



Utica United  
Methodist Church

# Weekly Messenger

November 21, 2025

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## "With Gratitude"

A round of applause! That is what everyone in this church deserves. With your help in a weeks time, we were able to feed 50 families for Thanksgiving. I would like to share the types of food and quantities that we received by your generous giving.

- Cake Mix – 43 boxes
- Chicken Soup – 10 cans
- Corn – 87 cans
- Corn Muffin Mix – 31 boxes
- Cranberry Sauce – 26 cans
- Cream of Mushroom Soup – 101 cans
- French Fried Onions – 18 containers
- Frosting – 29 containers
- Green Beans – 76 cans
- Macaroni and Cheese – 89 boxes, 10 small sizes
- Potatoes – 78 containers
- Pasta– 22 boxes (Spaghetti, Rotini and Shells)
- Spaghetti Sauce – 11
- Stuffing – 91 boxes
- Turkey – 25
- Turkey Gravy – 42 jars
- Yams – 35 cans
- Pumpkin – 1 can
- Other varieties of potatoes – 19 boxes

God has given this church a heart for ministry and a heart for giving and helping His people. Your generosity is amazing to witness. A new challenge awaits us in this time of thanksgiving and gratitude. Please read through page two and find the need for gifts for the Methodist Children's Home. This challenge is also a very fast turn around, so if you can help, wonderful, and if not, there will be other opportunities for you in the future. God Bless each of you.

Rachelle Heldt

Utica United  
Methodist Church  
8650 Canal Road,  
Sterling Heights, MI  
(586) 731-7667  
[www.UticaUMC.org](http://www.UticaUMC.org)

# **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!

### **Christmas Gifts - Methodist Children's Home**

This year we are partnering with Methodist Children's home and will be providing gifts for 5 children. There will be gift tags on the tree outside the church office on Sunday, November 23rd. If you would like to provide a gift, please take a gift tag with you. Gift amounts should not exceed \$25.00. The gifts need to be returned on Sunday, November 30th, unwrapped with the gift tag attached to the gift. Returned gifts can be placed under the Christmas tree from which the tags were picked up.

I understand this is a short amount of time, but these gifts need to be received by Methodist Children's home by Friday, December 5th. Please make sure to only take a tag if you can purchase the gift and return it within the week. Gifts can be returned during office hours November 24th-26th however with the Thanksgiving holiday, the office will not be open on the 27th and 28th.

### **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.

### **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



## COOKIE WALK AND CHRISTMAS DÉCOR SALE December 20 & 21

This year we are adding a new twist to our Christmas Cookie Walk. In addition to filling containers with cookies and breads, there will also be a variety of new and gently used Christmas décor items. The Christmas Décor sale will feature ornaments, table-top or mantle items, and tableware.

Just like previous years, the Cookie Walk portion will be for a free will donation. The Décor items will be priced individually. All proceeds will be used for the many ministries and projects we provide and support.

The Cookie Walk and Décor Sale will be open for the community and congregation on Saturday, December 20 (10 AM – Noon) and for the congregation on Sunday, December 21 (after services). If you would like to help during the sale, please contact Mary Dolenga or Kathy Borlas.

**BAKERS** – Sign-up sheets will be available beginning Sunday, November 23 for you to indicate how many cookies or breads you will donate. Your cookies can be dropped off Tuesday, 12/16 thru Friday 12/19 during regular office hours (8 AM – 2 PM). Because the sale is open to the community on Saturday, it is important for your cookies to be dropped-off by Friday, December 19.

**SPREAD THE WORD** – Please tell your friends and family to come to the Cookie Walk and Christmas Décor sale Saturday, December 20 from 10 AM – Noon or Sunday, December 21 after services. If you are a Face Book user, please “Like” our Cookie Walk & Décor Sale event or better yet “Invite” your friends and family.

**COOKIE EATERS** – Come fill a container (or two or three) with a variety of delicious cookies – some for yourself and some for your friends and family. Free will donations will be appreciated. Then, stroll through the tables of Christmas décor and find some things to brighten your home or give to a friend.

## Motown Soup - Open House

Motown Soup is having their annual Open House on Saturday, November 22nd from 10am-5pm and Sunday, November 23rd from 9am - 12:30pm. This will happen in the lower level of Trinity Lutheran Church located on 45160 Van Dyke Ave., Utica, MI. They have a large variety of gift options, if you pick up a flyer from church and take with you, you can receive a Free chicken noodle soup mix. This is a great way to stock up on soups and other mixes for your own cupboards or to do Christmas shopping for others. For more information or to see what items are available check them out at [motownsoup.com](http://motownsoup.com).

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Upcoming Events



## CHRISTMAS TEA

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> - 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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

## FIFTEEN STARS GUIDING THE WAY TO MEET OUR 2025 OBLIGATIONS



Check out the list below to see the progress we are making 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 heartstrings 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.

The list below shows our progress in the 15 areas guiding our way to meeting our remaining 2025 Operating Fund expenses. A circle indicates the expense still needs to be paid. An open star indicates partial payments have been made. A solid star indicates the item is paid in full.

- ★ Pastor & Lay Staff Compensation 11/12 = \$5,622 (*paid in full*)
- Pastor & Lay Staff Compensation 11/26 = \$5,622
- ☆ Retirement, Health Insurance & Reimbursements (November) = \$1,842 paid of \$4,650
- ★ Utilities (November) = \$2,770 (*paid in full*)
- ☆ Property Upkeep (November) = \$2,405 paid of ~\$8,700
- Ministry Shares (Part 1) = \$7,500
- Ministries & Admin (November) = \$1,870 paid of ~\$6,500
- Pastor & Lay Staff Compensation 12/10 = \$5,622
- Pastor & Lay Staff Compensation 12/24 = \$5,622
- Retirement, Health Insurance & Reimbursements (December) = \$4,650
- Utilities (December) ~ \$4,050
- Property Upkeep (December) ~ \$8,700
- Church Insurance (December) = \$7,950
- Ministry Shares (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

## 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**

