

# Weekly Messenger

January 30, 2026

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Thank you

UWIF

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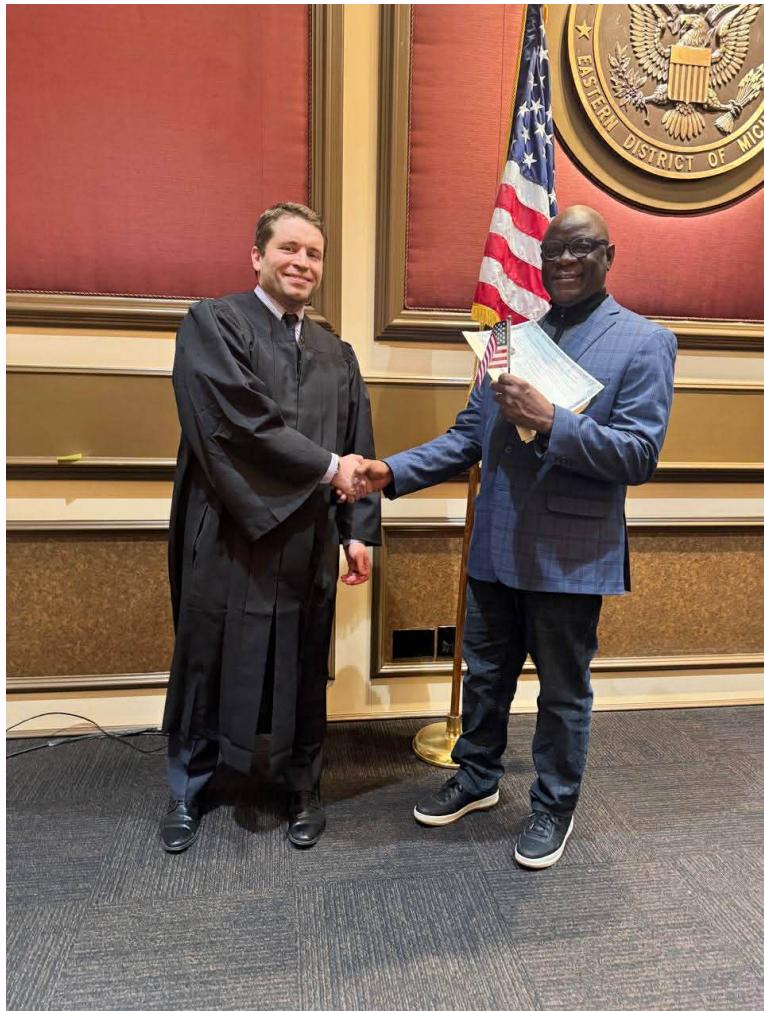
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## "Congratulations, Pastor Albert"

On Thursday, January 22nd, Pastor Albert officially became a US Citizen.



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Featured Library Book *Promise Me Tomorrow* by Lori Wick

Winter weather keeps us shut in, but the weather also gives us additional opportunities to snuggle into our favorite easy chair, grab a blanket, and a really great book. *Promise Me Tomorrow* is just such a great book.

The author, Lori Wick, has completed and published, at least, 31 books. I do like to get my history as easily as I can, and books written by Wick offer me just that opportunity. Wick has more than 6 million books in print, which focus on historical and Christian inspirational romance books.

Her plot in *Promise Me Tomorrow* had interest from the first page. Rusty, the main character, works at an orphanage in the pioneer West. See how Rusty can help children and adults through some difficult moments.

Call Numbers FIC WIC in our church library.

## Red Cross Blood Drive – Thank You

A successful drive takes preparation, and many hands are needed to complete the task. I join with the American Red Cross to thank all those who rolled up their sleeves to donate blood and all those who manned the refreshment table or the check-in tables and those who helped me move furniture. As you all know, I have a catch in my giddy-up (multiple sclerosis) so I positively need you.

Just an amazing fact, can you believe this--29,000 units of blood are needed every single day in the United States. At present, the need is so great that some elective surgeries are being postponed.

**THANK YOU ALL!**

## Thank you

To my loving church family,

I would like to say Thank- you, from the bottom of my heart for all the prayers, phone calls, text messages, cards and meals that you have showered me with. To some it may just be "what we do" but it is so much more when you are on the receiving side, it is the constant reminder that even though I can't be there physically right now, I am surrounded by your love and that is what I call a BLESSING from a loving congregation!

God has provided angels to show me he will never leave me, when times are rough, and back surgery is not an easy recovery but those angels prove he will give me what I need when I need it to make a full recovery, just taking longer than I anticipated, lol, but not my time but HIS time, I am looking forward to walking through those doors as soon as I am able. And yes, my smile will be the first thing you see!

God Bless you all and so proud to be a part of this UUMC Family!

Love ,  
Melanie Kuzia

## United Women in Faith

All women are invited to attend the UWIF meeting on Wednesday, February 11th in Fellowship Hall. We begin with a potluck luncheon at noon. Please bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Drinks will be provided.

The program will begin at 1:00pm with the theme "Prayer and Self-Denial." An offering will be taken.

# **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.](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**

Welcome to our newest Team Members, Cathie Parker who will monitor our pantry and Wagons of Hope on Sunday morning and Linda Shene who will shop for specific needs as well as monitoring the pantry on Tuesday's or Wednesday's.

A special thank you to Rachelle and Jim Young who have endured the high winds, issues with the door of the MFP and provided a temporary solution until warmer weather and a permanent redesign and repair. Once again we would like to thank you all for your faithful support of the MFP.

The cold brutal temperatures have challenged us to rethink our food distribution however because of your monetary donations we have been able to purchase and restock our shelves with packages of soup mix, rice mix, oatmeal, cereal, fruit bars, packages of dry potato mixes and pancake mix.

The donation requests for the next several months will remain the same, staples that are not at risk of freezing.

With immeasurable gratitude and thanksgiving for all the support and encouragement this outreach ministry experiences on a daily basis.

Blessings,  
The Mini Food Pantry Team

## **Save the Date!**

### **Annual Chili, Soup, Dessert Cook-off March 22, 2026 at 4pm**

Start looking for your best recipes and testing any flavor adjustments you want to make. Remember you can enter in more than one category. Whether you enter or not come sample and vote (with your dollars) for your favorites. All the money we raise will be used towards our ministries and conference ministry shares. You won't want to miss it....so mark the date on your calendar now! Invite your friends and family too!

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Faith Struggles

I was struggling with my faith. I had had my moment when I realized what Communion was about. When I had felt God's love so intimately that I knew that he loved even me when I was most unlovable. But then I was caught up in the doing and I realized that I was drifting away, that it wasn't fresh anymore. I was active in the church, perhaps too active, too controlling, too involved. I wanted it my way. I realized I was harboring anger where there should be joy. I needed to let go and let Good. A difficult lesson for me. I found my release not in the meetings, not in the doing but at the Altar rail. I was able to kneel in surrender to a God who loved me and told me I didn't have to do it all, he would carry my burdens and he would use it all for good. I moved on and concentrated on my faith and not the actions of others. That was many years ago and while the journey hasn't always been smooth God has used me with all my faults and I have remembered when he saved me from myself.

John Welsey was struggling. The movement was stalled. He had plunged into despondency. Then he went to Aldersgate: "At about quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation, and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death." Now this was Wesley's famous conversion but to what? He had always believed in Christianity. But now it was personal. It was not an everlasting experience because John Wesley would have other times of drifting away, not from his faith, but from his assurance.

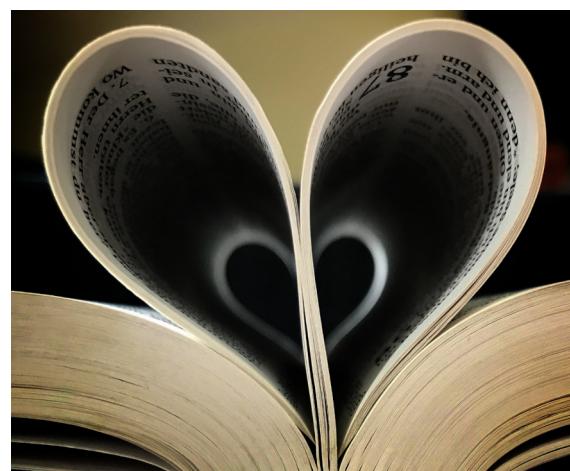
I am not perfect in my faith, yet time and again God waits to assure me that I am his child and I go on resting in his love.

1 John 4:10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Lord, help us to lay down our unbelief, not in you Lord but in ourselves. May we feel your love afresh and renewed. Be with those who need to reach you and are lost, may we light their path. Be with those who are suffering, our youth who sometimes feel lost and alone, our aged who feel forsaken and lonely, the sick and those who grieve, may they feel your comfort, be with those that enter our doors may they find you in us. Be with our Pastor and our staff as they seek to bring us closer to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Grace Epperson

References to John Wesley are taken from the book "John Wesley, A Biography" by Stephen Tomkins



# 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](http://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>