



Weekly Messenger

March 20, 2026

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"Redemption Road"

Music is a big part of my life. I grew up singing in kid's choirs. We had an electric organ that I would sit at and play. I tried playing the clarinet in elementary school. In high school I sang with two different chorale groups in school. Chris is also very musical, and he taught me how to play the bass guitar after we first got married. So, now as an adult, I play bass guitar, sing both hymns and praise songs at our church in Roseville and have even joined the handbell choir. With that background, it is not uncommon for me to read something or listen to someone speaking and a word or phrase brings to mind a song.

One of the scriptures mentioned for the fifth Sunday of Lent is Ezekiel 37. In the passage Ezekiel was brought to a valley full of dry bones. Ezekiel was asked to prophesize over the bones to tell them that the Lord will breathe new life into them, that the spirit will move in them and they shall live. I have had the song "Come Alive, Dry Bones" by Lauren Daigle running through my head for the past couple of days now. The words to the first verse of her song talk about how walking through life alone, without God, listening to the lies of the enemy can lead you astray. You become a slave to those lies and hope seems lost. However, as the song continues, we learn that there is a God. That there is more to life than we can see, and by stepping out in faith, by following God, we can look at the valley and not be afraid.

In John 14:6 Jesus says "I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me." Jesus is our Redemption Road. By accepting Him as our Lord and Savior, we have been set free. The season of Lent has been a journey. We have learned that we are not alone. That we walk through this life with Jesus as our Lord and Savior and with our church family. And this week we are reminded of our redemption through our Savior, Jesus. Breath into us the breath of Life Lord. May we be redeemed by Your Son.

Looking ahead to next week, we will be celebrating Palm Sunday and the triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We will be having a Maundy Thursday service at 7pm on Thursday, April 2nd where we will remember the Last Supper that Jesus celebrated with His disciples before His betrayal by Judas. Then we mourn on Good Friday, April 3rd at 7pm as we reflect on Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for our sins as He takes His last breath and asks God to forgive us all our sins. But the story doesn't end there. There will be Easter Sunday. Jesus will conquer the grave, and we will rejoice once more.

Father God, thank you for this journey that we have been on this Lenten season. Thank you for walking with us through this life. Thank you for the road to redemption for breathing new life into each of us. Help those who are sick and hurting, make your presence known to those who need to feel you near. 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

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.

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:

April 9, 16 and 30

May 7, 14 and 21

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

Kids Against Hunger at Flickinger Elementary

45400 Vanker in Utica

We will be working with members of King of Kings Church and Trinity Lutheran Church to help encourage children to help support the needy of our community.

There will be three forty-five minute sections beginning at 8:30 where 20 adults will each be helping 5 students pack meals for the needy. We need volunteers to help from 8:30-9:15/9:15-10:00/ and 10:00-10:45.

Contact Don or Kathy Weaver between services on March 22 and 29 or call them at 586-260-5935.

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

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

Grace Card (a DVD)
Produced by Affirm films

After police Officer Mac McDonald loses his son in an accident, years of bitterness and pain erode his love for his family...and leave him angry with God and everyone else. Can Mac and his new patrol partner Sergeant Sam Wright somehow join forces to help one another one when it's impossible to look past their differences, especially the most obvious one. Every day we have the opportunity to rebuild relationships and heal wounds by extending and receiving God's grace. Offer the Grace card and never underestimate the power of God's love.

Call letters are GR (in new video case)

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Cancer Care Group

Calling all people who knit, crochet or quilt. Peggy Miller is looking to form a new group called Cancer Care. This group would be working on making hats, lap blankets or shawls for cancer patients. This would be for all age groups, small children, up through adults. An organizational meeting will take place at church on Saturday, April 18th at 11am. Please contact Peggy Miller at pegm@me.com or by phone 586-557-0208.

Save the Date - Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

The United Women in Faith will be having a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Saturday, May 16th from 9-11am. A free will donation will be taken per person. More Information to come as we get closer to the date.

Methodist Children's Home 2026 Easter Basket Drive

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you... to all of those who have contributed Easter Basket goodies and gifts to the 20 children that Utica UMC agreed to sponsor this Easter. The children ranged in age from 12 to 17 years old. There were 9 girls and 11 boys who were sponsored by our church family. In arranging for delivery of the baskets later this week, we learned that the 20 children sponsored by our church are all non-resident to the Methodist Children's Home in Redford, but are part of the Foster Program administered by MCHS.

The Easter Baskets are full of the love from the Utica United Methodist Church. The baskets include chocolate bunnies, peanut butter eggs, jelly beans, marshmallow Peeps and other types of sweets. In addition, gifts of devotional books, diaries, basketball, soccer ball, baseballs & caps and personal hygiene supplies were contained in the Easter Baskets. Thank you all for keeping the donations to the confines of the basket so that all children will receive similar treats & gifts. We are certain that God will bless each of the children with the joy of knowing His love for them.

The Easter Baskets will be delivered to MCHS at 1:30 PM on Thursday, March 19th. Our contact person, Janet Branham – Development Officer, will meet us at the Administration Building and escort us to the building that houses the Foster Family Programs. There we will deliver the 20 Easter Baskets and capture the exchange with a photograph to be shared with the Utica UMC Messenger next week.

We are so grateful for the enthusiastic support that was demonstrated by our church family. On behalf of the children receiving these baskets, Thank You for your loving generosity. May God bless us all.

With His Love,

Colleen Croteau



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>