



# The Messenger

## January 2024

## Contact Us

Pastor Tim Dibble

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248-622-9514

**Pastor's Email:**  
[revtcd@yahoo.com](mailto:revtcd@yahoo.com)

## Office

## Administrator

Fiona Dibble

**Church Office Phone:**  
(231) 894-5789

**Church Email:**  
[whitelakeunitedmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:whitelakeunitedmethodist@gmail.com)

**Website:**  
[www.whitelakeumc.com](http://www.whitelakeumc.com)

**Address:**  
White Lake UMC  
Montague Campus  
8555 Cook Street  
Montague, MI 49437

Praise Center  
of White Lake UMC  
117 S. Division Street  
Whitehall, MI 49461

## ***From the Pastor's Desk . . .***

***"On Christ the solid Rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand".***

As I was praying recently and my heart was drawn to reflecting on the year just passing and the New Year before us, I was reminded of this old standard hymn whose lyrics are just as relevant today as the day they were penned. Through these words I was reminded, and I share with you, that in all things and in all circumstances:

***My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' Name.***

I know that many of us and our friends and family have faced difficult challenges in 2023 and that at times these challenges have seemed insurmountable, but there is still hope. The hope that is born of faith in God, a personal relationship with Christ, and discipleship led by the Holy Spirit.

***When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.***

As the New Year begins, we need to remind ourselves who we are – sons and daughters of Almighty God – in whom we trust – Jesus our Christ – and in and through whom we find the wisdom, common sense, and strength to faithfully live each day – the Holy Spirit. As members of Christ's Church, we have accepted God's promises that we know through studying His Word, speaking with God in prayer, and experiencing God's Grace through both our own lives and the lives of those around us.

***His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my Hope and Stay.***

# Vision Statement

Worship God  
Follow Jesus  
Love and Serve All

## Sunday Morning Services

**9:00 am**

Traditional Service  
White Lake UMC  
Montague Campus  
8555 Cook Street  
Montague

**11:00 am**

Praise Band Service  
Praise Center  
Of White Lake UMC  
117 S. Division Street  
Whitehall, MI 49461

## Church Office Hours

Mon 10am – 3.30pm  
Tues 12noon – 3.30pm  
Wed 10am – 3.30pm  
Thurs 10am – 3.30pm  
Fri 10am – 3.30pm

White Lake UMC  
Montague Campus

As Christians, we recognize that God keeps His promises to us, but do we keep our promises to God? As members of the United Methodist Church generally and White Lake United Methodist Church specifically we promise to be loyal to Christ through the Church and to do all in our power to strengthen its ministries by faithfully participating in its ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness! I ask myself and call you to ask yourselves, are we living up to the covenantal promises we have made to God? Are we, in fact and in practice, a beacon of light and a trumpeting horn of faith in our church, our families, and our community? As individuals are we true to God's calling in our lives? Are we offering all that we are and all that we have to God's use in building His Kingdom? Are we ready to stand before our Lord and Savior to be judged for our faithfulness?

***When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in Him be found. Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.***

It is this image of victory that I hope and pray for your lives this New Year. An image of victory in the face of uncertainty, insecurities, and even tragedy. An image of discipleship spreading the sounds of the Good News like a trumpet call to one another and to those whom we love and live among. Lives dressed in the full armor of God gleaming with faith and prayer and ready to march into the future before us and on towards our heavenly goal of one body in Christ as the people of White Lake United Methodist Church! Hallelujah! For it is on Christ the solid rock we stand!

God bless!

*Rev. Jinty JTT*



# PRAYER

**Prayer Request Card** – are available on our Welcome Desk in the Welcome Center at both campuses. Fill it out and hand to Pastor Tim on Sunday mornings.

- **Instant Messenger on church Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/WhiteLakeUnitedMethodist>).
- This is a private message service that Pastor Tim monitors. Pastor Tim also tries to monitor postings/updates that many share on the church Facebook page.
- **NEW Church Website will** have a Prayer Request page that folks can send a message through that will be monitored and picked up by the pastor.
- **Weekly Printed Announcements** – It is our plan to continue to publish our Prayer List here each week. Feel free to take a copy home to use as a guide for your prayers during the week!
- **Monthly Newsletter** – We will publish our existing Prayer List each month.
- **Contact the Pastor/Church Office** – phone or email the Church Office to make a specific prayer request of Pastor Tim.
- **For prayer requests to our Prayer Chain** please contact Martha Tanis at 231-894-8525 or Laura Kiel at 231-894-9253. They are responsible for starting the Prayer Chain.
- **To be added to the Prayer Chain**
- **e-mail list to receive notifications of new prayer requests**, please e-mail Jan Dyer at [jareyd@aol.com](mailto:jareyd@aol.com). We can never have too many folks praying!



## Prayer Chain

White Lake United Methodist church has a prayer chain that people can contact with prayer requests. There is part of the prayer chain where the prayer requests are passed along by phone and part that is sent out by email. If you would like to join either, you can contact Martha Tanis 231 894-8525 or 231 215-8325 or Jan Dyer- [jareyd@aol.com](mailto:jareyd@aol.com). This is a wonderful way to take part in supporting your brothers and sisters in Christ, when they need it the most.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Prayers that Rebekah Hayden (Pastor Tim & Fiona's daughter) will continue to gain strength now that she is home.
- Deloris DeHoff is homebound after a bad fall last week. Prayers for healing.
- For Pat Howell, Ted Boyden's neighbor who is having surgery today following a fall & broken hip.
- Prayers for Wanda Lee & Bob Suits as they continue to cope with serious health problems.
- Eileen Cockerill is struggling with serious health issues.

## 2024 Michigan Conference Special Sunday Offerings

January 14<sup>th</sup>

Human Relations Day

March 10<sup>th</sup>

UMCOR Sunday

April 14<sup>th</sup>

Native American Sunday

May 12<sup>th</sup>

Golden Cross Sunday

May 26<sup>th</sup>

Peace with Justice Sunday

August 25<sup>th</sup>

Christian Education Sunday

September 8<sup>th</sup>

Rural Life Sunday

October 6<sup>th</sup>

World Communion Sunday

October 13<sup>th</sup>

Disability Awareness Sunday

November 24<sup>th</sup>

United Methodist Student Sunday



**No Choir or bell choir practice during January. We will be enjoying some special music from our own musicians and singers.**

### Hallelujah Kids Chorus

Thanks to everyone who came to support our lovely kids at their first Hallelujah Kids Chorus performance. They did a splendid job, and we are looking forward to hearing from them again soon.



*hallelujah*

## A note from our Treasurer, Carla Heaton, and Leadership Team

Thank you to everyone for your generosity this Advent season!

Though it didn't look possible in mid-November,  
we have managed to pay our Ministry Shares  
and all other obligations in full for 2023  
with funds leftover to begin the new year.

Your Leadership Team is very grateful and is looking  
forward to more opportunities for ministry in 2024.

God has blessed us, every one!

## CHURCH LIBRARY



After many years of faithful service, our sister Sandy has decided it's time to give up care of the church library, housed at our Montague campus. We offer her our heartfelt thanks for all the work she has done in keeping the library shelves stocked and orderly.

We need a new librarian. It's not a job that takes up a huge number of hours, but being well organized is essential. A love of reading is a bonus! If you would like to contribute some time to this wonderful church we call home, please speak to Sandy, or call in at the office.

# Renewing Our Covenant Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 2024

9am at the Montague campus

11am at the Praise Center



## Our Worship Series For Epiphany

January 14<sup>th</sup> 2024 – “Bread & Bath” – Mark 1:4-11

January 21<sup>st</sup> 2024 – “Beyond Belief” – John 1: 43-51

January 28<sup>th</sup> 2024 – “Beyond the Horizon” – Mark 1: 14-20

February 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 – “Beyond the Chaos” – Mark 1: 29-39

February 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 – “Beyond the Fear” – Mark 9: 2-9

**BREAD, BATH & BEYOND**

### DOMINOES

The Ladies Domino Group is popular but full.

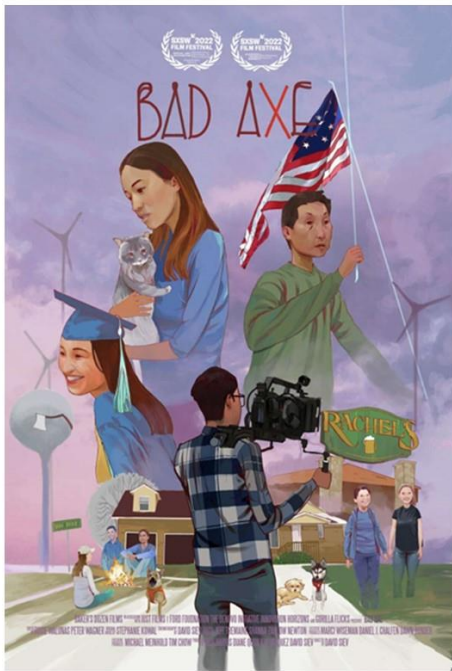
A new group may be started by popular demand! If you and your friends would like to meet to form another group to play Train style dominoes, please contact the church office or Barb Lloyd at 894-2543. The ideal group is 4 to 7 players.



If you don't know how to play the game, there will be instructions! If you can match colors and numbers on a domino, you will love this pastime. Lots of laughs (and maybe treats) are to be had. The date and time of the game play are to be determined by the players.

PS There is a possibility of a men's game too!

# Faith Formation



## Peace with Justice



You are invited to join us in watching the  
documentary movie

## 'Bad Axe'

Followed by discussion

A social documentary, real-time portrait of 2020 unfolds as an Asian-American family in rural America fights to keep their restaurant and American dream alive in the face of a pandemic, Neo-Nazis, and generational scars from the Killing Fields.

White Lake UMC  
Montague Campus  
8555 Cook Street  
Montague, MI 49437

Tuesday, February 6th 2024 at 6pm

Light meal provided  
Discussion facilitated by Tom Hinken  
Call 231 894 5789 for more information

## WHITE LAKE UMC FAMILY CAMP-OUT

Please contact Ruth Tuttle if you plan on coming to camp this summer. The proposed dates are August 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> – that's right, it's going to be longer than a weekend! You can always come along for just part of the week. We need a base count on those wishing to attend to ensure we have enough tent/platform/cabin spots available for everyone. Call Ruth on 517 902 6112 or call the church office. Let's make this a camp to remember.

## WEEKLY FAITH GROUPS

**MONDAY 1pm – Faith Group with Ruth G (@ Praise Center)**  
**‘Women in the Bible’**

**TUESDAY 10am – Faith Group with Ruth T (@Montague)**  
**‘6 Ways We Encounter God.’ A study by Tom Berlin.**

**WEDNESDAY 5.30pm – Sister’s Group (@Montague)**  
**‘Painting the Stars’. Science, religion and an evolving faith.**

**7pm – Faith Group with Ken W (@Montague)**  
**‘On Purpose. Finding God’s voice in your passion.’**

**THURSDAY 10am – Faith Group with Fred N (@Praise Center)**  
**‘On Purpose. Finding God’s voice in your passion.’**

**7pm—Faith Group for non-readers with Fiona**  
**‘Stories that Jesus told’(@ Praise Center)**

**7pm – Faith Group with Pastor Tim (@ Praise Center)**  
**‘The Gospel of John’**

## 2024 Faith Groups

As we kick off a brand-new year, why not take part in one of our Faith Groups. That would be a great New Year’s resolution that you can actually keep! Each is starting a new study over the next week. It is always a good time to share with our brothers and sisters in Christ, learn something new about our God, and spend time in fellowship.

**Bible Study  
With  
Pastor Tim  
Thursday  
Evenings  
7:00 p.m.  
At  
The Praise  
Center  
All Welcome!**

# The Gathering

Free Meals & Good Company



**Thursdays**  
**6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**



**Saturdays**  
**12:00 – 1:00 pm**



**Meals take place at The Praise Center  
of White Lake UMC  
117 S. Division St.  
Whitehall, MI 49461**

**If you are interested in volunteering to help with meals, please  
contact the church office at 231-894-5789.**



## **Santa at The Gathering**

Santa has been calling in at The Gathering during the Holiday season. What a jolly elf!

Thanks to the Whitehall National Honors Society for their hard work, as well as all our teams for your work throughout the year.

Thanks to all the wonderful people who helped in any way with this event.

**N** urture  
**O** utreach  
**W** itness



**N** urture  
**O** utreach  
**W** itness

## WEDNESDAY DOLLAR DINNERS

White Lake UMC  
Montague Campus  
8555 Cook Street  
Montague

**For info call #231 894 5789**

Everyone is welcome to join us for dinner at 5pm each Wednesday, at our Montague Campus. Want to help make this a success? There's a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center—join a team!

## DOLLAR DINNERS

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. Many hands make light work. These meals provide not only food, but also company and fellowship to both church members, and the community. Why not get together with a few friends and volunteer to cook a meal as a team? We really need folks to help keep this program running.



## SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME

The sign-up sheet for future dates is in the Welcome Center (Montague campus). Donations of cookies or treats can be left in either of our kitchens. We have recently had a few new faces coming to our services. Please be sure to introduce yourself and make all feel welcome!



## White Lake Community Free Store



Located at 117 S. Division St.  
Whitehall, MI 49461  
(Inside the Praise Center)

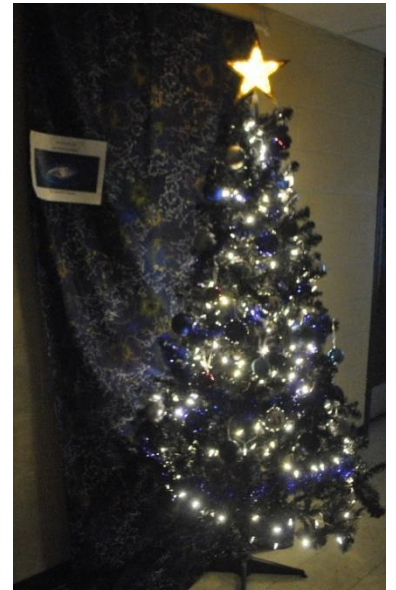


Open Thursday 5 – 8 pm  
Saturdays 11am – 2pm

We are currently in need of the following items :-  
Personal hygiene items – shampoo, soaps, lotions, and feminine products etc.  
Small bottles of laundry detergent and dish soap.  
Winter coats, boots, hats, gloves etc.

# Christmas Tree Festival

A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our first Christmas Tree Festival happen. What a beautiful sight it was to see all the trees adorned with lights and ornaments around our Montague building. Thank you to Santa for making the time to join us during his busiest time of year. Thank you to Suzanne Cox for baking the sugar cookies for kids to decorate. Thank you to the Sister's Faith Group for packaging the candy gifts. Thanks to the United Women in Faith for setting up their craft stall, as well as donating cookies for sale. Thank you to all the folks who helped build, decorate, and organize the trees. Thank you to Ruth Carson for sharing her musical gifts throughout the event, and to Karen Welter for playing her cello on Saturday. For all the magical sights and sounds we give thanks!



Visitors voted for their favorite trees. The Grenell family's 'Peace on Earth' tree received the most votes, followed by 'The Tree of Remembrance' from our Grief Share ladies. Every one of the trees had their own charm. The youth group tree was a fun offering, depicting a luge with candy sleds whooshing down it.

Thanks also to all the folks who came to visit us during the event. We are looking forward to 2024 – bigger and better!



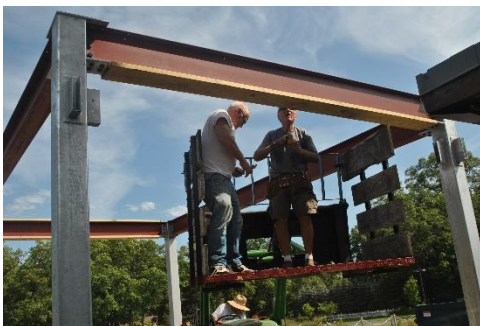
## Canopy Project Support: Dick Baerman, Trustee

We at the WLUMC are blessed with a most talented, hardworking, and persistent congregation. We, with an incredibly huge support team, were able to pull off a project that was to cost upwards of \$131,423. We will, when all is said and done, come in with the financial value of \$92,172. This may even be less as we finish the brick work and landscaping outside and trim work inside. Nevertheless, we have created a wonderful addition to our building. Given the financial condition of our general fund, it was even more important to provide a kind of moral, financial, and physical support to a project that was initiated in 2018 and put on the back burner in 2019 as COVID raised its ugly head.



Claire and Ray Schlaff, in 2017, supported the initial architectural processes giving us the design, which Claire had a hand in, and the blueprints that were used in the initial bidding process. Once the initial bids were in, in 2018, we could then pick a contractor. We were about to do that when the process came to a screeching halt. COVID had landed at our door and stopped most of the processes continuing. Once we gathered our thoughts, a couple of years later we went out for bid updates from our bidders. WOW, what a shock that was. These newest bids would put this project on hold for another year. The construction costs went way up, 30 to as much as 60% of the original quotes and caused us to rethink our Canopy Project.

Now, 2022, we reconsidered the project. We went to the Leadership Team and were given the go ahead for beginning the work. We had drawings and bids that were way too high, causing us to consider alternatives. We went back to our winning bidder, Winberg, to discuss ways to make this project less costly and yet get the design we wanted. Brad, from Winberg, said that they would work with us and our team of talented, hardworking, and persistent people to reduce the costs to a level for which we were funded. Remember, we had put out a call for financial support? It was answered incredibly well but short of what we needed. So, we began this project in June of 2023 with around 70% of the funds needed to complete the project as bid.



Now, it's almost complete and we can say WE DID IT. I have not done the final accounting, but the numbers are well within reach. I will provide a spreadsheet as I am able. Carla Heaton and I will get together to finish the numbers when all is said and done. We may have to leave some funds available for the brick work and landscaping that may have to wait until Spring for completion.

It did take us a long time from start to finish on this project, but it is and will be worth it. We had to put up with the availability of material and resources from our

contractor(s). We worked with them to make sure we were not the holdup. Our contractor was incredible, allowing us to use equipment they provided which would have cost us much more money. All things considered, we did well with our resources to get to this point of completion.

Now, a HUGE thank you to those without whom would not have been able to begin, let alone complete the canopy.

A special thanks to two of our own who lent us their professional expertise:

Jack Grenell, Electrical, allowed us to use his license to do all the electrical work for the new lighting in the Welcome Center and the canopy itself. THANKYOU!

Dan Parsons, whose incredible construction expertise allowed us to put in our new Welcome Center ceiling as well as some of the canopy. THANKYOU!



Now to the rest of us who helped build, advise, and loan equipment to our Canopy Project:

Denny Atchison, Dave Macdonald, John Lloyd, Ken Wentworth, Sue Lloyd, Bob Tuttle, Jim Tanis, Jeff Dillen, Tim Todd, Jeff Petersen, Sue Petersen, Ray Schlaff, Larry Lindquist, Suzanne Cox, Fiona Dibble(pictures), Dennis Cederquist, Glen Naghtin, Carla Heaton (financial progress), Tonja Stembol (funding progress), Karen Stembol. THANKYOU!

The list of financial donors is not mentioned in this writing. Some may wish to be anonymous, however without them we couldn't have even started. Our team wishes them to know that we used those funds judiciously, thoughtfully, and completely. THANKYOU!

### **CANOPY DEDICATION**

The new canopy was dedicated right after worship service at the Montague Campus on Dec. 3, 2023.

We have two items to complete the project. There will be oak wood trim to cover where the inner doors were on the brickwork and the lower brick work at the base of the legs supporting the canopy outdoors. These will be done in the spring of 2024. At that time a complete accounting of the project will be given.



Thank you to all who made this project possible. The canopy is so practical as it is a sheltered entryway and so beautiful as it enhances the welcoming appearance of the church building.

John Lloyd, Team Leader



Next meeting: - January 8<sup>th</sup>,2023

At the Montague Campus

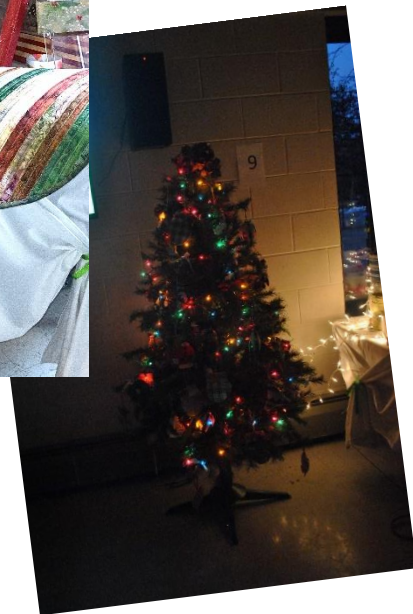
DURING JANUARY WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT PERSONAL HYGENE ITEMS, SOAPS, AND BABYWIPES FOR THE FREE STORE!  
PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN. ITEMS CAN BE LEFT AT THE OFFICE AT THE MONTAGUE CAMPUS OR TAKEN TO THE PRAISE CENTER.

United Women of Faith would like to Thank all who provided items for sale, baked, made candy, or worked at our recent Bazaar and The Christmas Tree Festival. Your generosity enabled us to give \$2,500.00 to the church general fund. Thanks again for your support.



Pictured here are the craft stall and Christmas tree from the lovely ladies at UWF.

Thank you for taking part in the Tree Festival.



**The deadline for the February newsletter is Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**Happy New Year!**

**The Church office will be closed on**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**



## Youth Group

at The Praise Center  
Sundays from 4 – 6pm  
(unless otherwise stated)



Congratulations to our youth and their leaders for their brilliant Christmas tree with a luge theme. Little candy sleds can be seen rushing down the ribbon slopes. Wonderful!



## **Health Ministries**

### Next Blood Pressure Checks

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Get your blood pressure checked  
free of charge after church.  
(both services)

Know Your Numbers!

## **MEMORIAL BRICKS with BRICKMARKERS**

Many of you will no doubt remember this worthwhile project. It provides us with a simple, but effective way to erect memorials to our loved ones, whilst giving much needed funds to our church.

Here's how it works!

1) Place an order for your brick(s)

- a. Supply the information to be engraved on it (by paper form or online). We will make this really easy.
- b. Pay \$60.00 for a standard 4"x 8" brick, which allows up to 3 lines of print of up to 20 characters each (engraved pictures/logos are available, too, but you have to give up some print space.
- c. Or, pay \$90.00 for an 8"x 8" brick, which allows up to 6 lines of print of up to 20 characters each.
- d. Wait until the day you see your new brick on the wall or walkway!

2) At both the Montague Campus and Whitehall Campus there will be:

- a. An area for "Memorial" bricks for loved ones who have died, whether recently or a long time ago.

Typically, this means the brick will contain a name or names and years of birth and death. There will even be a separate section to memorialize pets.

- b. An area for "celebratory" bricks, such as your family name or celebrations of weddings, births, graduations, silver and gold anniversaries, or anything else you wish to commemorate.

For the most part, it is just that simple!

If you prefer to pay by check [CLICK HERE](#) to download the printable order form.

Call in at the church office for help or further information.



# November 2023 Finance Report

As seen below, November was a rough month, due to three pay periods (there are only 4 months of the year that have 3 pay periods instead of 2) and slightly lower than average income. However, the congregation responded to the financial concerns with very generous giving in December. Therefore, we are back in the black and expect to be close to 100% on our apportionment giving for the year. Thank you all for your generous support!

<b>October 2023 Finance Report</b>		
	<b>October 2023</b>	<b>Percentage of Expense Budget</b>
Designated Funds Income	20,767.81	
General Fund Income	20,872.87	86.73%
General Fund Expenses	24,067.34	100.00%
General Fund Checkbook Balance	5,622.84	
Monthly Expense Budget	24,066.77	

<b>November 2023 Finance Report</b>		
	<b>October 2023</b>	<b>Percentage of Expense Budget</b>
Designated Funds Income	4,432.00	
General Fund Income	19,031.00	79.08%
General Fund Expenses	26,646.74	110.72%
General Fund Checkbook Balance	-5,391.92	
Monthly Expense Budget	24,066.77	



# January Events at a Glance

- 1<sup>st</sup> Church Office Closed
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grief Share – Montague Campus 1pm
- 6<sup>th</sup> Leadership Team Meeting 10am at The Praise Center
- 7<sup>th</sup> Communion Sunday – Holy Communion served at both services.
- 8<sup>th</sup> UWF Meeting at Montague Campus 10am
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grief Share – Montague Campus 1pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> Stewardship Meeting – Montague Campus 11.30am
- 14<sup>th</sup> Special offering – Human Relations Sunday
- 16<sup>th</sup> Grief Share – Montague Campus 1pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Stewardship Meeting – Montague Campus 11.30am
- 21<sup>st</sup> Blood Pressure Checks after service at each campus
- 25<sup>th</sup> Stewardship Meeting – Montague Campus 11.30am

<b>WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES, FAITH GROUPS, BIBLE STUDIES AND MORE</b> <b>CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (231) 894 5789 FOR MORE DETAILS</b>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9am WORSHIP @ Montague  11am WORSHIP @ Praise Center  4-6pm YOUTH GROUP @ Praise Center	U.W.F. 1ST MONDAY OF MONTH 10am  1pm Faith Group @ Praise Center  6.30pm NA MEETING @ Praise Center	10am Faith Group @ Montague  2pm Faith Group @ Montague  7pm AL-ANON @ Montague	5pm Dollar Dinner @ Montague  5.30pm Sister's Group @ Montague  7pm Faith Group @ Montague  7pm NA MEETING @ Praise Center	10am Faith Group @ Praise Center 10am—3pm  9.30am Stitchers group @ Montague  5-8pm FREESTORE @ Praise Center  6-7pm THE GATHERING FREE MEAL @ Praise Center 7pm Bible Study @ Praise Center	6.30pm NA MEETING @ Praise Center	11am—2pm FREESTORE @ Praise Center  12-1pm THE GATHERING FREE MEAL @ Praise Center