



# Weekly Messenger

February 13, 2026

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## "Ash Wednesday"

I feel like we just finished Christmas, but next week already marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time of 40 days, not counting Sundays, that starts on Ash Wednesday. It is a season of reflection, and repentance. It is a time where we study the teaching life of Jesus Christ. We anticipate his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We prepare for the betrayal of Judas on Maundy Thursday, for his disciples to fall asleep while Jesus is praying. We weep at the cross on Good Friday, as Jesus makes his final words heard before he takes his last breath on the cross. And finally, we rejoice on Easter Sunday as Jesus has defeated death and has rose victorious from the grave.

As a church we will begin our Lenten journey together on Wednesday, February 18th at 7pm in the Sanctuary. Together we will reflect on the words of God in Genesis 2:7, the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and in Genesis 3:19 for dust you are and to dust you will return. The Ash Wednesday service is always a meaningful service to help us prepare for the journey to the cross. I pray that you will mark this service on your calendar. Plan to attend and encourage others that you know to walk with you on this Lenten journey.

See you all on Wednesday, February 18th at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

Rachelle Heldt



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# **THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

## **Featured Library Item**

The Way (DVD)

Written and Directed by Emillo Estevez

Here is review from the movie jacket. The Way is a powerful and inspirational story about family, friends and the challenges we face while navigating the ever-changing and complicated world. Martin Sheen plays Tom irascible American doctor who comes to France to deal with the tragic loss of his son, played by Emilio Estevez. Rather than return home, Tom decides to embark on the historical pilgrimage "The Way of Saint James" to honor his son's desire to finish the journey. What Tom does not plan on is the profound impact this trip will have on him. Through unexpected and oftentimes amusing experiences along "The Way," Tom discovers the difference between the life we live and the life we choose.

That review was what they had to say on the jacket. What do I say? I say, "watch it as I found it a movie that I would watch the second time."

Call letters are WA (in new video case)

## **Thursday Night Bible Study**

Thursday Night bible Study with Don and Kathy Weaver will begin studying 1 and 2 Peter starting in March. This is a wonderful opportunity to check out a bible study for the first time or to get back into a bible study if you have not done one in a while.

Meeting Dates:

March 2, 15 and 26

April 9, 16 and 30

May 7, 14 and 21

June 4 - hoping to finish on this date but 11 and 18 if needed.

## **Save the Date**

Join us on June 19th at 6pm for a baseball game at the USPBL (Jimmy John's) field. Watch the Westside Woolly Mammoths take on the Eastside Diamond Hoppers. We have reserved 25 tickets to the patio area with an All American BBQ picnic. Food includes: Hot Dogs, BBQ pulled chicken, sliced smoked sausage with peppers and onions, baked beans, fresh pasta salad, potato chips, cole slaw and cookies. Unlimited Pepsi soft drinks, lemonade, iced tea and water are available. We will get a group photo on the field, greeting message on the scoreboard, meet and greet with the mascots, kids run the bases after the game and complimentary parking in Lot A.

This event has been such a blast in the past. It is a wonderful time to fellowship with other church members while enjoying food and a baseball game.

# 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**

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

## Forgiveness

Several years ago, our daughter was in a Maundy Thursday performance at her church. In the setting there were groups of people scattered across the front of the sanctuary. Our daughter came in dressed in the costume of a woman in the time of Jesus. She began to go up to each group of people and ask them a question. The questions were “Have you seen my son?” “I can’t find my son, have you seen him?” She would describe her son to them as being fair, handsome, kind, wise, giving, loving to his mother, caring for the poor. The kind of son everyone wants. As she went from group to group, you could feel her pain at not being able to find him, to not know what had happened to him. As I sat there with tears at this poor mother searching for her lost son, she approached the last group. Someone said, “What is your son’s name?” She then replied, “Judas.” You could hear an audible gasp from the audience. We don’t think of Judas as a good person, loved by his mother. Jesus chose him as one of the twelve. He had been active in the ministry, handling the purse strings, caring for the poor and the needs of the disciples, following Christ. But was he a manipulator seeking to force others to do what he wanted or was there wrong in his heart. Then he became the unthinkable, the betrayer, the Judas. His name became ever after associated with evil. It is reported that Judas, realizing his sin, killed himself. I have often wondered, would Jesus have forgiven even Judas? If Judas would have gone to the foot of the cross, laid his sin there, asked for forgiveness, and accepted Christ as his savior, would Christ have looked down and forgiven him? Was Judas evil or was he used or was he the personification of evil that grows in some humans or did he just not believe in Christ. Was he too close to see the picture? Could he not believe that this man he had traveled with, learned from, ate meals with and watched as he taught and performed miracles was the son of God, the living Christ?

Colossians 1:13-14 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Dear Lord, forgive us our sins, the times we have betrayed others, the times when we have turned from you and from the cross. The times when we have broken your heart. May your forgiveness draw us closer to you, closer to redemption, closer to each other. May we forgive as we are forgiven. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Grace Epperson



# 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

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY**  
God Never Wastes a Hurt!

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

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