



# Weekly Messenger

June 5, 2026

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Mini Pantry

Night at the Park

STARS+

Celebration of Life

Featured Library Book

Red Cross Blood Drive

MCREST Thank You

Back Page

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

## "Annual Conference"

The 2026 Annual Conference of the Michigan United Methodist Church ran from May 28-31, at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City.

Each year, the Conference is held under a theme, and this year's theme was drawn from the denomination's recently coined vision statement by our Council of Bishops, which states:

**"The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."**

From this vision statement, our Annual Conference has chosen its themes for three years:

2016-Love Boldly

2027-Serve Joyfully

2028-Lead Courageously

This year's theme, "Love Boldly, has its scriptural basis in both Matthew 22:37-39, which reads,

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbors as yourself."

The second scripture is: John 13:34-35, which reads:

A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, you must love one another.

Throughout the Annual Conference, not only were we, Michigan United Methodists encouraged and challenged to love boldly, but we demonstrated this tangibly by raising over \$35,000 during the Conference opening worship service to support our partner ministries in Haiti and the Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village in Liberia, to which our church contributed, and on Friday morning, your pastor joined over one hundred members of Annual Conference and packed over 4000, rice meal, with each meal being enough to feed a family of three. These are expected to be shipped to Honduras by the Midwest Ministry of our church.

Our missional impact in Haiti was also highlighted. Rev. Tiffany Newsom, co-chair of the Michigan Haiti Task Force, summarized how a February distribution of funds, to which we at Utica contributed, has made a difference. With those dollars, according to her, HAPI has relaunched a vocational course for 41 students and provided healthcare to 300 patients. Jeremie Rising offered 15 scholarships and held three clinics. Grace Hospital continues to care for children amid great turmoil. Grassroots Community Voices Foundation launched 20 mutual solidarity groups.

Finally, last year, our congregation supported several Advanced Projects of the General Board of Global Ministries, for Hatit, Water for Life in Liberia, etc. At Annual Conference, Jennifer Huff, representative of the General Board announced that the Michigan Conference led the entire denomination is giving to the Advanced, with gifts totaling \$1,274,931, for mission works around the world.

To God be the glory for all we do in and around our community as well as around the world.

# 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.

## **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 closed, we are full! Praise God!

**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!

**Thank you!**

Thank you to Jim Young and King of Kings Lutheran Church for gifting us with four security cameras which are up and running. Thanks to Todd Sample for setting them up.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Mini Food Pantry Update

**“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

## Featured Library Book

The Imitation of Christ  
By Thomas. A Kempis

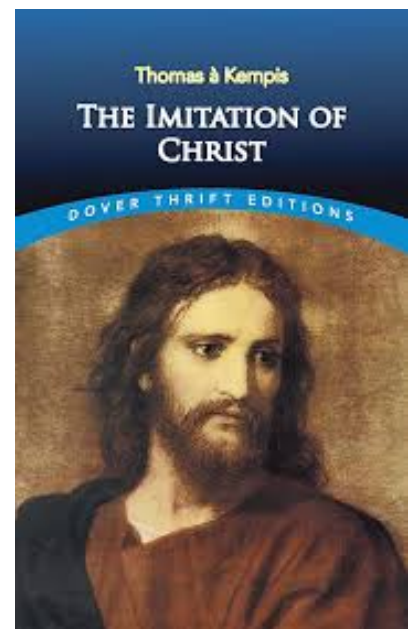
This book is amazing! It was written in the 15th century by a German- Dutch Catholic priest. The background of Thomas Kempis is incredible, and you must read his life history yourself as I will not tell you the end of the story and ruin your read.

Kempis wrote the book as a devotional. His work has definitely stood the test of time and has been translated into at least 55 languages.

From the forward of this great masterpiece.

One of the lessons our Lord teaches His followers is that we are not promised the whole of today. *The Son of Man will come in an hour when you do not expect him.* Matthew 24:44. Therefore, it is well for us to live our lives each day fully. You will say, perhaps, that your life is full, that you are on the go every minute. But we forget we are made up of a body and soul, and all this hyperactivity leaves no time for the soul to breathe.

Call Numbers in our church library are 242 Kemp



# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## A Night at the Ball Park - Last Call

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 6pm until 7:30pm.

You can pay by cash or check made out to Utica UMC and drop it off in the office.



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



## UTICA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SUMMER PICNIC

COLIFES 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

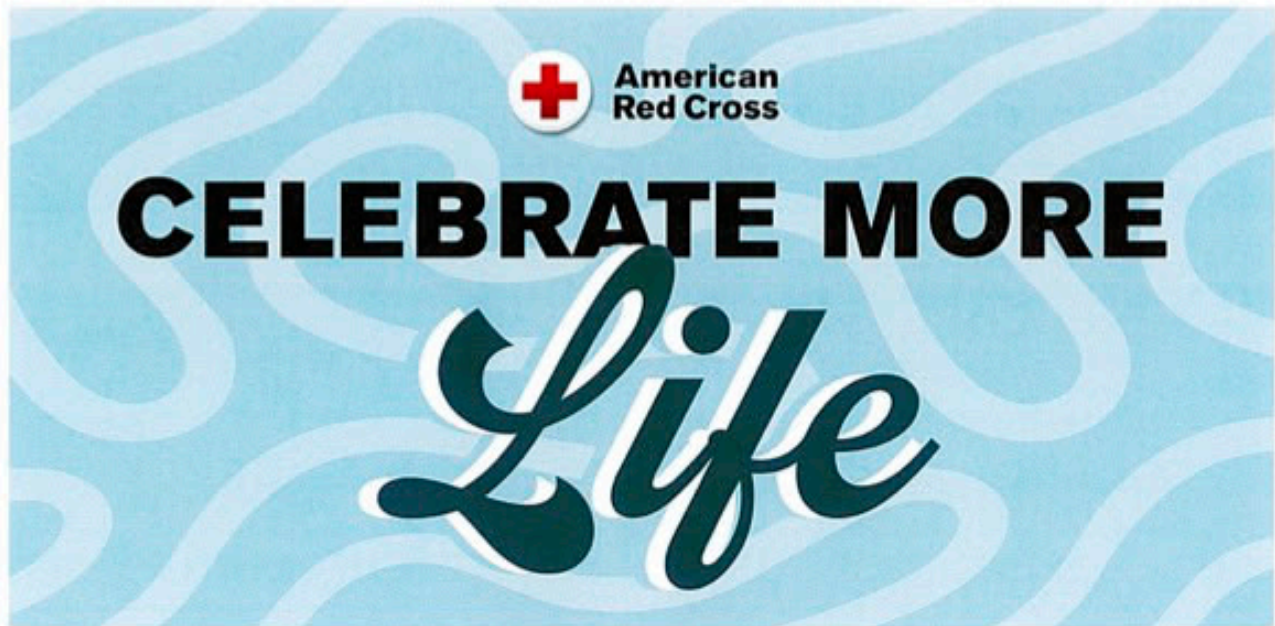
### Enjoy an All American BBQ!

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



## Blood Drive

### Utica United Methodist Church

8650 Canal, Sterling Heights

**Wednesday, June 17, 2026**  
**11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment, please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter sponsor code: UTICAUMC or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to RapidPass®

**Come to give blood 6/1-28 for a \$15 e-gift card + chance to win a \$7.5K prize! See [rcblood.org/June](http://rcblood.org/June).**



Scan to schedule an appointment.

## Give Blood.

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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[26] | Order ID: 1555573 | Item ID: 10070256 | Qty: 1 of 8 | 448504 | 2025-APL | 0148 | ARCL | 255298

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER



In Loving Memory of  
**Kirk Lawson**  
Please join us for a  
**Celebration of Life**

Thursday, June 11, 2026  
11:00 AM

Utica United Methodist Church  
8650 Canal Rd.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314

A luncheon will follow  
in the Fellowship Hall

Together, we will honor and remember  
Kirk's life, friendship, and the memories we share

In lieu of flowers please consider donations to  
Utica United Methodist Church Music Fund

A time of visitation will be at 10:30am ahead of the service.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## United Women In Faith

All women of the church are invited to attend the United Women in Faith meeting on Wednesday, June 10th in Fellowship Hall. We gather at noon for a potluck salad and dessert luncheon. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Drinks are provided.

At 1:00 our speaker will be Sarah Dollison, attorney from National Legacy Solutions Center, sharing with us about "Estate Planning."

## STARS SNACKS

We are in need of individually wrapped snacks and juice boxes for our STARS program. We do have a couple of allergies to keep in mind when purchasing snacks for the program. All snacks need to be **NUT FREE**, and new this year is a red dye allergy. That does not limit what snacks can be brought in, just as long as there are some snack options that do not contain red dye, we will be good.

### Suggested snacks:

- Pretzels
- Assorted bags of chips
- Goldfish crackers
- Animal Crackers
- Mini Muffins
- Fun pop freezer bars
- Fruit Snacks
- Kool-aid or Caprisun pouches
- Juice Boxes
- Apple Juice
- Mini Cookie pouches

Please drop-off snack items on the cart in the Narthex, under the church office window. These can be brought in on Sunday mornings or during office hours.

## Summer Office Hours

Office hours will be changing for the summer. The church office will be open Monday-Thursday 8am-2pm. The office will be closed on Fridays starting on June 19th through September 4th.

Deadline reminders -

Messenger Articles - Noon on Wednesday

Prayer list updates - Noon on Wednesday

Announcement Loop - End of day on Tuesday

All updates received after these deadlines will appear in the Messenger, Prayer List or Announcements the following week.

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

## Thank you - MCREST

On behalf of the UUMC MCREST Leadership Team, we would like to thank everyone that made a donation of food, money and time to help serve the shelter guests throughout the week with the MCREST program. We are very fortunate to have your support which helps us continue our mission work every year. We were able to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner each day to those experiencing homelessness. Thank you for your incredible generosity and giving hearts. Because of you, lives are being touched, needs are being met, and our church can continue to serve the community. As with every year, we sincerely enjoyed the opportunity to do God's work and your support ensures that we can continue this effort in the future.

Thank you again! God Bless!  
UUMC MCREST Leadership Team



# 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



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

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