



The Messenger

May 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...*Spring is finally here!*"

Spring is finally here! The trees and flowers are blooming. The birds are singing. The sun seems to add just that little extra oomph of optimism and energy to our day. Life is everywhere and that life is good! Jesus promised the disciples after his resurrection at Easter that he was going to give them all a gift. A gift which would help them understand all that he had taught them. This gift would enable them to understand his life, his example, and the purpose to which God was calling each of them. This gift is the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, Jesus' promise to always be with us is fulfilled. Through the working of God's will for Creation in the Holy Spirit, we enjoy all the beauty of spring and of all the seasons. And it is through the Holy Spirit that each of us is gifted individually and collectively. This gift is each of ours whether we go to church or not, whether we are Christians or not. Whether we recognize and celebrate God's presence amongst us or not!

And yet, I feel like I want to celebrate! I want to celebrate all the blessings in my personal life and the community in which I am so fortunate to serve. I want to run like a child again in the sun for no other reason than that I can. I give thanks for my family, my friends, and the church. I am thankful for my health, for a night's rest, and for the food on my table.

I revel in the joy of working alongside my fellow brothers and sisters to assist others in need of a helping hand, a kind word, a community meal, a card, a video chat, a new coat or pair of shoes, a moment's prayer.

I celebrate all these blessings and all those too numerous to list!

Yes, it is true that our White Lake area faces many challenges due to socio-economic issues we face and the politically charged atmosphere we share. Including higher unemployment and job insecurity for many, foreclosures, uncertainty with relationships, unresolved grief, fearing for our health and for the health of those we love, but don't you think it is worth it to just stop for a moment and to consider how God has blessed each of us.

The answers to the problems and challenges we face is found in the gifts and blessings God has already provided us. The answer is to be found in the example of Jesus as I discussed earlier. We too need to offer our spirits, our gifts, our graces, our skills, our blessings to one another. When one member of our community suffers, we all suffer. When they are unable to live their lives to the potential that God wants for them, we all suffer. What is a spring morning without the flowers and trees blooming, birds singing, or the sun shining? What is God's growing Kingdom without you?

We are many individual parts of one body . . . **we** are a community. There are so many wonderful ways in which we can share our gifts and talents this time of year and become part of something wonderful and "bigger than life". You can make a difference in someone else's life in their time of need just by getting involved and becoming an active part of God's plan for Creation. You can find the peace and inner strength you need from the gifts and talents of others as you allow them to become more a part of your life.

Christ is Risen! Spring is finally here and I can see the Holy Spirit at work amongst us. Can you? Are you really looking? Give it a try!

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 June newsletter

Friday, May 25th, 2026

Friendly reminder – the church office is not open on Tuesday mornings. I usually arrive around noon on those days. Thanks

"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."

NOTICE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE



Updating Church Directory

Please see Barb Raffall, Linda Allen, or Fiona Dibble to fill out a form.

See the table in the Welcome Center before and after worship for the next couple of weeks.

Forms are also available in the office, in the mid-week update, and the May newsletter.

Even if none of your information has changed, please still fill out a form so we can check you off our list - Thank you!

Please fill out a new directory information form even if nothing has changed from the last edition.

If you are not local, or are unable to attend, there is a form at the back of this newsletter, or you can contact the office, and I will mail one to you.

If you are currently in the directory and would like to be removed, please let me know.



Thanks For Taking the Time!
A quick shout out to Jack Grenell who made and donated a beautiful new clock for our Fellowship Hall.



ENDOWMENT UPDATE



WLUMC Endowment Report for March 2026

Begin. Market Value (2/28/2026)	218,566.06
Additions.	0.00
Income	
Dividends	461.01
Change in Market Value	-9,790.15
Ending Market Value. (3/31/2026)	<u>209,236.92</u>

The market experienced a downturn in March but has gained a bit in April so far.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Endowment Fund.

In Christ, Tim Todd,
Endowment Fund Team Leader



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



RECENT PRAYER REQUESTS

- Fred Nichols had extensive back/spine surgery. He has now moved to rehab.
- Pam Elliot had surgery recently to remove a melanoma from her neck. A couple more trouble spots have been identified and will be investigated.
- Pat Klotz would like prayers for her sister who has stage 4 cancer. Prayers for Pat too, as she continues to recover from her own health challenges.
- Lee and Bob Suits are both now home from the hospital.
- Rita VanDyke friend, Barb is in the hospital and just learned she has stage 4 lung cancer, lesions on her liver and several lesions on her brain.
- Mary Warnock colleague, Ali's 7-yr old son, has been moved to hospice care with just a few weeks remaining, despite all efforts to fight the cancer.
- Rachel Fekken's relative, Josh, finally went home after a long hospital stay, only to be rushed back in with severe pain. He has now had his gallbladder removed. He continues to have sight and hearing issues from the previous infection.
- Rachel's work colleague's son, Zach, has a biopsy planned for May 4th to determine if his issues are cancer, or an infection.
- Prayers for Joe Clark who has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.
- Prayers for Peggy Clune who has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

We lift all these friends up in prayer. We pray for healing and comfort. We pray for the medical staff and family who will care for them. In Jesus Name, Amen.

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



WHITE LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, May 24th, 2026

One United Service at 10am

“Use Your Words”
Pentecost Sunday



WHITE LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, May 24th, 2026

Following the church service



The Dedication of our Prayer Labyrinth

Join us as we ask God’s blessing on this prayer/meditation space, available to all; and celebrate the birthday of The Church with cake and lemonade



WHITE LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, May 31st, 2026 At 9am and 11am

“The Wonder of God’s Creation”

Led by Ward Heaton



One Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th, the Spring Lay Servant Ministries training event was held in Cadillac, Michigan.

Four of our church members attended. Rachel Fekken and Deb Leister took the 'Basic Class'. This class is designed to help students explore their own calling in the Church. Ward Heaton took the class on Spiritual Gifts, having completed the basic course last year. Fiona Dibble attended the class on Leading Prayer. Congratulations to all!



FALL 2026 CLASSES

This coming Fall, September 25th – 26th, the training event will be held here at White Lake UMC. The following classes will be offered: -

The Introduction to Lay Ministry (basic course) – this course is offered at each training event and is necessary for those wishing to pursue certification as a lay servant/lay speaker.

Planning Worship – self-explanatory. This class is required for those who are working towards lay speaker certification.

Fear of the Other – No Fear in Love. This is a new class explores God's command to love and embrace those considered Other by the surrounding culture and highlights everyday strategies for revitalizing a welcoming and embracing faith.

Fresh Expressions: A New Kind of Methodist Church for People Not in Church. This is also a new class. Participants will grasp how genuine, authentic gatherings meet people where they are and can become means of grace for both those disconnected from church and those who long to see others made whole by grace.

You do NOT have to complete the basic course to attend other classes. You will need to take the basic class if you wish to become a Certified Lay Servant, or Lay Speaker. It's a good way to explore this calling.

For more information about Lay Servant Ministries, call in at the church office, or speak to Pastor Tim.

**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. Please help yourself to some of the ferns. **We have extended the timeframe for digging them up to at least the end of May, or possibly**



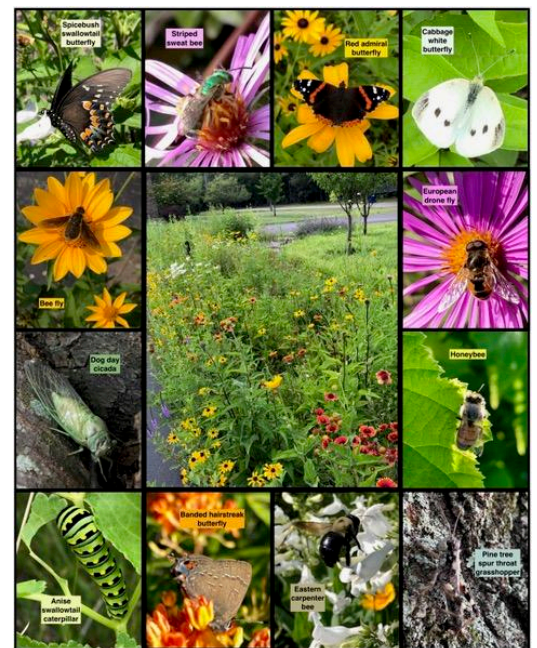
into June. The ferns are beginning to unfurl, so this is a good time to choose which ferns you would like to dig up. Please let others know about this opportunity!
There are stakes and a ribbon to mark where the edge of the fern garden will be, so you'll know that you may take any ferns along the grass 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.

Seasonal work is now underway. I have had a few offers of help with the native gardens this year but 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



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

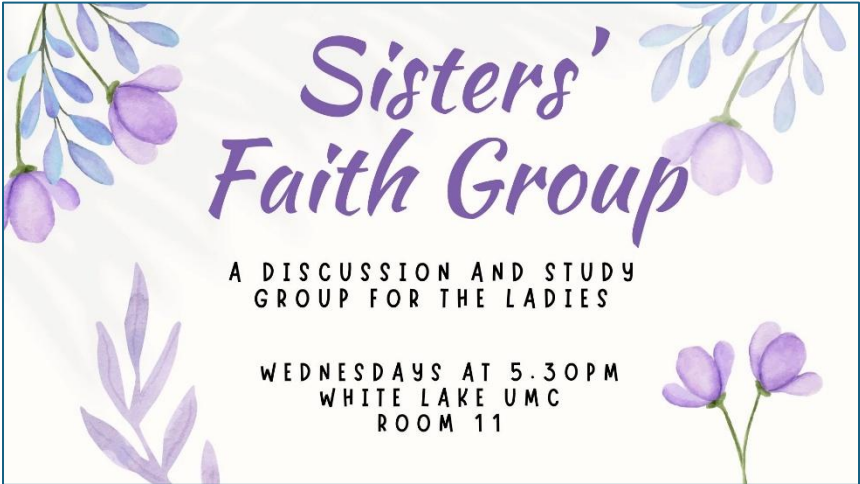
Contact Ruth Tuttle for a book or just show up in room 3 on Tuesday!

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

JULY 13TH - 17TH
6PM - 8PM

FOR KIDS PRE-K - 5TH GRADE
AND OPTIONAL ADULT GROUP

BE PART OF THE TEAM THAT
MAKES IT HAPPEN!

CALL RUTH TUTTLE ON 517-902-6112
TO SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please check in with Ruth Tuttle if you are willing and able to help with our Vacation Bible School.

There's lots to do, and a job 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, May 4th, 10am for our regular meeting

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



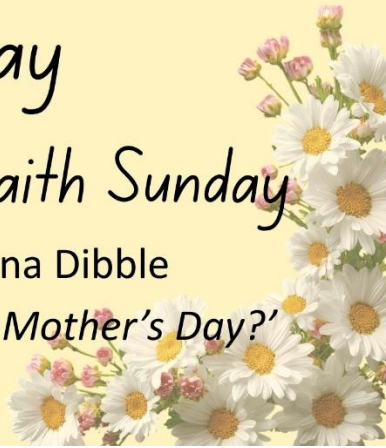
WHITE LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday, May 10th, 2026 At 9am and 11am



Mother's Day & United Women in Faith Sunday

Led by Nancy Frye & Fiona Dibble

Message - 'A Different Kind of Mother's Day?'



The service will be led
by Nancy Frye and
Fiona Dibble

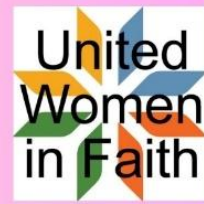
This service will include a blessing of the prayer shawls. Please bring any completed shawls to the office beforehand.

Thank you.



You are invited to our
Women's Potluck Dinner

Friday, May 15th 2026 6–9pm
A friendly meal followed by
card/board games, and social time.



(Bring a dish to pass—beverages provided)
RSVP to the church office 231 894 5789





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 - 4th 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.

We are planning a float in the July 4th Parade. We will need some able bodies to help put the banners on the trailer and to walk alongside the float during the parade. Please contact Sue Lloyd if you can help. This is a great way of bringing us to the public's attention. We are also able to advertise our VBS and Summer Splash event to a wider audience.

Being visible is essential for growth!

White Lake UMC
8555 Cook Street, Montague, MI 49437

SUMMER SPLASH PARTY

FUN AND GAMES FOR ALL AGES





Bounce house, games
ducking stool, food,
relax in the sun
and enjoy the company
of friends old and new

Everyone is welcome
Free hotdog roast
chips, cookies
& marshmallows
Bring a lawn chair

SATURDAY
July 18, 2026 
2PM - 4PM 




Youth Group Scoop


A big thank you to those who are helping keep the youth group going whilst Fred is out of action. He had his surgery on April 22nd. He was in theater for around 6 hours having a variety of repair and replacement work on his back/spine. By the time we go to print he will likely have moved to a rehab facility to begin physical therapy. We all wish him a speedy recovery and send love to both him and Ilene as they get through this difficult time.

thankyou

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 building status.
- Jack Grenell is handling the yard duties for the Praise Center. THANKS, JACK.

Montague Campus:

- We are beginning the cleanup process in our outside areas. Stay tuned to hear what help we need, as we prepare our grounds for the beauty it projects.
- Wow, thanks to lots of folks we have managed to fall, with help from a Tree Service, that huge oak tree hanging over the Prayer Labyrinth. The cleanup is a huge job. We saved lots of money by handling the cleanup ourselves. A huge thanks to Dan Parsons, Bob Lewis, Ray Schlaff, Carla Heaton, Suzanne Cox and Ken Wentworth for all the help with this massive undertaking. We still have some cleanup and some mending of that lawn area, but that huge, beautiful tree is gone.
- The water cooler in the Fellowship Hall is fixed, I think. Can't really tell what caused the problem but it seems to work now. Did change the filters so all is good.
- The yard equipment is up and running. We will mow a couple of times before we sharpen blades. Looks like Jeff Petersen has worked his magic, again, with the mowing crews. Thanks, Jeff.
- Claire is working her magic as well. Cleanup of the east gardens has begun. Removal of some of the ferns from the Fern Garden has commenced. Anyone looking to have an Ostrich Fern is encouraged to call Claire for details.

Parsonage:

- All seems well.

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

May Events at a Glance

- 1st Health & Wellness team meeting 10am
- 3rd Communion served at 9am and 11am services
- 4th U.W.F. meeting 10am
- 5th Leadership Team Meeting 12pm
Grief Share 6pm
- 7th Visioning Team meeting 6.30pm
- 9th First Aid/CPR/AED training 8.30am
- 10th Mother's Day – UWF Sunday led by Nancy Fry & Fiona Dibble
- 12th Grief Share 6pm
- 15th UWF potluck dinner and games evening 6pm
- 16th Celebration of Life for Judy Cole
Visitation at 10am, Service at 11am, with luncheon to follow
- 17th Special Offering for Annual Conference Gift
Blood Pressure checks available after each service
- 19th Grief Share 6pm
Dirt Daubers Annual Plant Auction 6 – 9pm
- 21st Visioning Team meeting 6.30pm
- 24th PENTECOST Sunday – ONE SERVICE AT 10AM
Dedication of our Prayer Labyrinth to follow
- 25th Memorial Day – Church office closed
- 26th Grief Share 6pm
- 28th Office Closed– Annual Conference
- 29th Office Closed – Annual Conference
- 30th Annual Conference
- 31st Annual Conference – services led by Ward Heaton at 9am and 11am as usual.



Thanks to Dick Baerman and all who assisted in putting additional lights in the sanctuary, above the steps where the choir stands. It greatly improved the visibility of our music!

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 10am Fellowship Time 10.15 Compass 11am PRAISE BAND WORSHIP 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

