

# Weekly Messenger

May 1, 2026

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Featured  
Library Item

Mini Pantry

MCREST

Night at the  
Park

Holy Land  
Christians

Back Page

## "Church in Mission"

Saturday, April 25th was a work day for the Methodist Church. Chris, Jacob, Emily and I went to Detroit along with many other members of the Greater Detroit District to work during Hands with Detroit at Cass Community Social Services. There were many tasks to accomplish and the many people serving in those tasks were able to complete the work for that day.

Here at Utica, a group from the church gathered on Saturday morning and headed out to Van Dyke to clean the roadway. For many years now, our church has sponsored a section of Van Dyke between Hahn and 22 Mile Road. Each year in April, we gather with our safety vests and clean up the edges of the road. This is a wonderful way for our church to be out in the community. Thank you to those who helped and to Don and Kathy Weaver for leading this mission.

These are a couple of ways that we can participate and be a church in mission. If you missed your chance this time, we have some more opportunities to be in mission at our church. Coming up at the end of May, we will be serving with MCREST. In June, our STARS program will be back in the building for another fun summer of camp. Watch the messenger and listen to the announcements for ways that you can help be in mission and ministry with us.



# **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.

## **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.

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 Holy Land Christians**

On May 10 2026 and during both services, we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after each service we will be hosting at the church Narthex a nice display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income . For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict, the wars , the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem , the COVID-19 pandemic , and recently the catastrophic war in Gaza for the more than two years , due to this tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land . This made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they lost their source of income . The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites ,

Please help support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town of Bethlehem where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings.

A Christians family from Bethlehem will be telling us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and they will be presenting these carvings after the services.

It is never too late to help. All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem .

Let us carefully tend to our roots, Christian children of God in the Holy Land.  
And let us pray together for peace in the land where our Savior once walked to tell the world the good news of salvation.

Dr. George Ghanem

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## MCREST 2026 - May 24 – May 31

Hello Church Family –

UUMC will be hosting MCREST the week of May 24 - May 31 this year. We will be commuting each day to the women's shelter in Mt. Clemens to serve the women and children.

We need VOLUNTEERS!! There will be sign-up sheets available May 3, 10 and 17 for volunteers needed to help make lunches at UUMC as well as helping at the shelter in Mt. Clemens.

At this time, we would like to ask for your help in donating items for breakfast and lunches as well as paper products. Sign-up sheets will be available starting May 3rd. Here are some examples that we are looking for:

- **Sweet and salty pre-packaged snacks**
- **Peanut Butter**
- **Jelly**
- **Bread**
- **Juice Boxes**
- **Fruit Cups**
- **Pudding Cups**
- **Cereal**
- **Instant Oatmeal**
- **Granola Bars**
- **Pop Tarts**
- **Bottle Water**
- **Paper Products**

We will be collecting these items starting Sunday, May 3rd thru May 24th. Please place your donated items in the bin located by the coat rack at both services. If you would like to make a monetary donation, it would be greatly appreciated. You can submit your donation to the church office with the 'memo' marked MCREST.

Any questions, please contact Linda Baker at 248-515-1977 or [lbaker@sirco-associates.com](mailto:lbaker@sirco-associates.com)

**\* THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT \***  
**God Bless, UUMC MCREST Leadership Team**

### **United Women In Faith**

On Wednesday, May 13th the United Women in Faith will be meeting at noon for a potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Drinks will be provided.

Our speaker will be Deniese Krall, a Christian Author and a friend of Debbie Foskett. She will speak at 1:00.

# 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**

Earlier this month a group of volunteers from our church along with volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church and King of Kings gathered at Flickinger Elementary School to work side by side with the students.

On that day volunteers and students packaged over 11,000 Rice Pilaf Meals to be distributed through the organization "Kids Against Hunger" .

These meals will be dispersed throughout the Greater Detroit Area. Oh what a joyous morning that was for all in attendance.

**"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.  
Colossians 3:23-24**

In an effort to maintain a variety of food choices we could use the following items:

- **Cereal**
- **Peanut Butter**
- **Jelly**
- **Canned Meats**
- **Vegetables**
- **Fruit**

As always we are so grateful for the continued support and endless donations of food and money in order to keep the Mini Food Pantry stocked.

With Much Thanks,  
Jim and Liza, Cathie, Linda, Melanie and Ron and Martha

## **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.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Featured Library Book Life in Christ By John Stott

When I picked up this book and thumbed through its pages, I thought this book had it all. John Stott was a theologian, an author and a preacher. His style appeals to a new Christian as well as captivates a seasoned bible scholar.

Stott enhances his book with 14 classical art works which add to the meditative quality of the book. If you pick this book up, you won't put it down any time soon.

Call Numbers 238.43 in our church library



Join us for a night of fun,  
entertainment & baseball  
at UWM Field in Utica!



## A Night at the Ball Park

Tickets cost \$38.00 each

Join us for an evening of  
food, fun and fellowship  
while enjoying a baseball  
game.

Game is Friday, June 19th  
at 7:05pm. Gates open at  
6pm and food will be  
served starting at 6 until  
7:30pm.

All Laity will have sign up  
sheets and sell tickets after  
services.

## UTICA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SUMMER PICNIC

WOLFERS VS MAMMOTHS  
FRIDAY, JUNE 19 - 7:05 PM  
GATES OPEN 6 PM

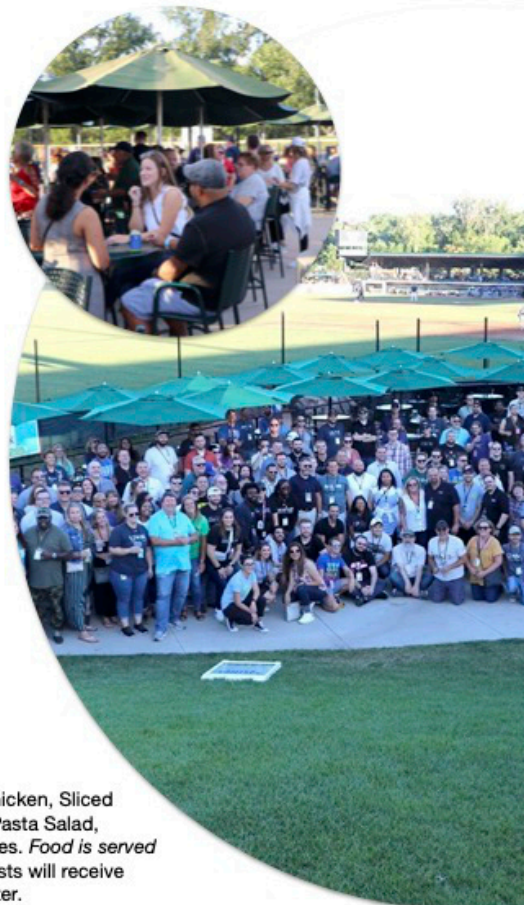
### Group Perks Include:

- Game seating in party patio area
- Group photo on the field
- Welcome message on the scoreboard
- Kids Run the Bases after the game
- Meet JJ the Field General, the bat dog
- Meet & Greet with a team mascot
- Free Parking
- Fireworks Spectacular after the game

### Enjoy an All American BBQ!

Premium Hot Dogs, Slow Roasted BBQ Pulled Chicken, Sliced Smoked Sausage with Peppers & Onions, Fresh Pasta Salad, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Potato Chips, and Cookies. Food is served starting when the gates open for 90 minutes. Guests will receive unlimited soft drinks, lemonade, iced tea, and water.

[PREVIEW YOUR EXPERIENCE HERE](#)



# 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>