



# Weekly Messenger

April 3, 2026

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

## "Easter"

"Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!" Easter has arrived. That most glorious of Christian celebrations! Oh, we get more material gifts on Christmas as we celebrate the beginning. But on Easter we get the greatest gift of all, the risen Christ and another beginning. I sing with gusto on Easter, still off key, but with gusto.

"Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens and earth reply, Alleluia!" We have come from Ash Wednesday and Lent to the entry into Jerusalem. Palm Sunday with the Prince of Peace riding on a donkey.

"Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where O death is now thy sting? Alleluia!" Then the Last Supper and the betrayal and we weep. Then the garden and Jesus' sorrow and acceptance.

"Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!" Then the arrest and we know what is coming, the beating and scourging and trial. Can our sorrow never end? Then the greatest suffering of all, Jesus dies on a cross for our sins. Forced to carry his cross until he is nailed upon that cross as a final atonement for the sins of the world, your sins, my sins.

"Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!" But then comes Easter Sunday and that empty tomb. We went to Israel and visited the garden tomb. As you enter there is a sign that says, "He is not here for he has risen." That tomb is as empty as the tomb the women went to on that first Easter morning. Their grief turns to joy as Christ reveals himself and the women rush to tell the others the good news. He is risen; he has overcome death.

"Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!" A beating that should have killed him, a crucifixion that was designed to kill him, a spear in the side to make sure he was dead and he overcame it all. Thanks be to God!

"Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!" May we humble ourselves with gratitude at the foot of the cross and may we be filled with the love of Christ this Easter and every day.

"Make like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!"

Grace Epperson

# **THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

## **MotorCity Chorale After Glow**

Thank you to everyone who offered to bake or purchase cookies for the Afterglow Reception on Sunday, April 12th. Please bring your cookies on April 12th and place them in the Kitchen. If you have any questions please contact Martha Powers @ (586) 703-1668.

## **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.

## **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.

## **2026 God's Country Mission Trip - CANCELLED**

Early plans for a 2026 Mission Trip to God's Country Community Ministries in Newberry, Michigan will not occur this summer. Due in part to a mix-up on the date that was understood to have been reserved for Utica UMC, the week in June was given to another group. After an appeal to reverse the scheduling error was rejected, a few of the team members including Colleen and I, chose to forgo the mission trip for this summer. We apologize to the remaining team members and our Church Family for this unfortunate circumstance. We ask the Lord to give us other opportunities to serve those in need this summer.

Barry & Colleen Croteau

# 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 (c)(3) charitable organization  
located in Michigan. For more information, please visit  
our website at [motorcitychorale.com](http://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**

**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

## **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 Sunday, April 26th between services in the Adult Library next to the Sanctuary. Please contact Peggy Miller at [pegm@me.com](mailto: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**

The Seven Story Mountain

By Thomas Merton

Titillating, fascinating and thought-provoking are all words I would use to describe the author and his book, The Seven Story Mountain. I wouldn't usually choose an autobiography to read; but I found in my background research of Thomas Merton that he was a fascinating man.

He was born in 1915 in France to artistic parents. Early in life, he was baptized by the Church of England. Merton's mother died when he was six and his father when he was a teenager. I can only surmise because of the loss of both parents at such a young age caused him to become agnostic. He begins his college studies at Columbia University and later becomes a Trappist monk.

His autobiography tells of his spiritual journey as he tries to find his purpose.

Merton is a prolific writer and authored 26 books, The Seven Story Mountain was one of his first.

Call Number 271.092 MER in our church library.

Here is an additional teaser: look up his cause of death.

## **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

## 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>