



Utica United
Methodist Church

Weekly Messenger

November 28, 2025

IN THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming
Events

Christmas Tea

Cookie Walk

Handbell
Concert

Finance
Update

Back Page

"An Article for Advent: 2025"

Once again, the time of the church calendar has arrived when we must pause, take a deep breath, and embark upon the journey of Advent. The term Advent comes from the Latin word "Adventus," meaning "coming," or "arrival." It announces the arrival of someone, and in our case, Advent announces the coming of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.

For us, Advent is a time of waiting in anticipation of the Savior's arrival. But like anyone who has waited for the arrival of an important guest, we prepare ourselves. Therefore, Advent invites us to prepare for Christ's arrival.

The season invites us to spiritual readiness through the practices of prayer, repentance, and intentional reflection on Christ's coming. Advent calls us to prepare our hearts and minds for the Savior's arrival.

In our modern world filled with busyness and commercialism, the Advent season invites us to slow down, be still, and prepare our hearts for something sacred. The season encourages us to reflect on our own lives, to cultivate hope amid our struggles, and to experience the wonder of Christ's birth in a powerfully new way.

As we begin our Advent journey on Sunday, November 30, through Sunday, December 21 this year, we want to focus on God's promises of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that find their fulfillment in the coming of Jesus Christ.

As we journey through the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, Advent reminds us that these gifts are not just abstract ideas but lived realities made possible by Christ's coming.

May we embody them as we prepare our hearts not just for Christmas Day, but for the ongoing work of God in our lives.

May this season inspire us to wait with expectation, to live with compassion, and shine the light of Christ into a world that longs for Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy.

God bless you.

Pastor Albert

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

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Upcoming Events

Office News

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

United Women in Faith

All women are invited to attend the UWIF meeting on Wednesday, December 10th in Fellowship Hall. It begins with a potluck luncheon at noon. Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. Drinks will be provided.

Our program begins at 1:00pm with a Christmas Monologue entitled "Swaddling Clothes" which presents the Christmas story from the viewpoint of Mary's Mother, a typical Jewish mother, who has not been blessed with an angel's assurance and is struggling with the problems Mary's pregnancy presents. Come hear this account.

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.

We are now Live!

It has been Pastor Albert's wish that we Live Stream our worship service. A group of people have been working together to get a live stream off the ground. This Sunday, November 30th will be our first attempt at live streaming the 11am service. Please click on the link or type in the following to view the live stream - <https://www.youtube.com/@uticaumc5212/live>.

Obviously with trying new things, there will be some learning curves and some trial and error as we work out any bugs in the system. Please be patient with us as we work through this new process and get the live stream launched.

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

A Christmas Festival

**2025 Handbell and Pipe Organ Christmas Concert
Featuring: The Gosbells Handbell Choir**

Sunday, December 14th, 2025 at 3pm

**Utica United Methodist Church
8650 Canal Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314**



Presented by: The Music Ministry of Utica United Methodist Church

****Concert Admission is Free****

**An afterglow of light refreshments will be enjoyed by all at the
conclusion of the concert!**

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

FIFTEEN STARS GUIDING THE WAY TO MEET OUR 2025 OBLIGATIONS



In November we received \$25,330 for the Operating Fund. We paid \$22,700 in Operating Fund expenses. 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. A solid star indicates the item is paid in full. We project we will need an additional \$30,000 - \$40,000 to meet our remaining expenses for 2025.

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. Each contribution, whether it is \$1, \$10, or \$100 is appreciated and enables us to move closer to fulfilling our needs.

- ★ Pastor & Lay Staff Compensation 11/12 = \$5,622 (*paid in full*)
- ★ Pastor & Lay Staff Compensation 11/26 = \$5,622 (*paid in full*)
- ★ Retirement, Health Insurance & Reimbursements (November) = \$3,676 (*paid in full*)
- ★ Utilities (November) = \$2,878 (*paid in full*)
- ★ Property Upkeep (November) = \$2,492 (*paid in full*)
- ★ Ministry Shares (Part 1) = \$7,500 (*funds available to pay*)
- ★ Ministries & Admin (November) = \$2,883 (*paid in full*)
- Pastor & Lay Staff Compensation 12/10 = \$6,200
- Pastor & Lay Staff Compensation 12/24 = \$5,625
- Retirement, Health Insurance & Reimbursements (December) = \$4,650
- Utilities (December) ~ \$4,000
- Property Upkeep (December) ~ \$7000
- 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**

If you need assistance, call the church office.

Celebrate Recovery, Thursday, 6:30pm

