



The Messenger

February 2024

From the Pastor's Desk . . . On the Road Again....

Contact Us

Pastor Tim Dibble

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Pastor's Email:
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Office Administrator

Fiona Dibble

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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

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 are invited to the Lord's Table, 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 each one of us in light of 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 United Methodist Church 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 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.

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

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 United Methodist Church.

It is time for us to get back "On the Road Again" 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!

Rev. Jinty JTT



The deadline for the March newsletter is

Friday, February 23rd.

A brief personal note of thanks

We have been so blessed! Heartfelt thanks from the Dibble family to all who have supported and helped us lately. Our crazy lives have felt a bit out of control, with accidents, health issues, and more. It feels like we were struggling to stay afloat! This church is the kindest, most generous, and loving family one could wish for, and we are truly grateful for every prayer, ride, and surprise treat that we have received. The financial help is beyond what we could ever imagined.

Thank you!

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. We can never have too many folks praying!



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Deloris DeHoff is homebound after a bad fall. Prayers for healing.
- Tammy Fekken, Rachel Fekken's mom, is recovering from a fall. She hit her head & broke her ankle. Prayers for a fast recovery.
- Prayers for Bob & Wanda Lee Suits as they continue dealing with their health concerns.
- Martha Sadony's dear friend is asking for prayers for her Daughter-in-law who has been sick and getting sicker. They are sending her for a bone marrow biopsy and echocardiogram. Her name is Makiah (mah-ki-uh).
- Pray for Becky Goudreau who had shoulder surgery on January 25th.
- Jan Helms niece, Emily, who is having follow-up head surgery after a motorcycle accident recently.
- Pat Klotz nephew, Matther is in Texas continuing intense treatment for cancer. Please pray for him and the whole family.
- Teena Ferrier is home but needs prayers for relief of pain from recent knee surgery.
- Martha Tanis' brother, Lynn Nelson, will be having open heart surgery Thursday morning at the Heart Center in Grand Rapids. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Pray for Peggy Clune's cousin's daughter Emily. She just had a double mastectomy. She is in her early 40s and has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Her mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and a maternal aunt all died from breast cancer.
- Please pray for Rebekah Hayden as she continues to struggle with serious health challenges and hospitalization.

2024 Michigan Conference Special Sunday Offerings

January 14th

Human Relations Day

March 10th

UMCOR Sunday

April 14th

Native American Sunday

May 12th

Golden Cross Sunday

May 26th

Peace with Justice Sunday

August 25th

Christian Education Sunday

September 8th

Rural Life Sunday

October 6th

World Communion Sunday

October 13th

Disability Awareness Sunday

November 24th

United Methodist Student Sunday



Choir Practice

The choir will be practicing on February 7th, 21st, and 28th – Singing at the Feb 25th service.

New singers always welcome!

Bell Choir Practice

Bell choir will be practicing on February 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th – Playing at the Feb 18th service.

Join us
in this
Lenten
journey...

LOOKIN' FOR...

L₁ O₁ V₄ E₁

IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

February 14th, Ash Wednesday---February 18th, “Looking for the Resister”---
February 25th, “Look for the Helper”---March 3rd, “Look for the Thirst-Quencher”
---March 10th, “Look for the Shepherd”---
March 17th, “Look for the Liberator”---March 24th, “Look for the Unexpected”

Lenten Lunches

Each Wednesday During Lent
Lunch at 12 noon...done by 1 pm

February 21st — St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 8435
Old Channel Trail, Montague, MI 49437

February 28th — Ferry Memorial Reformed Church,
8637 Old Channel Trail, Montague, MI 49437

March 6th — White Lake Congregational Church,
1809 S Mears Ave, Whitehall, MI 49461

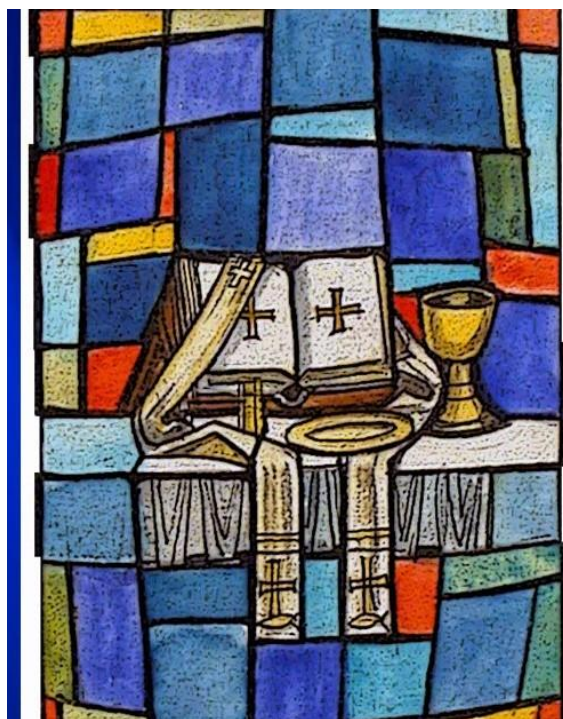
March 13th — The Praise Center of White Lake
United Methodist Church, 117 S Division St,
Whitehall, MI 49461

March 20th — To Be Determined



*Special offering to be taken, and split, in support of
the food pantry at Lebanon Lutheran Church
and The Free Store at The Praise Center of
White Lake United Methodist Church*

Praise and Worship



Volunteer Job Opportunity

Praise Center Altar Designer

Work with Pastor Tim and the Worship
Team to create appealing and relevant
altar displays throughout the year.

No experience necessary—just a desire
to be creative!

ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

FOR YEAR 2023

Starting value (1/1/2023)	\$148,733.24
Ending (12/31/2023)	\$188,428.16
Gain/Loss	+\$39,694.92

Gains are determined as follows: Gifts, dividends, interest, other income, and change in market value up.

Losses are determined as follows: Disbursement (grants), transfers, fees, and change in market value down.

What a year! Who would have thought we'd be with a fund balance of an all-time high of \$188,428.16 at the end of 2023? The fund had its ups and downs, but a generous \$2,250.00 gift courtesy of Katie Naghtin's estate, and a very positive rise in the stock market value allowed us to attain that mark.

God has been very good to us here at White Lake UMC and has provided. God also asks that we share our good fortune with others.

Hopefully good news with the fund will follow us into and through 2024. Consider making a gift to the fund at any time, or as part of your end of life wishes. I can promise you that it will only be used to further Christ's mission here on Earth, wherever that may be.

Praise the Lord! Keep Him close at heart. Let this fund do the best it can, for the most it can, for as long as it can, with Christ as its guiding light. Keep those prayers coming. They do make a difference.

In Christ

Jeff Petersen

Endowment Team Leader



IMPORTANT NOTICE – ENDOWMENT GRANTS

Team leaders and pertinent team members please be advised that Endowment Grant Applications are now in your mailboxes, in the Montague campus Fellowship Hall. If you or one of your team need financial help to cover the cost of an item or project that is outside the ability of your current budget, the Endowment Team may be able to help. Anyone may apply, but all applications must be approved by the appropriate team leader. Although each leader has been given only one application form, copies may be made for multiple submissions from the same team. Endowment Applications for grant consideration must be submitted no later than Friday, March 1st, 2024, to either Fiona Dibble, WLUMC Office Administrator, or Jeff Petersen, Endowment team leader. (Can be placed in the Endowment mailbox in Fellowship Hall.)

The Endowment Team will meet on Monday, March 11th, 2024, to determine grants based on applications received. Every effort will be made to make at least a minimal grant to each request made if possible. The number of applications submitted and the amount of funds available will determine the amount of grants made. Once grants are determined, leaders will be notified, and grants released as soon as possible when accompanied by a written receipt from the team leader.

Please examine your needs and wants and fill out an application, get the appropriate leader's signature and make sure they are received by the deadline. We would love to help you and your team's project as much as possible, but we can only do so if you apply.

Thanks

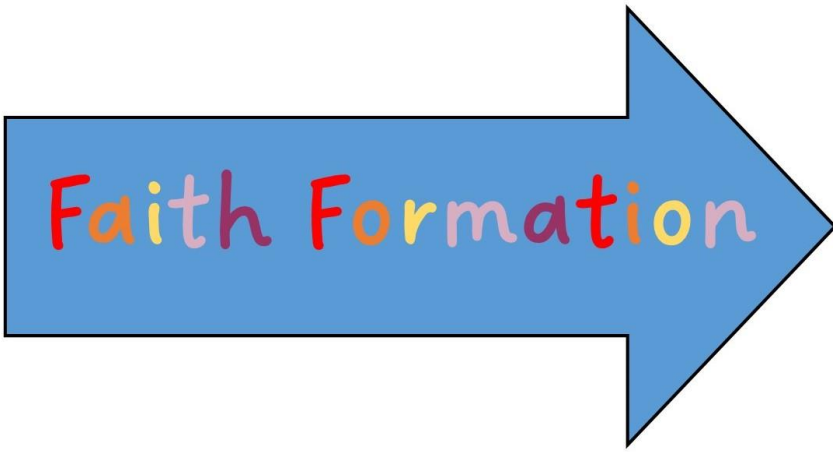
Jeff Petersen

Endowment Team Leader

LOST AND FOUND

An earring was handed in to the church office a little while ago. As I still hadn't heard of anyone who had lost one, I thought I would put a picture of it in the newsletter. If you have its partner, please let me know!





WHITE LAKE UMC FAMILY CAMP-OUT

Please contact Ruth Tuttle if you plan on coming to camp this summer. The proposed dates are August 2nd to 7th – 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.



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 Michigan 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

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.**



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.

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!



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

Dollar Dinners have been going well so far this year. Some of our regular cooks have gone South for a few months, so we could really use a few more people to help run these wonderful community meals. We don't want anyone to get burned out, and you don't have to do it alone! Sign-up sheets are on the Welcome Desk in the Montague Campus Welcome Center, or as always you can call the Church office on 231-894-5789.

WE NEED YOU!

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

EASTER CELEBRATION – Your NOW team will be putting on an Easter Breakfast, **March 31st, at 8.30am**. This will be held at the **Montague Campus**. Our United Easter service will be held at 10am and followed by an **Easter Egg hunt** for the children.

SPRING FLING – **April 14th, 2024**, at the **Praise Center**. This event will include an all-church townhall meeting, potluck dinner, and 'home grown' concert. Brush off your old musical instrument, practice reciting a favorite poem, share a few (family friendly) jokes. Everyone welcome! Participation is the goal – it's not a competition.



Next meeting: - February 5th, 2024

At the Montague Campus

DURING FEBRUARY 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.

Calling all Women and Girls at White Lake UMC

This is for YOU!

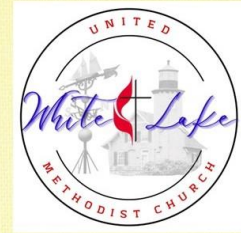


We recently had a meeting to discuss what new and exciting things we could get involved with or organize with our UWF group. Here is what we came up with –

- a) We recognize that the daytime meetings are not accessible to working women, but that evenings can be problematic for some of our older members. To try and accommodate all our needs, we plan to hold evening meetings during the summer months, and daytime meetings during the winter, when travel is more difficult. Hopefully this will enable all of us to attend sometimes.
- b) We will hold a United Women in Faith Sunday on **May 26th (Peace with Justice Sunday)** to raise awareness of our programs and the social justice issues we are supporting. More details to follow.
- c) Along with the Health Ministries team, we encourage all our members and the wider church to support and attend the Peace with Justice movie evening, on **Tuesday, February 6th** at our Montague Campus. A light dinner will be provided, and there will be an opportunity for discussion, facilitated by Tom Hinken. Please attend if you are able. The movie is set in Bad Axe, Michigan and explores several big issues faced in our society today.
- d) We hope to be involved in the **Michigan Conference UMC Advocacy Day**. The focus of the day this year is the limited access to mental health services in the State of Michigan. To find out more please come to the **'Lunch and Learn'** event, **February 15th, 12 noon**, at our Montague Campus, where we will join in the webinar about Advocacy Day. If you are unable to attend, perhaps you would consider watching the webinar from wherever you are. Details are available at the church office. See the following ad for details of 'Lunch and Learn'.
- e) We wholeheartedly support Karen Welter's project to bring literacy support to our area. She is planning on offering literacy classes at the Praise Center and is partnering with Read Muskegon in this endeavor. Anyone wishing to assist in the program, please see Karen. Call her on 231-670-0579 to see how you can be part of this important work.



Come and share lunch with us
And find out about the
Michigan Conference UMC's



Advocacy Day

'Supporting Mental Healthcare Access'

February 15th, 2024, 12—1pm

At our Montague Campus
8555 Cook Street, Montague, MI 49437

For more information call the church office on 231 894 5789



Health Ministries

Next Blood Pressure Checks

January 21st, 2024

Get your blood pressure checked
free of charge after church.
(both services)
Know Your Numbers!

WLUMC HEALTH MINISTRIES TEAM

AGE-WELL SERVICES

ACRYLIC PAINTING WORKSHOP



This is a workshop for people aged 60+

Feb 12th 2024 at 1pm

White Lake UMC (Montague Campus)

Space is Limited - BOOK NOW!

Call Renee at (231) 733 8641



Youth Group

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

So far, this winter has been pretty good for and with our youth, and they have been involved. In December they had their own tree at the Christmas Tree Festival, at our Montague Campus. They made many of the decorations for the tree, and along with Ilene and Sue Lloyd decorated it. It looked great!

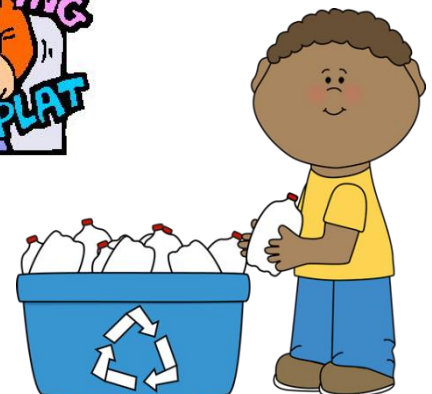
The lock-in that we had on New Years Eve was also successful. No one hurt and no one missing (two very good things)! Our lock-in title was 'A New Day'. We discussed what 'a new day' really means and talked about goals (individual and group) and how we may reach some of them.

The first thing we did was make a trip to Walmart where we returned over 1,000 (yes that's right, over 1,000) pop bottles and cans to redeem the deposits. Some of the money was used to buy dinner, breakfast, snacks, and drinks for the lock-in, which we bought whilst there. The youth cooked their own dinner on Sunday night, and cleaned up everything on Monday morning after breakfast, before going home.

Lots of fun. Video games all night. The first one to go to sleep was about 2a.m., last was about 5a.m. Of course, Ilene and I stayed awake all night and had a good nap later! All in all, a great night!

Upcoming winter events are bowling, sledding, and ice skating. Other outings are being looked in to through to early Spring.
Stay tuned for more!

Fred and Ilene Nichols



NEWS FROM OUR TRUSTEES

Good day to All: Lots going on!!!!

Praise Center:

- The sanctuary leak may be fixed for now. A new roof and removal of the false dormer is the answer to that continuing issue.
- Dishwasher and thermostat programming seem to continue as issues. We will continue to fix issues as they arise.
- Snow removal and cold temps are issues for all of us. We will continue to try to keep up with ice and snow as best we can. Steve Welter, Ken Wentworth, Karen Flagsted and others are doing a wonderful job.
- Jack Grenell has repaired outlets in the kitchen as well as door molding repairs in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Jack.
- Some access issues were noted by the Free Stores folks. We have added some access restraints to the stage area.
- New handle for the pass-through door from the Fellowship Hall to the Sanctuary hallway.
- We will continue to monitor the elevator and any issues related to that equipment. We are not continuing the contract with Otis Elevator at this time. Costs of the contract and issues not covered by the contract are the most pressing reasons.
- We will look at funding for the new doors at the front of the building. We do need them for access and insulation capability. Stay tuned. Funding is the issue.
- Our sound booth needs upgrades. We have multiple cameras for different angles necessary to capture the service at the front of the sanctuary. We cannot see where these cameras are pointed. We need a monitor that can use a split screen image to let the operator know where all the cameras are pointed. We can then shift the camera's focus without having to see that shift in our live stream. More to come.



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

Montague Campus:

- Canopy Project is nearly complete. With some brick work around the base of the four columns and some minor landscape and sprinkler work this project will be complete.
- John Lloyd is continuing his work at condensing the lighting switches into one source for programming. At present we have 7 individual controllers that turn on and off our lighting circuits. John will get us into one system controlled from the

sound booth to save money and the time it takes to keep up with the changes that occur with those individual switches. THANKS JOHN. We will still have our issues with the heating thermostats. More to come on this one.



- Snow removal and icing issues are with us. We will do all we can to stay up with the weather. Our increased use of all our buildings is putting more pressure on timely snow and ice removal. Thanks to Ken Wentworth, Karen Flagsted, Steve Welter and others that have helped shovel mounds of snow.
- We are attempting to reduce our dependence on the storage areas behind the altar. We have begun using the closet in the dining room area of the back kitchen. Hopefully we will not have to endanger ourselves handing stored items up and down the ladder to that two-level storage area behind the altar.
- Heating issues in the Fellowship Hall continue. The thermostat in that area covers the entire Welcome Center, Fellowship Hall, and hallway to the south doors. The coffee maker installed is located just below that thermostat. That coffee maker is always heated. Thus, the heat rising up from that unit is satisfying that thermostat when the rest of the room stays cooler. Not too sure yet how to remedy that situation but I am working on it.
- Sound and video systems are being evaluated for improvements. New streaming capability is being overshadowed by a free streaming service. This service will not allow us to send out our live stream to more than one platform. Bob Tuttle and Bob Suits are recommending a new service, which will cost some money, to be able to send our feed to YouTube and Facebook. Thanks to Bob T and Bob S. for their expertise in hunting down our problem.

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

Parsonage:

- Some issues with some sink drains are reported. We will get those fixed ASAP.
- We have some issues with the decorative fencing both at the front entrance and at the rear of the home. We will handle those issues in the spring. Different and or new split rail fencing may be the solution.

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 that.

Dick Baerman; Trustee

February Events at a Glance

- 4th Communion Sunday – Holy Communion served at both services.
- 5th UWF Meeting at Montague Campus 10am
- 6th Movie Event ‘Bad Axe’ – dinner, movie, and discussion – Montague Campus 6pm
- 7th Choir Practice – Montague Campus 6pm
Bell Choir Practice – Montague Campus 7pm
- 12th Painting Workshop – Montague Campus 1pm
- 14th Ash Wednesday Service – Montague Campus 6pm
Choir Practice – Montague Campus 6pm
- 15th UWF Lunch and Learn Advocacy Event – Montague Campus 12 – 1pm
- 18th Blood Pressure Checks after service at each campus
- 21st Choir Practice – Montague Campus 6pm
Bell Choir Practice – Montague Campus 7pm
- 22nd Lenten Lunch – 12 – 1pm
- 28th Choir Practice – Montague Campus 6pm
Bell Choir Practice – Montague Campus 7pm
- 29th Lenten Lunch – 12 – 1pm

2nd March Leadership Team Meeting – Praise Center – 10am

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES, FAITH GROUPS, BIBLE STUDIES AND MORE						
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (231) 894 5789 FOR MORE DETAILS						
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