



Weekly Messenger

November 22, 2024

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"Does Anyone Remember?"

According to an old Guideposts story, Phyllis Wohlfarth's husband gave her a gold lapel pin for Christmas one year. Phyllis said she only took a second to thank her husband for his gift. As she put on the lapel pin a week later, she reflected on her husband's thoughtfulness. With more sincerity, she thanked him again. Her husband explained that the pin had belonged to his grandmother, so it was very special to him. Phyllis noted that if she hadn't offered the second "thank you," she might have never learned the pin's significance. Only when she took the time to reflect on the gift and offer a more sincere "thank you" did she really learn to appreciate her husband's gesture.

How often do we offer God a quick "Thank You" for our many blessings and then forget about them? Or how often do we just take God's blessings and never even say "Thank You?"

I used this illustration in a sermon in the past. I recalled it when thinking about what I might write for this week's newsletter. I do hope you know how grateful I am for you and our years in ministry together! Like most, I am sure I don't say "Thank You" often enough.

Thank You!

Rev. Don



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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Upcoming Events

- November 17th - December 22nd - Angel Tree Ornaments For Sale
- December 7th - Christmas Tea
- December 8th - The Gosbells Christmas Concert - A Christmas Festival 2024
- December 21st & 22nd - Cookie Walk
- December 24th - Christmas Eve Services 11am and 8pm

Office Closure for Thanksgiving

The office will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for Thanksgiving. Due to the holiday schedule the deadline for the Prayer list for December 1st and the Messenger for November 29th will be Tuesday, November 26th at noon. Anything received after noon on the 26th will be included the following week.

A Christmas Festival

**2024 Handbell and Pipe Organ Christmas Concert
Featuring: The Gosbells Handbell Choir**

Sunday, December 8th, 2024 at 3pm

Utica United Methodist Church
8650 Canal Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314



Presented by: The Music Ministry of Utica United Methodist Church

****Concert Admission is Free****

An afterglow of light refreshments will be enjoyed by all at the conclusion of the concert!

CHRISTMAS TEA

Saturday, December 7th - 2:00pm
Fellowship Hall

Please join us for tea, desserts, music, and fellowship.

All ladies are welcome - please invite your friends and family for this special Christmas event. Ages 10 and older only please.

There will be a sign-up sheet beginning Sunday, November 10th to RSVP with your attendance and also if you are interested in hosting a table or providing a dessert.

We hope you will join us!

We will also have a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in helping with set up and clean up.

In lieu of an entry fee, please bring a food item for the UUMC Mini Pantry
(Be sure to check the latest list posted in the Weekly Messenger)

*** * THANK YOU * ***

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

FOR GOD'S GLORY

Our financial gifts for the Utica UMC Operating Fund are made for God's glory. By ensuring we meet our annual financial needs, we glorify God by enabling Utica UMC to serve where God calls us to serve.

We are using the letters "For God's Glory" to see the progress we make toward meeting our year-end expenses. Our progress is directly dependent on the contributions we receive each week. Between now and the end of the year we have about \$81,000 remaining in Operating Fund expenses – \$15,000 less than we had November 1. Two of the letters in this phrase are now green to reflect this.

The remaining \$81,000 includes: compensation (\$21,750), utilities and upkeep (\$32,965), conference pensions and ministry shares (\$15,500), and ministries/administration (\$10,785). Together and with God's help, we can satisfy these obligations by year end.

We are able to receive contributions in the form of cash, checks, stocks/bonds/mutual funds, etc. We also have e-Giving available for your convenience. If you would like to make a year-end gift of stocks/bonds/mutual funds or a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA for 2024, please consider doing this soon so it will be processed before the end of the year.

Gifts need to be received by noon on December 31 to be included in your 2024 giving statement. However, to enable us to meet our obligations to others before the end of the year, we will appreciate your gifts by December 22, if possible. Gifts received the week of December 29 will also enable us to meet expenses (e.g., payroll) we have in the first few weeks of the new year. Thank you.

Gently Used Small Devotional Books - Needed

Haven Place is seeking gently used small devotional books. Haven Place is a non-profit organization located in New Haven, Michigan. Please see Martha Powers with any questions, she will also collect these items and deliver to Haven Place.

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

The Mini Pantry Crew.

Remembrance Angel Ornament Sale

We will once again be having an ornament sale in honor or memory of a loved one. Ornaments are sold for \$15 each or 2 for \$25. Order forms will be available at a table in the Narthex along with an example of the ornament. They will be on display in the Narthex or in the back entry way by Fellowship Hall on one of the Angel Trees and can be taken home after service on December 22nd or after the Christmas Eve Service. If you do not want the ornament on the tree, they can be taken home same day as your purchase. All proceeds will go toward our end of year financial obligations.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

More Great Grandchildren

My daughter sent me a message this week telling me what my Great Grandson in Illinois is doing. She said he was singing a solo for Grandparents Day, and could I guess what song it was. I guessed "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" because she had sung that in kindergarten many years ago. She said "No" the song was "You are My Sunshine." This was a song I sang to my children years ago. I was surprised that she remembered. The song had been sung to me long ago when I was 7 years old.

I was in 2nd grade and had complained to my mother that the teacher was sending us out for recess when it was too cold and told her that if this happened again, I would leave school. A few days later the teacher sent us outside when I deemed it too cold, so my best friend and I left. We went first to my house where our mothers usually congregated, it was 3 blocks from school. They were not there. We then walked to her home, which was about a mile from school thinking they would be there. They were not. So, we stayed there, it was warm, and we played with paper dolls and made clothes for them and had a lovely day. Unfortunately we could not tell time. Our mothers were at my house waiting for us to come home. When we had not come home in a couple hours they got to a phone and called the teacher at home. She told them we had left school at 10 a.m. from recess. They came to my friend's house and found us around 6pm. My Mother was concerned that we had crossed John R but didn't say anything else. That evening our families had dinner together and a friend of my friend's family dropped in. He had a guitar and sang some songs. He said he would sing a special one just for me and it was, "You are My Sunshine." I never forgot that song and sang it often to my children. I also did not skip school again at least until I was older but that is another story. That man gave me a gift and one I gave my children. God gives us memories so we might have roses in December.

We thank you Lord for the strangers that sometimes step in to our lives and become part of our memories. They give us joy.

Thank you, Lord, for those moments that touch our children's hearts and the happy memories they have. Thank you for our church, may all who enter here find you waiting. Be with our Pastor, bless him and watch over him and his family. Keep them safe. Be with our staff and leaders, bless them and guide them. Thank you for the days you bless us with and those we share them with. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson

Saturday Youth Cooking Class

We have a youth cooking class that happens on the Second Saturday of each month at 9am in the Kitchen/Fellowship Hall. There will be no cooking class in December. The cooking class will resume their schedule on January 11th. This is for youth from 6th grade up to 12th grade. Please speak with Peggy Miller if you have any questions.

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**
If you need assistance, call the church office.

Celebrate Recovery, Thursday, 6:30pm

