



# *The Messenger*

## *March 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](http://www.whitelakeumc.org)

### ***From the Pastor's Desk***

Considering the possibilities. This phrase has become my motto, my prayer, and the guide for my personal reflections this Lenten season.

It has become my motto as it reminds me every day to keep an open mind in every process of decision-making, about every person, and in every opportunity that presents itself. In each case I have an opportunity to follow God's will and calling in my life. In each case I have at least one choice which will not honor my God. Consider the possibilities.

In my prayers this Lenten season I am really trying to stay open to not just talking at God but truly having a conversation. This involves listening and considering the possibilities that God may choose to speak to my life in novel ways, through the lives of others, through my past experiences, through the ability to reason which God has gifted me, and through a thorough examination and study of his Word. Consider the possibilities.

This is a time of year for all of us to once again follow the steps of Christ's life, to compare his life and teachings to the path that our lives have taken and to seek repentance for life paths that do not lead our lives in parallel with the example of Jesus. What direction has your life taken or is it taking today? Do you find yourself walking with Jesus or away from him? Are you willing to consider the possibility that God's will for your life might mean a real change in direction, true repentance? Are we willing to consider the possibility that God has something new and special planned for the body of Christ incarnate in White Lake United Methodist Church? Are we willing to consider the possibility that we need to explore new and different ways to share and spread the unchanging Gospel of Jesus Christ. Consider the possibilities.

My heart is ready for such an adventure, and I am sure yours is as well! The possibilities for joy, peace, hope, healing, and, yes, even

salvation are endless. We look forward to resurrection and rebirth on Easter morning as a reminder that in and through Christ all things are possible today just as in days gone by. Our Savior lives. Our Savior reigns. Our Savior calls. Consider the possibilities.

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 April newsletter**  
**Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

### NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

Over the next few months, I will be working on a new church directory. If you would be available to assist me, please let me know.

The primary help needed is contacting members/friends of the church to get updated names, addresses, phone numbers etc. There will be a form to record the information and return it to the church office.

It would be a much less time-consuming project if we have a small team.

Thank you

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Would you like to join White Lake UMC, coming into full membership? If so, Pastor Tim would like to hear from you. We hope to welcome new members into our fellowship on Easter Sunday.

Call Pastor Tim or the church office if you are interested or would like more information.

“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

**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](mailto:jareyd@aol.com). We can never have too many folks praying



## JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF JOHN LLOYD

ON SATURDAY MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

At White Lake UMC

Visitation at 10am

Service at 11am followed by a luncheon



## 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

## Sunday Morning

### Services

9:00am

Traditional style

10:00am

Fellowship Time

11:00am

Praise Band Service

11:15am

Compass Youth Class

& 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?

## MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

THURSDAY APRIL 2ND, 2026

AT 7 PM

## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

FRIDAY APRIL 3RD, 2026

AT 7 PM

## EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION

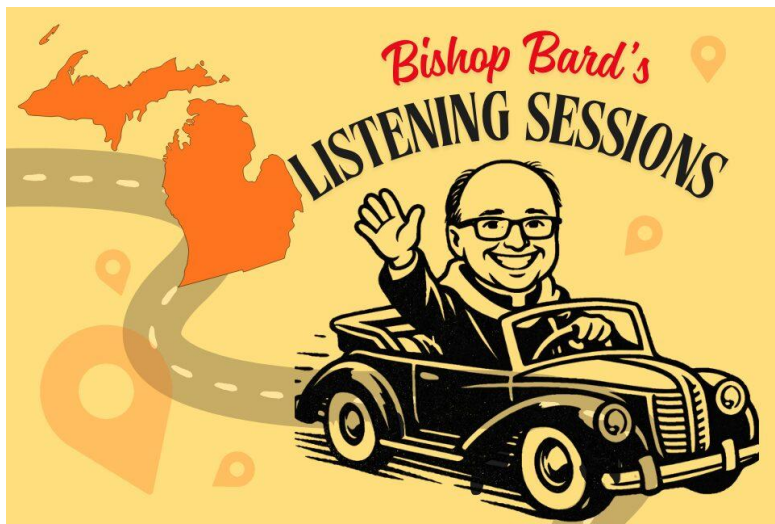
HE IS  
*Risen!*

SUNDAY APRIL 5TH, 2026

AT 10AM - JOINT SERVICE



There will be Choral Joy (6pm) and Praise Ringers (7pm) rehearsals each Wednesday evening throughout March – 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> as we prepare for the Easter season. Anyone who would like to join the chorus, please come along!



Bishop David Bard invites all clergy and laity to participate in listening sessions regarding a proposal from the Appointive Cabinet to restructure the number of districts in the Michigan Conference. Your voice matters in this important conversation about our conference's future.

Monday, April 13  
 5:30 to 7 pm EDT / 4:30 to 6 pm CDT  
 Virtual session via Zoom

We plan to join the Zoom session of Bishop Bard's listening tour at the church or you can join from home – see Fiona in the office for information  
 (There are three in person listening sessions – info available at the church office)

## ENDOWMENT UPDATE



### WLUMC Endowment Report for January

Begin. Market Value (12/31/2025)	215,658.61
Additions.	0.00
Income	
Dividends	335.63
Change in Market Value	3,114.93
Ending Market Value. (1/31/2026)	<b><u>219,109.17</u></b>

In January we experienced a very good return.

The Endowment Team will meet on March 2nd to work on the endowment grant requests.

In Christ, Tim Todd

Endowment Fund Team Leader



## Upcoming Lay Servant Training Opportunities

SPRING RETREAT – April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Cadillac UMC, MI

Arrival Friday 4.30pm/Ending Saturday 4.30pm

Registration cost: \$30 (includes two meals and snacks) plus the cost of a course book.

(Financial assistance is available if needed – speak to Pastor Tim or call the office)

Courses offered – Introduction to Lay Ministry: the Basic Course, Leading Prayer, Spiritual Gifts, and UM Social Principles 2025-2028. (Application forms available in the office)

Lay Servants serve churches in many ways. For some, lay servant training is a pathway to becoming a Lay Speaker, but this is not for everyone. The courses are varied, and give participants the opportunity to learn, develop, and improve skills in many different ministries, as well as their personal spiritual journey.

All participants begin with the Basic Course. This course is foundational in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

Having completed the Basic Course, there are many different Advanced classes that participants can attend. Some focus on the path towards becoming a Lay Speaker, whilst others focus on leading small groups, spiritual gifts, living our UMC beliefs, evangelism, prayer, justice in everyday life, lay pastoral care, conflict resolution, storytelling, ministry with the elderly, climate justice, inter-generational connection, fighting racism, and more. Each Spring and Fall, the district provides the Basic Course, as well as 2 or 3 advanced courses. Some courses are also offered online.

This Fall, there will be a District Retreat held here at White Lake UMC. September 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026. We won't know which courses are available until closer to the time, but one will be the Basic.

If you would like to know more about Lay Servant Ministries, call into the church office, or speak to Pastor Tim, Ward Heaton, Ken Wentworth, or Fiona Dibble. Also, Nancy Frye and Jim Tanis have been serving as Lay Speakers for many years.

# Faith Formation



We still need a nursery worker for this group. 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](http://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!

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10am for our regular meeting



Thank you to the ladies of all ages that came out to support our afternoon tea on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.



It was nice to share tea and treats with such a lovely group.



United Methodist Women's Sunday will be on Mother's Day – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The service will be led by Nancy Frye and Fiona Dibble



# 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*

## Easter is just around the corner!

We are planning an Easter Breakfast as part of our celebrations. Please contact Sue Lloyd (or the church office) if you can help with any of the following.

Providing food (Egg casserole (various kinds), Fruit salad, cinnamon rolls, breakfast breads, orange juice, milk.)

Providing service - Set up, serving, and especially clean-up.



We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt after the combined 10am service Easter Sunday.

Individually wrapped candy will be needed, and may be donated until March 31<sup>st</sup>, to give the Easter bunny time to load the eggs!

Please bring your candy donations to the Welcome Center or the church office. Thanks!

The NOW team is **desperately in need of new members**. We organize fun events for the church family, as well as **reaching out to the community**. Upcoming events planned are - 4<sup>th</sup> July Parade float, Summer Splash! Halloween Party, Trunk or Treat, and the Christmas Tree Festival. All these events are **fun to take part** in and are great opportunities for us to **share God's love** with all. We also send cards and gifts to our shut-in members and friends. There is more we could do if we had a larger, more diverse group of team members. **Nurture, Outreach, and Witness** are critical to our **future growth** both spiritually and physically.

Contact Sue Lloyd, or the church office if **God is calling you** to this essential work.

# Youth Group Scoop

Our Youth group is still growing!!!

In February, we had new members and 3 guests at the lock-in. It was wonderful (loud and energetic, but wonderful).

Our sledding excursion was also great. We combined with the Pop-Up Social (younger adults group) and had around 20 (I lost count) at Hanson's Hill. All had a lot of fun, youth, younger kids, and adults alike. We even enjoyed some hot chocolate!

Isn't God Great!

Thank you Church!

The Youth Team



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

SATURDAYS  
4PM - 6PM

WHITE LAKE UMC  
8555 COOK ST.  
MONTAGUE



## YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN





# TRUSTEES NEWS

## Praise Center:

- We continue to see some interest in the building. Stay tuned.
- We continue to check on the heat and building status.

## 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.
- We have our numbers in from our potential construction team. Winberg and their construction teams have put in the numbers for the new kitchen. Rounding off to about \$370,000.
- Ken Wentworth has agreed to take on this project and has been in contact with some folks to help us with fundraising. We will be actively pursuing funding options and if you would like to help, please give Ken or me a call.
- We would like to begin work on a security team. We have a few names of people willing help. If you would like to help with our security needs, please let me know: 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. We plow the church lots at 2" of snowfall and parsonage at 4" of snowfall.

## Parsonage:

- We have been reimbursed for the broken mailbox. We have repaired the old one temporarily and will replace it with the new one in the 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

## Seekers Youth Group and Pop-up Social

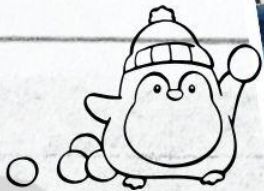
# SLEDDING!

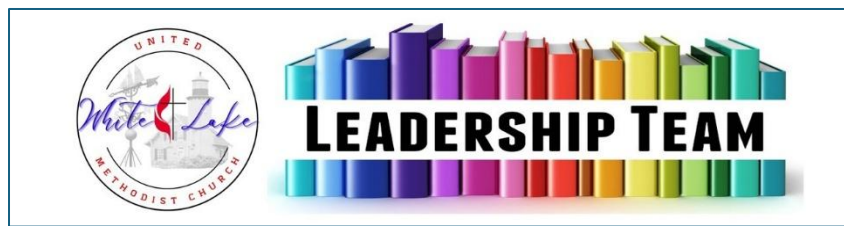


The Seekers Youth group and Pop-Up Social group got together on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> for an afternoon of sledding and fun. Look out for more great social activities and get to know your church family better.

## Seekers Youth Group and Pop-up Social

# SLEDDING!





The Leadership team met on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. Here are the items discussed at the meeting.

- Discussion on the use of the QR code now included on the screens etc.
- Visioning Team is meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026. There will be two meetings in March, and from April the group will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month. Watch this space for more news on this ongoing work.
- The Gathering board have decided to move back under the banner for the UMC rather than functioning as an entirely separate body. The White Lake Cares corp. will continue to exist for possible future use. The Gathering will now have the same structure as the Free Store, in that it is somewhat independently organized, but ultimately falls under the church umbrella.
- The team began updating the church policies late last year. This work will continue. It was decided to have an extra meeting to work specifically on the policies. This will be on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026. It is hoped to have policies ready for the Leadership team meeting in March.
- We are happy to report that we have some staff for the nursery during the 11am service. The calendar is not complete, but we are close. There is still room for others to help.
- Kitchen – It was reported that the proposed kitchen plan has been priced at \$351,825 by Winberg Construction. It will also be possible to save some money through work undertaken by the membership. Before we can move ahead, we need to establish how much grant monies would be available for this project. There will be another open meeting soon to discuss progress.
- Safety and Security – Three team members recently attended a seminar on safety in worship places. It raised various issues that should be addressed. Dick Baerman has begun to assemble a team to look at what measures would make sense for our church. It was suggested that we also look at the broader safety matters in the church regarding fire/weather procedures. We will approach the Health and Wellness team regarding possible First Aid training. Those working with children, youth, and vulnerable adults are asked to take the Safe Gatherings training course. The church will meet the cost.
- We are planning a new church directory, created by ourselves, as a great deal of information in our current directory has changed. The team suggested putting together a small work group to get this done without adding too much additional work in the office.

If you would like to know more about any of the things discussed, please speak to a member of the Leadership Team.

### **Your Leadership Team**

*Glen Naghtin (chair), Ward Heaton (Lay Leader), Pastor Tim Dibble,  
Dick Baerman (Trustees), Tom Hinken (SPRC), Tom Carson (Finance),  
Ruth Tuttle (Faith Formation), Ruth Grenell (Missions),  
& Fiona Dibble (Membership/Communications)*

# March Events at a Glance

- 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Sunday
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Parents Morning Off 9.30am  
UWF meeting 10am  
Endowment Team Meeting 11am
- 4<sup>th</sup> Lenten Lunch at White Lake Congregational Church of Christ (speaker Michael Borgert)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Pop-up Social 6pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> Daylight Saving Time begins
- 9<sup>th</sup> Parents Morning Off 9.30am
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grief Share 6pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> Lenten Lunch at White Lake UMC 12pm (speaker Donna Morton)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Visioning Team (rm 7) 6.30pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> Health and Wellness Team meeting 10am
- 14<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Life for John Lloyd - Visitation 10am, Service 11am followed by luncheon
- 15<sup>th</sup> UMCOR Sunday – special offering  
Blood Pressure clinic after each service
- 16<sup>th</sup> Parents Morning Off 9.30am
- 17<sup>th</sup> Leadership Team Meeting 12pm  
Grief Share 6pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Lenten Lunch at Lebanon Lutheran Church (speaker Ron Hutchinson)
- 19<sup>th</sup> Visioning Team meeting (rm 7) 6.30pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> Pop-up Social 6pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Parents Morning Off 9.30am
- 24<sup>th</sup> Grief Share 6pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> Lenten Lunch at St James Catholic Church (speaker Tim Dibble)
- 29<sup>th</sup> Palm/Passion Sunday
- 30<sup>th</sup> Parents Morning Off 9.30am
- 31<sup>st</sup> Grief Share 6pm



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



## White Lake Community Free Store

☀ Where every item is free

### ☀ Donations

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

### ☀ Open Hours

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

**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 <b>TRADITIONAL WORSHIP</b> 10am Fellowship Time 10.15 Compass 11am <b>PRAISE BAND WORSHIP</b> Including Kids Church	Office open 10am to 3.30pm 3.30pm Chair Yoga THE GATHERING FREE MEAL 6-7pm NA MEETING 6.30pm	Faith Group 10am Office open 12 to 3.30pm AL-ANON 7pm	Office open 10am to 3.30pm 3.30pm Chair Yoga 5.30pm Sister's Group 6pm Choral Joy 7pm Praise Ringers 7pm Faith Group 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 3.30pm Chair Yoga NA MEETING 6.30pm	FREESTORE 11am—2pm YOUTH GROUP 4-6pm