



Weekly Messenger

March 6, 2026

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"Companion for the Journey"

I would classify myself as an introvert. Once I get to know you, I am happy to chat with you, but I am not going to be the one to seek out conversations. I am more than happy to just sit and listen and not engage in conversations. That is my comfort level. However, I am thankful for the many people who do stop to ask how I am doing or how my family is doing.

As God's people we are meant to fellowship with each other. To hold each other accountable and to lift each other up. I have heard stories of this very thing happening a couple of times especially in the last couple of weeks. Examples of our church family taking care of each other and supporting each other. It is amazing and we are blessed.

This week the focus is on Romans 5:1-11. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we^[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we^[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Usually "to boast" means "to brag about", but in this case to boast means "to glorify in" or "rejoice in" the presence of God. Even in the midst of our struggles or our sufferings we rejoice in God. Many times, we prefer to suffer in isolation. But God has gifted us each other, to walk on this journey together. To support and lift one another up to give each other hope. Hope is a sign of God being poured into our hearts. And the best way is to be surrounded by God's people. I pray that God is poured into your hearts during this Lenten season. I also pray that you can help pour God's love into someone else.

Dear Lord, thank you for being a constant companion in our lives. I pray that you allow for us to reach out to others in times of our suffering, but to also reach out to those who may be suffering. Please allow us to both share your love with others and be open to accepting God's love shared by others to us. Be a light into our broken world. Amen.

Rachelle Heldt

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Sterling Heights, MI
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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.

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.

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.

Thank you

Matthew 5:16 says "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

I have been blessed these last couple of years by the generous ladies of Utica UMC. They have given their time to stop and pick me up and take me to church or to run other errands. I have been surprised with treats and lunch on my birthday. I want to acknowledge the faithfulness of my sisters in Christ who call and check in with me even during struggles of their own. Your friendships, kind words and prayers have been a blessing to me. I appreciate and love each one of my angels. Thank you everyone.

Many Blessings,

Illona Kitchen

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Featured Library Item

Faith Like Potatoes (a DVD)
Produced by Family Christian

This movie knocked my socks off and is a **KEEPER**. Jerry and I usually watch a movie once and then move on. I'm not moving on after watching this movie once as there is just too much good material in the movie. Also, on the DVD is a 54-minute documentary on Angus Buchan, which I plan to watch.

"Faith Like Potatoes" is based on a true story, and it is truly the story of a [transformed life](#). In Angus Buchan, we see a man moving from self-reliance and turmoil to a life of submission to God and dynamic [faith](#). This journey makes for a raw and gripping story. Although primarily about a man's [faith](#) journey, it delves into many relevant topics including [anxiety](#), [racism](#), [suffering](#), grief, and more.

The movie opens in Zambia, South Africa, at a time of racial unrest. We meet Angus Buchan, a white farmer of Scottish heritage who is facing an uncertain future as he wrestles with the decision to move his family to another land and start a new farm from the ground up in Kwa-Zulu Natal. "I'll make it work!" he tells his wife Jill. And he does try to make it work, relying only on himself, some hired workers that he does not respect, and a Zulu foreman he does not trust. Angus is a passionate man, but his passion and zeal are misplaced.

Reviewed by Shawna Ellis (taken from the Internet)

Caution: This movie has some scenes not suitable for young audiences.
Call letters are FP (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 5, 12 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

Featured Library Item

Risen (a DVD)
Produced by Sony Pictures

Just in time for Easter, a new DVD portraying the possible aftermath in Jerusalem when Jesus' body was missing. "Risen" is about a Roman soldier searching for the resurrected Christ in the 40 days following the crucifixion.

The main character, Clavius, is not mentioned in The Bible. However, I can imagine some people were held accountable when the tomb ended up empty and that Pontius Pilot probably wanted some answers.

Call letters are RI (in new video case)

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Pastor Albert's Liberian Scholarship Ministry

Pastor Albert visits schools, and some of the students who are being sponsored through his Liberian Scholarship Ministry.

We will be learning more about this ministry in April.



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.
If you are a Michigan Nonprofit, for more information, please visit
our website (www.motorcitychorale.com)

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Looking in the Mirror

The other day when I had just started my day, I looked in the mirror. The thought occurred to me as I looked at my reflection that here was a child of God. I did not focus on the wrinkles, the white hair, the puffy eyes, or the fading freckles. I saw a child of God and that sight empowered me for the day. Have you ever saw yourself for what you really are? You are a child of God, no matter your age, your money, your good looks or your plain looks, your physical health or your limitations, your scars, your anger, your joy, your sorrow, your sins, you are a child of God. What joy and power that brings to our lives no matter our age or circumstances. We need to remind ourselves of that and then we could start our day being kinder and more giving and forgiving, especially to ourselves because that angst with ourselves is reflected in how we treat others. I need a sign on my mirror that reflects not just an image but a truth, that God loves us and forgives us, and we start each day new, with new possibilities, and new hope for the day. Maybe every time we see ourselves in the reflection of others, we should remind ourselves of who we are. We are all a child of God.

1 John 3:1-3 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope purifies themselves, just as he is pure.

Lord, we know you are with us but sometimes we feel alone. Fill us with your spirit, may we feel you close to us. Be with those who are suffering from illness and grief, those who feel alone and lost, those who are in pain. Be with those who suffer financially, be with those who are hurting in their quest for equal justice; help us to find our way through all that divides us and may we cling to that which unites us. Help us to be a better people. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, be with his family, comfort them and protect them. Be with all who enter our services, may they find comfort in the word offered and the music provided. Be with our staff and leaders, guide them and strengthen them. Help us to be the hands and feet of Christ.

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**
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>