



# The Messenger

## April 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***

***"I know that my Redeemer lives...all glory to His name!"***

Dear Friends,

As we prepare to once again celebrate this central feast in the Church year — the Resurrection of Jesus the Christ — I am struck by the final benediction of John's Gospel: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." There are so many things our hearts hunger and thirst for, so many things our eyes long to see. Many things are yet before us, but we hold on to our dream, our vision, the promise. We see with the eyes of faith.

And it's that holding on with courage and conviction — that visionary glancing ahead — that characterizes us as the kind of blessed people John's Gospel was talking about. — There is no place I would rather be for Holy Week and Easter; no people I find more inspiring than you who make up White Lake UMC.

You give life and breath to the truth and the promise of the Gospel. Thank you for your witness. You give me hope, and a sense of the possibilities before us. For this resurrecting blessing, I thank you. I hope that you, too, will make White Lake UMC your spiritual center this holy season as we celebrate.

Here we are at the peak of the Christian church year—Holy Week and Easter. These events are at the center of saving faith and demonstrate the fullness of God's saving love. I pray you make every effort to attend services here at White Lake UMC and open yourself to the powerful blessing of the Holy Spirit as the good news of Jesus is proclaimed in word, song, fellowship, and service.

One of the great things about Easter, distinctive from Christmas, is that the message and joy of the season continue for seven weeks. The celebration doesn't end on "the big day." The power of Jesus'

resurrection as sign of His victory over sin and death is our ongoing reality. And actually, not only for 50 days but all the way to our own resurrection from the dead at Christ's second coming!

So, we are Easter people 24/7/365 (that means all day, every day :-)).

What difference does it make? It's like this—we followers of Jesus here at White Lake UMC have genuine hope, authentic joy, life-changing truth, abundant love, and generosity in service. And all that is exactly what our sad and lost world needs. You and I can be a shining light, one true friend, for the blessing of someone else. You and I can let the resurrected life of Christ overflow into all our relationships.

"I know that my Redeemer lives...all glory to His name!"

God bless!

 <p><b>OFFICE NOTES</b></p>	<b>Church Office Hours</b>
	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

**Our Vision Statement**

Worship God  
Follow Jesus  
Love and Serve All

**Deadline for the May newsletter**  
**Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

### **NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY**

Barb Rafail has volunteered to help me with collecting data for the new directory – thank you Barb! We have created a new data collection form. It would be helpful if everyone would fill out a form even if you have not changed address etc. You would be surprised how often we find errors in phone numbers!

We will begin the work after Easter. Please fill out the form fully so we can create a new directory with all the correct information. If you would like to assist, contact me in the church office.

Thank you

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



## RECENT PRAYER REQUESTS

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Bob Suits had a total hip replacement on Wednesday, March 11th. Prayers for him, Lee and the medical staff who care for him.
- Also, prayers for Lee and Bob's daughter. She is home after a second admission for pneumonia. Prayers for the whole family in these challenging days ahead.
- Ariya Craymer, the 6-year-old granddaughter of Amanda Garza's friend, has leukemia. A spot has now been found on her lung. Ariya is suffering from severe stomach pain. Please pray for relief from pain, and for all those caring for Ariya.
- Please pray for Josh Hill (Rachel Fekken's cousin in-law), who has meningitis and an air pocket on his brain, secondary to influenza. Prayers for him, his wife Tiffany, their children, and extended family who have been through so much already.



## 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



### 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

## Upcoming Worship Series Beginning April 19th



A Changemaker is a risk-taker, someone who puts their faith into action to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Jesus was a Changemaker. The Good News is... so are we. Made in the image of God, sharing in the purposes of Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, we are the "assets" we've been looking for. Our wealth lies in the Compassion, Collaboration, Creativity, and Empowerment that sustains us through change, for change, for the sake of a better world. Join us as we hatch new ideas and fly to new heights, risking something big for something good.



There will be Choral Joy (6pm) and Praise Ringers (7pm) rehearsals each Wednesday evening throughout April except 8<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who would like to join the chorus, please come along!

Gwen will begin planning for our special summer music schedule soon.

If you would like to offer music for the 9am and/or 11am services during this time, please give her a call on 616-430-2393.



## Upcoming Lay Servant Training Opportunities

SPRING RETREAT – April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Cadillac UMC, MI – (between 4 and 6 members from  
White Lake UMC are planning to attend.)

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.

# ENDOWMENT UPDATE



Begin. Market Value (1/31/2026)	219,109.17
Additions.	0.00
Income	
Dividends	257.49
Others	-50.00
Change in Market Value	-750.60
Ending Market Value. (2/28/2026)	218,566.06

As you can see, in February we experienced a loss.

## **Endowment Grants 2026**

The Endowment Team met on March 2nd to approve the endowment grant requests.

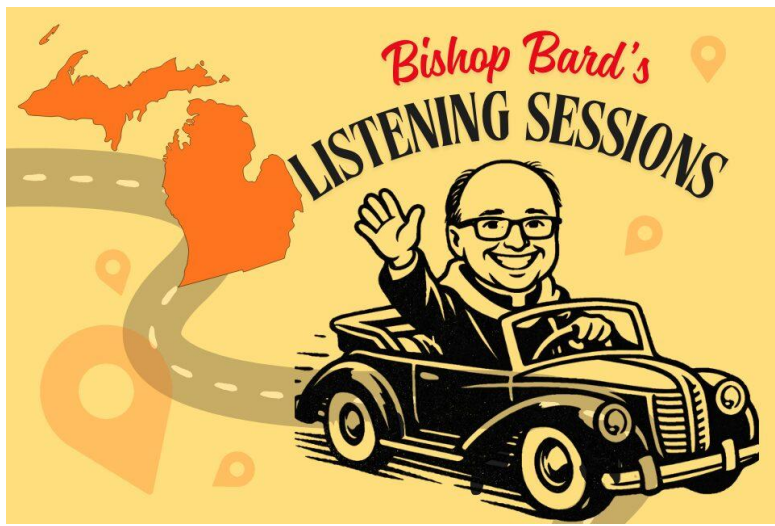
The following grants were approved:

Summer 2026 Vacation Bible School.....	425.00
2026 Women's Retreat.....	868.00
Memorial Garden.....	400.00
NOW (Nurture, Outreach, Witness) .....	1,200.00
Health & Wellness First Aid Class.....	375.00
Summer Music.....	400.00
Youth Group (Summer & Winter Missions) ....	2,000.00

This marks the 28th year that grants have been issued from the fund. Over 178,640.00 has been awarded to many different groups, projects, and missions for their efforts. It has been a wonderful legacy from those first contributors and the forefathers and foremothers who dreamed this dream and made it happen for this church.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Endowment Fund.

In Christ, Tim Todd (Endowment Fund Team Leader)



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)



January 2026 Finance Report (as of January 31, 2026)						
	January	January	% January	YTD	YTD	% YTD
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
General Fund Income	\$ 22,545	\$ 27,410	82%	\$ 22,545	\$ 27,410	82%
General Fund Expenses	\$ 26,322	\$ 28,026	94%	\$ 26,322	\$ 28,026	94%
Net General Fund Surplus	\$ (3,777)			\$ (3,777)		
General Fund Checkbook Balance	\$ 6,426					

### Finance Report

The finance report as of January 2026 shows that in January the general fund giving fell short of general fund expenses by \$3,777. Our general fund checkbook balance as of the end of January was \$6,426 which is less than half of what's necessary cover 1 month's expenses. The church is up-to-date on its Ministry Shares obligations.

*"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*



**Free Ostrich Ferns for the taking!  
and an Invitation to  
Adopt a Small Garden Plot to maintain**

Our ostrich fern garden along the fence at the south end of the property (south of the parking lot) has become too dense, resulting in lack of airflow between the ferns. In recent years this has resulted in the ferns turning brown, beginning in late July. We will be reducing the depth of the fern garden to about 4 feet, meaning that we will be digging up all the ferns at the front of the garden, potentially around the end of April or beginning of May.

Rather than tossing out all those valuable ferns, I am inviting anyone who wants ostrich ferns for your gardens to come and dig some up and take them, before the end of April. I will be putting in stakes and a ribbon to mark where the edge of the fern garden will be, so you'll know that you may take any ferns along the grass and as far back as the stakes. (Of course, you'll need to bring your own digging tools and containers!) Ostrich Ferns prefer



partial to full shade.

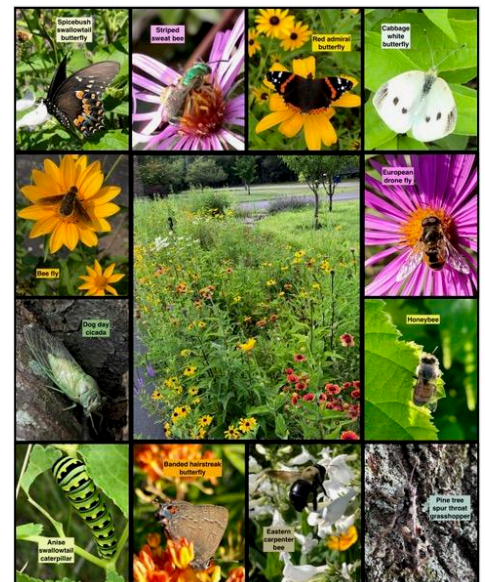
I am extending this invitation to church members, neighbors, Dirt Dauber Garden Club members, WildOnes Shore-to-Prairie members, and anyone who wants some ostrich ferns! (To church members, if you see people out there digging up ferns, it's because they were invited!) Thank you. I hope we won't have to throw any ferns away.

By the way, I have had a few offers of help with the church native gardens this year, but I still need a lot more help. Many hands make light work. I would love to have several people volunteer to maintain a small plot, so they can come at their convenience and keep their small garden plot looking good! Stop by when you see me out there (or call or text me at 231-670-2724) and I can show you around so you can choose a little plot to call your own. (I have plant label stakes that we could use to mark your area.)

*Working with native plants is a pleasure: my favorite part is being amongst the beautiful native critters who visit the flowers and who pollinate our crops, control pests, provide biodiversity and support for our food web, and help maintain a healthy ecosystem.*

**Claire Schlaff**

**Contact 231 670 2724 (please text)**





AT WHITE LAKE UMC

*Tuesdays at 10am*

# FAITH STUDY GROUP

WITH RUTH TUTTLE

[www.whitelakeumc.org](http://www.whitelakeumc.org)

Our Tuesday morning Faith Study group is beginning a new book called 'Matthew, The Gospel of Promised Blessings' by Matthew L Skinner.

Contact Ruth Tuttle for a book or just show up in room 3 on Tuesday!

The Sister's Faith group is also beginning a new book called 'The Problem of Jesus. Answering a Skeptic's Challenges to the Scandal of Jesus' by Mark Clark

## Sisters' Faith Group

A DISCUSSION AND STUDY GROUP FOR THE LADIES

WEDNESDAYS AT 5.30PM  
WHITE LAKE UMC  
ROOM 11

They are meeting on Wednesdays, at 5.30pm in room 11

### WHITE LAKE UMC

8555 COOK STREET, MONTAGUE, MI 49437

**Vacation Bible School**

WE ARE PLANNING A FUN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FOR LOCAL KIDS THIS SUMMER

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE DETAILS SOON

CALL RUTH TUTTLE ON 517-902-6112 IF YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THE TEAM!



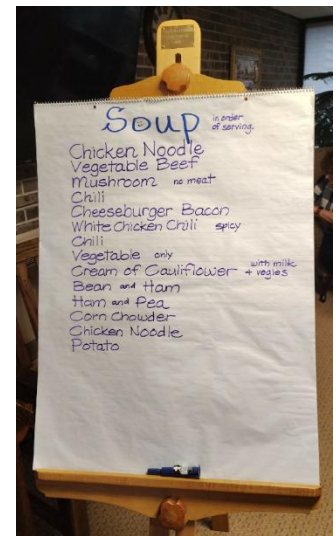
Did you know that ALL women and girls in the United Methodist Church are members of the UWF?  
All pastors are members too!

Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 10am for our regular meeting

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

We will also be blessing the prayer shawls at this service. Please drop off any completed shawls to the church office – thank you.



A big thank you to all those who helped us put on a Lenten Lunch, March 11<sup>th</sup>. A wonderful array of soups was prepared, along with bread and crackers, followed by cookies.



Thanks also to the team of folks who showed up to set up, serve, and clear away for this event.

You are a blessing!

The offerings taken throughout the Lenten Lunch season were for the Montague and Whitehall school's Hope Squads. The total raised was \$2,231.25, which will be divided equally between the two schools. Well done to all!



# 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*

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.

White Lake United Methodist Church  
8555 Cook Street, Montague, MI 49437

## Easter Breakfast

***Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 2026***  
***Serving from 8.45 - 9.45 a.m.***  
***Everyone welcome!***

White Lake United Methodist Church  
8555 Cook Street, Montague, MI 49437

## Easter Egg Hunt

***Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 2026***  
***after 10am worship***  
***All kids welcome!***



# Youth Group Scoop

## Youth News

Good News! Looks like Spring is finally Springing! With that there are signs of growth .... Green grass, days are a touch warmer, a little more sunshine, and much more.

More Good News! Our youth group is also still growing, and we are staying in compliance with the U.M. Conference Safe Gatherings guidelines. We are thankful for the adults that are volunteering to help us stay within the guidelines. We are all learning new things from and about each other (including new games) as we grow in God's grace. We are happy to welcome more adult volunteers, as well as any youth that wish to attend.

We are still planning our summer projects (including a fishing day). More on that later. Stay tuned!

God is great all the time! Praise God!

## Youth Group

Saturday 4 – 6pm



**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 11.15AM ROOM 8**



Youth Discussion Group  
Sundays 11.15am, during  
the Contemporary Service



# 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.

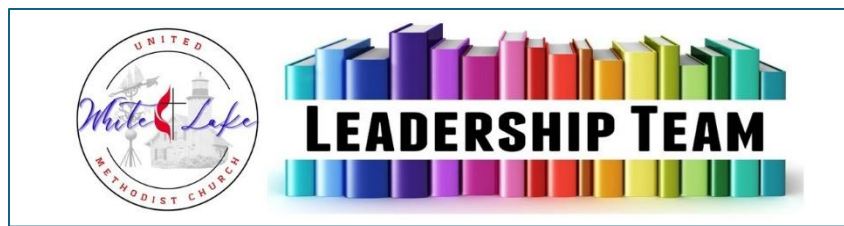
## Parsonage:

- 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



### **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)*

The Leadership team met on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Here are the items discussed at the meeting.

- Church financial status – Our treasurer shared that we are up to date on our Mission Shares to the U.M. Conference, and our current balance is healthy.
- Nominations – Pastor Tim will be contacting the Nominations team to assist in filling a couple of posts.
- The Visioning team has begun meeting. Although in the early stages, things are going well.
- Policies – the team reviewed the updated finance policies. A few minor suggestions were made and the vote to accept the policies was deferred to the next meeting, so that these matters could be addressed.
- The Praise Center – we have had several people view the building, one for a third time. No offers yet.
- Nursery staffing – we have a team in place for the nursery.
- There will be a Lay Servant training event in April, at Cadillac UMC. Three or four of our members will be attending.
- The Endowment team was able to fulfill all the grant requests received. Two requests will be met by an anonymous donor, the others from the Endowment grants.
- Pastor Tim reported that he still plans an off-site study/discussion group at a local eatery.
- There was no District Confirmation Camp during 2025. The camp scheduled for the Fall of 2025 was cancelled due to lack of participants.
- We are encouraged by the increase in young families, and older adults that have joined us in worship and other activities lately. Pastor Tim encourages us to keep asking friends and neighbors to Church.
- New Roof – We have received two quotes for the replacement of the center part of the church roof. No decisions made on this yet.
- Technology team – thanks to a generous donation, the team was able to purchase new equipment to further enhance the quality of our broadcasting and cameras.

- Safety/Security – Dick Baeman has assembled a small team to work on better safety within the church. The Health and Wellness team are organizing a First Aid/AED course for the Spring. They may add a CPR training in the Fall.
- Ken Wentworth is leading a small team exploring the possibilities of a new kitchen. They will create a presentation to assist in grant applications. No firm decisions made on this yet.
- We are planning a new church directory, created by ourselves, as a great deal of information in our current directory has changed. Fiona Dibble asked for helpers to assist her in this endeavor. Thus far one person has volunteered. Work will begin on this in the next couple of weeks.

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

## April Events at a Glance

- 1<sup>st</sup> Maundy Thursday service at 7pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Good Friday service at 7pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday
  - Breakfast 8.45 – 9.45am
  - ONE SERVICE** at 10am – Communion
  - Easter Egg hunt following service
- 6<sup>th</sup> Parents Morning Off 9.30am
  - U.W.F. meeting 10am
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grief Share 6pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> Parents Morning Off 9.30am
  - Bishop Bards Listening Tour – Zoom together 5.30pm at church
- 14<sup>th</sup> Grief Share 6pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> Visioning Team meeting (rm 7) 6.30pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> Blood Pressure checks available after each service
- 20<sup>th</sup> Parents Morning Off 9.30am
- 21<sup>st</sup> Grief Share 6pm
- 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> District Lay Servant Training in Cadillac
- 27<sup>th</sup> Parents Morning Off 9.30am
- 28<sup>th</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  <b>THE GATHERING</b> <b>FREE MEAL 6-7pm</b>  <b>NA MEETING</b> 6.30pm	Faith Group 10am  Office open 12 to 3.30pm	Office open 10am to 3.30pm  3.30pm Chair Yoga  5.30pm Sister's Group  6pm Choral Joy  7pm Praise Ringers  7pm Faith Group  <b>NA MEETING 7pm</b>	Office open 10am to 3.30pm  Faith Group 10am  Stitches group 9.30am onwards  <b>FREESTORE 5-8pm</b>  <b>THE GATHERING</b> <b>FREE MEAL 6-7pm</b>  Thursday Thinkers 7pm	Office open 10am to 3.30pm  3.30pm Chair Yoga  <b>NA MEETING</b> 6.30pm	<b>FREESTORE</b> 11am—2pm          <b>YOUTH GROUP</b> 4-6pm