



Weekly Messenger

January 23, 2026

IN THIS ISSUE:

Warming Center

Featured Library Item

Mini Pantry

Celebrate Recovery

Back Page

"Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Dear Friends in Christ in the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church,

Greetings on this celebration of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This national holiday was instituted to remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his significant work for civil rights, his work to make the promise of the United States of America real for all its citizens.

Dr. King used his intelligence and eloquence and rich voice to articulate a renewed American dream "when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last, Free at last, Great God almighty, We are free at last." King delivered these words in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963, as part of the "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom." Dr. King was a profound dreamer with a phenomenal ability to put those dreams into words. As Christians, we remember that Dr. King's dreams were rooted and grounded in faith in Jesus Christ. Dr. King not only called the nation to live out the true meaning of its creed that all were created equal, but also called people of faith to live out their faith by doing the work of justice, peace, reconciliation, and love.

This year, as we celebrate Dr. King's birthday, I would ask us to recall some of the historical context for that speech. In that well-known "I Have a Dream" speech, King noted the realities of police brutality against Black people, and of segregation by race and the scars it left on children who were denied access and participation.

Be people of hope, not people given to bitterness or apathy. Hope with eyes wide open to the realities of the present situation, but hope. Think deeply and with nuance, but think. Speak judiciously and with care, but speak. Witness peacefully for the common good and against evil, injustice, and oppression, but witness. Pray always. Be salt. Be light.

Grace and Peace,

David Alan Bard
Michigan Area Bishop

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Featured Library Item

God's Outlaw (a DVD)

Produced by Greenville Film Productions

"God's Outlaw: The Story Of William Tyndale" is dramatic and inspiring. It tells the true story of William Tyndale, who translated the Bible from the original Greek into English for all of England, even though the Catholic Church and even the king stood against him. Before Tyndale's translating work, the scriptures were only available in Latin to the church leaders of the day.

Roger Rees gives a strong performance as the kind, but determined, William Tyndale, who wanted men to find Christ and believed that faith in God's grace brings salvation. He often got into trouble for making controversial statements. For example, he said he'd see to it that ploughboys knew more of the scriptures than the Pope. Tyndale traveled to Germany to print his English Bible, and copies begin turning up in England.

Tyndale's final prayer was that the king would have his eyes opened, and when the king, a year following Tyndale's death, ordered every church to display one volume of Tyndale's English Bible, his prayer was answered. The king's act served as an answer to his petition, as well as a memorial to Tyndale.

Call letters are B GO (on new video case)

Credit for this review goes to Dove.org from the Internet

Cat is out of the Bag

Carol Morrell and Joan Sanders have joined forces to vitalize the Utica's Church Library. Our first attempt at revitalization is to establish a DVD library. I'm following the line from the *Field of Dreams* movie, "Build it and they will come."

Carol has a handful of religious DVDs to get things rolling. But she is placing a box in the library in the hope others can donate to the collection. I'm putting my faith in the passage from the book of Matthew 14:13-21. (I've got 5 loaves of bread) Hoping to start with about 15 DVDs and grow from donations made by the church congregation.



Red Cross Blood Drive

The need for blood is constant. The American Red Cross will be here on January 28, 11am-5 pm.

Help them be ready to assist people!

Book your donation appointment online at RedCrossBlood.org or give them a call at 1-800-733-2767. Our sponsor code is uticaumc.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

We are now Live!

Every Sunday, the 11am service will be shown live on our YouTube channel. Links are also available on Facebook and on the church website.

Please click on the link or type in the following to view the live stream -
<https://www.youtube.com/@uticaumc5212/live>.

The 9:00am service will continue to be recorded and will be posted the following week on YouTube.

***Please remember that if you watch the 9:00am service it is a week behind and the 11am service will be the current week.

Mini Food Pantry Update

A very special thank you to the continued support for the Mini Food Pantry. The cash donations have allowed us to purchase items and utilize sales. The donations from the women who attended the Christmas Tea were such an added blessing. Our shelves are full...."Thanks be to GOD!!!!

As we approach the colder months of winter extra care is needed to make sure the food items placed in the pantry will not freeze and explode. As you continue to purchase items and support this "community outreach" please remember NO GLASS containers.

The best choices:

Cereal

Oatmeal

Soups, Rice and Potato Dishes (in boxes or packets)

Tuna Fish in Pouches

With Gratitude and Thanks,
The Mini Food Pantry Team

Warming Center

Utica United Methodist Church will be teaming up with Christ Church Fraser to help feed and shelter the homeless this winter as part of the Macomb County Winter Shelter run by the WAVE Project organization. We will be helping for a week, January 25-31st. This is the second year for this shelter and it is very well organized. There will be 2 – WAVE Project employees and 2 - security guards at the shelter each day. Both churches have helped feed and host homeless for years, and will team up with the WAVE Project team for this year's Winter Shelter.

Here are some details:

When – Sunday January 25th thru Saturday January 31st

Where – The homeless will be sheltered at Trinity Lutheran Church on 8150 Chapp Ave. in Warren (9 ½ & Van Dyke). This is where the guests will come and where we will be volunteering.

Please contact Ron Borgacz if you have any questions @ rborgacz@gmail.com or call 586-243-5538. If you call please leave a message and phone number and I will call you back.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Celebrate Recovery Changing Lives

As we step into a new year, we also celebrate a milestone: **Celebrate Recovery at Utica United Methodist Church is beginning its seventh year of ministry.**

From the very beginning, we've prayed a simple prayer before each Thursday gathering:

"Lord may tonight's meeting, and the words You put into our mouths, affect just one person. Amen."

And God has answered.

The numbers tell a story of quiet, steady impact. But it's not about the numbers. The numbers only hint at the deeper truth: when people show up, healing begins.

Over the past six years, an average of twelve people have gathered weekly. In total, seventy-seven individuals have walked through our doors—each one carrying hurts, habits, and hang-ups, seventy-seven lives touched. Seventy-seven life stories.

Seventy-seven journeys toward hope, and each one finding that hope in Christ and in community.

Celebrate Recovery is often misunderstood. Some think it's only for "those people." But the truth is, we are all "one of those people." Every one of us has been hurt, and every one of us has hurt others. We all develop habits and coping mechanisms to avoid dealing with the pain, and sometimes those habits grow into hang-ups—fears, anxieties, or obsessions that weigh us down.

Celebrate Recovery is not about labels. It's about healing. It's about people helping people. It's about discovering that God's grace is big enough for all of us.

At Utica, our group seems to serve as an introductory, a safe place to begin the journey. Many move on to larger or more specialized groups, but every step matters. Every person matters.

If you've ever wondered what Celebrate Recovery is—or what it isn't—we invite you to join us. **Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM.** Come as you are. Bring your questions, your hurts, or simply your curiosity.

It just may change your life.

In Christ's love,

Bob & Patsy

Celebrate Recovery Ministry Leaders
Utica United Methodist Church

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.



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



Watch the 11am service Live on our YouTube
Channel every Sunday morning

<https://www.youtube.com/@uticaumc5212/live>