

# Weekly Messenger

April 17, 2026

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## "2025 100% Ministry Shares"

Dear Friends in Christ in the Michigan Conference,

I greet you in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the peace and power of the Holy Spirit. It is with great joy and deep gratitude that I offer this letter acknowledging your congregation's full payment of Ministry Shares in 2025. Your faithfulness to our shared ministry as United Methodists is heartening, and I am deeply grateful for your generosity.

Your full participation in Ministry Shares extends the ministry of your church in remarkable ways. You help provide the structure that keeps all our United Methodist churches connected. Your gifts allow the Michigan Conference to provide training and support for our churches as we all seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, disciples who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully and lead courageously. You make possible important conference connections for reaching out in concern and service to a hurting world. Your gifts make possible the ministry of The United Methodist Church across the globe. I wish you could hear some of the stories of ministry for Jesus Christ that I hear from United Methodists around the world. Through our shared ministry we help provide principled Christian leaders for churches and communities, work to alleviate poverty, promote health, and help people come to faith in Jesus Christ and connect with communities that will help them in their journey with Jesus.

I celebrate our shared ministry and your participation in it. Thank you. "The rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of God's people but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God" (II Corinthians 9:12).

Grace and Peace,  
Bishop David A. Bard



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# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## VETERANS MEMORIAL

We are planning to add additional bricks to our Veterans Memorial Garden. We would like to get them installed in time for Memorial Day. In order to accomplish this, we need to place the order with the engraving company by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The cost of each brick is \$45.00. Order forms will be available right after Easter. If you have any questions, see Bob Clark.

## Van Dyke Road Clean-up

On Saturday, April 25th from 8:45-11:00, we have the responsibility of removing debris from Van Dyke berms between 21 and 22 mile roads. Those who are interested and able are urged to sign up in the Narthex with Don or Kathy Weaver. If you need more info, call them at 586-260-8814. Chick-fil-a gift cards will be awarded to those who participate.

## New Bible Study - "The Holy Spirit"

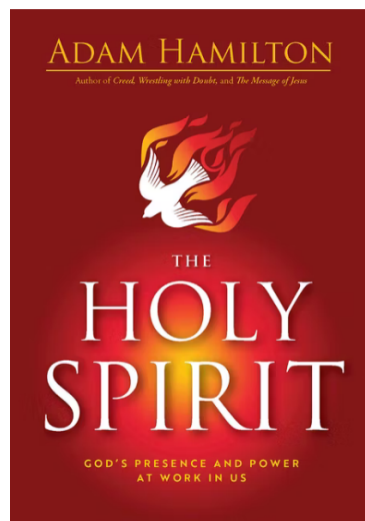
Please join me for 5 Weeks beginning May 5, 2026 from 11:00am to 12:30pm as we journey together learning and growing through this powerful study by Adam Hamilton.

The Holy Spirit is God's active presence and power at work in the world and in our lives. Through the Spirit, we are transformed, led, empowered, and guided in our faith journey. Jesus promised his followers that the Spirit would come alongside them as comforter and counselor, empowering them to transform the world.

In *The Holy Spirit*, Adam Hamilton explores what Scripture teaches about God's Spirit—from the Hebrew Bible through Jesus' promises in the Gospels, the powerful Pentecost experience in Acts, and the rich teachings found in the New Testament letters. This accessible study helps believers understand and experience the Holy Spirit's presence and power in their daily walk with Christ.

This is a relatively new release so I have asked Rachelle to order books through Cokesbury due to the fact that this study is currently not available through Amazon. Please let me know as soon as possible if you plan to attend so that I can work closely with Rachelle to secure materials for all who are interested in attending the class.

As always please contact me at:  
Cell (586)703-1668  
Email: [ron\\_martha@att.net](mailto:ron_martha@att.net).  
Martha Powers/Facilitator



# 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**

*ACTS 20:35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

The warmer weather has arrived and that allows better food collection options.

Currently we have a good stock on:

Mac and Cheese  
Pancake Mix and Syrup  
Spaghetti and Sauce

So with that being said we are in need of the following:

**Large Boxes of Cereal**  
**Oatmeal**  
**Cans of Fruit**  
**Cans of Ragu**  
**Packages of Rice**  
**Packages of Potatoes**

Thank you again to Sharon for the wonderful donation of toiletries. We were able to assemble approximately 50-60 mini bags of personal items from shampoo to lotion to toothpaste to toothbrushes. Every little donation "Makes a Difference" and every gift from YOU continues to help God's Kingdom. Blessings and Thanksgiving,  
Jim and Liza, Melanie, Linda, Cathie and Ron and Martha

## **1st Quarter Giving Statement**

The first quarter giving statements are now available to pick up at the church starting this Sunday, April 19th. Please look over them and verify that your giving information is correct. Contact the church office if there is any discrepancies. Statements that are not picked up by the end of April will be mailed out.

## **BoyScout Flower Sale**

The Boy Scouts will have a table set up in the Narthex on Sunday, April 29th for their annual spring flower sale fundraiser. Take the time to stop by and order your spring flowers from the boy scouts.

# **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 Sunday, April 26th between services in the Adult Library next to the Sanctuary. 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. Helper sign-up sheets are available. There is also information available on a poster board in the Narthex or ask one of the ladies from the UWIF.

## **Featured Library Book**

Making Sense of the Bible

By Adam Hamilton

Sometimes, I just don't get what the Bible is telling me. I admit I know I should understand it especially the parables, and I probably understand only the surface of it. But I know there is more depth to it, and that is what I don't always comprehend. So, out will come my menagerie of bibles. King James tends to get shoved aside quickly and if I am lucky the Common English Bible will have the secret which helps me understand.

But now we have a book in our library by one of my favorite authors, Adam Hamilton, to help me understand the meaning. Here are some of the questions covered in the book.

Were Adam and Eve real people?

Why is God so violent in the Old Testament?

Is Jesus the only way to salvation?

Is the book of Revelation a guide to End Times?

Call Number BS200.041 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

## Liberian Scholarship Ministries

On behalf of Pastor Albert Barchue, the Together-In-Missions team is helping to support the Liberian Scholarship Ministry.

Unlike here in the United States, schools in Liberia are mostly private and like all private schools, parents of kids who attend these schools are required to pay fees for their kids in order to finance the costs of staff salaries and the general operations of the schools. Due to many unfortunate circumstances, many children do not have the means to pay the fees to get an education. This is where the Liberian Scholarship Ministry comes in and helps to sponsor those kids who do not have funds available to pay for their education.

If you would like to sponsor a student in full, here is a list of the cost per grade level:

Elementary Level (Grade 1-6) ..... \$225.00  
Junior High Level (Grade 7-9) ..... \$325.00  
Senior High Level (Grade 10-12) \$400.00  
University Student.....\$500.00 (per semester)

This amount covers the annual registration and tuition fees and, in some instances, provides a set of uniforms for the sponsored child. You will receive a photograph of your sponsored student to put a face to the name.

If you would like to donate to this ministry, there will be a basket on a table in the Narthex. Ways to donate include cash, check, and e-giving. If you cannot fully fund a student, any donation amount will help. You can also pair with another church member or group to help sponsor a student.

If you are writing a check, please make it payable to Utica United Methodist Church with the memo line "Liberia Scholarship".

Please contact Pastor Albert, the together-in-missions team, or the church office if you have any questions.

## Native American Ministries Sunday

This Sunday, April 19th is Native American Ministries Sunday. This United Methodist special Sunday honors Indigenous cultures, supports Native American ministries, and empowers local leaders through special offerings. Donations made during this special giving Sunday are used to help fund Native American Scholarships, Ministries and Programs. You can make a donation either through the online e-giving link and click one-time gift for Native American Sunday or by writing Native American Sunday on the other line of your offering envelope.



# 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>