grief support. The cost for the first 14 people to sign up will be covered by Endowment funds. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sheila Manning, manningsk@comcast.net, or 586 995-4658, by **October 25, 2024**.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Love Thy Neighbor

We are living in a stressful time in our country. We are in an election that pits brother against brother, friend against friend, sisters divided. Families walking on eggshells. I don't remember it ever being like this as a child. There were some who didn't like FDR, but their hostility was not carried out with yard signs and nasty comments although there was an attempted assassination of FDR. Truman was controversial but I liked the sign on his desk that said, "The Buck Stops Here." He was willing to take responsibility for his decisions and never denied them. One of those decisions was to use nuclear bombs to stop a war and save American lives. We can look at that decision in hindsight now but at the time when people were yearning for peace and a return home of sons, husbands, brothers, daughters, and all those who served it was seen in a light I hope we never have to face again. We have all voted for elections and lost and sometimes we have won but we accepted the rule of the majority and got on with our lives. I am an independent voter; I have at times voted a straight ticket but most often voted for the person and not the party. I have not consistently supported the same party. I have told my children, "I don't care who you vote for but never give up the right to vote." It is a right that was won by heroes from the Revolutionary War long ago and all the other wars since. Heroes whose names are etched on tombstones at Arlington, and a wall in D.C. and in every cemetery in our country. Heroes who never made it home from far off lands. Women who were beaten and jailed because they wanted the same right to vote as men. It is a fight that began hundreds of years ago to gain our freedom from foreign rule. Taxation without representation was a very real thing in this young nation. Most of us yearn to be a nation of peace. A place where we can go to a movie, a concert, where we can send our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to school and expect them to come back home each day. I was reading an article that stated that we have become a nation of "What to do if you are involved in a shooting to a nation that needs to know "What to do when you are involved in a shooting." We have to return to a nation that cares about each other. A nation that knows what it means to Love thy neighbor and a country that knows everyone is our neighbor.

My country tis of thee, sweet land of liberty. Of thee I sing. Land where my father's died, Land of the Pilgrims pride, from every mountainside let freedom ring. My native country, thee, Land of the noble free, thy name I love. I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills, my heart with rapture fills like that above. Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedoms song. Let mortal tongues awake, let all that breathe partake, let rocks their silence break, The sound prolong. Our Father's God to thee, author of liberty to thee we sing. Long may our land be bright with freedoms holy light, protect us by thy might, Great God our King.

By Samuel F. Smith

P.S. October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Our chance to show our Pastor praise and thanks for what he does for our church and for all of us.

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

