



# The Messenger

February 2023

## Contact Us

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248-622-9514

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*Office Manager  
Fiona Dibble*

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(231) 894-5789

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**Website:**  
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**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

As we begin our Lenten journey together this year, let us remember that Lent is primarily about identifying with and accompanying those who are being driven by the Spirit to make the wilderness journey -- toward baptism, toward reconciliation, or toward vocation. Lent is not primarily about Jesus' suffering on the cross. Lent bids us to enter a season of prayer and reflection on Scripture. As the Spirit reveals to us truths about ourselves and truths about our relationship with God we respond with the imposition of ashes, we confess our shortcomings and sins, and we make our peace with God and one another.

Now is the time to get started moving forward again. As the calls go out in our neighborhoods and nation to gather our resources in common cause for the benefit of every one of us in light of the recent COVID Pandemic and all the social and economic challenges we face, so too does Christ call his Church to renew its commitment to discipleship and stewardship. We are called to live the promises of our Baptism to love and support each other in all ways that we can discover and share. We are called to reach out to our brothers and sisters wherever we encounter them, in the workplace, at school, and in our community involvements, and to share a message of hope, purpose, responsibility, and compassion. We have been commissioned as disciples of Jesus Christ to share the Good News and to invite others into our fellowship and communion. In fact, I truly believe with all my heart that White Lake UMC was founded, lovingly grown and nurtured, and sent out by Jesus for times just like these.

It is with "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors" that we have been commissioned by Christ to "Make Disciples for the Transformation of the World." It is our time as faithful disciples to live and love as Jesus taught us. It is not time to back down or back away

## 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

from our discipleship. In fact, just the opposite, we are called to reinvest in a plan that will never fail us, our friends, or our families; A plan that will never lead to emotional or spiritual bankruptcy and with the assurance that no power of this world can foreclose upon. This plan is the blueprint for God's Kingdom to be built upon this earth. This plan is Christ's Church and its incarnation here at White Lake UMC.

It is time for us refocus on our vision for ministry, to "Worship God, Follow Jesus, Love and Serve All" as we seek together God's will for our lives and the lives around us. It is time to put God and God's plans at the forefront of our lives as never before. It is time for us to dream and vision and plan for fulfilling the Great Commandment to love one another, mind and body and soul. I believe that we are ready to continue our epic journey together to the glory of God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. United we stand with Christ, with each other, and with our neighbors near and far!!!

God bless!



## New Beginnings

Hello Friends

Just a quick note to introduce myself, as I navigate the comings and goings in the church office. As many of you already know, my name is Fiona Dibble. Pastor Tim and I moved here to White Lake UMC this past summer, and are quite settled, along with our family in the parsonage. We are loving the area, and I am excited to begin this new chapter in my life.

Please note the new office hours above. I will do my best to pick up the many tasks that Tara has so ably been carrying out but ask in advance for your patience and forgiveness if something gets missed whilst I am finding my way. I look forward to continuing our journey of faith and service together, here at White Lake United Methodist Church.

Blessing! *Fiona Dibble*

## *The Gathering's Free Meal Schedule Change*

Due to the lack of teams to prepare, serve, and clean-up after meals on the first, second, and fourth Saturdays of the month, meals on these Saturdays will be temporarily suspended, starting in January.

Meals will resume on these Saturdays, as teams can be recruited to serve them.

Anyone that would like to form a meal team may call Steve Welter at (231) 670-1702 or e-mail him at [steve.m.welter@gmail.com](mailto:steve.m.welter@gmail.com).

## *Thank You*

to everyone who came on Jan 18<sup>th</sup> to support our Mission Team's Dollar Dinner and Dessert Auction. What a fun event it was!

Good food, good fellowship, and we raised \$2,900 towards our goal of \$5,000. If you missed it, there's still time to contribute to this great cause. Speak to one of the team for more details.

## *The Gathering Free Meals & Good Company*

Thursdays  
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
&  
Third Saturday of  
the month  
12:00 pm –  
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.



## *2023 Mission Trip To Mexico*

We're headed to Puerto Penasco (Rocky Point) Mexico  
February 10<sup>th</sup> – February 13<sup>th</sup>

To build a house with 1Mission for a family that does not  
currently have one!

We sure would love to have your support through your  
gifts and your prayers. Financial donations can be made  
through cash, check, or Venmo. Please designate those  
funds to the Mexico Mission Trip.

Thank you SO very much!

Your Mission Trip Crew,  
Mark & Amanda Unger  
Rachel, Landon & Coco Mitteer  
Bob & Ruth Tuttle  
Jim Fekken  
Ken Henningfeld

Season after  
**Epiphany**



**S**piritual  
**A**ffective  
**D**isorder

A worship series to help us  
shine a light on the "blahs."



February 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 — Little Altars Everywhere — Psalm 112:1-9

February 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 — Walk This Way — Psalm 119:1-8

February 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 — Get Up and Don't Be Afraid — Matthew 17:1-9

*This is a series meant for "such a time as this." Especially in small-town America, the subject of mental health was not only taboo and untreated, but shameful and indicated a lack of faith. Like other "touchy" subjects, even though public perception changes and education increases, there can be lingering doubts about whether or not to admit we are struggling. And many are struggling. Many more, while not deeply struggling with mental illness, are simply anxious with very good reason.*

*Like the lack of sunshine that precipitates Seasonal Affective Disorder, the lack of light in the dim corners of our psyche and soul can bring on a Spiritual Affective Disorder that leaves us with all manner of symptoms. This series points to a complex subject, but as you will hear in these notes and the liturgy—we can do even simple things to increase the chances of survival and thriving.*

# SEASON AFTER EPIPHANY PREACHING SERIES 2023

## NOW Update

Wanderland is rapidly approaching! Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, we are doing sloppy joes, hot chocolate, and coffee as a warming station for this event, at the Praise Center from 12-2pm. I have 3 volunteers but could use a few more as I am sure we will have some of our regular Saturday free meal people as well as those wandering our beautiful community. We participated in the first Wanderland, before Covid, and it was wonderful. Now with the Free Store going during the same time, just think of the wonderful way we will be showing our Church in action out in our community.

Please help me make this a special day!!

*Martha Sadony*

*NOW Director*

## 2023 Michigan Conference Special Sunday Offerings

March 19th  
UMCOR Sunday

April 23rd

Native American Sunday

May 14th

Golden Cross Sunday

June 4th

Peace with Justice Sunday

August 20th

Christian Education Sunday

September 10th

Rural Life Sunday

October 1st

World Communion Sunday

October 15th

Disability Awareness Sunday

November 26th

United Methodist Student Sunday

## Dollar Dinner Update

Unfortunately, due to a lack of available volunteers, the Dollar Dinners have been suspended until Fall of 2023.

This is a wonderful ministry that feeds mouths and hearts, and we are hopeful that with some time off, potential volunteers will feel called to serve.

If you are interested in learning more about this ministry or how you can help it continue, please contact Martha Sadony for more information.

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who stepped up over the past few months to finish out 2022's Dollar Dinners. Your help and support meant so much to so many.



# Choir Schedule

## February 2023

Rehearsals - @ 6.30pm

Wednesday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup>

Wednesday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>

Singing on Sunday Feb 19<sup>th</sup>

9am @ Montague Campus

Jesus, Be the Center

Shine, Jesus Shine

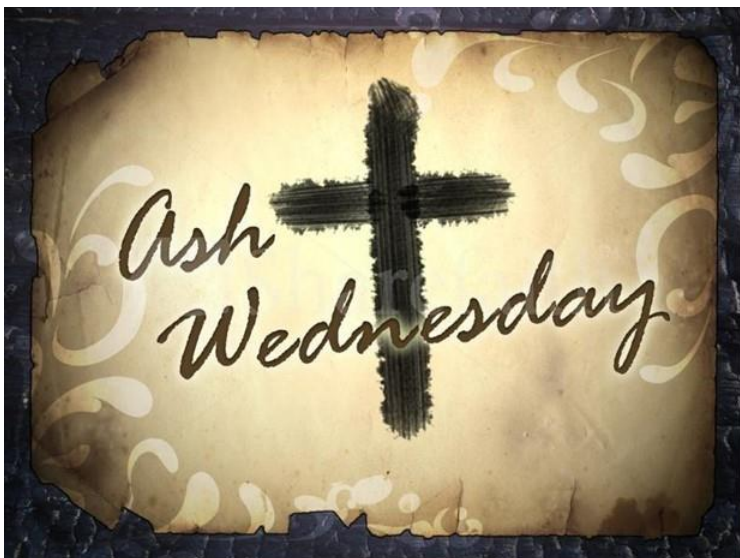
# United Women of Faith

Our next meeting will be at the Montague Campus on February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10a.m. This meeting is the 'Prayer and Self Denial' program. All women are invited to attend this special time.

## GIVING REPORT -DECEMBER 2022

The UWF of White Lake UMC has given funds to several community organizations over the holiday season. Using fundraising profits, including the November Bazaar, the women have donated to the following: The Free Meal Program at the Praise Center, the Giving Tree, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, a local family in need, and the underwear/sweatpants Program, as well as the feminine products bags at the Montague and Whitehall schools.

We have received several thank you notes so far which are posted on the hall bulletin board near the Montague campus office.



# Wednesday

# February 22nd

# 7:00 p.m.

# Montague Campus

## A Service of Reflection and Ashes

## Let's begin this journey together in prayer

## Finance news from your Leadership Team:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, a Special Church Conference was held last evening at our Montague Campus, it was announced that a \$20,000.00 anonymous blessing was made to our General Fund. Also, it seems that others have increased their financial generosity to our church in the month of January. On behalf of the entire Leadership Team, thanks to those who have or can increase your generosity in support of the ministries of our church and the community we have been called to serve.

We have also been able to make some cuts to our budget. The largest being a projected savings of approximately \$15,000.00 this year in office administration expenses.

Considering these changes, the Leadership Team recommended that the vote on (proposal 1) to authorize a \$20,000.00 loan from our Endowment Fund be withdrawn. Ultimately it was unanimously tabled leaving the opportunity to **re-visit** this issue in the future if necessary.

Proposal 2, that the entire 2023 endowment fund grant be granted to the General Fund be approved. Proposal 2 was approved by a vote of 35 yes to 1 no. This means that the General Fund will receive a grant of \$8,180.00 for 2023.

There is still much for us to do. Now as we continue to move forward, we will be carefully reviewing opportunities to save on expenses as well as opportunities to be generous ourselves and encourage the generosity of others. This effort will certainly be easier without a loan to pay back. We have recently had and will continue to receive help and guidance from the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan. No one thing will balance our budget, it will take prayers, work, and help from everyone to become financially sustainable. This task is not insurmountable. A little bit of extra effort and sharing will enable us to continue as a beacon of God's Love here in the White Lake area!

As we seek to improve communication between our Leadership Team and our congregation, and each of us with one another, we plan to redouble our efforts to keep everyone informed. A complete Roster of your Leadership Team including contact information will be sent out soon. Emails updating folks on the continuing ministries we support will continue. We will seek to make more efficient use of our newsletter. Consideration is being given to holding periodic "Town Hall" meetings (probably built around a potluck dinner!) to encourage understanding and the sharing of ideas moving into the future.

Thank you to each one of you who continue to so generously share the blessings God has provided into your care.

God bless!

Your Leadership Team

# Good Enough:

Embracing the Imperfections  
of Life and Faith



## From Lent to Easter



### **Ash Wednesday—February 22nd**

Perfectionism is impossible.  
Transformation isn't.  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### **Lent 1—February 26th**

Ordinary lives can be holy.  
Luke 4: 1-13

### **Lent 2—March 5th**

So much is out of our control.  
Luke 13: 31-35

### **Lent 3—March 12th**

Lots of things can be medicine.  
Luke 13:1-9

### **Lent 4—March 19th**

We often believe we are the problem.  
Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

### **Lent 5—March 26th**

We are fragile.  
John 12: 1-8

### **Palm/Passion Sunday—April 2nd**

You are a group project.  
Luke 19: 28-40

### **Maundy Thursday—April 6th**

We are blessed, regardless.  
*John 13: 1-17, 31b-35*

### **A Good (Enough) Friday—April 7th**

Even today, God is here and somehow, that is good enough.  
John 18: 1-19; 42

### **Easter—April 9th**

A Good Enough Faith  
John 20: 1-18

*You Are  
Good Enough!*



# Six Week Lenten Study

Pastor Tim will be doing a six-week sermon series based on the theme Good Enough. We would like to offer small group studies using the devotional/study book that accompanies this series.

If you are interested in being part of a six-week Lenten small group, there will be sign-up sheets on the Welcome Center Desk at each campus, or you can see me at church. I need to order the books by mid-February, so please let me know by then. Meeting days and times will be decided once we see who is interested.

*Ruth Tuttle*

*Director of Faith Formation*

*ratuttle69@charter.net*

*517-902-6112*

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES, SMALL GROUPS, BIBLE STUDIES AND MORE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9AM WORSHIP (MONTAGUE)	10AM TO 3:30PM OFFICE HOURS	12 TO 3:30PM OFFICE HOURS	10AM TO 3:30PM OFFICE HOURS	10AM TO 3:30PM OFFICE HOURS	10AM TO 3:30PM OFFICE HOURS	11AM--2PM FREESTORE
11AM WORSHIP (PRAISE CENTER)	1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH	10AM BIBLE STUDY (MONTAGUE)	5.30--7PM SISTER'S GROUP (MONTAGUE)	10AM BIBLE STUDY (PRAISE CENTER)	6.30PM NA MEETING (PRAISE CENTER)	((PRAISE CENTER)
4-6PM YOUTH GROUP (PRAISE CENTER)	6.30PM NA MEETING (PRAISE CENTER)	7PM AL-ANON (MONTAGUE)	7PM NA MEETING (PRAISE CENTER)	10AM STITCHING GROUP (MONTAGUE)		12-1PM THE GATHERING FREE MEAL
			6-7PM CHOIR 7-8PM BELL CHOIR (MONTAGUE)	5-8PM FREESTORE( (PRAISE CENTER)		3RD & 5TH SATUR- DAY OF EACH MONTH (PRAISE CENTER)
				6-7PM THE GATHERING FREE MEAL (PRAISE CENTER)		
				7-8PM BIBLE STUDY (PRAISE CENTER)		

## Canopy Project Update: February

The sound deadening in the Fellowship Hall has been installed on the north, east and south upper walls. We will be working with the church women to put up the quilt of history on the west wall.

The Canopy Committee thanks Bob Tuttle, Jim Tanis, Ken Wentworth and Dick Baerman for doing this phase of the project. All but a cartridge of white caulking was donated for this phase.

The next phase is on hold until we are ready to move forward with this financial commitment.

Larry Lindquist	Joe Clark
Bob Tuttle	Dick Baerman
Ken Wentworth	John Lloyd

# CHURCH CANOPY, WELCOME CENTER AND FELLOWSHIP HALL PROJECTS

- You are invited to help make this project a reality! This project would include a new canopy addition to our main entrance, and improvements to our Welcome Center and Fellowship Hall. Contact the Church Office details on how to financially support this project. Checks may be made out to the church with "Canopy Project" on the memo line. Together, in Christ, all things are possible!



# Trustees Update

## Praise Center:

- We continue to have issues with our roof over the sanctuary. We will continue to work with our roofing folks to make the necessary changes to prevent leaking.
- We will get that mess fixed in the sanctuary as soon as we are confident that pesky leak is stopped.
- Fire inspections. We need to take care that we are not overloading the boiler room off the kitchen and that our hallways and doors have proper access to exits. As our building gets more and more use those issues begin to surface. THANKS.
- We had a few issues in the kitchen with the dishwasher and sink. All are good.

Thank you all for your continued efforts to support this incredible ministry.

## Montague Campus:

- We had a wonderful start to the funding for the Canopy Project. Just a note; however, we will not be moving ahead with any more canopy spending until we see an improvement in the financial status of our church.
- We have completed improvements to the sound booth power supply in the sanctuary. Thanks to Jack Grenell, John Lloyd, and Bob Tuttle for completing this part of the Canopy Project. (This is the reason for the ceiling being partially removed in the Welcome Center. We will review the replacement as we get closer to our church financial goals.)
- The Tech Team is working hard to improve our streaming, live service, and radio presentations. Pastor Tim brings a whole new set of opportunities for our systems. We enjoy the challenges they pose and are resolved to meet them. Again, thanks to the team of Bob Suits, Bob Tuttle, Fred Nichols, Grant Belinger, Alex Hayden as well as booth operators, Todd Vannett, Corina Mitteer and Clay Cudney making our presentations happen each and every week.
- A huge thanks to John Lloyd, Jim Tanis, Ken Wentworth, and Bob Tuttle for your work in applying the sound absorbing materials to three of the four walls in the Fellowship Hall.
- We have a urinal in the men's bathroom that is leaking. I have placed an 'Out of Order' sign on it. I am at odds with our plumbers, who wish to replace it, rather than fix it. More to come on this.
- I will be proposing a Solar Project for both the parsonage and Montague Campus. It, at the initial review, seems like a great opportunity to save money and help the environment. I am gathering more information and will be making a proposal to the Leadership Team at our next meeting for adding solar panels to the roof of both the parsonage and the Montague Campus buildings. Roof conditions are being reviewed as I write. We will need to make our roofs up to date before panels can be fitted. More to come!

## Parsonage:

- All seems well at the parsonage for now. What a wonderful thing to have a full parsonage of such wonderful people. We have completed the additional requests for outlets/lighting. What a great family we have in our parsonage, and we will continue to work with them to improve their surroundings.

We will continue to improve our facilities to enhance our missions to all. Although more is needed, a huge THANK YOU for the financial and personal commitments made. Dick Baerman



# Wednesday Lunches

Each Wednesday during Lent, from March 1<sup>st</sup> through March 29<sup>th</sup>, we will be in fellowship with other local churches and our community at large in sharing in a Lenten Lunch.

Each week will be hosted by a different local church and a devotional will be offered from someone from another of the area churches!

The schedule of churches hosting will be in our March newsletter. Lunches will meet from 12 noon and finish promptly by 1:00 p.m.

Let us plan to walk this journey together.

*Everyone's  
Welcome*

## Meet Your Leadership Team:

Leadership Team Chair – Glen Naghtin	(231) 750-6646	gnaghtin@chartermi.net
Pastor – Tim Dibble	(248) 622-9514	revtcd@yahoo.com
Lay Leader – Ward Heaton	(231) 750-7956	w.heaton@live.com
Office Administrator – Fiona Dibble	(248) 622-9497	fionadibble@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Director – Ruth Tuttle	(517) 902 6112	ratuttle69@charter.net
NOW Director – Martha Sadony	(231) 894 6598	mjspines@aol.com
Youth Director – Fred Nichols	(231) 894 4716	fredn@bellsouth.net
SPRC Chair – Bob Suits	(231) 557-4498	rpsuits@gmail.com
Treasurer – Carla Heaton	(231) 750 7561	carla.heaton@yahoo.com
Endowment Team Leader – Jeff Petersen	(231) 215 6451	petechops1@yahoo.com
Finance Team Leader – Ted Boyden	(231) 670 4374	boydensplace41@msn.com
Trustees/Buildings – Dick Baerman	(815) 370 1824	rdbaerman@gmail.com
Free Meals Team Leader – Steve Welter	(231) 670 1702	steve.m.welter@gmail.com
Free Store Team Leader – Ruth Grenell	(231) 557 2470	jkgrenell@charter.net
United Women of Faith – Laura Kiel	(231) 670-2328	arknlark@gmail.com
Worship Team Leader – Lee Suits	(231) 557-3291	leesuits8@gmail.com

*We are here to help!*

# PRAYER REQUESTS:



*Brothers and sisters...We would like to share with you some of the many options available to us as we seek to intercede in prayer for others and ourselves. Prayers make a difference! You make a difference!*

**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!

