



Weekly Messenger

February 27, 2026

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"Coming and Going"

Do you always recognize that God is with you in your daily coming and going? Do you see God there in your routines? Do you remember that God is with you always? In the busyness of this life, it can be easy to forget God's constant presence among us.

Psalm 121 reminds us: ¹I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? ²My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. ⁶The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night. ⁷The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

I have always like Psalm 121:1-2. It has been a guide for me when I start to feel lost or alone. A gentle reminder that God is present in my life, even when I don't feel it or recognize Him. What I just found in reading about this scripture is that the word "keep" appears six times in these 8 verses. It is easy to read this and say – "oh I believe in God and that here in these verses it says the Lord is your keeper, so that must mean that God will keep me safe from harm." That is not the case. God gave us all free will; we get to make choices in our lives. God is not a puppet master controlling our every thought and every decision. However, I believe this does mean that even in our choices, good or bad, right or wrong, God is there with us.

As we get closer to Easter, I am reminded that God sent Jesus to this world, to save us and to repair the division of ourselves from God back in the Garden of Eden. Because of Easter, because of Good Friday, we are not alone in our journey. There is a wonderful song called "Give Me Jesus." I like the version by Jeremy Camp, but there are many other singers who have sung this song. The song tells us, "In the morning, when I rise, when I am alone and when I come to die, give me Jesus. You can have all this world, just give me Jesus." It is just another reminder that no matter what time it is, where we are, or what stage we are in life, we are not alone, God is with us and keeps us forevermore.

Father God, thank you for these reminders that we are not alone. During this season of Lent, help remind us that you are there in our choices and decisions, that whatever those decisions are that you are there with us to keep us safe, to keep us from evil. Give us a gentle reminder to seek you, to pray for your guidance and remind us that even when we forget, you are there. Amen.

Rachelle Heldt

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THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Daylight Savings!

On Sunday, March 8th it is time once again to Spring forward and set our clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday night before bed. You don't want to be late for church!

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! Sign-up sheets will be available starting Sunday, March 1st.

Methodist Children's Home Easter Basket Drive

Easter is coming quickly and as Christians, we want the children at the Methodist Children Home Society (MCHS) to know that God loves them. This is where the hands and feet of the body of Jesus Christ are called into service. In response, the Utica United Methodist Church has pledged to provide 20 Easter Baskets for children served by MCHS.

Starting on Sunday, March 1st, we will have an "Easter Tree" located near the church office with 20 wooden bunnies containing the name and age of each child to receive a basket. Those who are interested in filling the baskets should take a child's name and provide the suggested items for their age and gender. Partner with friends or enlist your small group to sponsor a child. For those who prefer to contribute supplies for the baskets, a bin will be located near the church office and at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. A suggested list of items to include in the baskets will be tailored to the age and gender of the child. We ask that each basket include only items that "fit in the basket." While the opportunity to include something special may be tempting, we want to treat each child with the same level of generosity.

The Easter Baskets will need to be returned to the church no later than Tuesday, March 17th so that the baskets can be decorated and delivered to MCHS by the March 20th deadline. If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Croteau at phone number 586-227-6970. Thank you for your generosity in sharing God's love with these children.

United Women in Faith

We would like to invite all women of the church to attend the UWIF meeting on Wednesday, March 11th in Fellowship Hall. We will begin at noon with a potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Drinks will be provided.

At 1:00pm Debra Ross will provide a program about **The 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's and What to Watch For.**

On Wednesday, March 18th at 10:00am the women of Faith Circle will meet to set up the Shut-Ins visitation in May.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Featured Library Book Winter Is Not Forever By Janette Oke

What does winter symbolize to you? To me, winter is the ending of a season whether it is the ending of a long, hard winter season or the completion of another college term or even the breakdown of a marriage. Winter is considered a bleak time and something we often feel ourselves trudging through.

In Oke's story, she follows the life of Josh Jones who is dealing with the challenges of growing up including work, responsibility and love. Josh has come to the end of his high school years and must begin a new season of his life.

The book is easy to read with a slow-moving pace. But if you desire a background in living life in a farmland community, this could be the book for you.

Give it a read. Call letters are FIC OKE.

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

"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light with rise in the darkness" Isaiah 58:10

Next month we "spring forward" welcoming Daylight Savings Time...longer days and more sunlight. How blessed are we, God's Church to be called to let our light shine in the darkness that consumes others.

The Mini Food Pantry continues to offer HOPE to those in need, and we continue to be grateful for you, the congregation and your ongoing support. As we face potential freezing temperatures "dry staples" such as **rice, potato and soup mixes** are the best choice of food items. **Oatmeal, Cereal and Breakfast Bars** are also an excellent choice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact anyone on the MFP Team.

With Grateful Hearts,
Jim, Liza, Melanie, Cathie, Linda, Ron and Martha

**Secretary of State
Thursday, April 2, 2026
Village of Peace Manor
17275 15 Mile Road
Clinton Twp. MI. 48035**

Margaret McDougall lives at Village of Peace Manor. A mobile Secretary of State service will be visiting the Village of Peace Manor on Thursday, April 2, 2026. There is an hour window from 12pm-1pm that residents of Village of Peace Manor are able to fill from outside of the building.

The mobile Secretary of State office does everything that the permanent offices do, but is a much quicker experience. Costs are the same for the services.

If you are interested in making an appointment, please call the Village of Peace Manor coordinator, Trish Iannucci-Waller at 586-790-4500 ext. 5 before March 23rd. If she isn't available please leave a message with your name and phone number and she will call you back as soon as she can.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Excuse Me, What's Your Name?

I am terrible with names. I am name challenged. There is one woman I constantly call Barbara who is Joyce, a man I call John who is Bob, a Donna I call Wanda, and many others who answer quite nicely to honey. I have always had a problem. For years, I depended on my husband to remember names but now that is impossible, I am on my own in this area. To be honest I am not too good with faces either. One time, I was at a meat counter and a gentleman struck up a conversation with me. He was becoming a little too friendly and I backed away. He said, "You don't remember me, do you?" I told him I didn't, praying silently that he wasn't somebody's relative that I had met at Christmas five years ago. He told me that I had taken his blood last week. Now I worked for the Red Cross for 20 years and saw about 40 people a day. I might recognize their arm but not their face. I thought his expectation was a little much. But what bothers me is people who obviously know me, I know them, but for the life of me I can't remember their names. Then there are the relatives of relatives that you see very seldom, a complete lost cause for me. I gave my husband a photo album to look at that contained pictures from when he was a child. He would ask me, "Who's this?" Since I didn't have a clue, I would just say "It's your Aunt Edna." That seemed to solve the dilemma until it turned out to be a man on a horse and he said, "That's not my Aunt Edna." I have tried the method of attaching the name to a clue but then I forget the clue. I might remember complete details about someone but stumble over their name. People need to be recognized, and I feel badly when I fail at this. But there is one who calls us by name, who knew us before we were in the womb, who has loved us always. How blessed we are to have a Lord who knows us, loves us and calls us by name.

In the song by Tommy Walker, "He Knows My Name" the first verse lyrics are: "He knows my name, He knows my every thought, He sees each tear that falls, and He hears me when I call." What a beautiful description of the love of God for his children.

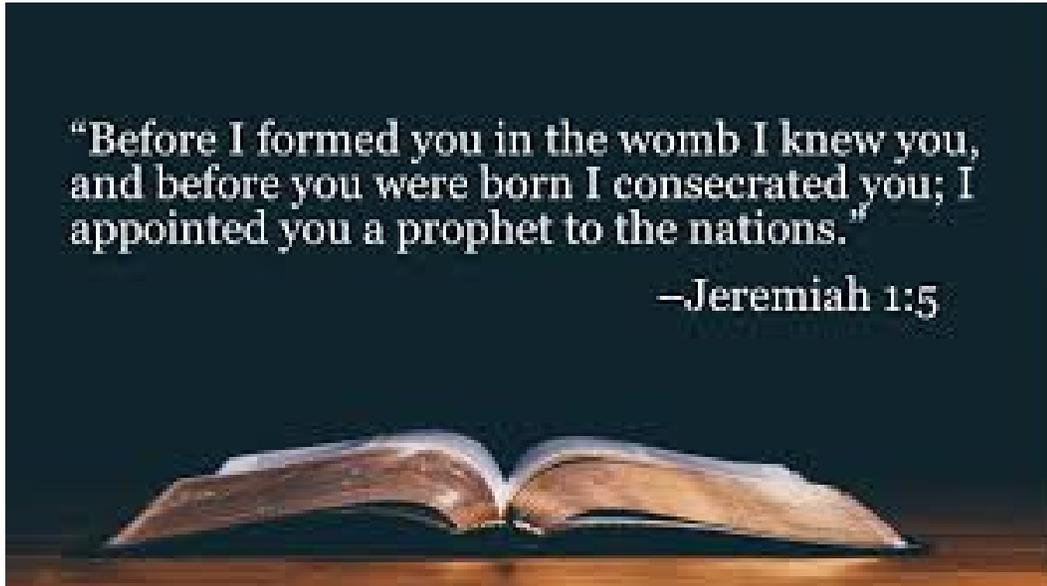
Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart.

Lord, we are humbled that you know us and love us imperfect as we are. We strive to be your children and to reflect your image, but we fail daily and yet you love us. May we seek to be more caring and thoughtful about the people around us. May we love others as you love us. Be with our church and our church family bless us as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ in your world. Amen.

Grace Epperson

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you; I
appointed you a prophet to the nations."

—Jeremiah 1:5



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

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>