



The Messenger

January 2026

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

Church email

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@gmail.com

Address:

White Lake UMC

8555 Cook Street

Montague, MI 49437

Website:

www.whitelakeumc.org

From the Pastor's Desk

Are You Stuck in the Middle of the Road?

The past couple of weeks, as I was thinking about the New Year, which is now upon us, I, like many of you, began to consider what choices I was going to make in my life for the year. There are so many roads that beckon and so many signposts to consider as we travel through life. I recalled an incident last month when I was driving into Montague along Dowling Road and as I approached the hill leading to the downtown area, I saw a squirrel crossing the road. He was halfway across when he noticed me. The roads were still slick and snow covered and I didn't have room to stop. He froze in the middle; he started across, started back, totally freaked out and didn't know which way to go. The little guy didn't have a clue which way was best or safest.

Have you ever felt like that squirrel? You don't know which way to turn, you feel confused, scared, perhaps even in danger? You know you need to make a choice or choices, and you just can't figure out which path to take? Perhaps you are struggling in a relationship or with your job situation. Perhaps you feel unfulfilled and you just can't seem to fill the empty spaces in your life. Perhaps you feel you want to make a difference in the world but just can't see how one person can accomplish anything of significance.

I have Good News for each of us . . . We have something the squirrel doesn't – the Word of GOD! Spending time reading the Bible, in study, attending worship on Sunday, praying with your family and friends, praying when faced with any decision in your life, considering the possibility that God the creator of all reality has a special plan and that you are part of it, that you have been created unique and special. That you and only you can positively impact your world in a special way by making choices guided by God's will and calling in your life.

The New Year is upon us and there are decisions for us to make as individuals and as a church, choices to be made, paths to be followed, and lives to be lived. You are standing in the middle of the road and the whole world is rushing towards you, and it cannot and will not stop. Which way will you go this year? Which road will you follow? How will you choose? What are your priorities? In whom will you place your trust, your hope, your fears, and your doubts? Where can you find the answers you need? So many decisions but the answer is the same for all of them.

By faith alone, in Jesus alone, by the grace of God alone, in the Word of God alone – God has cleared and created your path, Jesus has come to light it for you, and the Holy Spirit is here to take your hand and guide you along it. I write to you this year asking you to make the biggest and most important decision of your life; a decision that will impact your life, the lives of your family and friends, the lives of the community in which you live, and the entire world of which you are a unique and special part. A decision that will help you make all the other decisions in your life with assuredness, clear purpose, and peace of mind. Don't just stand in the middle of the road and dismay. Choose to follow Jesus Christ as his faithful disciple and this Good Shepherd and Wonderful Counselor will always be there to help you find your way.

In the coming year I challenge you to answer God's call in your life for an inward transformation of your heart for Jesus, responsible stewardship, and faithful discipleship. Join a Bible study, attend a Sunday School class, offer yourself in mission to serve on one of the various working groups in your church, start a prayer group with your friends, take the initiative for a ministry idea you might have which is "outside the box" of what we are already offering. Need help? Need resources? Need prayers? Contact me and together White Lake United Methodist Church can move forward into this New Year on fire for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples for the transformation of our world!

God bless!

Our Vision Statement

Worship God

Follow Jesus

Love and Serve All

OFFICE
NOTES



Church Office Hours

Mon	10am—3.30pm
Tues	12pm—3.30pm
Wed	10am—3.30pm
Thurs	10am—3.30pm
Fri	10am—3.30pm

The Church office is located at

8555 Cook Street, Montague, MI 49437

Phone # 231-894-5789

Deadline for the February newsletter
Monday, January 26th, 2026

"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 Cards – are available on our Welcome Desk in the Welcome Center. 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** has 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:

- Several of our members, family and friends are currently in treatment for cancer. Some prefer to remain private, but we pray for each of them. God knows their names and needs.
- Pat Klotz is now back home to continue therapy. We continue to pray for strength and comfort.
- Steve LaBounty had a quadruple bypass recently and is now back home. Prayers for his recovery, and for Pam and the family.

ALL ABOARD THE MEAL TRAIN!

CHECK IT ONLINE AT
WWW.MEALTRAIN.COM/N905E6

WE ARE RUNNING A MEAL TRAIN FOR PAT KLOTZ WHO IS HOME AFTER MONTHS OF THERAPY FOR A BROKEN NECK.



Sunday Morning

Services

9:00am

Traditional style

10.00am

Fellowship Time

10.15am

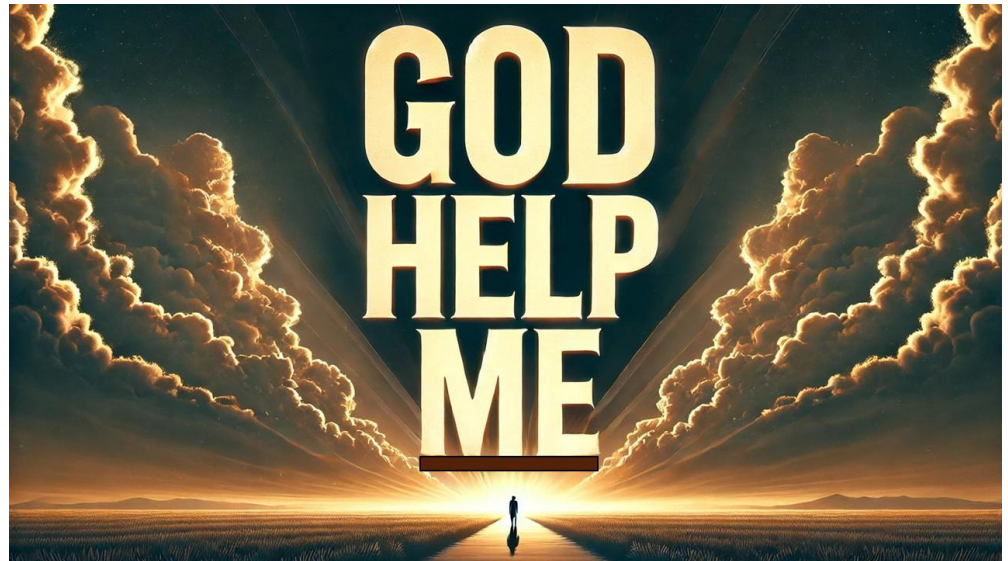
Youth class

11:00am

Praise Band Service

& Kids Church

Worship Ministries



Worship Series: "God, Help Me" — Six Simple Prayers for Real Life

This six-week series explores the many dimensions of the humble plea, "*God, help me,*" a prayer spoken by saints and skeptics, children and elders, beginners and seasoned Christians. It is a prayer that aligns with Wesleyan theology: prevenient grace reaching for us, justifying grace sheltering us, and sanctifying grace empowering us to grow in holiness of heart and life. Each week focuses on a distinct use of the prayer in real-world situations, helping us learn how to lean upon God in a way that forms disciples and transforms communities.

January 11th — "Change Me"

January 18th — "Guide Me"

January 25th — "Strengthen Me"

February 1st — "Heal Me"

February 8th — "Use Me"

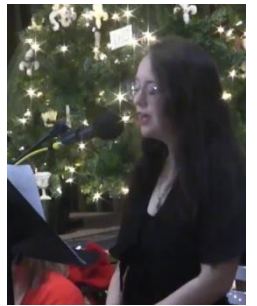
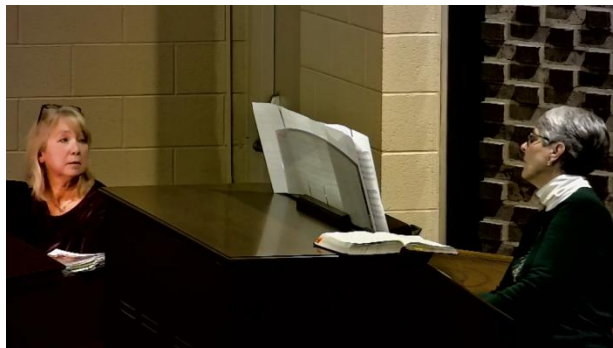
February 15th — "Hold Me"



A big Thank You to Nancy Frye for giving a wonderful message at our final service of 2025. A message to carry us into a new year with purpose, hope, and joy (and hopefully rest!).

Christmas Eve Carol Service

Let's relive the many wonderful moments in the following photographs





The Nativity story was told through beautiful Scripture, music, and prayer, by individuals and groups of all ages.

Thank you to each and every one of you who took part in this wonderful retelling of the birth of Christ, and to all those who joined the celebration.

Faith Formation



Here is an opportunity for parents to spend time getting to know one another while someone else watches the children!

Professional childcare provided

Every Monday 9.30 - 10.30am

PARENTS Morning Off

Get to know other parents, talk about your joys and concerns and share parenting stories while the little ones play in the nursery with qualified helpers

All are welcome

- ✓ Play time
- ✓ Make friends
- ✓ Share ideas
- ✓ Have fun

CONTACT KAREN SNIDER-SMITH TO REGISTER - CALL OR TEXT 231-750-2267

at White Lake UMC, 8555 Cook Street, Montague, MI 49437 Office # 231 894 5789
This is a non-denominational group




White Lake UMC

POP-UP SOCIAL

FUN STUFF FOR YOUNGER ADULTS

CALL JESSICA ON 231-292-6026 FOR NEWS ON OUR NEXT EVENT

8555 Cook Street, Montague, MI 49437

whitelakeumc.org







Look out for the next Pop-Up Social - Watch this space or call Jessica to find out more!

Find a faith group that fits your schedule

Speak to Ruth Tuttle if you have any questions or suggestions.

FAITH GROUPS

Tuesday 10am room 3 with Ruth Tuttle
 Wednesday 5.30pm room 11 Sisters Group
 Wednesday 7pm room 3 with Ken Wentworth
 Thursday 10am room 3 with Fred Nichols
 Thursday Thinkers room 7 with Fiona Dibble

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE






Did you know that ALL women and girls in the United Methodist Church are members of the UWF?

All pastors are members too!

Next meeting is on Monday, January 5th at 10am.



ENDOWMENT UPDATE



Market Value (10/31/2025)	213,092.84
Additions	0.00
Dividends	405.04
Disbursements	0.00
Change in Market Value	859.70
Market Value (11/30/2025)	214, 357.58

As you can see, we had a modest gain in November.

In CHRIST, Tim Todd

Endowment Team Leader



NURTURE

Caring for and encouraging growth or development

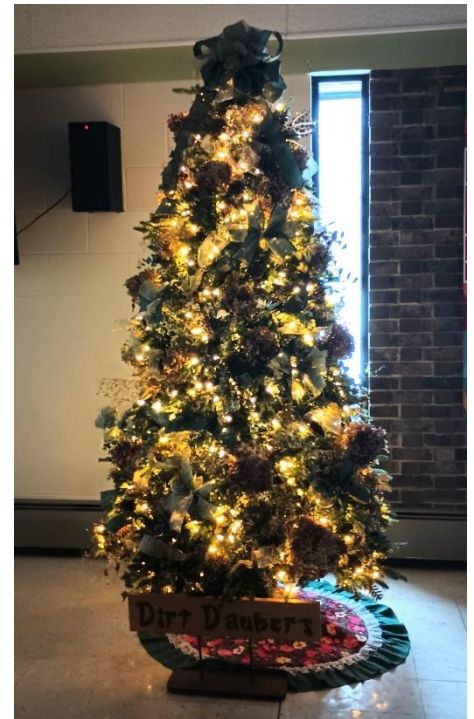
OUTREACH

Showing kindness, compassion, and support to those in need.

WITNESS

Openly professing one's faith through words and actions

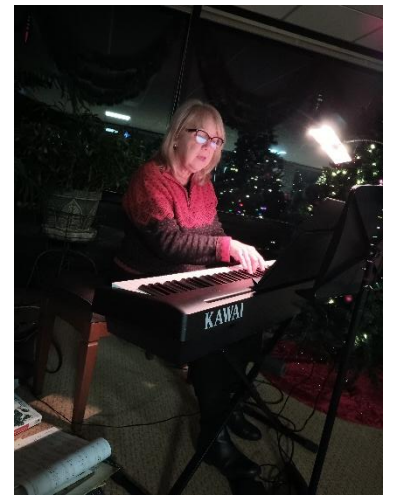
A big thank you to those who helped in any way with the Christmas Tree Festival. Here are some photographs of the event highlights.



Most Festive Tree – Peace on Earth (Grenell family)

Most Creative Tree – Harry Potter (Fiona Dibble)

Best in Show – Evergreen (Dirt Daubers)



Thanks to White Lake Junior Strings for their wonderful concert. Thanks to Fiona Dibble and Ruth Carson for their presentation on the history of the Christmas Carol, and to Ruth again for playing piano for our community carol singing. Thank you to Pastor Tim for standing in for Santa at his busiest time of year. The UWF Mini Bazaar was a great success – thanks to all who contributed in any way. Thanks to those who helped put up trees, and for those who helped during the festival to keep things running smoothly. Congratulations to The Dirt Daubers for another Best in Show win!

Finally, big thank you to Sue Lloyd, without whom we could not do it!



TRUSTEES NEWS

Praise Center:

- No major events to report.
- We continue to see some interest in the building. Stay tuned.

Thank you all for the mowing and care of that building over the spring and summer months.

Montague Campus:

- Some major movement for our kitchen and the Free Meals teams. A new proposal is on the table for moving the kitchen and making it conform to code and create a much more useable space for the ministries it fosters. There is a drawing of the proposal as well. A Town Hall meeting was held to outline this proposal to those interested. The Town Hall was well attended and with some great questions and concerns. Further info is coming as we get into the quote phases and funding opportunities. A drawing is available for viewing. It is posted on the bulletin board in the south, women's bathroom, hallway. There are a few minor changes to that drawing as a result of the Town Hall meeting and concerns and ideas raised.
- We are also reviewing concerns about removing the concrete riser steps in the choir room. More to come on this as we move forward with updates to our building.
- Snow removal is a challenge at best but has been even more so with heavy, heavy snows early in the season. Our attempts to keep up with those two major snow falls fell a bit short but we will continue to monitor as necessary. Our goals have been to plow after 2" of snow for the church and 4" of snowfall for the parsonage. We will also have intermittent needs depending on other gatherings requiring use of the parking areas. Stay tuned as we get into another season.
- We have purchased more "snow melter". We will keep the tubs filled that are located at the doors where we most frequent.
- Ice buildup on the roof continues to be an issue. We will keep those areas addressed as necessary. These ice buildups cause leaks inside our church. So, necessarily, attention is required.

Parsonage:

- We replaced the garbage disposal. We also replaced the electronics for the garage door opener. No other issues have been raised.

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

January Events at a Glance

- 1st Office Closed
- 2nd Health & Wellness team meeting 10am
- 4th Covenant Sunday
Traditional Service 9am, Praise Band Service 11am - Holy Communion served at both services
- 5th Parent's Morning Off 9.30am
United Women in Faith 10am
- 6th Grief Share 1 – 3pm
- 13th Leadership Team meeting 12 noon
- 18th Human Relations Sunday – special offering

**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	Office open 10am to 3.30pm	Faith Group 10am	Office open 10am to 3.30pm	Office open 10am to 3.30pm	Office open 10am to 3.30pm	FREESTORE 11am—2pm
10am Fellowship Time Kids Church Youth Study	UWF 10am (first Monday of the month)	Office open 12 to 3.30pm	3.30pm Chair Yoga 5.30pm Sister's Group	Faith Group 10am Stitches group 9.30am onwards	3.30pm Chair Yoga	
11am PRAISE BAND WORSHIP Including Kids Church	3.30pm Chair Yoga THE GATHERING FREE MEAL 6-7pm	AL-ANON 7pm	6pm Choral Joy (choir practice)	FREESTORE 5-8pm THE GATHERING FREE MEAL 6-7pm	NA MEETING 6.30pm	
YOUTH GROUP 4-6pm	NA MEETING 6.30pm		7pm Praise Ringers (bells practice)	FREE MEAL 6-7pm		
			7pm Faith Group NA MEETING 7pm	Thursday Thinkers 7pm		