

# themessenger

*"The Other Good News!"*



SUMMIT CHRISTIAN BREAKS THROUGH AND VISITS

# DETROIT

JULY 2017 **FREE!**



SOC Messenger



**By Matt Branham**  
Editor-in-chief

Preparing for the mission trip was a trip within itself.

After our voyage to Mexico last year, many of us wondered where Summit Christian was going to go to next. At the turn of the year, however, with the departures of senior minister Mike Martin and worship director Jenny Martin respectively, the question became more like what we were going to do next.

With the church committing its resources to filling its holes, it wasn't in any position to fund hardly anything extracurricular. It was still possible to have a mission trip, but it would have to be self-funded and not interfere with regular tithing. Hosting fundraising events would have used resources and be costly to the church, and donations were discouraged to avoid another mix-up

with taxes. There was a lot of other fine print, but that did little to dissuade anyone. The one day I said "Let's Do Something" was the day a Holy Spirit avalanche began to cascade.

There were a few meetings to help decide what we were going to do. By a narrow margin, Motown Mission was our top choice. I think it took a lot of people by surprise. It wasn't outside the country. It's not who we have ever we partnered with. It's in a place that's long since been economically buried and left for dead by the rest of America. Really, who would actually want to go to Detroit? By the time most of the money was due for the trip, only three people were committed.

The several weeks that followed was full of Satan trying to get me to cancel the trip. Nobody cared, right? Were we really going to make an impact? Was this all forced and just a waste of time? Could I even handle, let alone lead all this?

Not even two weeks before the trip, my doctor said I am "more than likely" bipolar. My last roommate from another church also had this condition, and he helped run a missions trip.

Want to know how that worked out? He collapsed, spent months in the hospital, and it took him years to recover. I was convinced this trip was going to kill me. I may as well have told everyone that the next Star Wars film was going to be an underwater noir love story filmed by some unknown director from Russia. There was simply no way this wasn't going to be a disaster.

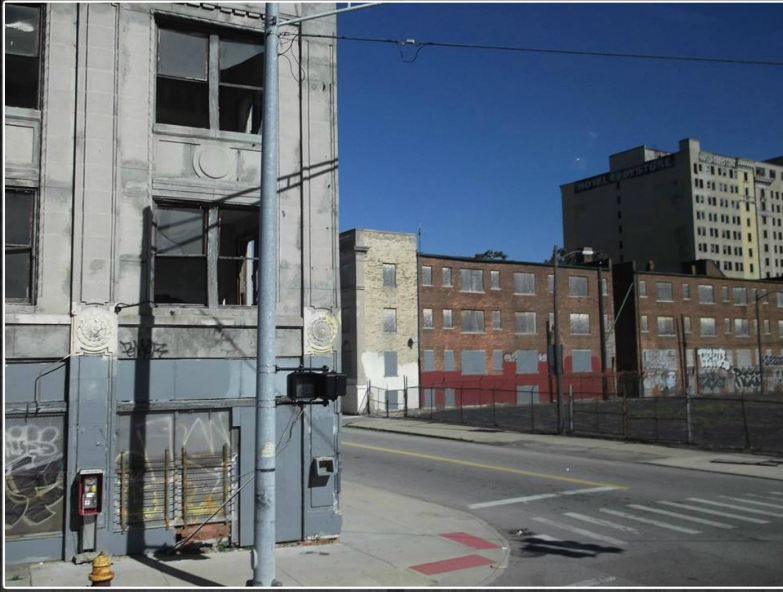
Except, it wasn't.

Within the last week of the registration deadline, the number enrolled more than tripled and had paid their balances in full. We ended up with a big enough group to actually work in two places in Detroit. Satan became desperate and began to throw everything he

could into our plans, but our God was not having it. Not even some unexpected expenses or doing a last minute search for a different group vehicle dampened our spirits. The end result was full of laughs and brokenness, rededicated and new followers of Christ, and memories that will last forever.

A special thanks goes out to everyone who have participated in this trip, as well as the leaders and elders of Summit Christian for their support. We would also like to thank everyone else who provided us with supplies and other important things. The United Metropolitan Methodist Church and Motown Mission were very hospitable, and it was an honor and a privilege to work alongside them to help rebuild Detroit. Most importantly, none of this would have been possible without our Lord leading the way through.

See you next mission!



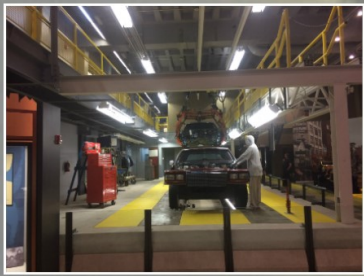
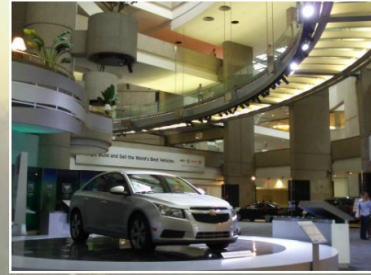
## THE OUTSKIRTS

The Messenger Newsletter is a publication for the church by the church. If you have a story, prayer, event, or announcement that you would like to share, please submit it to the church office by e-mail or hard copy by no later than the last Sunday of this month. Information for the church bulletin is due every Friday at 6pm, as well as any verbal announcements for our Sunday service.

OFFICE HOURS: 2pm - 6pm (WED, FRI, SAT)

EMAIL: church@summitchristian.org

—DOWNTOWN DETROIT—



—HISTORICAL MUSEUM—



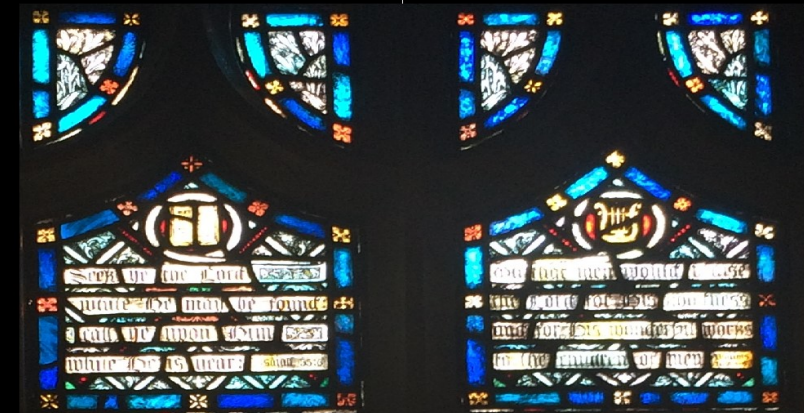


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other businesses to help children living in low income areas. They recycle 28 tons of industrial scraps annually, serving 275,000 children with active learning and creativity.

# United Metropolitan



The Metropolitan United Methodist Church was completed in 1926, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, and designated a Michigan State Historic Site in 1986. It is often regarded as a National Church within the United States as it was specifically established by the General Conference to be a "representative presence of Methodism in the nation's capital". By the mid-1930s, the congregation was the largest local church in the Methodist world. Church membership peaked in 1943 at 7,300

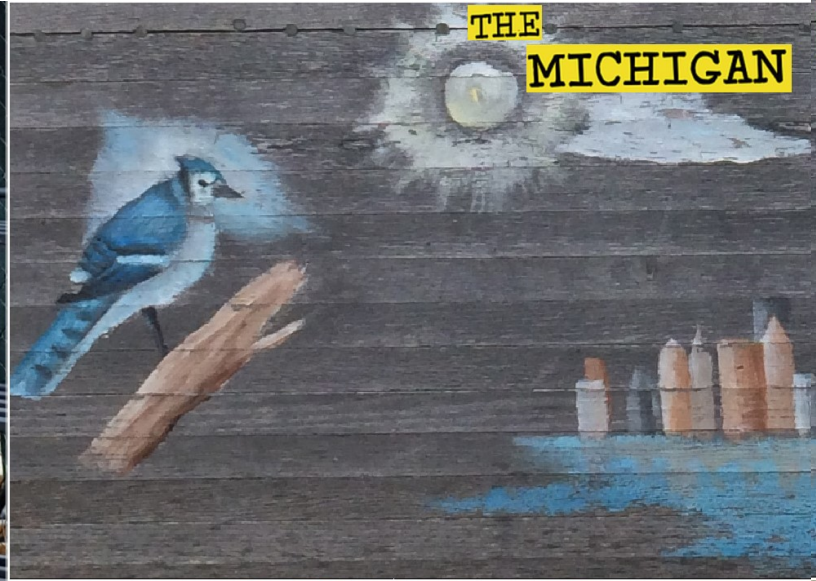
# n Methodist Church



members. The church is a very large structure in the English Gothic style, built from a distinctive ochre granite from Massachusetts. It is built in a traditional cruciform design buttressed with several low side wings and a gabled roof. The sanctuary occupies the

the western half of the building while the eastern half contains an auditorium, offices and classrooms. A hallway on the main level separates the sanctuary from the auditorium, and can be retracted to allow seating for up to 7,000 with a view of the chancel.

SOURCE: Wikipedia



The Michigan Urban Farming Initiative is an all-volunteer organization that seeks to engage members of the community in sustainable agriculture. Founded in 2011 by University of Michigan students, their primary focus is the redevelopment of a three-acre area in Detroit's North End, which is being positioned as an epicenter of urban agriculture.



# URBAN FARMING INITIATIVE



This space is heavily themed by "adaptive reuse of the built-environment" in which they are aiming to demonstrate everything from best practices for sustainable urban agriculture, effective strategies for increasing food security, cost-competitive and scalable models for blight deconstruction, and innovation in Blue and Green infrastructure.

# WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?

Looking to serve in other ways this year? You don't have to go far... or even spend anything!



## Church Work Day

**WHERE:** Summit Christian Church

**WHEN:** Saturday, July 29th

**COST:** -

The church property is just like your property. There are weeds in the flower beds, grass growing in the gutters, and many other things that are either out of place or shouldn't be there. The only way that it can be fixed is if you lend a hand. Sign up today and join Dave Pulay from 8:30am to 12:30pm on July 29th. Let's do this!



## Night of Hope

**WHERE:** Celebration Church

**WHEN:** Reoccurring monthly

**COST:** -

Celebration Church runs their "Night of Joy" program every month to help the impoverished people in Akron get back on their feet. There's always a need for packers, hair stylists, counselors, medical assistants, and more. The next opportunity to help out at Celebration Church will be July 27th.

There are also a few field trips full of personal growth and worship that we can do before the end of the year as well:



## Hillsong Conference

**WHERE:** Los Angeles, CA

**WHEN:** November 2 - 4

**COST:** \$\$\$\$

With a solid lineup of speakers and one of the biggest names of contemporary Christian music, this conference will surely inspire and equip us with practical tools that will benefit our local church. The entry cost is steep, but a round trip flight to and from LA may be cheaper than you think.



## Night of Joy

**WHERE:** Disney World

**WHEN:** September 8 - 9

**COST:** \$\$\$

Every September, Disney World hosts a few evenings filled with gospel, hip-hop, pop, rock, praise and adult contemporary music from today's best Christian music artists. We can also add one day at the Magic Kingdom for pretty cheap!



## Brooklyn Tabernacle Music Conference

**WHERE:** New York City, NY

**WHEN:** Sep. 28 - Oct. 1

**Cost:** \$\$\$\$

Everyone attending the conference will be learning new songs with The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, worshipping the Lord collectively, and enjoying times of prayer so that we could be better equipped to touch more lives with the love of Jesus.

Here are some options to consider for a mission trip next year...



## Motown Mission

**WHEN:** Spring - Summer TBA

**COST:** \$\$

Remember them? Motown Mission generally runs programs that last for a whole week, but we were fortunate to participate in their only half week program. Registration is already open for next year's half week program, which will take place before Independence Day. For any other week, we may be better off buying a church van or school bus first.



## Mountain Tough

TBA

**COST:** \$\$\$

This was a fairly popular option this year, and there are many areas in Eastern Tennessee affected by the Appalachian wildfires that still need help.



## YWAM Ensenada

Summer TBA

**COST:** \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Summit Christian has visited Baja California numerous times in the past to build houses and serve the community. The price tag can potentially reach four digits, and we generally need help to cover the expenses, but that pales in comparison to the life changing and humbling experience the trip provides.

As I said before, whatever we do next should not affect our regular church tithings, and the church still might not be able to help. But if there's enough interest in anything in particular, well...

...who knows what might happen?

# LET'S HEAR FROM THE VOLUNTEERS!

## What was your favorite part of the trip?

**Mary:** Working on craft supplies, hauling mulch, stones, and other things around with the wheel barrel!

**Matt:** Detroit knows how to eat. SLOW'S BAR BQ is a must visit.

**Pam:** My favorite part of the trip was the fellowship among the brethren. It's one thing to fellowship on Sunday morning but it's truly something much different when you get to really know a person one on one. God has a way of stripping off the glamour when we are one on one.

**Phyllis:** The interaction between the other church group that was there from Princeton, Illinois, and seeing the community working together to rebuild Detroit.

## What surprised you about Detroit?

**Mary:** How close it is to Canada. It's right across the river!

**Matt:** I felt pretty safe there, and the people I've met with were very open and talkative.

**Pam:** My biggest surprise was how well we worked together and how hard everyone worked. The last day was back-breaking work and yet we got it done. God just kept supplying the energy to keep going until the job was finished.

**Phyllis:** The devastation of the houses and the architecture of the city.

## What was difficult?

**Mary:** Leaving because it felt like we weren't there long enough.

**Matt:** Driving a 15-passenger van to and from Detroit was not easy.

**Pam:** The most difficult was getting up at the crack of dawn. I don't like getting up early.

**Phyllis:** The heat was bearing down when we were outside gardening, moving mulch, and weeding.

## Tell us about the people you met!

**Mary:** Everyone was pretty nice.

**Matt:** The staff at the UMC were very hospitable. A lot of people in the surrounding neighborhoods are proud of their city, and very optimistic about the future.

**Pam:** I loved the people. I'm a people person so I love the meeting of others. I love seeing our LORD working through others. The staff and their associates were God-sent. They

were knowledgeable of their jobs and were very capable of instructing. They all seem to love what they did, which made it easy to follow their direction.

**Phyllis:** Wonderful, spirit filled group of people. The teenagers here had a strong love for the Lord. They were excited to share the Word and were willing to work!

## What is God teaching you as you get back into your routine here?

**Mary:** Don't be such a homebody.

**Matt:** If God is allowing something to happen, there's no need to sweat the small stuff.

**Pam:** When I see all the things that came up against us to stop this trip, it let me know that our LORD was for us. So when God is for us, who can be against us? So I'll take courage and press on when things look impossible. God will always come through.

**Phyllis:** To make more conscious decisions regarding our community in Akron, OH. We need to do something to help our own!



Summit Christian Church  
133 South Hawkins Ave.  
Akron, OH 44313

## MAN PULLED OVER FOR DRIVING INTO ONCOMING TRAFFIC ASSURES OFFICERS HE IS JUST LIVING HIS OWN TRUTH

**DETROIT, MI**—After merging onto the wrong side of the I-94, causing his car to hurtle toward oncoming traffic at over 80 miles per hour, local man Jonathan Townsend was apprehended by authorities, but was later released upon telling highway patrol officers he was simply living out his own truth, sources confirmed Wednesday.

Townsend managed to drive nearly three miles, dodging oncoming cars and semi trucks, before

a highway patrol vehicle forced him to exit onto Grand River Ave and pull over to the side of the road.

As officers approached Townsend's vehicle, he appeared to be cooperative,

raising his hands and exiting the car as instructed. Townsend then reportedly shouted toward the officers that "I'm just doing me!" and "Who are you to judge the path I've chosen?!"

Townsend's arguments resonated with the highway patrol officers, who conferred with one another and then agreed to let Townsend go on his way down the wrong side of the busy interstate.

"We had to let him go. Our hands were tied," officer Gordon Howes told reporters. "He's living out his own truth, and if that includes driving at a high rate of speed toward thousands of oncoming cars, well, who are any of you to condemn him?"

"My truth is objective, while the rest of you are just going every which-a-way!" the driver shouted.



### IN OTHER NEWS:

Hidden Bible Code Contains Casserole Recipe

Man's Entire Theology Derived From Inspirational Quotes On Instagram

