



Utica United
Methodist Church

Weekly Messenger

November 14, 2025

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"A Spirit of Thanksgiving"

This church always amazes me. Whenever a need is presented to this congregation, that need is fulfilled. Whether the need is monetary support or the need is actual, physical items, this church always seems to go above and beyond to fulfill the request. So, while I shouldn't be surprised, because of our church's history in fulfilling needs, I am quite impressed with the response we have already received from everyone at church regarding our request to aid families at a local school. The together in missions' team had been working to find some families to support this Thanksgiving and when we were presented with an opportunity to help those within our community, they stepped up and said we can help.

We only found out about this need late on Thursday of last week and did not receive the list of food required until Friday afternoon. So, I truly want to thank everyone who has stepped up and made purchases this week and even delivered food items during the week. I know more of you will deliver your items on Sunday morning, so thank you for that as well. In a perfect setting, we would have found out about this sooner and would have had more time for everyone to purchase items to donate.

I am reminded of the loaves and fish story, the disciples needed food to feed the 5000+ people who gathered to listen to Jesus. The disciples found a boy with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish and once prayed over that food multiplied to feed everyone with basketfuls of extra. When we combine our efforts with those of Trinity, we will feed a multitude of people this Thanksgiving.

We also need to say a huge thank you for the boy scout troop at church. They brought in a large quantity of food that they had collected during a canned food drive. Their help and support is always welcomed.

Lastly, in all things we need to thank God for His provisions. It is through Him that we can do all that we do. We are God's hands and feet. Psalm 95:2 reminds us to come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

In the spirit of thanksgiving and song, I would like to share the words to the "Superman Grace" that is used before meals during STARS/XCEL and other church programs. "Thank you, God, for giving us food. Thank you, God, for giving us food. For the food we eat, and the friends we meet, thank you God for giving us food. Amen." Thank you, God for the food that we have collected and are still collecting. May these items bless those who need them. May your light shine to those who are receiving this food, may they feel your presence and love this Thanksgiving. Amen.

Rachelle Heldt

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Ministry Opportunities

Pies for Baldwin

Thank you to everyone who signed up to bring pies for Baldwin. We are all set. This is just a reminder to bring your pies to church on Sunday, November 23rd by noon so they can be packaged and delivered to Baldwin Center.

Together in Mission

Mini Food Pantry

Thank you for your continued support of the mini food pantry. Please remember the mini food pantry as you are grocery shopping and consider picking up a couple of items from our needs list.

- Cereal
- Mac & Cheese
- Pancake Mix and Syrup
- Soups
- Canned Meats - Tuna, Chicken, Spam, etc.
- All styles of Pasta
- Jars or cans of Pasta Sauce

Love Loaf Reminder

Continue to collect your loose change through Saturday, November 22nd and bring back your filled Love Loaf canister on Sunday, November 23rd and return it during worship service. If you are not able to be at church on Sunday, November 23rd, please plan to bring your Love Loaf canister to the office during business hours. The money collected will be counted on Monday, November 24th. This money goes to support our missions that we support throughout the year. If you have not been able to collect loose change for love loaves and would like to make a donation, there is availability through e-giving to make a one time donation to love loaves, now through November 23rd.

Thanksgiving Office Closed

The office will be closed on Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th for Thanksgiving. The printed messenger that week will be mailed out on Wednesday, November 26th.



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

FIFTEEN STARS GUIDING THE WAY TO MEET OUR 2025 OBLIGATIONS



We have been making steady progress toward meeting our year-end Operating Fund obligations. Each contribution, whether it is \$1, \$10, or \$100 is appreciated and enables us to move closer to fulfilling our needs.

While the Operating Fund may not tug at our heart-strings like some of our other ministries, it forms the foundation of everything we do. Our pastor, staff, and ministries depend on this foundation remaining strong.

Below is a list of 15 items showing the remaining Operating Fund needs for 2025. As we find our way through these expenses, we will change the circle to a star to show our progress. Even though we may be making partial payments throughout each month, the full amount may not be achieved until the end of the month.

- ★ Pastor & Lay Staff Compensation 11/12 = \$5,000
- Pastor & Lay Staff Compensation 11/26 = \$5,000
- Retirement, Health Insurance & Reimbursements (November) = \$4650
- Utilities (November) ~ \$4,050
- Property Upkeep (November) ~ \$8,700
- Ministry Shares/Apportionments (Part 1) = \$7,500
- Ministries & Admin (November) ~ \$6,500
- Pastor & Lay Staff Compensation 12/10 = \$5,000
- Pastor & Lay Staff Compensation 12/24 = \$5,000
- Retirement, Health Insurance & Reimbursements (December) = \$4650
- Utilities (December) ~ \$4,050
- Property Upkeep (December) ~ \$8,700
- Church Insurance (December) = \$7,950
- Ministry Shares/Apportionments (Part 2) = \$7,500
- Ministries & Admin (December) ~ \$6,500

Giving is a way of honoring God. Proverbs 3:9-10 reminds us, “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” Thank you for honoring God with your gifts.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Upcoming Events

Office News

The Office will be closed on Thursday, November, 26th and Friday, November 27th for Thanksgiving.

Looking ahead, the office will be closed on December 24th - December 26th for Christmas and January 1st - January 2nd for the New Year!

Bell Concert

The Gosbells Christmas concert will be on Sunday, December 14th at 3pm. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this wonderful holiday concert. There will be an afterglow event following the concert in the Narthex and Parlor. Let's ring in the season with this wonderful holiday concert.

Angel Tree Ornaments

Angel Tree ornaments will be on sale beginning on Sunday, November 30th through Sunday, December 14th, additional ornaments will be sold during the cookie walk on Sunday, December 21st. Ornaments can be purchased in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Ornaments this year are \$15 an ornament. Ornaments will be tagged with your loved ones name and will be hung on the Angel Tree either outside the church office or in the back near Fellowship Hall.

Cookie Walk

The Annual Christmas Cookie Walk and Bake Sale will be on Saturday, December 20th from 10am-12pm and on Sunday, December 21st from 9am til 12:30pm or we run out of cookies. Bakers start finding your favorite recipes and gathering your baking supplies. Cookie walk is a free will donation - any extra items may have a set price.

New this year, we will be having a holiday decor rummage sale during the cookie walk. Stop by the tables and see what holiday decor is available to purchase. These items will be marked accordingly and not part of the free will donation.

Advent

Starting on Sunday, November 30th we will begin our advent Sermon Series "The Promise:" Advent is a time to reflect on God's promises throughout history and the fulfillment of these promises in Jesus Christ. Each of the four weeks of Advent, we will reflect on each of God's promises of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, and see how these promises are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

11:00am - The Promise of Christmas! - A Family Worship Experience

8:00pm - The Promise Fulfilled! - A Candlelight Service

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Advent Study

Discover that it's not your behavior that earns the kindness of a holy God; it's the presence of Jesus coming to Earth to be with you, always.

Jesus' arrival on earth changed the course of history forever. Not only for those who lived in the first century, but for those of us in the twenty-first century as well. The miracle and marvel of the Advent season demonstrates that we are precious to Him. He's not a distant God. He is Emmanuel, God with us. That includes wherever you are, right now.

Join Christine Caine and Lisa Harper this Advent season for a four-session Advent video Bible study like no other. Your hope and spirit will be revived as you recapture the wonder of Jesus' obvious love for you. You'll discover that Advent is not only a season of waiting and preparation, but also it's a season of action to share the hope of Jesus with everyone.



You are invited to join me on a beautiful Advent Journey.

The Marvel and Miracle of Advent is shared from the home of Lisa Harper. A very comfortable and welcoming setting that invites us to focus on Recapturing the Wonder of Jesus Living with Us.

This 4 Week Study will begin on November 18th, from 11:30 to 1:00. We will NOT meet on November 25th (Thanksgiving Week). We will start back up on December 2nd, meeting on the 9th and 16th as well.

You may purchase your Advent Bible Study Guide from Amazon or I will be glad to purchase on your behalf. Please follow The Messenger for ongoing updates.

Also please feel free to contact me, Martha Powers @586-703-1668 or we can talk at church.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Upcoming Events



CHRISTMAS TEA

Saturday, December 6th - 2:00pm
Fellowship Hall

Please join us for tea, desserts, music, and fellowship.
All ladies are welcome - please invite your friends and family for
this special Christmas event. Ages 10 and older only please.
There will be a sign-up sheet beginning Sunday, November 9th to
RSVP with your attendance and also if you are interested in
hosting a table or providing a dessert.

We hope you will join us!

We will also have a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in
helping with set up and/or clean up.

In lieu of an entry fee, please bring a food item for the

UUMC Mini Pantry

(Be sure to check the latest list posted in the Weekly Messenger)

* * THANK YOU * *

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

