



Utica United
Methodist Church

Weekly Messenger

October 24, 2025

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"Fulfilling God's Purpose"

This week our theme will be focusing on "Serving Faithfully and Giving Generously." Just as Jesus came to serve and not to be served, we are called to serve. Heartfelt service to the Lord is an integral part of our stewardship. Paul exhorts us, *"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people."* (Ephesians 6:7).

Another integral part of our stewardship is giving joyfully. *"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."* (2 Corinthians 9:7). The joyful and generous giving of the Macedonians as related in 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9 is a wonderful model for us to emulate in our giving. Out of devotion and love for Jesus, the Macedonians first gave themselves to the Lord, and everything flowed from that commitment.

Our giving of our time and our resources honors and worships our Lord. Giving supports God's church, spreads the Gospel, and helps others. We fulfill God's purpose through opportunities to serve and give joyfully.

This Sunday, October 26th is Commitment Sunday. Please bring your white financial commitment card and your pink service commitment sheet to church or return them to the church office at your earliest convenience.

May God bless you as you faithfully manage all the blessings he has entrusted to your care.

Serving Faithfully and Giving Generously

We are reminded by the words of Matthew 20:28, *"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many,"* that the life of Jesus was one of total sacrifice. That he wants to develop a servant spirit in his disciples and us as well is made clear by his statement recorded in Matthew 20:26: *"... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant"* (Matthew 20:26). Jesus embodied this truth, becoming the ultimate servant who laid down his life for those he came to serve (John 10:14-15). He sends us his Spirit who conforms us to the image of God (2 Corinthians 3:18) creating in us the desire to take on the role of servants.

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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The concept of serving rather than being served is not a natural one. We have an inborn desire to be served ourselves and to have our own needs met rather than to see to the needs of others. It is our nature to want to be “number one.” God’s love transforms our mindset from wanting to please ourselves into a desire to serve others. Seeing others as our brothers and sisters in Christ helps us follow God’s command to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31).

Besides our selfish natures that put ourselves first, the world urges us to do the same. We are told that we should aspire to fame, power, and wealth, but rarely is there glory, spotlight, or fame for the servant. Worldly praise has no lasting value, but that is not what God’s servants aspire to, anyway. In living a life of service, we give of ourselves without striving for financial rewards or glory. Along with the Apostle Paul we say, *“We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts”* (1 Thessalonians 2:4).

Because of our desire to serve Jesus, we begin to identify with the passion he has for people. We are freed from selfish interests and freed for Christian service. *“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love”* (Galatians 5:13)

God brings us into a proper relationship with himself so we can begin to *“serve one another in love.”* As imitators of Christ (Ephesians 5:1), who lived a life of compassion for others, we, too, will serve the hungry, handicapped, and helpless. We serve out of love for Christ and his people and, desiring to be worthy of his calling (Colossians 1:10), thoughts of self-exaltation or praise from people are absent.

Jesus’ Example

The entire life of Jesus was one of service, but one act of servanthood that is most often referred to is his washing of the disciples’ feet during the evening of the Passover Feast before his crucifixion (John 13:12-17). As he performed this duty of a servant, Jesus told them to do as he had done. Christ did not consider a life of servanthood to be beneath him. Neither should we. Through service, we put our faith into action. As we rely on God’s strength to serve, we desire all the more to put our faith into practice. James reminds us that faith and actions work together and that faith is made complete by what we do (James 2:22).

Speaking about our service to others Joan Rawlusk wrote, “There is a great paradox in reaching out to someone ... and that is, the more you reach out to others, the more you will be touched yourself. Joy and happiness in great measure are waiting for us if we will reach just a little further. In the reaching we become God’s own hand.” While serving others, we are equally blessed. Jesus, speaking about acts of service, said, *“... you will be blessed if you do them”* (John 13:17b).

Using Our Gifts for Service

First Peter 4:10 is one of the Bible’s most challenging and motivating verses: *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”* The verse outlines three truths. First of all, each one of us has received a gift. Second, we are to serve others. Finally, we are to be stewards in administering God’s grace, which has been entrusted to us.

Giving Generously

Out of devotion and love for Jesus, the Macedonians first gave themselves to the Lord, and everything flowed from that commitment.

The joyful and generous giving of the Macedonians as related in 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9 is a wonderful model for us to emulate in our giving.

Jesus also modeled a giving lifestyle. And, we, through the work of the Holy Spirit, may live a similar lifestyle. Through giving our time and resources, we worship him, express our thanks to him, and renew our commitment to him. When we give, we also put our love for Jesus into action.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6 – 8 Paul shares, “Remember this – a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Ministry Opportunities

Blood Drive

Thank you to all who volunteered and donated blood on Wednesday.

Trunk or Treat Update

A very special thank you to the congregation for the overwhelming support of Saturday's Trunk or Treat. We are truly grateful for the donations and willingness to participate.

Ron and Martha Powers

Little Library/Mini Pantry

Thank you to everyone who donated children's books to the little library. It looks like they are a hit. I have been sorting through the donations and putting out appropriate books for the holidays as well as just a variety of books and age levels. I can always use more adult books as well. I will leave a book bin in the church entryway if you have any books you would like to donate for the little library.

Also a huge thank you for your continued support of the Mini Pantry. You all are a blessing to those who are in need. Did you know we also have a couple of neighbors who stop by and drop off food into the mini pantry. It is nice to see the community also support our mini pantry. As the weather begins to change, the needs of our mini pantry will also be changing so keep an eye on the messenger for what items we will need.

Commitment Sunday

This Sunday, October 26th is Commitment Sunday and the final week of our Stewardship Campaign. You should have received a letter in the mail along with a pink service sheet and a monetary commitment card. Please make sure to fill those out and bring them to church on the 26th. There are blank cards and service sheets available if you forgot to bring yours with you. Also, you can return to the office at anytime during office hours or send it back in the mail.

Thank you for your service and commitment.

All Saint's Sunday

All Saint's Sunday is November 2nd. We will be remembering those who have passed since last All Saint's day. The service on Sunday will be a time of remembrance and reflection. We will also be celebrating Holy Communion. Please plan to attend.

Together In Missions

Looking ahead at November, Love Loaves will be collected on Sunday, November 23rd. Keep collecting and return your love loaf canister on this day. If you are not here on the 23rd, please drop canisters off to the office during business hours.

Pies for Baldwin will be happening again this year. Sign up sheets will be out soon. Remember these are store bought shelf stable pies, nothing that requires refrigeration.

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**

If you need assistance, call the church office.

Celebrate Recovery, Thursday, 6:30pm

