



# Weekly Messenger

March 13, 2026

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## "Journeying in Grace"

About 7 years ago or so, Emily asked her dad to sing a song at church called "God Will Make a Way" by Don Moen. This was not a song that was his usual style to sing, and he figured she would eventually forget about asking him to sing this song. She did not forget. And she persisted in her quest to get her dad to sing this song. Finally, he gave in but only if she agreed to sing with him. I believe they sang this song together here at Utica before we moved on to preaching in Algonac. They did sing this song in Algonac together as well. This song had become a staple for our family and our journey with Chris and his ministry.

The chorus of the song is "God will make a way. Where there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see. He will make a way for me. He will be my guide. Hold me closely to His side. With love and strength, for each new day. He will make a way. He will make a way."

As we have journeyed through Lent together, each week has been a reminder that we are not alone. That God is with us. That God didn't ask us to walk alone but alongside each other. This week continues that reminder. The scripture lessons mentioned were Psalm 23. Which reminds us that God leads us, God guides us, God shepherd's us. Another scripture for this week is Ephesians 5:8-14 which talks about how we were in darkness and now through God walk in the light.

Grace from God is a journey. Grace is the work of the Holy Spirit to draw us to Christ, to unite us to Christ and to form Christ in us. The Holy Spirit has drawn us to Christ, we are here together, learning about God, worshiping together and have fellowship with one another. Hopefully we have all been united in Christ, maybe it was years ago, maybe more recently, but it is a nice reminder that your sins are forgiven. You are a child of God. You can walk in the light. If you mess up, and truly repent, you are forgiven again. As we continue our journey, we are to become more Christ like. I think that is the most difficult part of the journey. To take what you learn and to then walk that path and speak that truth.

As we continue our journey through lent, remember that you are not alone. God is with you. God will make a way for you. Your church family loves and supports you. God's grace is always with you and helping you. Take time this week to read the scriptures, to reflect on where you are spiritually and to take another step towards have Christ form in you.

Father God, thank you for your grace. Thank you for the journey that we are all on. Walk with us where we are in that journey. Please help to heal those who are sick, comfort those who mourn. Help us to be a light in the darkness of this world. Amen.

Rachelle Heldt

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

# **THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

## **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.

## **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.

## **United Women in Faith**

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

## **MotorCity Chorale After Glow**

On Sunday, April 12th our church will welcome the Motor City Chorale. A small reception in the Parlor is being planned after the concert. We are in need of 10-12 dozen cookies (NO CAKE OR BROWNIES). Please contact Martha Powers at (586)703-1668 if you are able to bake or purchase cookies.

## **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 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.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



**MotorCity**  
CHORALE

*Music through the  
Century Vol. 2*

**Sunday April 12, 3:00PM**

**Utica United Methodist  
Church**

**8650 Canal Rd.**

**Sterling Heights 48314**

The Motor City Chorale is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization  
located in Michigan. For more information, please visit  
our website at [motorcitychorale.com](http://motorcitychorale.com)

# 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**

We are fast approaching the next phase of “stocking the mini food pantry”! Temperatures are slowly rising and the uncertainty of freezing temperatures is almost behind us. As we glide into Spring before hitting summer and the record high temperatures we would ask for the following donations:

**Cereal**  
**Peanut Butter**  
**Jelly**  
**Soups**  
**Spaghetti**  
**Pasta**  
**Spaghetti Sauce**

Thank you to all for the continued support both of monetary donations and food items. Your generosity allows our church to bless those in need. Thank you also to the person(s) who donated the sample size personal hygiene products. We will be making Hygiene Bags to place in the Mini Food Pantry in the coming weeks. “Blessed are those who give, for in giving we receive”!

Mini Food Pantry Team

## **Featured Library Item** **Vienna Prelude** **Bodie Thoene**

Somewhere in my education, I missed out on the studies of the First and Second World Wars. Since we are advised history repeats itself, it is probably advisable that I learn about past wars especially when I listen and learn about events in today’s news. But remember, I tend to take my medicine with a little sugar and my historical background with a little mood-setting flair to it. This book was recommended to me as a book that would give me a background of the era and still have intrigue to it.

Vienna Prelude opens in pre-World War II Austria. Elisa Lindheim, a violinist with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, is of Jewish heritage but has adopted an Aryan stage name. Thus, she can travel and play in Germany even though a 1935 law forbade Jewish musicians to do so. Her dear friend Leah, a cellist, and her husband Shimon must escape Austria or perish in the coming Holocaust.

John Murphy, a reporter for the New York Times in Berlin and Austria, becomes linked with English politicians in a plan to overthrow Hitler. Elisa and John's mutual connections with the Jewish Underground entangle them in a web of intrigue, danger, and conspiracy that neither could have known.

Give it a read. Call Number FIC THO in our church library.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O, God My Father! There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not Thy compassions they fail not: As thou hast been Thou forever wilt be. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun moon and start in their courses above. Join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide. Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness Lord, unto me!

Great is Thy Faithfulness, one of the most inspiring and comforting of hymns was a poem written by Thomas O. Chisholm. The poem was set to music by William M. Runyan. He wrote the music to fit the words. Many of the hymns we sing lift my spirit and comfort me, but this one is special. The words speak to me especially the phrase “All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness Lord, unto me.” To me this is a personal expression of my faith. God has blessed me in so many ways, and he has always been by my side in times of trials. That is when I have especially felt his presence. When recovering from a mastectomy I was doing the exercise called “climbing the wall.” I knew that without this exercise I would not recover full use of my arm. My arm had begun to stiffen up and as I inched my fingers up the wall it was hurting to the point of tears, and I prayed for help. The answer came to me “reach for me” and I could envision God’s hand reaching for mine and it no longer hurt as I reached up toward that out-stretched hand. Once again that lesson came to me; I do nothing alone but all through the strength given to me by God. God reaches for us in so many ways in our joys and in our sorrows. We fell him in the birth of a child and in the end of a life. Always near, always comforting, always with us. We are not alone; God is with us; all we have to do is reach for him.

Holy Lord, may we always know that you are near, we simply have to reach for you. May we reach out to others in your name so they may know the love and peace of your presence. In Jesus most holy name, 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>