



Weekly Messenger

January 24, 2025

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"What Would You Like to Do?"

Recently, someone shared that they would like to take on a ministry within the church but haven't been asked. This comment caused me to ponder the age-old question of how churches come to the point where those who organize things conclude that "No one is willing to do things" while there are people who wait to be asked. That, my friends, is a dilemma in most congregations.

If I had an answer to that dilemma, I would be writing books on mobilizing volunteers in churches. Since I don't have an answer, I would like to suggest we try something and see if we make progress in putting the folks who have a passion to serve in roles that align with those passions.

Here is what I propose:

Email Rachelle (or come to the church office or call the church office) and tell her what ministry you would like to become active in. If you send an email, please provide Rachelle with the best phone number to reach you. If you call or stop in the office, give her all that information, too!

If you want more information about what it would mean to serve in a specific ministry area, please share that as well. The person who coordinates the ministry can then contact you and help you understand more fully. If you are ready to jump in, share that, too!

In the meantime, I've asked the Vision Team, working with the ministry/activity coordinators, to identify ways people in our church might serve, both in ministries within the building and those that happen off-site. We will publish the initial list in February. Hopefully, we will put desires to serve and opportunities to serve together and further the kingdom.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Don

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



SOURDOUGH DEMONSTRATION

FEBRUARY 21, 2025

UTICA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

8650 CANAL RD., STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 48314

COST: \$40

DEMONSTRATION CLASS INCLUDES:

- Learning how to keep & feed a starter
- Overview of the sourdough bread process
- Gain knowledge on benefits of sourdough
- Q & A's

WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Sourdough starter
- Recipe guide
- Sourdough loaf to enjoy at home!

Call or text Jennifer to secure your spot
(586)-838-7287

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Mini Pantry Update

Moving forward the needs continue especially as we face cold/freezing temperatures in the weeks ahead. Some ideas for donations:

- Powdered Milk in boxes or pouches**
- Tuna pouches**
- Mac and Cheese**
- Instant Potatoes (box or pouches)**
- Gravy (pouches only)**
- Adult and Children Gloves, Hats, Scarves**
- Bars of Soap**

If you have any questions please contact the team and we will do our best to answer your concerns.

Melanie Kuzia, Jim and Liza Young
Ron and Martha Powers

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Please join the Tuesday Morning Bible Study beginning March 11th from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm as we dig deeper into our own personal Lenten Journey, why Jesus chose the nails and what God did to win our heart. This can be ordered on Amazon.com. If you don't have an Amazon Prime Account please text or email Martha Powers 586-703-1668 or ron_martha@att.net and I will order the book for you. If you have any questions please see me after church or call my cell.

Is your heart unsettled by the chaos of the world? Are you heavy-laden with bad moments, mad moments, or anxious moments? Today, rest in God's self-giving love and leave all your troubles at the foot of the cross.

In *He Chose the Nails*, Max Lucado observes that the last moments leading up to Jesus' death were not left up to chance. God chose the path; he selected the nails. Our Lord planted the trio of crosses and painted the sign. God was never more sovereign than in the details of the death of his Son. And in those details are gifts Christ provided for us...the cross. The thorns. The nails. His seamless robe. The empty tomb.

God didn't have to give us all these things, you know. The only required act for our salvation was the shedding of blood, yet he did much more. So much more.

In this Easter season study, Max will help you:

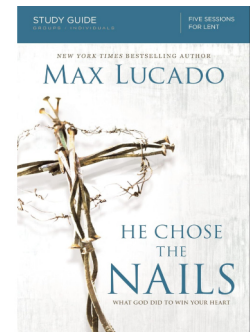
- **Experience Lent** as a time not to just give up something, but to prepare to receive good gifts from God.
- **Take comfort** that Jesus understands everything you face in this life.
- **Receive the grace** of Christ's work *for* us, and **cooperate** with God's work *in* us to make us more like him.
- **Stand firm** in the promise that you are forgiven, and you are welcome in God's presence, no matter what you've done.

Search the scene of the cross and listen for God's gentle whisper, "I did it just for you."

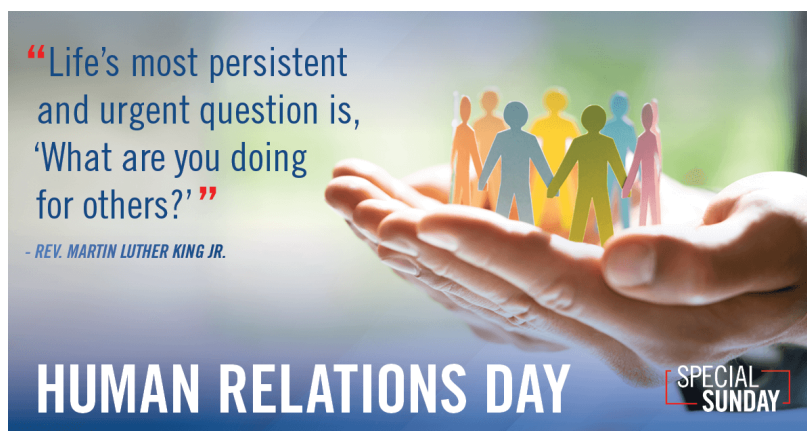
The *He Chose the Nails Study Guide* includes video notes and discussion questions, Bible exploration, an individual application activity, and a Lenten practice to complete between meetings.

Sessions include:

1. He Chose to Be One of Us
2. He Chose to Forgive Us
3. He Chose to Invite Us into His Presence
4. He Chose to Love Us Forever
5. He Chose to Give Us Victory
6. He Chose to Give Us Confidence (optional session for Week 6 of Lent)



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



We will still collect this Sunday for Human Relations Day. Please consider donating by writing Human Relations Day on the other line of your offering envelope.

On Human Relations Day, we unite to create stronger, healthier communities. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned a world where love and justice reign. Let’s take one step closer by supporting:

- Community Developers
- Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs
- United Methodist Voluntary Services

Warming Center

Utica United Methodist Church will be helping with Warming Center on February 2nd-February 8th. Sign up sheets are available after church services on Sunday, or see Ron Borgacz for ways that you can help. Monetary donations are always welcome, please write Warming Center on the other line of your offering envelope or on the pew envelope. There is also currently a choice through the e-giving site for warming center. You can choose a one-time donation through online giving to warming center this will be available until February 9th.

UMCOR - US Disaster Relief - California Wildfires

On January 7, strong Santa Ana winds in Los Angeles caused wildfires to spread rapidly in multiple communities. Thousands of homes and businesses have been destroyed, as well as multiple local United Methodist Churches. Preliminary assessments of the damage is underway. UMCOR has awarded two solidarity grants to the California-Pacific Annual Conference to undergird their immediate relief efforts. This includes evacuee support like food and essential supplies as well as support for volunteer efforts and other relief activities.

If you are interested in helping in the relief efforts, please consider donating to UMCOR. 100% of the money donated through UMCOR goes directly to help those affected by the disasters. You can write wildfire on the other line of your giving envelope, or on a pew envelope. There is also a place on our e-giving website to donate to UMCOR. The online giving will remain open until the end of February.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

FAITH WITHOUT ACTION

From a very young age I was taught that it was my responsibility as a member of the congregation that I support my church with my tithes and my talents that faith wasn't enough, and I was encouraged to take an active role in the church. I thought, isn't my belief enough? I have faith and I have seen the positive aspects of that as I have turned my problems over to God, trusting that he would lead me through. But faith doesn't come from what God does for us but what we do for others' that is faith in action. We are called to be active in our faith, to do for God what he calls us to do for others, for his children. I don't speak of children in the age sense but in the God sense. Some of his children are very old. A neighbor came over and the mailman had left my mail in his box. Accident? I don't think so. His wife died Easter Sunday. I had known this, and I had intended to go over to the house but instead talked to one of his children in the parking lot urging her to let me know if there was anything I could do. I have often said this to people and then have gone off feeling as if I did my part. But when he showed up at my door with my mail, I asked him in, and he began to talk. We sat at the kitchen table, and he poured out his hurt, his feeling that he didn't do enough, his sadness and I listened and told him he had done well and had dealt with a sickness that had lasted a long time. I didn't fix it, I didn't take him cookies, I didn't send a book on grief, I just listened. I have friends who have done both, brought me food and listened. The listening was what I needed most. He talked for about an hour, and I thanked God that I had been patient because I was trying to get ready for a memorial service for my niece where my listening skills would once again be put to good use. I also recalled from my own grief that the best listeners were those that listened the days I was angry, the days that I was sad, the days I didn't want to get dressed and the house was a mess (something I once blamed on my husband and now cannot. Was it me all along?) and the days I didn't want to talk about it.

James 2:14-17 What good is it my friends, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go I wish you well; keep warm and well fed but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead, but someone will say, "You have faith, I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

Dear Lord, some days you call us to action when we see those around us have needs, some days you call us to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to bring truth and light to the overburdened and some days we are called to listen. Help us to respond with your loving thoughts for people. We ask Lord that you help us to respond to those who are ill, those who are hungry, and those who need clothing and essentials and those who grieve. May we not turn away our eyes but respond with the tenderness of your children remembering not just who we are but whose we are. Be with our Pastor and bless his ministry. Be with our family of believers may we give each other love, acceptance, and gentle guidance. Be with our staff and leaders, guide them and help them in their mission. Be with us Lord in our comings and our goings, in our needs and our good fortune and may we always feel your presence in our lives. In the name of your blessed Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

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

