



Weekly Messenger

October 4, 2024

IN THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Events

Trunk or Treat

Road Rally

Mini Pantry

Annual Conference

UWIF

Blood Drive

Devotional

Back Page

"There's Still More To Do - Your Support is Needed"

Together we have done wonderful things to financially support our ministries through the first 3 quarters of 2024. We raised \$7,300 for the Adult Mission Trip; \$2,545 for our missionaries and mission projects (so far); \$5,900 for STARS/XCEL; \$8,700 for the Pipe Organ Fund (so far); \$2,700 for MCREST, Warming Center, and the Oil Change Ministry; \$9,735 for Brighter Future; and we have received over \$250,000 for the Operating Fund which provides the foundation for everything.

But there is still a lot more to do. Between now and the end of the year we will have special giving opportunities for Love Loaves and Christmas (for mission projects) and we will also have a year-end emphasis on conference ministry shares and our Operating Fund expenses (staff compensation, utilities, insurance, etc.). It is vital for all of us to continue faithfully giving to the Operating Fund to ensure we meet all of our obligations this year. Giving is slightly below our giving levels last year, but our budget and expenses have remained about the same. Through the first 3 quarters we have been able to keep pace with most of our expenses. However, we have fallen behind in our conference obligations (ministry shares).

Currently we are operating "week-to-week" with expenses being paid as income is received. Your on-going regular gifts for the Operating Fund are appreciated. They are essential to ensure we are able to meet our required expenses each week. If it is possible for you to give extra, it will help enable us to meet our obligations.

We are able to receive contributions in the form of cash, checks, stocks/bonds/mutual funds, etc. Please make checks payable to Utica United Methodist Church or Utica UMC. If you use offering envelopes on Sunday morning, it isn't necessary to seal them or tape them shut. Simply fold the envelope flap over. It makes it easier for the individuals who count the offering if they aren't sealed shut. Please make sure your offering envelopes are secured if you are mailing them to the church. We also have E-Giving available for your convenience. Finally, if you are planning to make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA for 2024 or a year-end gift of stocks/bonds/mutual funds, please consider doing this soon so it will be processed before the end of the year.

Tuesday will be the 1st of October marking the beginning of the 4th quarter. And there are only 92 days until the end of the year! There's still a lot more to do – your continued faithful giving and support are needed and appreciated.

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

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.

World Communion Sunday

This Sunday, October 6th is World Communion Sunday. It is one of our special giving Sunday's to support the ministry of the United Methodist Church. World Communion Sunday is a denomination-wide celebration emphasizing the value of education and training. We commemorate this day by giving generously to support young adults and make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. The remainder provides grants to support training for worldwide inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. Please consider donating by using the envelope provided on Sunday morning in the bulletin or on the tables in Fellowship Hall, or you can write World Communion Sunday on the other line of your offering envelope.

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.

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.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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.

United Women In Faith

All women are invited to attend the United Women in Faith meeting on Wednesday, October 9th in Fellowship Hall. The potluck luncheon will begin at noon. Bring a dish to share with others and your own place setting. Drinks will be provided.

At 1:00pm Terry Gibbons, a physical therapist, will be sharing exercises to strengthen our Core Body functions. Wear comfortable clothing to be able to participate in some of these exercises which you can do at home. Call Kathy Weaver if you have any questions (260-5953).

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**.

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

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Ketchup for a Hot Dog

How do we show our faith? Is it just between us and God? Or does it have a purpose. If we have faith we show it by our deeds. Sometimes this is feeding the hungry at a church or place where food can be served to those in need. I recall going from our local church, a very small church to a church in Detroit where meals were provided. It was an eye-opening experience. The people who came in were all different types but obviously poor and hungry. I did not feel we were there to reform them or to shame them just to feed God's children. They requested sugar for their coffee, I gave them sugar. People who are addicted will want sugar but so will people who are fed sugar coated cereal in the morning. I was reminded of a six-year-old girl that was dying of Leukemia many years ago and she only had a short time left. I was doing my "kitchen rotation" at the time. We were required to do this to learn diets for different diseases and conditions and we were required to learn how to make a budget for a family of four and to do the shopping for the food on the budget. It was an interesting experience. The head "cook" was a rather unpleasant woman who did not like my sense of humor. The dying girl requested a hot dog, and this was allowed on her diet. She also wanted Ketchup which was not on her diet. The cook refused to give the child ketchup even though the doctor had verbally approved it but had not changed the diet in the chart. The child's request would have been so easily granted and ketchup certainly wasn't going to harm her at this stage. The cook continued to refuse and finally the parents went to the store and bought a bottle of ketchup so the child could have her hot dog with ketchup. The cook felt very superior that she had won and stuck to the child's diet, she bragged those diets had to be followed and not deviated from. I said nothing but did as I recall turn my back on her. Three days later the child died. The cook upon hearing this regretted her actions and was crying and hysterical with regret, I could not feel sorry for her but mourned the death of a child whose last request was ketchup for her hot dog, The cook was crying and seeking others to tell her she had done the right thing. As she came near me, I continued to work. She wrote some nasty things in my evaluation, and I was asked by the Nursing Supervisor why this woman would say such things about me when no one else had ever even whispered a negative report about my work. I just said that I had no idea why she would say negative things about me and the matter was dropped but I knew. I later cried for that beautiful sweet little girl that only wanted ketchup for her hot dog. Rules are great but common sense is sometimes better.

Lord/ we thank you for this day and for the gifts you have given us. May we use them in your service. Be with those who are sick and those who grieve, may they be comforted. Be with our church Lord, may it be your church. Be with our Pastor and his family keep them safe, we thank you for their service. Be with our staff and leaders, bless them. Be with our country Lord may we remember this is your world and we need to honor that and all your children. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Please remember to thank Pastor Don for all he does for the church.

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

