



Utica United
Methodist Church

Weekly Messenger

August 15, 2025

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"Up Coming Sermon Series"

Greetings to you in the blessed name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

What if you were asked to describe yourself in just five statements? What about you, would you choose to talk about yourself? Your achievements? Or who are you? But what if instead of you, the question was to focus on Jesus?

Who is Jesus? For many Christians, Jesus is defined in the past. He was a moral teacher, a miracle worker, a peaceful man. He was Gods' son who died for our sins, and there's no doubt, all of these are true about Jesus. But what about the present? What about now? Does Jesus have any influence in our daily lives right now?

To answer these questions, we invite you to the I AM Statements of Jesus Christ, which is the subject of our upcoming sermon series. Through these I AM statements, Jesus describes himself in rich images, showing us that he is both fully human and fully God, who meets our every need, empowering us to be truly his followers.

In a world that tends to offer us superficial contentment, purpose and meaning, Jesus offers us, himself, as the Bread of Life, through whom we experience lasting nourishment. Not only that, but Jesus also declares that He is the Light of the World who provides us guidance, the Good Shepherd, who leads and nurses our bruises, the True Vine in whom we can experience genuine relationship and the Living Water in whom we find lasting fulfillment, etc.

Once again, in a world where many of us are seeking contentment, fulfillment, meaning and purpose from other sources, Jesus invites us to experience what he offers.

I encourage you to journey with me on this five-week series, which begins on Sunday, August 24, and with the aid of the Holy Spirit, I am sure that by the end of this journey, you will have a fuller and richer experience of life through Jesus.

God bless you.

Pastor J. Albert Barchue

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Mini Pantry Update

Proverbs 22:9 – “The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

🙏 A Prayer for the Hungry 🙏

Heavenly father, you see every empty plate and every hurting heart. Provide for those in need today. Stir our hearts with compassion and give us generous hands to serve your children. Help us to be the vessels of hope for those who come to our pantry.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

We continue to fill our Mini Pantry with food items and hygiene products and they come. Our neighbors in need come. They come and receive the precious unconditional love of Jesus Christ every time they open the door of our Mini Pantry. Pastor Albert shared with us the importance of Caring and Serving. How blessed are we to “be the church” as we live out the words of Jesus Christ in Matthew 25:31-40. Blessed are those who see a need and respond with love. Praise be to God!!!

MINI PANTRY NEEDS:

Feminine Hygiene Products

Hand Soap

Body Wash

Cans or Packages of Soup

Cereal

Macaroni and Cheese

Pasta and Sauce

Blessed to be a Blessings,
Jim, Liza, Melanie, Ron and Martha

Together In Mission

Our TIM August commitment is "Water for Life" for Liberia. Most residents are drinking from unsafe sources of water and do not have access to standard toilet facilities. As a result, water-borne diseases are common. This project helps communities by constructing wells and proper toilet facilities within communities and schools, and sets up community structures and leadership that will supervise and coordinate the wells and toilets.

We will be collecting loose change in a water container available in the narthex. Or you can make a special donation with cash or check, just write "water for life" on the other line of your offering envelope or pew envelope and put it in the offering plate on Sunday. Help us meet our commitment of \$500 for our brothers and sisters in Liberia.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

GriefShare Leader Needed – A Calling to Walk with the Brokenhearted

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Matthew 5:4



As part of our church's commitment to support those walking through seasons of loss, we're preparing to launch a GriefShare group—but we need a leader with a heart for healing.

If you've experienced grief and found comfort through faith, and you feel called to walk alongside others in their journey, we invite you to consider serving in this role. You don't need formal training—just compassion, a steady presence, and a willingness to serve.

GriefShare offers training and materials to equip leaders. Let's help restore hope, one heart at a time. Interested? Program will be held on Thursday evening, and last 13 weeks. Let's help turn grief into grace together. Please speak to Bob or Patsy Clark or email us at: rwclarksr930@gmail.com

200th Anniversary Polo Shirts

Did you miss out on getting a 200th anniversary polo shirt? This will probably be the last opportunity to order one. The shirts come in many colors, men's and women's styles in all sizes. They will have the 200th multi-colored logo embroidered on the left chest. Gary Taylor will be taking final orders on August 24th after service, or you can e-mail him at acgrtaylor@comcast.net to order or ask any questions. Cost for the shirt is \$28 cash or check made out to UUMC will be accepted.

Little Library

As I left church the other day, I noticed a neighbor with a small child stop by our little library looking for a book to for the child to look at while they were on their walk. Our little library is looking rather empty. Luckily, I have a small stash of books around that I could add to the library, however I do not have any children's books. If you are cleaning your bookshelves, or out at a garage sale and see any small kids books or board books that you would like to donate, I am happy to keep a small collection here in the office to help replenish the little library outside. I will put a small collection bin outside the church office starting this Sunday, August 10th through Sunday, August 17th. Please consider donating a few books to help keep the little library stocked for the rest of the year. I will also accept teen and adult books as well. Please remember that this is a small library - really tall books will not fit inside. Thank you!



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Things I Have Learned In 90 Plus Years

1. Don't eat fresh tomatoes while wearing a white top. 2. Never trust a weather reporter. We once had 12 inches of partly cloudy in our driveway. 3. Don't bother with a timer when you cook. The meat is done when the smoke alarm goes off. 4. Never buy clothes after lunch, it's depressing. 5. If you haven't heard from your adult children, send them a message such as, "Don't worry about us, the police said it wasn't our fault." They'll call. 6. Always be nice to your pastors. If anything happens to you, they will do the funeral, and you want them to say nice things.

But there are more important lessons I have learned. We never walk alone; God is with us. When we are at our lowest, love will come from the highest. Our paths may seem crooked, but God will use them to take us to him. People are basically good and can be trusted. Friends are God's way of saying, "I am with you," cherish them. God uses people to help each other, accept that and let them help when you need help. Church is a family of friends, never be without them. Do what you can to reach out to others, the rewards are great. Forgive others and seek forgiveness when you are wrong. Open your hearts to others, they may trample it but then again, they may cherish it. Grudges are really heavy to carry and after a while seem such a burden, it is easier to let them go. Prayer brings us closer to God. There is a reason the Bible is a best seller, read it often and seek to understand it, it is a good guide from a good God. When asked to do something you think you cannot do, pray about and then trust God and others to help you. We need pastors, and pastors need us, we are in this journey called church together, cherish and support them. And the hardest lesson to learn, forgive yourself because God has already forgiven you.

The funny thing about lessons learned. It never stops. I know there will be more lessons because God is not through with me yet.

Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?" And who will go for us? And I said, Here I am, send me.

Lord, thank you for a life well lived, thank you for mistakes made and lessons learned. Be with your church Lord, may it be open to all and pleasing to you. Be with those who are suffering, those who are hurting, those who are hungry or homeless, may they feel your presence in their lives. We thank you Lord for the days given to us. May we use them well and to your glory. Be with our pastor and his family, bless them in all they do. Be with our staff and leaders guide and protect them. Bless those who are ill and those who are grieving. Be with them. Be with our country Lord, guide and protect us. In the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

Grace Epperson

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES:

9:30AM

with Organ, Choir and Handbells
in the Sanctuary

11:00AM

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.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday
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

Pastor Albert Barchue

pastor@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

office@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

