



Weekly Messenger

March 27, 2026

IN THIS ISSUE:

Holy Week

Cook-off Results

Featured Library Item

Mini Pantry

Save the Dates

MotorCity Chorale

Easter Basket Thank you

Back Page

"Marching Orders"

Chris Tomlin wrote a song called "Forever." Some of the lyrics are as follows:

Give thanks to the Lord, Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever

Our Lenten journey is coming to an end. As I have shared over the last few weeks, we are not alone and God is with us. As we begin Holy Week, Chris Tomlin's song is a reminder of just how faithful and strong God is, and that His love endures forever. The week begins with Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We will wave our palms and sing our praises on this day. Later in the week, we are reminded of The Last Supper Jesus ate with His disciples and our Lord's faithfulness as he prayed for God's will to be done before being betrayed by one that he loved. We then turn to Good Friday and Jesus' enduring love that wouldn't allow him to walk away from God's mission to redeem us, even as the crown of thorns was placed on his head, and he carried his cross to his death. And while we reflect and mourn his suffering and death, we also can anticipate that Easter Sunday is coming!

My hope is that you will be able to attend service with us on Palm Sunday. Come and rejoice, sing praise and wave the palms.

Join us on April 2nd at 7pm for our Maundy Thursday service. This will be a unique service that you will not want to miss.

Good Friday will happen on April 3rd at 7pm and will be a time of prayer and reflection of the cross. Reflect on what Jesus' sacrifice has had on your life.

Your marching orders are to come, to reflect, to participate and to invite someone else to share this journey with you.

Father God, as we prepare ourselves for Holy Week, let your Holy Spirit come among us and breathe life into us. Let your presence be known to us this coming week. May you speak to us in your own way. Comfort those who are sick, those who are in mourning and those who are facing any number of struggles. Thank you for your enduring love for us forever. Amen.

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

Rachelle Heldt

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



Maundy Thursday Service

On Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at 7pm, we will receive Communion in a very special way. Just as Jesus served the twelve disciples, Pastor Albert will serve those attending "at the table." The ushers or stewards will direct those attending church that evening, to the table, twelve at a time, until each of us has been served. With hushed reverence, we will experience The Last Supper.

Good Friday Service

On Good Friday, April 3rd at 7pm, we will have a service of prayer and reflection as Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice, to die for our sins, so that we would be redeemed. We will share this special service with our neighbors from Sterling Heights United Methodist Church.

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.

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.

United Women in Faith

All women are invited to attend the monthly potluck of UWIF on Wednesday, April 8th at noon in Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Beverages are provided.

At 1:00pm our speaker will be Carolyn Faulkner from Abigayle Ministries.

Faith Circle will meet the following Wednesday at 10am in the conference room.



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

Spring Cleanup at the Utica United Methodist Church Library

Question: Does the Bible really say that cleanliness is next to godliness?

Answer: No, it does not. The phrase “cleanliness is next to godliness” was popularized by John Wesley, an English cleric and founder of Methodism. He used it in his sermon “On Dress” in the late 18th century.

However, it is still spring, and it is time to do a little house cleaning or church library cleaning in this case. We’re on it!

You will start to see some books that have culled from our library in the coffee gathering room. The first group of books will be all fiction books that have never been checked out and read. You are welcome to take home any of these books free of charge.

Special thanks to the ladies who helped me remove them from the library card catalog and library listing.

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.

Featured Library Book

A Good Man Is Hard to Find

And other short stories.

By Flannery O'Connor

Does your life always seem rushed? Join the crowd. From today's traffic, to grocery shopping and shopping online for stuff, I am left with little time for enjoying a good book. But I found a great book that helped me solve that time issue. This book comes with the endorsement of Joan Sanders as a book to not pass up.

Let me give this to you from the book's jacket. In 1955, with this short story collection, Flannery O'Connor firmly claimed her place as one of the most original and provocative writers of her generation. Steeped in Southern Gothic tradition that would become synonymous with her name, these stories show O'Connor's unique, grotesque view of life --infused with religious symbolism haunted by apocalyptic possibility, sustained by the tragic comedy of human behavior confronted by the necessity of salvation.

Through these classic stories, including "The Life You Save May Be Your Own", "Good Country People", "The Displaced Person", and seven other acclaimed tales, O'Connor earned a permanent place in the hearts of American readers.

Call Number FIC OCO in our church library.

Wooden Tables

The church has several 8 foot wooden folding tables that are no longer needed. If you would be interested in one or more tables, please contact the church office and they will let you know when you can pick them up. The cost is a free will donation to the church.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

CHILI, SOUP, DESSERT COOK-OFF WINNERS

Fellowship Hall abounded in fellowship and food on Sunday, March 22 when we held our annual Chili, Soup, Dessert Cook-off. There were 5 chili entries, 8 soup entries, and 10 dessert entries. All of them were delicious which made choosing the favorites challenging. While the votes were being counted Pastor Albert shared about his trip to Liberia. Once all the votes were counted, the results were as follows.

Top Chef 2026

Illona Kitchen (Apple Cherry Dump Cake)

Chili Category

- 1st Place: Lynda Borgacz (Black Bean Turkey Chili)
- 2nd Place: David Miller (D & D Chili)
- 3rd Place: Charlotte Ramsey (Dorothea's Chili)

Soup Category

- 1st Place: Rachelle Heldt (Butternut Squash Soup)
- 2nd Place: David Miller (Sausage & Cabbage Soup)
- 3rd Place: Colleen & Barry Croteau (Crock Pot Potato Soup)

Dessert Category

- 1st Place: Illona Kitchen (Apple Cherry Dump Cake)
- 2nd Place: Melanie Kuzia (Banana Pudding)
- 3rd Place: Kathy Kamlay (Death by Dessert)

Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry and a huge thank you to everyone who came, voted and enjoyed the evening. The grand total raised was \$845 which will be put towards our ministry shares for the conference. Congratulations everyone!



THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Methodist Children's Home Easter Basket Delivery

On Thursday, March 19th the 20 Easter Baskets donated by the Utica United Methodist Church were delivered to the Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford, Michigan. The baskets were delivered to Janet Branham – Development Officer who works with the Foster Family Program at MCHS. Janet explained that over the next couple of weeks the social workers will be meeting with the Foster Families that sponsor the children. The baskets will be presented to the children on Easter Sunday by their Foster parents. Please see that attached message from Janet below.

Thank you Lord for giving us the opportunity to share God's love with these children. Amen.

Blessings,

Colleen Croteau



A Message from Janet Branham at MCHS –

Hi Barry & Colleen!

It was great meeting you both last week. I really can't get over how beautiful those baskets were. We are very blessed with a generous community that provides lovely Easter Baskets for our youth, but you guys really went above and beyond. I know the youth who receive them and their families will feel the love that went into each one.

Kindest regards,

Janet Branham

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



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

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