



The Messenger

January 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

Contact Us

Pastor Tim Dibble

Pastor's phone

248-622-9514

Pastor's email

revtcd@yahoo.com

Office Administrator

Fiona Dibble

Church Office Phone

231-894-5789

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@gmail.com**

Address:

White Lake UMC

8555 Cook Street

Montague, MI 49437

Happy New Year! . . . Happy New Year? . . . Which is it? In some ways the world seems to stay the same from year to year whether for the better or for the worse. In other ways the world never seems to stop changing whether for the better or for the worse. So, which is it for you, your family and your friends? Is your world better or worse today? Go on . . . be honest.

I know that when I was a child I couldn't wait until I was another year older, but now . . .? I have been asking myself what is different in my perspective of the world around me today and my place in it?

The world was in turmoil when I was a child. There was the Vietnam War; unrest building in the Middle East; economic uncertainty and high unemployment in Michigan; an energy crisis filling the headlines (remember the OPEC oil embargo?); a growing drug problem festering in my school.

Hey, wait a minute! Don't we face the same problems in our society today? Yes, some of the players have changed but the issues have remained. And hang on a minute where is God in all this mess?

Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad
(Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.)

This Hebrew passage from the Old Testament has been fundamental to understanding our relationship with God since the very beginning and in the Jewish tradition is referred to as the Sh'ma (Shema). In the Sh'ma, different aspects of divinity are implied by the terms *Adonai* (Lord) and *Elohim* (God). While Elohim relates to the timeless, recurring expression of God in the ordinary universe, Adonai is the God of transformation, the God who makes a difference, who liberates from slavery and brings about healing and creativity. Adonai is the source of healing; Elohim, the life of the universe.

Just as our world is in a constant tension between maintaining the status quo and the transformation we so desperately wish for in our hearts, so too are our relationships with God. God is both eternal and unchanging and yet transforming and healing at the same time. The answer to the world's ills and our personal problems remains the same as it always has . . . a deeper personal relationship with our God. A relationship seeking to reconcile and unite with God all the diversities of our cultures, ages, races, political ideologies, etc., etc. God is the unity from which all diversity comes. It is God revealed to us in

Jesus Christ who has shown us the way in which to heal the world in which we live, individually and corporately by offering back to God what God has created . . . our lives, our world, our relationships.

The answer to all life's questions lies in realizing our God is one with us and one with the world. Standing alongside each of us as we face the tensions and challenges of this world and providing us with both the rock foundation on which we can find certainty in our lives and the transforming, reconciling, healing, forgiving power to bring us back to God's peace, fellowship and love. God calls each of us to say yes to God's unchanging permanence and yes to the constant becoming--*ehyeh asher ehyeh*, God's self-proclaimed name: "I will be what I become." (Exodus 3:14, remember the burning bush?)

As we continue in the life adventure of this New Year, I pray that we all remember that only by acting unflinchingly in the world with compassion and treating one another with justice and equality will the healing aspects of God become manifest and draw others to a deeper understanding and love of God. I invite you to embrace the divine, both eternal and unchanging and yet always transforming and healing. Consider these words:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. [Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (New International Version)]

May the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be always with you and yours!



 <p>OFFICE NOTES</p>	<u>Church Office Hours</u>
	Mon 10am—3.30pm Tues 12pm—3.30pm Wed 10am—3.30pm Thurs 10am—3.30pm Fri 10am—3.30pm
<p>The Church office is located at 8555 Cook Street, Montague, MI 49437 Phone # 231-894-5789</p>	

Deadline for the February newsletter
Monday, January 27th, 2024

Thank you for all the cards and gifts over the Holiday period. We are grateful for the generosity shown to us as a family.

Now that all our ministries are all under one roof, it is important to book your meeting space with the office. There is room at the inn, but we need to avoid double booking ourselves. Thank you!

Our Vision Statement

Worship God

Follow Jesus

Love and Serve All

"As followers of Jesus, we the people of the White Lake United Methodist Church are committed to welcoming and loving everyone, without regard to age, ability, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, family make-up or faith tradition. We embrace the principles of love over hate, inclusion over bias, respect over prejudice, equality over bigotry and caring for all. We are committed to living out unconditional love in our lives, worship, study, and service."



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. We can never have too many folks praying!



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Pray for Daniel Rush (18mth old nephew of Tanis family) who has a return of cancer. It's in his lungs. Pray for Daniel and his family as he begins treatment.
- Please pray for Bob and Lee Suits with their ongoing medical concerns.
- Continued prayers for Pat Klotz nephew, Matthew as he continues treatment for cancer. Please also for the whole family.
- Becki & Chuck Goudreau are still in need of our prayers.
- Several members are struggling with respiratory illness. Please pray for their quick recovery.



Check out our NEW website!

(Fine tuning still in progress!)

Questions, comments, feedback,
suggestions? Contact Bill Raffail
via the Church Office.

www.whitelakeumc.org

Worship Ministries



God is Holding Your Life

Worship Series for January & February 2025

A Journey of Assurance for the New Year

“The works of God’s hands are faithful and just.” - Psalm 111

Life is a series of exclamations from “O No!” to “Help!” to “Oh Yeah!” We can swing between disappointment, helplessness, and gratitude on a daily basis. There are also seasons of our lives when we feel inundated with more of one than the others. As we enter the new year, we had hoped we would be past the “O No!” of the last several months. Instead we find ourselves with ongoing prayers for “Help!” The Book of Psalms knows all about this. Written over a span of time from exile and isolation to the rebuilding of the community, the poetry of the Psalms will accompany us in this series, reminding us that through it all, we can trust and even give our thankful “Oh Yeah!” because God is, indeed, holding our lives.

Sunday Morning

Services

9:00am

11:00am

Praise Band Service

Including Kids’ Church

Hallelujah Kids’ Chorus &
the Youth Discussion Class

January 5th: “These Lives are Precious”

January 12th: “Awe and Wonder”

January 19th: “Where Can I Go?”

February 2nd: “In God Alone”

February 9th: “Whole Heart Hallelujah”

February 16th: “We Wait, We Hope, We Stay”

February 23rd: “The One is Shining Forth”



Lay Servants are laity working in our churches in many areas. The training courses are designed to help ordinary folks improve their effectiveness in many different fields. Everyone begins with the basic course. This helps to find your gifts and explores the ministry. After this, there's a wide variety of other classes. Some work towards becoming Lay Speakers, others work in leading Bible study, teaching, and leading small groups. Yet more are focused on caring ministries.

Training of this kind can increase your confidence and your effectiveness as we serve the church and our communities. If you would like to know more, drop in at the church office.

Zoom Lay Servant Class: Registration Deadline Jan. 3

Registration is open to attend a United Women in Faith Lay Servant Class via Zoom on the theme of "Welcome Home" led by Steve Taylor, Home Missioner on Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 at 6:30-9pm via Zoom. **Contact the church office for registration information. The registration deadline is Jan 3rd.**

UPCOMING DISTRICT TRAINING

Our next District Lay Speaking classes will be held at Cadillac UMC on April 25th and 26th 2025.

Classes offered will be the Basic class (for those starting out), the Polity class (Life Together in the United Methodist Connection) and one other yet to be determined. More details to follow as they become available.



Choral Joy (choir) rehearsals will be recommenced on Wednesday, January 8th at 6pm. New singers are always welcome. No auditions – just a willingness to sing God's praise!

The Praise Ringers will also be rehearsing again soon. Watch this space for details.

Anyone wishing to offer special music for a service should speak to our music director Gwenneth Bean or contact the church office.



Did you know that ALL women and girls in the United Methodist Church are members of the United Women in Faith? All pastors are members too!
Next meeting is on Monday, January 6th at 10am.



Thanks to all the lovely ladies of the United Women in Faith who put on a great sale of cookies, cakes, pies, candy, and crafts at the Christmas Tree Festival. Thanks also for the craft stall. Funds were raised for the ongoing mission of the UWF. Thanks to all those who came to buy goods too!

On Tuesday, December 10th, 17 of our ladies gathered at the Hanson Hill Waterfront Grill for dinner. It was a wonderful time of friendship and laughter. The food was excellent, but the company was better.



GRIEF SHARE GROUP

HOW GRIEF SHARE WORKS:

TO SIGN UP, OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

SUZANNE COX (GROUP LEAD)
AT (616) 402-2487

RUTH TUTTLE (GROUP LEAD)
AT (517) 902-6112

OR, WHITE LAKE UMC OFFICE
AT (231) 894-5789

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

TUESDAYS, BEGINNING OCTOBER 15TH 2024 1—2.30 PM

WHITE LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8555 COOK ST. MONTAGUE, MI 49437

Faith Formation



WEEKLY FAITH GROUPS



SUNDAY	11am – Children’s/Youth Classes
TUESDAY	10am – Faith Group with Ruth T
WEDNESDAY	5.30pm – Sister’s Group 7pm – Faith Group with Ken W
THURSDAY	10am – Faith Group with Fred N 7pm – Thursday Thinkers with Fiona D



Men’s Breakfast Group

Montague Campus
Fourth Saturday of the Month at 8 a.m.

Please come to enjoy fellowship
With your friends, and share your
Needs, ideas, and thoughts
Followed by conversation

NEW

The Gathering free meals and the Free Store are on the move

Please be patient and offer any help you can as these important ministries move from the Praise Center to our Montague building.

The Gatherings first meal at Montague will be on **Thursday January 2nd** at 6pm. Thereafter the meals will be served on Mondays and Thursdays at 6pm. Note the change of days.

The Free Store will open in Montague on **Thursday, January 9th** at 5pm. Free Store hours will be Thursdays 5-8pm, and Saturdays 11am – 2pm. A bag lunch will be available from the store on Saturdays.

Nurture Outreach Witness



Thank you to everyone who helped with or came to the Christmas Tree Festival. It went very smoothly, and we received some lovely feedback from our visitors.



If anyone would like to help plan for 2025, let Pastor Tim or the office know.

All the trees were fabulous. The winner

of the most festive tree was the Youth Group's Nutcracker tree (thanks Sue Lloyd). Most Creative tree was the Health & Wellness Team's offering created by Rebekah Hayden. The tree voted Best in Show was from The Dirt Daubers. It was beautiful and reflected the natural beauty of our world. Well done all and thank you for taking part.



Youth Group Scoop



Congratulations to our Youth Group and Sue Lloyd whose tree at the Tree Festival was voted 'the most festive'.

That's quite a sizable collection of nutcrackers, owned by Ilene Nichols.

I wonder what you will come up with next year!

Our Youth have had a good year in 2024 with many accomplishments and goals fulfilled!

When school started back after summer break, we asked what they would like to do to make our youth environment more inviting and more of an atmosphere their friends would like to visit and maybe even become a part of. Of course there were many ideas, most of which are doable and are being researched. (More on this later.)

One idea was to expand the capacity of their computer games so more people could be playing at the same time. It was going to take time and work to come up with the funds to accomplish this, and our youth took the challenge with fervor. They were successful, even though sometimes it was one person at a time working, and together they earned enough to purchase what they needed.

In addition to this, our youth group were busy trying to figure out how to transition to the Montague building (involving a lot of decisions and work), spearheading UM Student Sunday's worship on November 24th, helping with the Christmas Tree Festival, and being very involved with the Christmas Eve services.

We give thanks to God for our youth and to all the other adults who are involved with making youth ministries a living and vital part of bringing God's Kingdom to Earth. Yes, we are very proud of our youth (gotta brag a little on them once in a while) and pray for 2025 to be another wonderful year. Isn't God Great!!

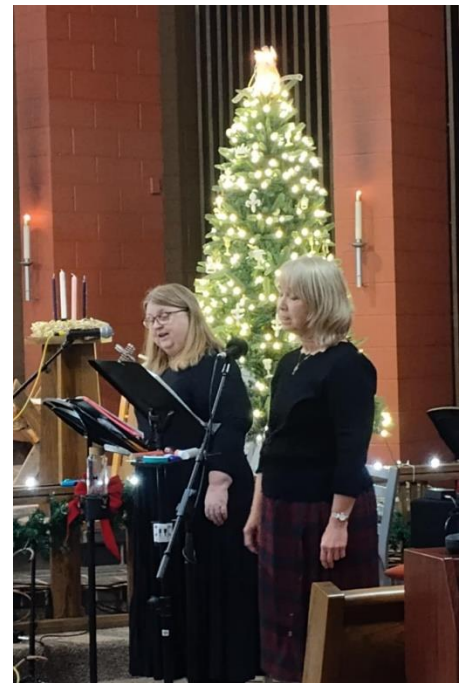
Happy New Year to All!

The Youth Team

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE



Musical Prelude



Thanks to John Baldwin, Landon Fekken, and Alex Hayden and for the photographs.

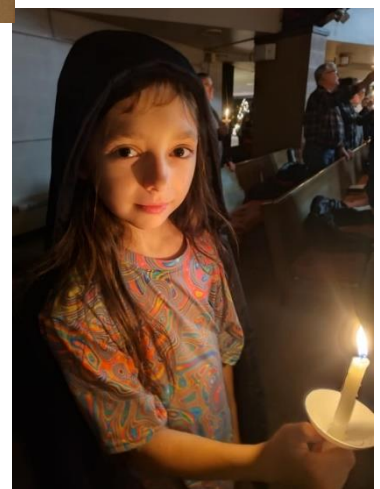
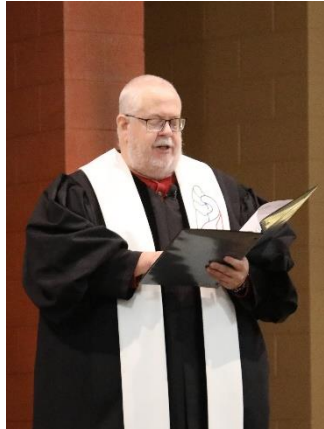
A NATIVITY STORY





A big thank you to the Praise Ringers, readers, character players, musicians, and Choral Joy. Also, thanks to the technicians, ushers, candle lighters, altar decorators, and costumers. Over 50 church members and friends took part in this wonderful service.

What a great way to celebrate the birth of our Savior.





MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE CALLED TO DISASTER RELIEF AND SERVICE

IS GOD NUDGING YOU?

Are you feeling the tug to help with Hurricane Helene relief efforts, but just don't know where to go and how to help?

On **January 25th** a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) coordinator will be coming to **OUR CHURCH** to help us put a team together so that we can help those devastated by the hurricane to put their lives back together.

If God is nudging you, **mark your calendar** and look for more information to come.

Questions ? Reach out to Tom Hinken or Ruth Tuttle

VIM (Volunteer in Mission): Training for those that may be interested in traveling as a group to help in areas damaged by recent hurricanes or in future areas. Training will be needed to go with the work group, but attending this training session does not obligate people to go. Please register by contacting Jody Pratt or contact Tom Hinken or Ruth Tuttle to get more details or sign up.

January 25 (Saturday), 2025 White Lake UMC, 8555 Montague MI

8:30 Registration

9-4:00pm Training, lunch, participant manual, t-shirt

Cost: \$30 (Checks payable to MI Conf Disaster Response)

Payment at the door but PLEASE register prior to training **

Alternate date: Feb 8, 2025 (in the event of Michigan weather)

Deadline for registrations: January 15*2025

prattgji09@gmail.com for registration form or questions



WOW, big move coming. Lots to be done to transition from the Praise Center to Montague Campus.
Praise Center:

- Transitioning out of the building. Help is always accepted.
- Some interest is noted in the facility. We will continue as planned for the closing of the Praise Center.

Thank you, so much, for the continued efforts to maintain our incredible facility and the many missions it supports.

Montague Campus

- We are making small moves to the Montague campus. The big move(s) are the Free Store and Gathering.
- Struggling with our new sound system(s). Consistency seems to be our biggest issue. Bob S. and Bob T. are working like crazy to find and or prevent lingering issues. It will work. We are getting better and better each week. We brought in some outside help and that has made a huge difference.
- Some kitchen changes are in the works. We need space to house the Gathering when it comes to Montague. What an incredible ministry. We need to make this work somehow; and we will. The island and some pantry space are the most pressing issues. Thank you all for your patience and understanding in making space for this ministry.
- We are now ready, thanks to Carla and Ward Heaton, for the Free Store move. Glen Naghtin is helping with more shelving. Looking forward to this move.
- The final day at the Praise Center for the Freestore is Dec 26th, opening in Montague on Jan 2nd. Final meal at the Praise Center for the Gathering is on Saturday, Dec 28th. The first meal for The Gathering at Montague is on Thursday January 2nd.

Thanks for all the efforts to all those helping to maintain and improve our facilities. What an incredible group.

Parsonage:

- Continuing with grounds issues. Leaf and shrub trim is needed. May have to wait for Spring?

What a great combination of facilities and people to improve the lives of so many through our ministries and outreach to our communities.

Great to be a part of a community and congregation that makes such a huge difference.

Dick Baerman, Trustee

October/November 2024 Finance Reports



The October 2024 Finance Report below shows that collections

continued to lag behind budget. The expenses were high in October, due to there being 3 paydays in October, versus the typical 2. The healthy check book balance from September did allow the Ministry Shares for October to be paid. We have now paid District and Other Ministry Shares for 5 of 10 months.

The Designated Funds Income reported in September was in error. That field was not changed from its August value. The correct Designated Funds Income for September was \$3555.50.

October 2024 Finance Report		
	October 2024	Percentage of October Budget
Designated Funds Income	7,290.75	
General Fund Income	20,008.77	75.82%
General Fund Expenses	28,281.55	104.79%
General Fund Checkbook Balance	9,849.94	
October Income Budget	26,389.50	
October Expense Budget	26,989.07	

Income for November was up versus October but was still below budget. The expenses were kept below income by not paying any apportionments in November.

November 2024 Finance Report		
	November 2024	Percentage of November Budget
Designated Funds Income	10,488.37	
General Fund Income	22,368.36	84.76%
General Fund Expenses	20,266.69	76.04%
General Fund Checkbook Balance	10,682.35	
November Income Budget	26,389.50	
November Expense Budget	26,653.07	

ENDOWMENT UPDATE



WLUMC ENDOWMENT MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2024

Beginning Balance (9/1/2024)	\$196,776.57
Dividends	311.02
Change in Market Value	5,850.29
Ending Value (9/30/2024)	\$202,937.88

After a tough month of October, the fund rebounded nicely in November to set another record high. Hopefully December will reveal similar numbers.

The funds are on a great footing as we steadily head towards the year's end and another period of grant application and awards. It appears this year's earnings will allow the fund to make its greatest grants ever. God has been very good to us and the fund.

Your prayers to make a difference. Keep them coming.

In Christ. Jeff Petersen (Endowment Fund Team Leader)

The Gathering



8555 Cook Street

Montague, MI 49437

Phone # 231 894 5789

THE GATHERING

Free Meals & Good Company

During this time of transition we would love to add new folks to our cooking teams. We also need help making bag lunches to distribute through the Free Store each Saturday lunch time.

Call the office for more information.

January Events at a Glance

- 5th Holy Communion served at both 9am and 11am services
- 6th UWF meeting 10am
- 7th Grief Share 1pm
- 11th Bishop Bard's Listening Tour 10.30am in Grandville, MI
- 14th Leadership Team meeting 1pm
- 19th Health & Wellness team offering blood pressure checks after both services
- 25th Men's Breakfast 8am
- Volunteer in Mission (VIM) training event 10am – 4pm

WEEKLY SCHEDULE AT WHITE LAKE UMC, 8555 COOK STREET, MONTAGUE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (231) 894 5789 FOR MORE DETAILS						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9am TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 11am PRAISE BAND WORSHIP Including Kids Church YOUTH GROUP 4-6pm	Office open 10am to 3.30pm UWF 10am (first Monday of the month)	Faith Group 10am Office open 12 to 3.30pm AL-ANON 7pm	Office open 10am to 3.30pm 5.30pm Sister's Group Choral Joy 6pm (choir practice) Praise Ringers 7pm (bells practice) Faith Group 7pm NA MEETING 7pm	Office open 10am to 3.30pm Faith Group 10am Stitches group 9.30am onwards FREESTORE 5-8pm THE GATHERING FREE MEAL 6-7pm Thursday Thinkers 7pm	Office open 10am to 3.30pm NA MEETING 6.30pm	Men's Breakfast 8am (4th Saturday of the month) FREESTORE 11am—2pm