



# Weekly Messenger

October 18, 2024

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## "Excel in the Grace of Giving"

Last Sunday, the message in our stewardship program focused on "Overcoming Greed." This Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, our theme is "More Blessed to Give." God has ordained that we are blessed more through our giving than those who receive our gifts. Jesus said in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The Lord promises that as we give, we will be blessed and refreshed so we can continue to give. "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11). [Click here to read this week's essay "Giving from the Heart"](#).

Faithful giving is one aspect of a Christ-like character. In our giving, we emulate Jesus who showed us what it means to love and to give. *"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13). Jesus gave us the greatest and most perfect gift by offering himself on the cross. In response to his great gift, we become "givers" rather than "takers." Giving is an expression of our love for the Lord. In light of what God has done for us through his son, how can we not give freely to him?

Mature Christians who are under the control of the Holy Spirit understand the importance of giving and do so willingly and cheerfully. The Apostle Paul exhorts us *"not to be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is"* (Ephesians 5:17). Part of God's will is that we *"share with God's people who are in need . . ."* (Romans 12:13). In order to reach the lost, we need to support evangelism efforts locally and throughout the world.

As Christians, we live lives in thanksgiving and gratitude because of who God is and what he has done for us. *"And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again"* (2 Corinthians 5:15). Living for Jesus, we use our time, talents, and treasures responsibly because we know that God gives us all things to glorify and serve him. Paul put it succinctly, *"You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body"* (1 Corinthians 6:20).

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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



### Spooktacular Halloween Boo Bash Trunk or Treat



On Saturday, October 26th from 1:00 to 4:00 our church will open its doors sharing Christ's Love with all who attend our Boo Bash / Fall Festival in the church parking lot. At the same time many church members will open their hearts and set aside this afternoon to be Kingdom Builders for our church and for the Lord. I am reading and studying Paul and The Call upon his life to serve our Risen Savior. He traveled to regions that he was unfamiliar with to be a Kingdom Builder. If we have the faith that Paul had, surely we can travel to a place we are very familiar with and **"follow in Paul's footsteps"**. Paul was a new believer ...we are seasoned believers. Paul's greatest characteristic trait was perseverance. I believe we too are called to persevere with conviction and belief. We change the world by starting in our own backyard. We share the Good News by participating in the Mission and Ministry Outreaches of our church. The Leadership Team is in place. The events have been planned with great thought and care for the community families who will join us next Saturday.

#### **What is missing...YOU.**

You and the gifts and talents God has blessed you with is missing. Come, join us for day of fun. Come, fellowship with your church family. Come, share the love of Christ with our neighbors. Contact Martha Powers at 586-703-1668

### 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 you offering envelope.

### 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](mailto:manningsk@comcast.net), or 586 995-4658, by **October 25, 2024.**

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## **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.

Debbie has been sewing reversible table runners with Thanksgiving and Christmas fabric on each side.

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 - Apple Pies**

Thank you all for ordering your apple pies. At this time all pies have been made and are awaiting pick up. If you ordered your pie, and have not yet picked it up, please see Ruth Charlton or one of the other United Women ladies to receive your pies.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## SURRENDER

I was big on control. Always had been but many years ago, almost 40 years ago. I underwent a change. I had found a lump. I went to the doctor, and he could not extract fluid for testing but said he would recheck it in a couple of weeks. I was not overly concerned but when it persisted, I felt this one needed to be surgically removed. When I went back to the doctor a few weeks later and he walked into the room I said, "I think this one needs to be removed." He looked relieved and said he agreed. Surgery was scheduled and I prayed that it would have negative results, and I even bought an off one shoulder dress for my daughter's wedding because I believed my prayer would be answered and the dress would show my faith. When I was in the operating room the doctor came in and said my mammogram was negative and he did not expect any problems. Then he woke me up telling me it was cancerous. I told him I was surprised, and he said he was too. I told him I had bought a dress, and he told them to give me more oxygen because I was not awake yet. Surgery was scheduled for a few days later. I prayed that it would not be in the lymph nodes because then I could avoid chemotherapy. It was in the lymph nodes, and I had to have chemo for 9 months. I began to wonder about my relationship with God. My prayers were not being answered and I realized that I was using prayer to tell God what I wanted and not letting God take charge. I began to close my prayers with a prayer of surrender and saying, "not my will but thy will." I had surrendered my control. I no longer had to control the situation I would let God control, and I would accept. With my change in attitude and giving up what was going to happen I felt free from the worry and anxiety and let God take charge. I realized I could not influence what would or would not happen but that with God I would get through whatever happened. It was a lesson that helped to shape my relationship with a loving God that I trusted for my life and all the trials I would face in the future. By the way, I never wore the "good luck dress." I gave it to Goodwill and bought a dress that I liked much better.

Lord, may we remember that we cannot control things that happen but with you at our side we can get through the challenges that come with life and that you are there always, helping us and guiding us. Be with us in all things and in all of our days. Be with those that are ill and those that grieve, may they find you in their strength and may they be comforted. Be with us and guide us in all things. In Jesus name we pray always. Amen

Isaiah 40:28-31 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall but those that hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

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](http://www.uticaumc.org)**  
If you need assistance, call the church office.

**Celebrate Recovery, Thursday, 6:30pm**

