



Weekly Messenger

January 31, 2025

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"What Would You Like to Do?"

February....the shortest month of the year yet oh so busy with Candy Hearts, Flowers and Chocolate...lots and lots of Chocolate.

It's an exciting month....right??? I mean SUPER BOWL and all that food dedicated to a day of fun and footballyet there must be more to February then just food and football.

There has to be more then this for us to get EXCITED about ...right???

February is exciting because Jesus will meet us with happiness and excitement regardless of how crazy our days are. Our Heavenly Father comes into our lives with incredible healing power and challenges us to respond with BOLDNESS towards his kingdom. While you or I might look at Valentine's Day as a day of being showered with gifts of love let us not forget "for God so loved the world he gave his only son" to die for you and me. To love, to forgive and to redeem. We are not weak in the midst of our Lord....we stand on his promises and because of that we are strong...strong in HOPE, strong in FAITHFULNESS and strong in our ability to seek PEACE and offer FORGIVENESS.

These are bullet points from Pastor Don's February Sermon's. Let us reflect upon them and be faithful prayer warriors for these messages, for our church and for our own spiritual journey.

O Gracious and Loving Lord,
You sacrificed so much for us, asking only for our hearts in return. You are ready to meet our needs, every moment of every day, yet where are we when you call upon us?

Lord, to know you is to proclaim you as the rock upon which we stand, the foundation upon which we build our lives. Strengthen us today and every day to stand firmly on that foundation and proclaim boldly "**you are my Lord and Savior and I will strive to be faithful to you always**". In your precious name we pray O, Lord. AMEN.

FAITH STEP:

Find JOY and EXCITEMENT in your relationship with Jesus this month.

Written by Martha Powers

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:

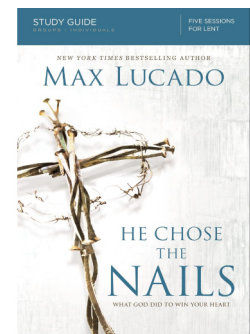
- **Experience Lent** as a time not to just give up something, but to prepare to receive good gifts from God.
- **Take comfort** that Jesus understands everything you face in this life.
- **Receive the grace** of Christ's work *for* us, and **cooperate** with God's work *in* us to make us more like him.
- **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

CHILI, SOUP, AND DESSERT COOK-OFF

Sunday, February 23, 2025

4:00 PM



Once again, our Chili, Soup, and Dessert Cook-off will be on Sunday, February 23 at 4:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Start looking now for some new recipes or some you know are tried and true.

- Sign-up sheets will be available starting February 2. You may enter as many categories as you'd like, and you may enter more than once in each category!
- Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 entries in each category and for the top overall entry.
- Come Sunday, February 23 at 4:00 PM and sample all the entries. You don't need to enter to participate. "Vote" with your dollars (or \$5's or \$10's or more) for your favorite entries in each category. Vote as many times as you wish.
- Bring your friends and family – they will enjoy wonderful food and fellowship with us.
- Proceeds will be used to support the United Methodist Conference through our Ministry Shares.

United Women in Faith

On Wednesday, February 12th at noon in Fellowship Hall the United Women in Faith will be meeting for a potluck luncheon. Please bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Drinks will be provided.

At 1:00pm a speaker from Grace Centers of Hope will be presenting information about their program.

All women are invited to attend.

Youth Cooking Class - Saturday

There is still space available for any youth to come to the Saturday Morning cooking class that happens on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 9am. Please contact Peggy Miller or the church office to RSVP for the class. A RSVP is required so enough supplies are purchased ahead of time for the class.

Warming Center - 2025

Warming Center week begins on Sunday, February 2nd and runs through Sunday, February 9th. We are still accepting monetary donations for this program. Make sure you are bringing in any donations that you signed up to bring. Make sure if you signed up that you know what days and times to be where you need to be.

Lord, we pray for a good week and that this church can be a blessing to those who have food and shelter insecurities. That we can provide a warm meal and a breakfast that they can take with them the next day to help sustain them until their next meal. Please bless those who are in need of the care of the warming center. Please help us be your hands and feet this week. Amen.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Growing Older

I don't mind growing older, but I don't want to be thought of as old. To be old is to be no longer needed and time for replacement. I don't like people telling me what to do (this has been a problem since I was about 5 years old). I was an opinionated child and have turned into an opinionated older person. I like to read about the people in the bible, the lived extremely long lives. I have found growing old is not so bad. The people at the hair salon always want to walk me to my car and put my walker in the trunk. People will often run ahead of me and open doors, servers will make sure I am comfortable and make an effort to make sure I have what I need. People will sometimes pay for my meal which is always a very nice surprise. This actually started a few years ago when I went out alone to lunch on Valentine's Day. My husband was then in the final stages of Alzheimer's, and it was difficult to take him out. I always took a book to read and was trying not to think of other Valentine's Days when we had shared a dinner together at a restaurant. When I reminded my server, I had not received my check she told me it had all been taken care of. I was shocked but grateful at such a thoughtful gesture. I have even had a waiter pay for my meal which I thought was an extremely thoughtful act. He is a very special young man and has requested that I always sit in his section. I think that I remind people of their grandmother. A very depressing thought unless their grandmothers are young. I had two grandmothers. One had given birth to 14 children and lost 3 at young ages. She raised 11. She was not fond of small children. She died at the age of 50 and her children began fighting and never stopped. My other grandmother was actually my father's stepmother. My father's mother had died at a young age. She was a model for all the evil stepmothers in Disney movies and did not like me one little bit and I did not like her. But my grandfather more than made up for it. He was a delight, and I adored him. I found being a grandmother one of the best times in my life. I spent a lot of time with my three grandchildren. Now I have great grandchildren. There are three and I see my two granddaughters in them. They are delightful and although I don't get to see them as often as I would like we have established a good relationship, and I look forward to seeing them soon. God has blessed me with longevity and with great grandchildren. I look at my life and know I have been a nurse who once prayed for her patients while they slept, and I was making rounds. When working in the Nursery, I prayed for the babies. There was one I have never forgotten. He was a large (12 pounds) baby that was named Obadiah. I felt he was starting life with two problems. He was overweight and named Obadiah. I would hold him and talk to him about patience and forbearance and sneak in some about God's love. I loved being a nurse. It was a profession but also a calling.

Dear Lord, we thank you for lives well lived. For the times you have guided our paths, for the blessings of love and families. We thank you for Pastor Don, bring him back safely to us. Be with his family, bless and keep them. We thank you for the times you have saved us when we have called to you. We thank you for our Missionary Team in Africa, bring them safely home. Guide them in all they do. We thank you for Pastor Regan who gave us your message these last two weeks and thank you for Don Weaver who led the service. Be with our staff and leaders, bless them in all they do. Amen.

J. Ellsworth Kalas quote: "Growing older is a process. Growing old is a conclusion"

Robert Browning: "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be. The last of life for which the first was made."

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

