

# Weekly Messenger

April 24, 2026

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## "Prayer Ministry"

### **Altar Prayer Ministry: A Place of Comfort, Care, and Confidential Prayer**

At the close of our first service each Sunday, we offer a quiet and spiritual opportunity for prayer at the altar railing. This time is available to anyone who feels led to come forward—whether carrying a burden, offering thanksgiving, or simply desiring to be in prayer.

Two members of our prayer team are present each week to meet you at the railing. It is a blessing to listen, to pray with you, and to lift your requests before the Lord with care and compassion.

We want you to know:

- You are heard. Your prayer request matters, and we receive it with attentive hearts.
  - You are being prayed for. We continue to lift your needs in prayer beyond that moment at the altar.
  - Your confidentiality is respected. What you share is treated with the utmost discretion and sensitivity.
  - Support is available. If you find yourself needing deeper guidance or counsel, we gently encourage you to reach out to our pastor, who is here to walk alongside you.
- This ministry exists to remind you that you are not alone. Whether your need feels heavy or small, spoken or unspoken, you are always welcome at the altar.  
"Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)  
We invite you to come.

Martha Powers

### **Prayer Connection: A ministry of dedicated intercessors who faithfully commit to pray every day for the ongoing requests submitted to the Church for prayer.**

We are a team of seven called Wall Watchers, taken from the words of Isaiah with the commandment to pray day and night for the fulfillment of God's promises.

- Our commitment is based in our belief in God's teaching that there is Holy Spirit presence, leading, healing and power in prayer.
- It is the desire of our hearts that every name and request be brought before the Lord each day.
- As in the Altar Rail Ministry, confidentiality is respected. What is shared in your request is treated with discretion and sensitivity.

This ministry exists to partner with you in seeking the presence of God over any situation you bring before Him.

"Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere." (Ephesians 6:18)

Margaret Mowers

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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.

## Kids Against Hunger - Thank You

Carrie Slade, the organizer from Flickinger Elementary, wants to thank all 14 of our helpers from UUMC for assisting the children in making 11,000 meals for the needy of the area. Thanks also from Don and Kathy Weaver.

## New Bible Study - "The Holy Spirit"

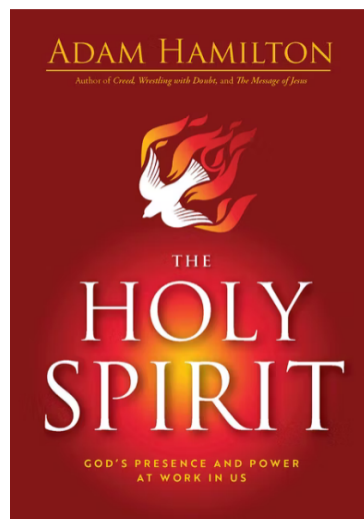
Please join me for 5 Weeks beginning May 5, 2026 from 11:00am to 12:30pm as we journey together learning and growing through this powerful study by Adam Hamilton.

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 on the table just outside the office. 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**

Gary Taylor will have flower order forms available on Sunday, April 26th. You will have the chance to take home and fill out the order form. The boy scouts will be available on Sunday, May 3rd to receive your flower order form and payment. You can also just stop at the table on May 3rd to fill out and pay for flowers on that Sunday.

# 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

The Jesus I Never Knew  
By Phillip Yancey

This author has challenged me about old fashioned ideas about Jesus. I do remember my Sunday School lessons being taught on a flannel board, so he could possibly be correct. I remember not only learning from flannel board lessons but also the sock puppets of Mary and Joseph.

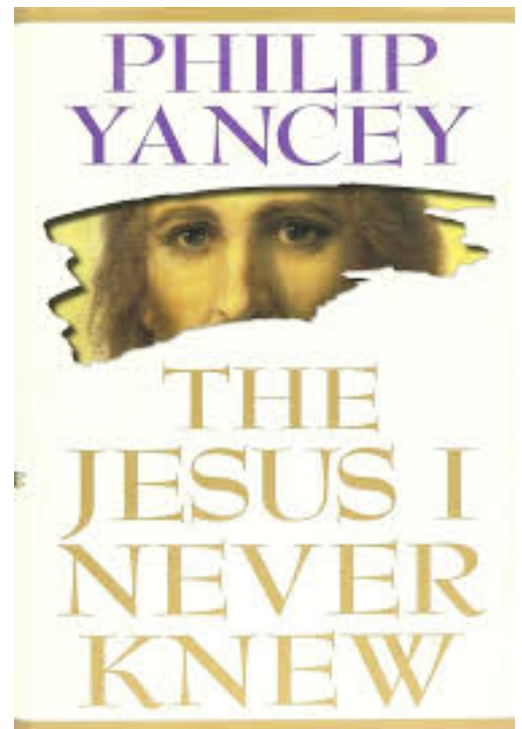
Yancy clarifies some of the obscure traditions about Jesus. Yancy breaks down the life of Jesus into three parts.

1. Background, birth, temptation
2. Why He came
3. What He left behind

See if you can get a new perspective on how you see Jesus. Maybe you can come out of the dark ages like I did.

Give it a read. Phillip Yancy has won 13 Gold Medallion Book Awards from Christian publishers and booksellers.

Call Numbers 232 in our church library



# **THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

"Liberian Scholarship Ministry"

**\*\*\* THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT \*\*\***

We have received a total of \$3,435.00 in donations! Thank you! God is Good!!

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> will be the last day that the poster board and donation plate will be on display in the Narthex, however, it is not the last day that you can donate. This ministry is open all year long if you wish to donate at any time.

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**

Last, Sunday, April 19th was 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. Donations will be accepted through the end of the month. Thank you to those who have already supported this ministry.

# 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>