

# Weekly Messenger

October 10, 2025

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Mini Pantry  
Update

Trunk or Treat

Apple Pie  
Time

Drug Take  
Back Day

Red Cross  
Blood Drive

Stewardship

Love Loaf

Church  
Conference

Back Page

## "Fulfilling God's Purpose"

The theme for the first week of ***Fulfilling God's Purpose!*** is "Building Relationships." God's Word tells us, *"We love because he first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). All meaningful relationships are based on love. Jesus' relationship with his heavenly Father, his relationship with the disciples, our relationships with him, and our relationships with others are made possible through love. God's love for us compels us to show that love through what we do and say to others (2 Corinthians 5:14). Please join us October 12 in worship.

### Building Relationships

What everyone needs is a meaningful relationship with our Lord, our families, and our friends. Only a relationship with Christ will fill our emptiness and give life meaning. In order to be intimate with the Lord, we need to walk with him and be willing to serve, obey, and follow him. We must admit that we fail to follow God. Instead, we often rebel against him and go our own ways, yet he continues to desire a relationship with us. *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). We can be certain that God will never stop loving us. *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 8:38-39).

A relationship with Jesus is more than an intellectual understanding or a philosophical awareness. Our relationship is based on love ... Christ's love for us, and, in response, our love for him ... love that enables our faithful obedience. Jesus said, *"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me"* (John 14:21).

God knows us intimately and has a plan for our lives. Christ became flesh and came among us to bring us back into a relationship with our heavenly Father which was destroyed by sin (Isaiah 59:2). Jesus said, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* (John 14:6).



Continued on Page 2....

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Continued from page 1...

Because of what Jesus has done for us, we are redeemed people with infinite value. Our inherent value does not come from who we are, but from whose we are. “*See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands*” (Isaiah 49:16a). God pours out his love upon us as a father pours out love upon his children. Although each person responds differently to the love that God gives, God’s love is consistent and unwavering. Christians are people who believe that our lives are good gifts from God. We live our lives in response to God’s marvelous love shown on the cross.

Our relationship with God deepens as we begin to know him through the love, power, grace, and mercy he shows us through his Word and Sacraments. We find that in getting closer to God . . .

- We are more interested in others.
- We discover greater energy, stamina, and perseverance.
- We desire to be obedient to his calling.
- We set higher standards as we respond more faithfully to God’s holy law.
- We receive God’s strength to overcome temptations.
- We overcome difficult odds by God’s strength.
- We are better equipped to live a balanced lifestyle.
- We have a clearer understanding of the purpose and future our Lord established for us.
- We become better stewards of God’s Earth (creation).
- We seek to know him better through his revealed Word.
- We are strengthened, encouraged, and comforted during times of pain and hardship.
- We find contentment.
- We are blessed by sharing our time, abilities, and money with him and others.
- We have greater discernment of things both temporal and eternal.

## Stewards of Relationships

In his book *The Stewardship of Life*, Kirk Nowery states that in relationship with others the faithful steward needs to be committed to . . .

1. Influencing people to know the one true God. It is becoming increasingly unpopular in our secularized culture to suggest that there is one true God. Indeed, only the one true God has revealed himself definitively and has confirmed his uniqueness so we must proclaim him to everyone.
2. Influencing people to believe in and follow Jesus. We are called to communicate to everyone within our sphere of influence that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). As his followers, we spread this good news and witness to the reality of our lives in him.

A guiding force in our relationships with others is our need to make disciples. Jesus said emphatically, “*Go and make disciples . . .*” (Matthew 28:19). This verse is not a recommendation or a suggestion. It is a command of our Lord to his followers.

3. Influencing people to live Christian lives. If Jesus is our Savior, in all our relationships . . . whether with family, friends, fellow workers or others . . . we are witnesses for him. By what we do and say, by how we act and react, by the attitudes we display, others will see him either honored or dishonored. What others see in our lives can inspire them to replicate in their own lives.

Through his Word and Sacrament, Jesus strengthens our relationship with him. Connected to him (John 15:5), we become his channels, building relationship with others so they might come to know him and be nurtured in faith.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Ministry Opportunities

### **Mini Food Pantry**

A Food Pantry is more than shelves and cans; it is a place where compassion is stocked, and hope is freely given....Joy Chat

**We are in need of the following items:**

**Cereal**

**Pancake Mix**

**Syrup**

**Macaroni and Cheese**

**Cans of Tuna Fish, Chicken or Spam**

We are filling our Mini Pantry 3 times a week with non-perishable food items and personal toiletries. Recently it was suggested that we inform the congregation of the amount/total pounds of food donated each month. Very good idea....opting for the easier calculation/answer. Approximately 3 jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly, 3 boxes of cereal, 2-3 boxes of Pancake Mix and Syrup, 4-6 cans of soup, 4-6 cans of fruit, 4-6 cans of veggies make their way to the shelves of our pantry each week. 2-3 boxes of Pasta and Sauce, Boxed Potatoes, Gravy and Ramen Noodles

We add personal toiletries based on the donations from you, our greatest supporters as well as donations from Blessing Bags Brigade of Michigan. Cleaning products are also placed inside the pantry throughout the week when available.

The success and outpouring of donations from our congregation allows us to answer the call to be Disciples and Kingdom Builders for Jesus.

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."  
...John 21:17. 🐑🐑🐑

Gratitude....

Joy....

Blessings....

Hope....

Liza and Jim, Melanie, Ron and Martha

### **Drug Take Back Day**

Due to the recent government shut down, we were notified by the Sterling Heights Police Department that at this time the Drug Take Back Day Program is on hold and may possibly be cancelled. Continue to save your expired or no longer needed medication to dispose of properly. The church does have a few drug deactivation bags that are kept in the office if you would like to get one or two to dispose of your medications safely at home. Please stop in at the office and ask Rachelle about these bags.

# **THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

## **Ministry Opportunities**

### **Blood Drive**

**Your** one pint, **their** second chance. Utica United Methodist's next blood drive is October 22, 11am-5 pm. To schedule an appointment, visit [RedCroddBlood.org](http://RedCroddBlood.org) or call 1-800-REDCROSS(1-800-733-2767). Our sponsor code is UTICAUMC.

A \$10 e-gift card is available for donating. Call Carol Morrell, 586-206-3925 if you have questions. Volunteers to work the day of the drive are still needed.

### **Trunk or Treat Update**

The sign up sheet is available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall for all wishing to participate in this year's Trunk or Treat Alley. Please plan for 200 children. Sign up today!!!

The Trunk or Treat Game Team is looking to borrow two Corn Hole games for Saturday, October 25th. Please contact Martha Powers at 586-703-1668, if you have a game or two that we may borrow.

Also we are in need of large bags of donated candy for the Trunk or Treat Games. If you would print your name on the bag of candy and leave either in the Church Office with Rachelle or on the counter in the Conference Room.

### **In Other News**

#### **It's Apple Pie Time!**

Sunday, October 12th is the last Sunday to place your orders for Apple Pies - please make sure to contact Ruth Charlton to place an order or fill out a form and place it in the offering plate.

### **Love Loaves**

Love Loaf canisters were distributed on Sunday, October 5th. There are still canisters available to pick up if you were not here or forgot to grab one. Please bring your Love Loaf canister back to church on Sunday, November 23rd and we will collect them, count them and apply it towards the goals for our missions. If you are unable to attend services on November 23rd, please drop off your Love Loaf canister to the church office prior to November 23rd.

*Gracious God, we come before you with thankful hearts for all of your provisions and blessings. We offer these gifts, collected through our love loaf, as a symbol of our gratitude and love for you. Bless these offerings, and multiply them, just as you multiplied the loaves and fishes, so that they may do your work in our community and beyond. We give cheerfully and not under compulsion, knowing that everything we have comes from your generous hand. Amen.*

Your help and generosity makes a difference!

Thank You and God Bless,

Together in Missions Team



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Utica United Methodist Church - Church Conference



Church conference for Utica United Methodist Church will be held on Sunday, October 12, 2025 at 3pm via Zoom. Church leadership has been hard at work completing paperwork and preparing for this church meeting. Once the paperwork is completed a church conference packet will be available to pick up at the church before our scheduled conference. This will include information about the church and the church's business that will be voted on during the conference.

This is a cluster style conference which means more than just our church will be attending the initial meeting. You can join via the following link or by phone. Once the conference begins we will be asked to join a separate room with an elder presiding over our specific portion of the meeting. There we will go over the conference packet, recognize and vote on the business of the church, the membership report and other items.

If you have questions regarding church conference, please contact the office, speak with Pastor Albert or any of our church leaders.

Topic: 2025 Cluster Church Conference Zoom link

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://michiganumc.zoom.us/j/87826010370?pwd=Ry80WTq0DzH7PjMC7yedyMSGr57bjA.1>

Meeting ID: 878 2601 0370

**REQUIRED - Passcode: 377415**

---

One tap mobile

[+13017158592](tel:+13017158592).,87826010370# US (Washington DC)

[+13126266799](tel:+13126266799).,87826010370# US (Chicago)

# 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.

## 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. J. 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](http://www.uticaumc.org)**

If you need assistance, call the church office.

**Celebrate Recovery, Thursday, 6:30pm**

