



Weekly Messenger

May 8, 2026

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"Your Gifts Make A Difference"

Your generous giving from January 1 - April 30 provided the foundation for us to show God's love to others, grow together, and care for our community. We received \$114,880 for the Operating Fund. And, we received \$2,100 for Brighter Future Building Fund. In this same period, we disbursed \$130,125.

Our expenses-to-date represent approximately 30% of our 2026 Operating Fund needs. So, we are on-track to our budget. However, our giving-to-date is behind our expenses-to-date. Thankfully, we had a small amount of carry-forward from 2025 we were able to use.

We also received \$11,100 designated for ministries such as Warming Shelter, Missions, UMCOR, Human Relations, Native American Awareness, Mini Pantry, Haiti, and Liberian Kids' Scholarships. This additional giving enabled these ministries to show God's love and care for our community and others throughout the world.

Your giving went well beyond financial giving. It also included supporting:

- 102 hospitalized individuals helped through our Blood Drive at the end of January
- 85 guests (on average, daily) who were served through Winter Shelter the week of January 25th
- 20 children and youth (ages 12 - 17) who received Easter baskets filled with gifts, devotional books, hygiene items, and candy through MCHS Family of Services.

We continue to need about \$34,500 a month to meet our Operating Fund needs (e.g., compensation, utilities, property upkeep, conference ministry shares, music, and worship). Your gifts are deeply appreciated. Please remember to put your name on your offering envelope (even if you write a check). The envelopes are retained as records.

Our ministry opportunities in the next few months include: MCREST, United Women in Faith Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, Annual High Beam Car Show, Water for Liberia, and STARS+ Summer Camp. Your gifts of your time, talents, and treasure make a difference!

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

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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.

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

STARS+ SUMMER CAMP STARTS JUNE 15 YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

Our STARS+ Summer Day Camp program will run from June 15 – July 23 (Monday – Thursday). This year we will be focusing the program entirely on children ages 7 – 12. Registration is open and spaces are filling fast.

With your generosity and a grant from the United Methodist Union, we are able to offer this program **free to all participants**. The camp offers the children an **opportunity to learn how much God loves them**. Each week there are crafts, activities, Bible stories, and field trips. Every day the children are provided breakfast, lunch, and a snack.

This year we are inviting you to participate in these ways:

- 1. Sponsor a child** for \$10/day; or \$40/week; or **\$240 for the full 6 weeks**. Our goal is to sponsor 28 children. Mark STARS on your offering envelope or select STARS when using eGiving.
- 2. Show and tell the kids** about a hobby or talent or **something you love to do** as a special guest.
- 3. Serve in the kitchen** (flexible schedules).
- 4. Support the Bake Sale on Sunday, June 28.** Our goal is to raise \$1,500 to support the interns' salaries. (Watch for more information in June.)

We are excited Jennifer (our director for over 10 years) and our 3 interns from last year (Marissa, Brooke, and Jacob) will be returning. We're looking forward to seeing some of our campers return and meeting some new campers. It's certain to be a fun-filled, action-packed summer with lots of smiling faces!

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

*** 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

A Lineage of Grace

By Francine Rivers

What is a historical fiction novelist? The statement that Francine Rivers is a historical fiction novelist threw me for a loop as using the terms together made me think it was an oxymoron.

The book is broken into five novellas (a short story) about five biblical women who faced different challenges in life.

Book 1 – Unveiled–based on the story of Ruth

Book 2 – Unashamed–based on Rahab

Book 3 – Unshaken–based on Ruth

Book 4 – Unspoken based on Bathsheba

Book 5 – Unafraid based on Mary

Each woman had obstacles to conquer and would have heard whisperings behind their back, but each stood fast in their faith.

Call Numbers Fiction RIV in our church library



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



UTICA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SUMMER PICNIC

FOR THE U.S. 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](#)



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.

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!

Our Mission

Inviting people to rely
on Jesus to find
unexpected purpose,
peace and joy.



*"Like" us
on
Facebook!*

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



Watch the 11am service Live on our YouTube
Channel every Sunday morning

<https://www.youtube.com/@uticaumc5212/live>