



The Messenger

February 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

whitelakeunitedmethodist

@gmail.com

Address:

White Lake UMC

8555 Cook Street

Montague, MI 49437

Website:

www.whitelakeumc.org

From the Pastor's Desk

"On the Road Again"

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 into 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 and every 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 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 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 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!

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 March newsletter
Monday, February 23rd, 2026

It has come to my attention that some of our directory information is incorrect/changed. Please collect a form from the office to fill out your contact info. Even if you think it is unchanged, it would be helpful to update everyone. It would also be nice to have a full list of birthdays etc. When I have the time, I will create a new directory that will also include our new members.

“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.
- Prayers for Rachel Fekken and family at this sad time.
- Prayers for Judy Cole. Her son Adam was visiting her recently and she wasn't doing too well. He said she would appreciate visits, cards, and prayers from church friends. (She is in a care facility in Rockford, MI)
- Rita VanDyke would like prayers for her stepson, Joe. He is only 55 but is in the end stage of life with severe Alzheimer's. Prayers for Joe, his wife and children.
- Prayers for Jeff Petersen's brother, Mike. He had open heart surgery and will be staying with Sue and Jeff while he recovers.
- Peggy Clune's friend, Frank, has sadly passed away. He battled cancer of the esophagus. Prayers for Frank's son and his family.
- Laura Cederquist is in Butterworth Hospital being treated for Leukemia. Prayers also for her husband Arland, their family.



THE GATHERING
Free Meals & Good Company

Monday 6—7pm
Thursday 6—7pm

8555 Cook Street
Montague, MI 49437
231 894 5789



**White Lake Community
Free Store**

☀ Where every item is free

Located at
8555 Cook Street
Montague, MI 49437
(231) 894-5789

☀ Donations

☀ Open Hours

Donations may be made
Monday - Friday
12pm - 3pm

Thursday 5-8pm and
Saturday 11am - 2pm



Sunday Morning

Services

9:00am

Traditional style

10.00am

Fellowship Time

10.15am

Youth class

11:00am

Praise Band Service

& Kids Church

Worship Ministries



“Gifts of the Dark Wood”
Lenten Worship Series

Our Lenten series, based on the book by the same name by Eric Elnes, is about “seeing life through new” eyes, recognizing that experiences of failure, emptiness, and uncertainty are as critical for finding our way through life as they are unavoidable.” We will see how experiences of life through the “dark wood” are actually clues to our “calling” or “life path.” How can the struggles of life be the seedbed of spiritual awakening to the fulness of life?



Wednesday
February 18th
6:00 p.m.

A Service of Reflection and Ashes
Let's begin this journey together in prayer

Lenten Lunches

dates for your calendar



Wednesday Lunches

12 noon – 1:00 p.m.

February 25 @ Ferry Memorial, with Doug Ogden
8637 Old Channel Trail, Montague

March 4 @ White Lake Congregational UCC with Michael Borgert, 1809 S Mears Ave, Whitehall

March 11 @ White Lake United Methodist with Donna Morton
8555 Cook Street, Montague

March 18 @ Lebanon Lutheran with Ron Hutchinson
1101 S Mears Ave, Whitehall

March 25 @ St. James Catholic with Tim Dibble
5149 Dowling St, Montague

**Everyone's
Welcome**

Faith Formation



We are desperately in need of a nursery worker for this group to continue. If you can offer an hour on a Monday morning, please contact Karin Snyder-Smith or the church office. Thanks!

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 as we seek to grow closer to God and each other.

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 Sunday, February 1st, 4pm

For our Tea Party,
and on Monday, March 2nd, 10am for our regular meeting

'This year we will be focused on mapping our way forward in times of change and uncertainty. We will consider how to find our guiding lights, stick with them when things get tough, and share those lights with the world – especially those in need. We will take time to map the world as it is and see it clearly in its wonder, magnificence, brokenness, and inequality. We will also take time to map our internal lives and ask, "How is it with my soul?" We will map out the places in our spirit where we might feel encouragement, discouragement, resistance, and openness to change. Then, we will map our ways forward together, finding the places where the needs of our hearts, the places where the needs and realities of the world match th yearnings and giftings of our hearts, the places where we can open ourselves up to new and build up the good. The places that lead, always and forever, to the paths of God and the flourishing of all God's people.' (UWF Program Resource book by Hannah Kardon)

*We can move forward together into great unknowns,
into fearful uncertainties,
with the knowledge that we are filled with power,
we have God on our side,
and we have our sisterhood to support us.*

A vertical invitation graphic with a dark blue background and a white decorative border. At the top, it says "JOIN THE U.W.F. FOR A" in a small font, followed by "Tea Party" in a large, elegant script font. Below that, it says "Sunday, February 1st 2026" and "4pm - 6pm". A bold statement reads "ALL LADIES AND GIRLS WELCOME". The address "8555 COOK ST MONTAGUE, MI" is listed at the bottom. The graphic features illustrations of a floral teapot, two teacups on saucers, and three lit candles.

Ladies, you are invited to our

Tea Party

Sunday, February 1st, 2026
4 – 6pm

R.S.V.P. to the church office

Ladies, please join
us for tea and
treats!

ENDOWMENT UPDATE



WLUMC Endowment Report for December

Begin. Market Value (11/31/2025)	214,357.58
Additions.	0.00
Income	
Dividends	505.35
Change in Market Value	795.68
Ending Market Value. (12/31/2025)	215,685.61

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

In Christ, Tim Todd

Endowment Fund Team Leader



ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS

Application forms are now available for the 2026 grants
at the church office, from team leaders,
or from the Welcome Desk.

Deadline for applications is February 23rd, 2026

Please fill out the form completely and return it to
a team leader, Tim Todd, or the church office.

Thank you!





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

As we look ahead to planning our activities and outreach for 2026, we seek more input from a wider group of friends. The purpose of the N.O.W. team is to nurture those within the membership, as well as reaching out to our community and sharing our faith. I'm sure you would agree that this is a big task, and right now the team is not big enough to be as effective as we would like. The events we put on are the fun stuff! If you like planning parties, this is the place for you. Equally, the nurture of our membership and friends can be much quieter and more personal, depending on circumstances. There's room for all personality types in this group, and we are excited to hear new ideas. Please speak to Sue Lloyd (team chair) or call in at the office if you would like to serve God and your church in this way. We try and schedule meetings at times to suit all. Recently we have had meetings after the 11am service, but we are very flexible. Come and join the fun!

New Members

Emily Hollingsworth and Alexandria Steinhauer were welcomed into membership at the 11am service on January 4th, 2026. Alex was also baptized! What a joy it has been getting to know these wonderful ladies over the past months. Welcome to White Lake UMC!



If you have been worshipping with us and are interested in becoming a member of White Lake UMC, please speak to Pastor Tim, or call the church office.



FINANCIAL TIMES



Finance Report


December 2025 Finance Report (as of December 31, 2025)

	December Actual	December Budget	% December Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	% YTD Budget
General Fund Income	\$ 32,923	\$ 32,376	102%	\$ 295,532	\$ 339,367	87%
General Fund Expenses	\$ 23,772	\$ 27,946	85%	\$ 295,246	\$ 339,367	87%
Net General Fund Surplus	\$ 9,151			\$ 286.00		
General Fund Checkbook Balance	\$ 10,035					

The finance report for the month of December 2025 shows that the general fund giving exceeded general fund expenses by \$9,151. Our general fund checkbook balance as of the end of December was \$10,035 which is about half of what's necessary cover 1 month's expenses. The church is up-to-date on its Ministry Shares obligations.

Overall, in 2025 the church was on a decent financial footing. We ended each month with money to spare in our General Funds account. The church met its Ministry Shares obligations on time. Surprisingly, the General Fund income and expenses matched to within \$286 over the course of the year. The church added a QR code to announcements slides towards the end of 2025 that will hopefully increase online giving, particularly for people who stream the service on FaceBook and Youtube.


"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7



**SEEKERS
YOUTH GROUP** 
COME AND SEARCH WITH US

**SATURDAYS
4PM - 6PM**

WHITE LAKE UMC
8555 COOK ST.
MONTAGUE




GRADES 6 - 12

**THE COMPASS
YOUTH DISCUSSION GROUP
SUNDAY 10.15AM ROOM 8**



South Group Scoop

Greetings All

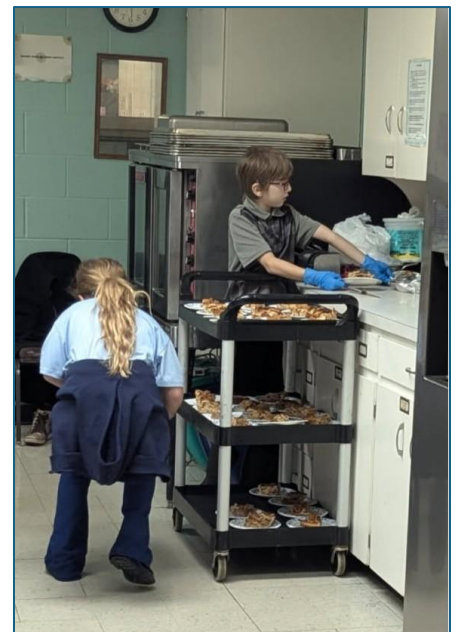
This winter has so far hampered our original plans for the season. Activities, especially outdoor activities, have been disrupted. Weather, bad travel days, sickness, and other unforeseen circumstances have impacted us greatly.

We will not be holding our Valentine's Dinner as planned. We may still manage a snow playday in February. We are planning our schedule of events beginning in March. In the meantime, we continue to have our regular youth group meetings most Saturdays at 4pm.

Our youth continue to help at the 1st Monday Gathering meal. They help in all areas of setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Thank you to them, and the parents who support them. Dana Flannery, who leads the Gathering team that day, is very thankful for them.

Spring is coming, and our youth (and leaders) will welcome it with open arms!

As always, we praise God for our youth group, and for their leaders.





TRUSTEES NEWS

Praise Center:

- No major events to report. We visit the building from time to time to make sure all is in order.
- 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:

- Not a whole lot to report. Just lots of ice buildup and we will keep after it so as not to damage the roof.
- Working on budget proposal for a new kitchen. Rough plan can be seen on the bulletin board in the south hallway. Waiting to finalize the numbers before progressing any further. We will have another open meeting for additional input soon.
- We would like to begin work on a security team. We will need a few people willing to assist at the doors and parking lots during services. Anyone interested in helping please call me. 815 370-1824. I will set up a meeting and then follow up with some training. It is awful to discuss and more so to incorporate this type of protection for our congregation. However, it is what is going on in our world.
- Plowing is a difficult process. We will keep up as best we can with our Michigan winters.

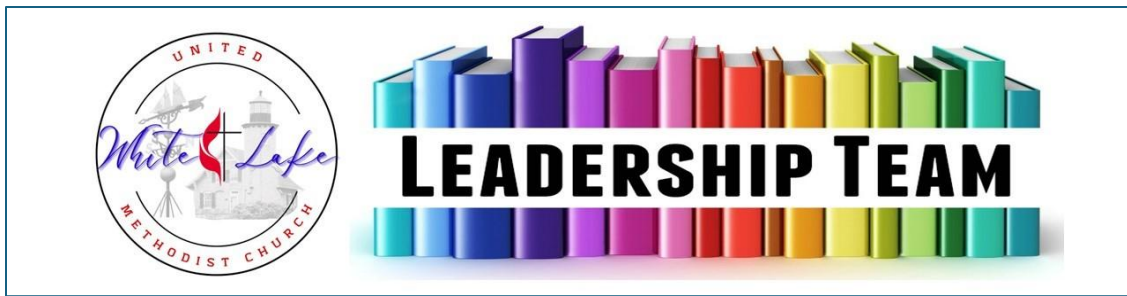
Parsonage:

Lost our mailbox to the snowplows. It should hopefully be fixed soon. The city has been notified.

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



We are pleased to have welcomed many new members over the past year, so it seems like a good time to explain a little more about our leadership structure.

The Leadership team meets at least every other month. Each member of this team represents different areas of the overall work needed to keep our church functioning and moving in a positive direction. Some positions are required by the UMC.

The team members are as follows: -

Team Chair - Glen Naghtin (231 750 6646)

Pastor - Tim Dibble (248 622 9514)

Lay Leader – Ward Heaton (231 750 7956)

SPRC – Tom Hinkin (231 730 0075)

Finance – Tom Carson (240 344 1744)

Faith Formation – Ruth Tuttle (517 902 6112)

Mission – Ruth Grenell (231 557 2470)

Trustees – Dick Baerman (815 370 1824)

Communication/Membership – Fiona Dibble (248 622 9497)

We also have teams working in different fields as needed. Some are long term/permanent, whilst others might be formed for a short/medium term project as needed.

In 2026, the Leadership team will be sharing the broad content of their meetings in the monthly newsletter. Hopefully this will provide everyone with a picture of how things are going. SPRC matters will not be shared in this way as they fall under the confidentiality policy.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, you can always speak to any of the team or call the office. If it matters to you, it matters to us!

February Events at a Glance

- 1st Communion Sunday - Human Relations Sunday special offering
UWF Afternoon Tea 4-6pm
- 3rd Leadership Team Meeting 12pm
- 4th Choral Joy practice at 6pm
- 8th Traditional Service 9am, Praise Band Service 11am
- 18th Ash Wednesday service 6pm
- 25th Lenten Lunch at Ferry Memorial with Doug Ogden
8637 Old Channel Trail, Montague

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	
10am Fellowship Time	UWF 10am (first Monday of the month)	Office open 12 to 3:30pm	3:30pm Chair Yoga	Faith Group 10am		
Kids Church			5:30pm	Stitchers group		
Youth Study			Sister's Group	9:30am onwards		
11am					3:30pm Chair Yoga	
PRAISE BAND	3:30pm Chair Yoga		6pm Choral Joy	FREESTORE 5-8pm		
WORSHIP	THE GATHERING	AL-ANON 7pm	(choir practice)		NA MEETING	
Including	FREE MEAL 6-7pm		7pm Praise Ringers	THE GATHERING	6:30pm	
Kids Church			(bells practice)	FREE MEAL 6-7pm		
	NA MEETING		7pm Faith Group	Thursday Thinkers		
YOUTH GROUP	6:30pm		NA MEETING 7pm	7pm		
4-6pm						