



Utica United  
Methodist Church

# Weekly Messenger

October 17, 2025

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## "Fulfilling God's Purpose"

This week's theme is "Witnessing for Jesus." As witnesses for Jesus, we have the opportunity to tell others of the greatest miracle that has ever occurred. The Son of God condescended to come to earth to live as one of us, to be humiliated for the sake of those he loves, and then to rise victoriously, the *"first fruits of those who have fallen asleep"* (1 Corinthians 15:20). Through Jesus' resurrection, we can live as forgiven redeemed people who will spend eternity with him. This resurrection miracle is one to be shouted from the housetops, for it is meant not just for you and me, but for all humankind. Please join us Sunday.

### Witnessing For Jesus

God has strategically placed us in the lives of certain people to make an eternal difference for him. God calls us to share our faith and to let his light shine brightly. You and I have something to share that is needed by others, and that is the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. We live as "witnesses for Jesus" as God's light is reflected through us.

How, then, can we be more motivated to share the Good News of Jesus with others? How can we become more effective in sharing our faith and reflecting God's love? How can our lives impact the life of someone else for Christ? The following truths impact our "witness for Jesus."

#### **People without Christ are lost.**

What do we really believe to be true about the people around us? The first core belief that impacts our "witness for Jesus" is that people without Christ are lost.

This fundamental belief must motivate us to look at each person we meet as one for whom Christ died, one who is precious in his sight, one who, apart from a living relationship with Jesus Christ, cannot be made right with God and receive eternal life, for *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to men by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12). Jesus said, *"No one comes to the Father except through me"* (John 14:6).

#### **People without God matter to God.**

God's heart is breaking for every person who does not have a relationship with him. We may not care about them (although we should), but God does; they matter to him. God gave himself in the person of his Son Jesus to have you and all people back.

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# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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The Bible says, *"The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost"* (Luke 19:10). Jesus took the initiative *"to seek"*; Jesus paid the price *"to save."* Reaching people with the Gospel is not optional; it's central.

When he lived on this earth, *"Jesus went through all the towns and villages . . . preaching the good news of the kingdom . . . When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them . . . because they were . . . like sheep without a shepherd"* (Matthew 9:35-36). Jesus still feels compassion in his heart when he looks down on the world today, and he uses us to show his compassion.

God didn't say, "There are people out there who need me, and, if you get around to it someday or feel like it, go for it." He said, *"GO!"* (Matthew 28:19). It's not optional; it's a command. This is a matter of life and death. God wants to use the gifts and stories we have. "You're my plan A, and there is no plan B." God is saying, "You're the one I'm counting on to reach the people in your life." It's not just about what we believe; it's also about what we're willing to do. Being willing to share Christ with someone else is not just a matter of our beliefs; it's also about the depth of our compassion. What are we willing to do? Do we care in our hearts about people who don't have Jesus Christ? Do they matter to us?

Sometimes we don't witness because we fear we'll be rejected, but that should not influence whether or not we share the Gospel. There are people around us who are looking to connect with God and need to know how! If we're hiding our faith under a bushel basket of fear, pride, or shame, they're never going to know whom to talk with to find out what to believe or how to believe. Not **everybody** is going to want what you have to offer, but **somebody** does.

If we love God, we will love his people (1 John 4:20), and, if we love people, we will be compelled to witness. Our love will overcome our fears. Our compassion will overcome our inhibitions.

## Let your light shine.

The Bible says, *"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven"* (Matthew 5:16). The question we have to ask is, "How clearly and how brightly are we reflecting Christ in our lives?" There are lots of things that diminish our reflections. Willful disobedience to God's will, unconfessed sin in our lives, grudges and anger, grief, and guilt diminish and tarnish our reflections. God designed us to be reflections of him, and what is happening in our lives, in our hearts, in our minds, and in our actions affects the brightness of the reflections.

God wants us to be his light, so others will be drawn not to us, but to Jesus, the *"light of the world"* (John 8:12). The depth of our own relationships with God matters a lot when it comes to letting his light shine!

Through that relationship, these words from Paul begin to come to life: *"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with every increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit"* (2 Corinthians 3:18)."

We busy ourselves with a lot of activities, things that are important to us, and rightly so. We are going to be investing our time and energy in many things, yet each of us needs to ask, "How much am I investing in the lives of others?"

Do you know someone who is struggling in his faith or has no relationship at all with Jesus? One of the most valuable things you could do is to strengthen your relationship with Christ and strengthen your relationship with that person. Ask God to give you a heart of compassion for that person and to help you be a reflection of Jesus that can turn him toward Jesus.

Of all the things we could invest ourselves in, of all the things we could exchange our time or energy for, there is nothing more valuable than investing in people to help them know Jesus Christ. It's an investment that lasts forever. When we reflect God's light to others, fulfill God's purpose!

# **THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

## **Ministry Opportunities**

### **Blood Drive**

Time is running out to secure an appointment to donate blood at the Utica United's blood drive on October 22, 10-5. Register online at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-RedCross,

A \$10 gift e-card incentive will be given following your donation.

Utica sponsor code is UticaUMC. For additional information call Carol Morrell at 586-206-3925,

### **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.

### **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.

Jim, Liza, Melanie, Ron and Martha

# 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**

