



Utica United
Methodist Church

Weekly Messenger

October 3, 2025

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"What I Learned from Noah"

We all know the story of Noah, and over the years probably heard many sermons regarding faithfulness, perseverance, and dedication. I have a slightly different perspective from it.

I suppose that Noah picked out a clearing to build the arc, and that it was surrounded by hard wood trees. I can imagine on that first day he walked out with his sons (Todd, Jeff, and Andrew. I may have taken a few liberties with the names). He hit the first tree with his axe, and said to Todd, "go ahead and start, only 6,454,987 more hits required. It didn't take long before Todd and Jeff started complaining. Andrew always the one ready to volunteer, tried to smooth things out. Exasperated, Todd and Jeff said to dad, this job is going to take hundreds of trees, and we will be needing to cut down trees two miles away and drag them here. Dad, this is way too much. Of course, Andrew just kept hacking away, "TIMBER", there goes another tree and the sound of the crash drowned out the complaints from his brothers. For a brief moment, Noah was grateful for the noise as it drowned out the complaints. Noah had acquired wisdom from God and faithfully knew God would provide. He told his sons, that with each tree we cut, we plant a seed. This task will take more than a hundred years, so we will cut trees that are encircling the clearing, and when we get back to the start point, a new tree will have grown and be ready to cut. And thus, the distance we will have to drag a tree is minimized. I suspect that Todd and Jeff were now in total agreement and steamed forward in their tasks.

What did I learn...first, regardless of the amount of effort a task requires when doing the work for the Lord, the reward is a multiplier of that effort. Second, God always provides. Thirdly, every effort, every task starts with the first step.

Dear Lord, grant me the faith to take that first step, and then to look to You for Your provisions, and Your plan. For I know You are always there, and I simply must seek.

Robert MacKool

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Coming Soon!

During the week of October 12, we begin a three-week program titled ***Fulfilling God's Purpose!*** The three weekly themes are as follows:

1. Building Relationships
2. Witnessing for Jesus
3. Living as Servants

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we understand both our identity and purposes as stewards, and, as a result, we are transformed into people who **fulfill God's purpose!** When God's Word and love fill our hearts and minds, our stewardship is not limited to specific acts but, instead, becomes a lifestyle. With transformed hearts, we express our faith in the way we live our lives. Through faith, God provides motivation and power to live the Christian life in a growing awareness of redeeming grace.

We hope and pray that you will attend all the worship services as we focus on **fulfilling God's purpose!**



Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for the privilege and the opportunity to be your stewards. Grant us faith to be faithful stewards and servants. Help us to use our lives and resources in ways that give you honor and glory. We pray that you will use the program ***Fulfilling God's Purpose!*** to draw us closer to you and to help us grow as stewards. In your precious name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessings on your journey as a steward!

Office News

The 3rd Quarter Giving Statements are available to pick up on the table in front of the church office starting this Sunday, October 5th. They will remain available for the next couple of weeks. Please help the church to save on postage and make every effort to pick up your giving statement in person if you are able.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

In Other News

It's Apple Pie Time!

The United Women in Faith are making and selling their delicious apple pies in October. The cost of the pies are \$15.00 for a large pie and \$10.00 for a small pie. The pies come unbaked and frozen. They keep for quite a long time in your freezer, and they are easy to pull out at any time the year and can be baked and served in about an hours time. Pre-order of your pies insures that your pies will be made and ready for you to pick up. It also helps to cover the cost of the ingredients that need to be purchased before the pies are made. There are not a lot of extra pies made, so please make sure to get your order in ahead of time. The order form is available in your bulletin, on the tables in Fellowship Hall, or in the church office. All checks need to be made out to **Utica UMC Women**. All proceeds from the pie sales will be used by the United Women in Faith for missions.

United Women in Faith

The October meeting of the United Women in Faith will take place on Wednesday, October 8th in Fellowship Hall at noon. We will begin with a potluck luncheon. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Drinks will be provided.

At 1:00pm our guest speaker will be Stacy Conte from Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers. Our business meeting will follow where we will install our new president Melanie Kuzia.

All women are welcome to attend.

Love Loaves

Together in Missions will be passing out Love Loaves on Sunday, October 5th. Please take your Love Loaf canister home and fill it with loose change each day to help support the many missions we pledge to through T.I.M.

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

Ministry Opportunities

Blood Drive

Roll up your sleeves for the American Red Cross on October 22 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. In the United States, only 37% of the population is eligible to donate blood but only 10% of that 37% will donate. My calculations show a congregation of 200 people will probably have only eight people donate.

Are you among those eight people?



Can't donate, well, can you help the drive in another way. People are needed to set up the drive and then to dismantle afterwards. The drive also needs monitors at the refreshment table making sure donors replenish their fluids.

Call Carol Morrell at 586-206-3925 to help out on day of the drive. Call 800-733-2767 to make a donation appointment or make the appointment online at redcrossblood.org. Our sponsor code is `uticaumc`. Your commitment of time and/or blood is essential.

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.

World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 5th is World Communion Sunday. Please consider making a monetary donation for this special giving Sunday. You can do so by writing WCS on the other line of your giving envelope, write WCS on the other line of a pew envelope or it is an available choice for the month of October through e-giving.

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

We will be hosting drug take back day on Saturday, October 25th from 10am-2pm. Plan to bring unused or expired medications for proper disposal. Come closer to 1pm so you can drop off your medications and stay for Trunk or Treat. Let's all do our part to help keep each other safe and dispose of our medications in a proper way.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Long Lost Treasure

Is there hidden treasure in this church? To the west of the sanctuary, and across a dimly lit hall is a narrow room which has been seasoned by time. In that room there is a treasure of books. Yes, we do have a library.

In 1597, Sir Francis Bacon coined the phrase “knowledge is power”.

But even before that, King Solomon wrote in Proverbs 24:5 “the wise prevail through great power and those who have knowledge muster their strength”.

The Internet has its allure. We can all feel that pull to it. A fast answer is sometimes all that a person needs. However, we can submerge ourselves in a book. Hours easily pass by and often you can get teased away and lose focus by those nasty popup advertisements. Now my question is do you remember the solution to your question more easily when you goggle it or when you look it up in a book?

I’m encouraging you to step into our church’s library. There is a wide selection of Christian novels, a vast number of bible concordances, a diary of past United Methodist Women’s club’s events, a history of Utica United Methodist Church and a variety of different bible versions (King James, NBD, Common English & more).

WHY IS A BOOK BETTER THAN THE INTERNET

1. Reliability and credibility –books from established publishers undergo editing, fact checking and a vetting process.
2. Depth and context– more comprehensive and synthesized information.
3. More focused learning– a book doesn’t sidetrack learning with advertisements popping up.

So, enjoy yourself, spoil yourself by finding a comfortable chair and reading a book.





Good for you, Good for the Community!
Many specials, samples, & more! Bring a Friend!



OPEN HOUSE

November 22nd & 23rd
Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Lower level of Trinity Lutheran Church
45160 Van Dyke Ave., Utica, MI (Handicap Accessible)



FREE
Chicken Noodle
Soup Mix
Full or Mini with
every IN-PERSON
order on 11/22
and 11/23 ONLY!
Limit 1 free soup
per family.

**ONLINE OPEN
HOUSE
SPECIALS
11/24 – 11/30
ONLY!**



A large variety of gift
options will be available to
suit any taste and budget

Personalize your gift with a Build-A-Basket Box,
Build-A-Box, Build-A-Gable Box
Built-to-Order while you shop & ready for pickup when you leave!

Motown Warehouse Christmas Store: Dec 2-21
Tues: 10am-7pm Wed: Noon-7pm Sun: 9am-Noon
Other times can be scheduled-call or text Jane at 248-930-2102

To learn more about Motown Soup or to order online, visit
motownsoup.com. See our full-line of products, fundraising
opportunities, Christmas gifts, as well as corporate gift options.

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**

If you need assistance, call the church office.

Celebrate Recovery, Thursday, 6:30pm

