



Utica United
Methodist Church

Weekly Messenger

November 7, 2025

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"Money Matters...."

While this title is a catchy alliteration, the word "matters" in the title was actually chosen because of its two meanings. First, it can mean "things". This article is about things related to money. Second, it can mean having importance or significance. This article also highlights how your financial contributions to the Operating Fund are important and vital at this time.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank you for faithfully participating in the ministries of Utica UMC by sharing your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service. Our stewardship program this year focused on Fulfilling God's Purpose including living as servants and giving generously. If you haven't already returned your financial commitment or service commitment, please return them to the office as soon as possible. Extra copies are available in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, or office.

As of this week, we have received 58 financial commitment cards, pledging \$258,000 for our Operating Fund. We have also received 51 service commitments. Your financial gifts and service are deeply appreciated.

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER \$\$ NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

In November and December your contributions to the Operating Fund are essential to enable us to meet our remaining expenses for 2025. These include: Compensation (\$37,500); Utilities (\$8,100); Church Insurance (\$8,000); Ministry Shares (\$15,000); Property Upkeep (\$17,000); and Ministries/Administration (\$12,000). Operating Fund gifts totaling \$45,000 - \$50,000 each month are needed to meet these expenses. We are grateful for those who have made extra contributions since our appeal in September. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a difference. The Operating Fund provides the foundation for everything we do.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Your contributions for 2025 must be received in the office by the end of the day Tuesday, December 30 or be posted in eGiving by December 31 to be counted towards 2025. Gifts of stocks, mutual funds, or other assets need to be transferred into our brokerage account before December 31. Tax laws are changing for 2026. Look into what's changing. It may influence your giving decisions for 2025. Consider using IRA qualified distributions if you are over 70 1/2, donor advised funds, or gifts of appreciated assets as options to have a positive tax benefit for yourself and support Utica UMC.

In 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 it says, "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."

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our ministries!

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

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Ministry Opportunities

Pies for Baldwin

We will be supplying pies for Baldwin Center in Pontiac for their Thanksgiving Dinner for the Homeless. We need 30 store bought pumpkin or fruit pies (NO CREAM PIES).

Sign up sheets will be available starting this Sunday. Bring pies to the church by noon on Sunday, November 23rd. Thank you for your continued support of this program.

Together in Mission

United Women in Faith

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 12th in Fellowship Hall at noon with a potluck luncheon. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Drinks will be provided.

At 1:00pm our program will begin with Michelle O'Hara from Sullivan Funeral Home to speak on Financial Planning for Heaven-Bound Years.

We welcome any women or men to attend this program.

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.

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.

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

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.



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.



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

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

