



The Messenger

August 2023

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

We really do need each other!

We really do need each other. God created White Lake United Methodist Church in community with one another. God has commanded that we seek to love one another, as much as he has always loved each of us. We really do need to get along as God once inspired a fellow to write:

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 – Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

As the summer season rushes by alongside all the stressors that so many of us are experiencing, we need to remember to love one another. This is not to say that God expects all of us to be best buddies or in close family relationship. It does mean that we should appreciate each of our neighbors, friends and relatives for who they are – fellow children of God Almighty, brothers and sisters in and through Jesus Christ, and fellow travelers in life all in need of the guiding grace of the Holy Spirit.

It's very easy to pass judgment on people, especially if we haven't experienced what they have experienced. People who have lost a loved one, lost their job through being made redundant or lost a position of responsibility, are battling an addiction or suffering from depression, often go through a valley of bereavement which can't be understood second-hand. It requires a true friend to listen and stand by them. When our opportunity comes to be a friend indeed, God has called us to rise to the occasion.

I once had a cousin named Jackie Sue. While growing up we saw a lot of each other, and we never got along. In fact, just the sound of her voice used to raise my pulse and blood pressure. Jackie Sue would follow me around constantly and I hated it!

Contact Us

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Address:
White Lake UMC
Montague Campus
8555 Cook Street
Montague, MI 49437

Praise Center
of White Lake UMC
117 S. Division Street
Whitehall, MI 49461

Vision Statement

Worship God

Follow Jesus

Love and Serve All

Sunday Morning Services

9:00 am

Traditional Service
White Lake UMC
Montague Campus
8555 Cook Street
Montague

11:00 am

Praise Band Service
Praise Center
Of White Lake UMC
117 S. Division Street
Whitehall, MI 49461

Church Office Hours

Mon 10am – 3.30pm
Tues 12noon – 3.30pm
Wed 10am – 3.30pm
Thurs 10am – 3.30pm
Fri 10am – 3.30pm

White Lake UMC
Montague Campus

But Jackie Sue was family, and you all know how the saying goes that “you can choose your friends, but you cannot choose your family”. As the years passed, whenever we got together as a family, Jackie Sue would seek me out. She just wanted to be my friend, but I just couldn’t bring myself to appreciate her [that voice . . . aargh!].

It wasn’t until I became an adult who had committed my heart to Christ that I found the spirit that enabled me to appreciate and even love Jackie Sue for who she truly was – a fellow disciple of Jesus Christ. Don’t get me wrong, her voice and little idiosyncrasies still made the hackles rise on the back of my neck, but now we joked about it, laughed about it, and realized that we could get along and even love each other.

My prayer for you all this summer season is that you will just give each other a chance. A chance to be yourselves. A chance to be honest with one another. A chance to see each other as God sees you – in love. A chance to be the Body of Christ to one another! We really need each other and are stronger in the face of life’s trials and tribulations when we stand together.

May the Peace of Christ be yours and yours to share.



God bless!

A Note from the Office

Deadline for September Newsletter items -
Wednesday, August 23rd, 2023



PRAYER

Prayer Request Card – are available on our Welcome Desk in the Welcome Center at both campuses. Fill it out and hand to Pastor Tim on Sunday mornings.

- **Instant Messenger on church Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/WhiteLakeUnitedMethodist>).
- This is a private message service that Pastor Tim monitors. Pastor Tim also tries to monitor postings/updates that many share on the church Facebook page.
- **NEW Church Website will** have a Prayer Request page that folks can send a message through that will be monitored and picked up by the pastor.
- **Weekly Printed Announcements** – It is our plan to continue to publish our Prayer List here each week. Feel free to take a copy home to use as a guide for your prayers during the week!
- **Monthly Newsletter** – We will publish our existing Prayer List each month.
- **Contact the Pastor/Church Office** – phone or email the Church Office to make a specific prayer request of Pastor Tim.
- **For prayer requests to our Prayer Chain** please contact Martha Tanis at 231-894-8525 or Laura Kiel at 231-894-9253. They are responsible for starting the Prayer Chain.
- **To be added to the Prayer Chain**
- **e-mail list to receive notifications of new prayer requests**, please e-mail Jan Dyer at jareyd@aol.com. We can never have too many folks praying!



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Karen Gheller had surgery on the ulnar nerve in her left arm. Prayers requested for a successful surgery and speedy recovery process.
- Wanda Lee Suits needs continued prayers during her treatment for cancer.
- James Tanis, Jim and Martha's son, is still having physical therapy. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Please pray for Evelyn Welch and family as they mourn the loss of John who passed away in July.
- Ken Wentworth's son Greg is having some major health concerns that are affecting his life. Please keep him in your prayers.

Prayer Chain

White Lake United Methodist church has a prayer chain that people can contact with prayer requests. There is part of the prayer chain where the prayer requests are passed along by phone and part that is sent out by email. If you would like to join either, you can contact Martha Tanis 231 894-8525 or 231 215-8325 or Jan Dyer- jareyd@aol.com. This is a wonderful way to take part in supporting your brothers and sisters in Christ, when they need it the most.

2023 Michigan Conference
Special Sunday Offerings

January 16th

Human Relations Day

March 19th

UMCOR Sunday

April 23rd

Native American Sunday

May 14th

Golden Cross Sunday

June 11th

Peace with Justice Sunday

August 20th

Christian Education Sunday

September 10th

Rural Life Sunday

October 1st

World Communion Sunday

October 15th

Disability Awareness Sunday



Dear Church
members

*I would like to
express my thanks
for all the beautiful
birthday cards you
sent to me. Your
thoughtfulness was
appreciated.*

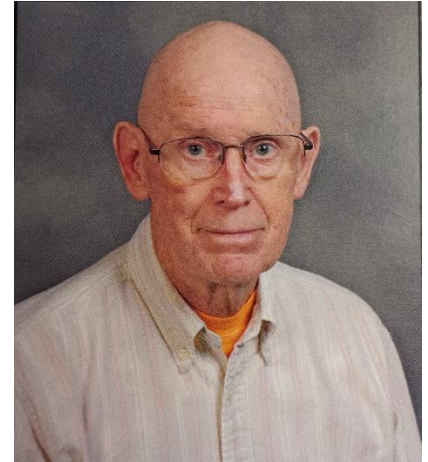
*May God bless all of
you,*

Winnie Lipka

Farewell to a Friend

The family of Pete Hunt would like to express their gratitude for the many folks who were kind enough to help transport Pete to church during the last several months. Going to church was very special for Pete and he was always appreciative of being able to attend worship. Pete has now permanently moved to Florida to live with his daughter, Amanda. We wish him well and know he is in a good place. God bless you for helping in this ministry.

With my thanks and gratitude, Jim Tanis



ALL-CHURCH TOWNHALL MEETING &

FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, August 20th



1—3 pm at the Montague campus

Bring a picnic dish to pass!





Here is the special music you can look forward to in August.

Aug 13 – Larry Lindquist

Aug 20 – Kevin Munson

Aug 27 – Bob Tuttle

Upcoming musical season

Our **choir** will begin rehearsing again on **Wednesday, September 13th**. Practices will be held at the **Montague campus, 6-7pm**. If you love to sing, please speak to Gwen about joining our happy band. New members are always welcome. You don't have to be able to read music to be part of the choir. The only requirement is the desire to praise God in song. It helps if you can at least hold a tune too! Call Gwen on (616) 430 2393 for details.

Bell Choir will begin practice on **Wednesday, August 30th**. This will be at the Montague campus, **7-8pm**. New ringers are always welcome. Please contact our bell choir director, Charlene Lindquist on 231 893 5025 for more information.



White Lake UMC & Friends

Women's Retreat

Oct 17-19, 2023

Theme— 'Be Still and Know'

Guest Speaker—Pastor Anne Riegler

St Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI

Cost \$155 - Booking forms available in Welcome Center

Contact Ruth Tuttle (517) 902 6112 to save your space



Faith Formation

A Divine Discontent

Have you ever had a sense that there ought to be more to being a member of the church than just attending worship, making a pledge, and sitting on a committee? If so, then you have experienced a “divine discontent.”

Wherever we are along the journey of faith, we are pestered by the realization that church should not just be where we go, but who we are. Jesus said, “follow me” to the first disciples, but he’s also saying that to us now. But how do we do that? What does that look like?

Starting in September, Pastor Tim will be doing a sermon series on “A Disciple’s Path.” While listening as you sit in the pew or watch on TV is important, it doesn’t allow for conversation and questions. It doesn’t give us the opportunity to really dig deep through conversation with others and find new ways to truly be a disciple of Christ. Being part of a small gathering of other Christians helps us to do just that. It is where we can ask our questions, share our thoughts, and truly grow in our faith and commitment as a disciple.

Will you join one of the small groups forming for this SIX WEEK study of “A Disciple’s Path?” There will be sign-up sheets on the welcome table at each campus. We are also looking for individuals willing to be a facilitator for a group. If you want to be part of a group and you would be willing to facilitate, please let me know.

Ruth Tuttle Faith Form nation (517) 902 6112



Health Ministries

HEALTH WEST PRESENTS

HEALTH, WELLNESS & RECOVERY PICNIC 2023

Muskegon County's Largest Health Resource Fair!

100+ Health and Wellness Exhibitors, Free Picnic Lunch, Health Screenings and Demonstrations, Kids Activities, Live Music , and lots more

THURSDAY, AUG. 17 11 AM - 2 PM

MUSKEGON'S HACKLEY PARK

Carpool from WLUMC—call Laura 231 894 9253

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Our Health Ministry team will be available to check your Blood Pressure

August 20th

Montague Campus from 8:30 am, and 10am.

Praise Center 12noon.

STOP IN AN KNOW YOUR NUMBERS!

WATER DISPENSERS

We are happy to announce another opportunity to be kind to the Earth! In a further attempt to be more eco-friendly, and through the generosity of the memorial in honor of Diane Kroll, we have provided water dispensers at each of our buildings. They will dispense cold, filtered water. You just need to bring a receptacle to put it in! We will also have a box of sterile, reusable bottles for anyone who doesn't already own one. Feel free to keep it but bring it back for your own future use. We will no longer be providing single use plastic bottles of water.



Worship News

Roll Down, Justice!

July - August

2023

A worship series inspiring us to let justice roll down like waters, to reach out across divides to alleviate suffering in all its forms.

July 30th—“How Long: Renouncing Evil”—Psalm 13

August 6th—“I Dream of a Church: Christ’s Representatives—Matthew 25:31-40

August 13th— “I Choose Love: Communities of Forgiveness”— Luke 23:32-43

August 20th— God Has Work for Us to Do: Faithful Disciples” - Isaiah 58:6-12

August 27th—“The Day is Coming: We Are One”— Isaiah 35

Why I am United Methodist

By Blake Lasater



Because we see flowers where others see weeds.

It’s all about grace and seeing people as children of God; it’s not about “us” and “them”, and a God that needs defending, but a world that needs to be loved.

It is about open hearts, open minds, and open doors, and though we are not perfect we are on that road to perfection.

We hold as our mentors Good Samaritans and Prodigal sons, faithful prostitutes and generous widows, unclean lepers, and thieves on a cross. We realize we are all that strange mixture of Saint and sinner.

It’s never about being right but always about doing right. Our mission is not to defend the church but simply to do all the good we can, to all the people we can, in all the ways we can, as long as we can.

We see flowers where others see weeds, because we figured out long ago that we were weeds that someone watered with grace and love.

In a world that sees only weeds to be pulled, I am thankful for a church filled with God’s grace that sees things in a different light.

The Gathering

We now have our own Facebook page!

Come and check it out.

'Like' us, so you can get all the latest news, information, and menu details.



The Gathering Free Meals & Good Company

Thursdays
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
&
Saturdays
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Meals take place at
The Praise Center
of White Lake
UMC
117 S. Division St.
Whitehall, MI
49461

If you are
interested in
volunteering to
help with meals,
please contact the
church office at
231-894-5789.

White Lake Community Free Store

The Free Store is in need of Summer
Children's clothing, birth to teen

For more details call the
Church office at (231) 894-5789



N urture
O utreach
W itness

DOLLAR DINNERS ARE COMING BACK!

Dollar Dinners will be starting back up on September 20th, 5pm at our Montague campus. Please keep an eye out at the Welcome Center for sign-up sheets!! We can only maintain this program if we all lend a hand where we are able.

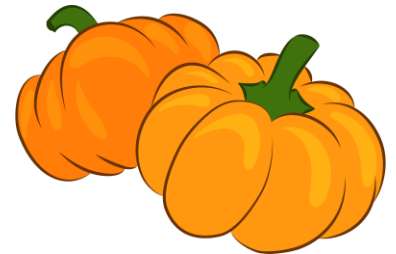


We had a wonderful Church Family Picnic this past Sunday 7/16 at the Praise Center and are looking forward to our August 20th Picnic at our Montague building. Please plan on joining us. Just bring a dish to pass!



Thank you to all who have brought cookies/treats for Coffee hour!! Please keep them coming!! It was nice to have something to pull out this past week when no one had signed up!! The sign-up sheet for future dates is in the Welcome Center (Montague campus).

Looking ahead: October brings our Trunk or Treat and it's never too early to start picking up bags of candy when you stumble on a sale!! Bags can be left on the counter in the kitchen at Montague or the office until I get a tote to keep them in. We almost always run close on having enough candy to pass out.



We have recently had a few new faces coming to our services. Please be sure to introduce yourself and make all feel welcome!!!

Thank you!
Martha Sadony NOW Team Leader

Stewardship Matters

Christian Stewardship

Our church's Stewardship Team reconvened this year and has met several times over the past six months. Initially it was to deal with the church's financial situation, but for the past few months we have focused on many other aspects of stewardship, including what this means in the context of being a Christian.

Christian stewardship is about using our gifts (our skills or talents) to fulfill our calling as Christians. We take a vow when we become members to participate in and uphold the United Methodist Church through the five tenets of membership: prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Every time we accept new members into the United Methodist Church, we repeat these vows for ourselves and pledge our support of these new members to help them effectively minister to others using these same tenets.

Our discussions have led us to recognize that we are a giving and generous congregation. In addition, we want to embrace and celebrate this by acknowledging acts of generosity, large and small, individual, and cooperative, whenever possible. It is our hope that citing examples of generosity will inspire others to "pay it forward," such that the spirit of generosity becomes contagious and continues to spread throughout our congregation and into the community.

It is our intent to shine a light on a group each month in this column to recognize acts of generosity and thank our congregants and the community members who help White Lake United Methodist Church live out its five tenets of membership.

WLUMC Stewardship Team

A Big Thank You to: FREE STORE VOLUNTEERS

On behalf of the entire White Lake United Methodist Church, the Stewardship Team would like to acknowledge and thank the handful of volunteers who put in countless hours managing and manning the community Free Store at our Praise Center.

Besides the 2 ½ to 3 hours the store is open EVERY Thursday and Saturday, each week these individuals donate several hours of their time sorting donations and stocking the store with items. This is the unheralded work that goes on behind the scenes that is rarely witnessed by anyone, and we feel it is important to shine a light on their dedication.

These volunteers are truly acting as the hands and feet of Christ as they strive to minister to the needs of "the least of these" in our midst. They are examples of sacrificial service, though we are sure none of them consider their actions a sacrifice.

While they have been sent a personal thank you from the Stewardship Team, we also would encourage each one of you to thank these individuals for the ministry they provide whenever you have the opportunity. Such generosity should be recognized, and appreciation of it shown often. While there are others that you may know to thank, who have helped occasionally, please make a special effort to let these listed know that their efforts are important, appreciated, and crucial in fulfilling the needs of our community.

Carla, Evy, Ilene, Ken, Pat, Patty, Peggy, Rita, and Ruth: your efforts are appreciated as good works; thank you!

WLUMC Stewardship Team



June 2023 Finance Report

The below table presents a condensed view of the WLUMC finances for June 2023. The General Fund income shows as a bit lower than that needed to meet expenses. However, other months of this year have enjoyed higher than monthly average income. So, the checkbook balance that covers the General Fund expenses is still healthy. The General Fund expenses for June were considerably higher than the monthly average. The Montague campus lawn irrigation pump died and had to be replaced. Although more of this cost will hit in July, most was incurred in June. Any special giving to cover this unplanned expense will be welcome.

June 2023 Finance Report		
	June 2023	Percentage of Expense Budget
Designated Funds Income	1,897.50	
General Fund Income	18,729.17	77.82%
General Fund Expenses	28,127.93	116.87%
General Fund Checkbook Balance	12,196.47	
Monthly Expense Budget	24,066.77	





Next meeting: - August 7th, 2023
At the Montague Campus

DURING AUGUST WE ARE COLLECTING PERSONAL HYGENE ITEMS, SOAPS, AND BABYWIPES FOR THE FREE STORE! PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN. ITEMS CAN BE LEFT AT THE OFFICE AT THE MONTAGUE CAMPUS OR TAKEN TO THE PRAISE CENTER.



YARD SALE



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OR DONATED TO THE YARD SALE.
WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who was part of our UMF Yard Sale in any way.

Close to \$1,500 was raised for our ongoing missions at home and abroad.

Well done all!



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR CRAFTING WORKSHOPS

From Friday, July 21st, we will be meeting at the Montague campus, 9am till noon, to make craft items for sale at our Winter Bazaar. Please come along and join in the fun. Check the bulletin or call the office for the latest details.



TRUSTEES REPORT

As always, there is a lot going on at each of our buildings.

Praise Center:

- Thanks to Karen Stembol we have a new water cooler in place. It is next to the coffee center.
- We continue to see thermostat issues in the sanctuary. Dave McDonald is looking into the process for maintaining an appropriate temp without over driving our A/C system.
- Thanks to Dan Parsons for repairing our mower. Serious damage to the mowing deck had occurred and Dan fixed us up.
- Still waiting on the Chart House Energy folks for a proposal on solar panels for this building.
- Prayer Garden is progressing. Take a look! Great stuff.

Montague Campus:

- Continuing to communicate with the Chart House Energy folks about our Solar Panel Project. Waiting for project plan and or new proposal.
- Canopy Project in making headway.
- New water cooler in place next to the coffee station, thanks to Karen Stembol.
- New carpet in a couple of rooms is still on the horizon. Stay tuned.



- Help is urgently needed with our gardens. Claire Schlaff has posted a signup sheet for all who wish to be a part of this incredible Environmental Ministry.

- Claire is hosting a group learning about pollinators and our progress in environmental stewardship.

So much is going on. Mowing, Gardening, Building Projects, WOW!!!

Thanks for all the efforts to maintain and improve our facilities.

Great stuff happening.

Parsonage:

- We removed a fallen tree from the path between the parsonage and church. Thanks to Dan Parsons for his help with this too.



We will continue to improve our facilities to enhance our missions to all. Although more is needed, a huge THANK YOU for the financial and personal commitments made.

Dick Baerman

CANOPY PROJECT UPDATE

Here's a list of the work that has taken place in the past few weeks. A big thank you to all those who have worked so hard to make this all happen.

- Welcome Center ceiling tiles are 75% complete. Metal boxes and grounding wires to be added.
- Set back roof leaks are now repaired.
- We removed the air lock inner doors.
- Ceiling under roof – wiring relocated.
- Removed lighting where the bells and entrance walkway are.
- Outside, holes have been dug, and we will be pouring concrete foundations soon.



Canopy Team Leader: John Lloyd

BLOOMING MARVELOUS!

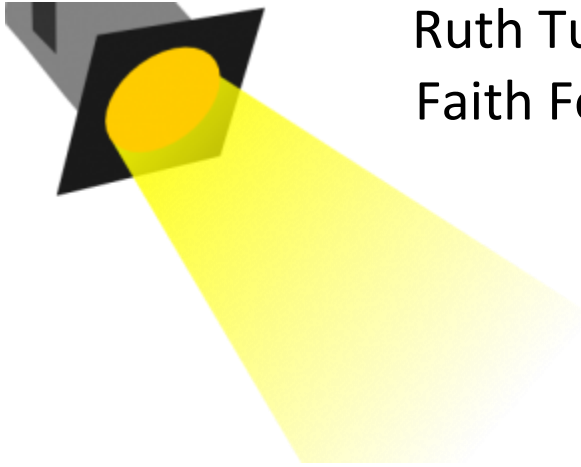
Our gardens here at the Montague campus are in full bloom and looking marvelous! If you haven't seen them, I recommend taking a drive through.



Of course, it takes a lot of work to keep our environment so beautiful, and in keeping with our Michigan heritage. Our thanks as always go to Claire Schlaff, her family and the team of workers who give many hours to maintain our gardens. We need more help! If you can make a little time to do some weeding, pruning, planting etc. please contact Claire, or sign up on the sheets in the Welcome Center at the Montague campus. Every bit of help counts!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT Over the coming months, we are going to find out a bit more about our leadership team. Watch this space to see who will be in the spotlight next!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Ruth Tuttle
Faith Formation Director



What are your earliest memories of church?

My earliest memories of Church are from attending Sunday school as a preschool child. Church has always been part of my life.

When do you feel closest to God?

I feel closest to God when I am outside enjoying God's beautiful creation, and when I am listening to music.

What brought you to this church?

I came to this church initially because it was United Methodist. When we visited for the first time, everyone was very friendly and welcoming. We immediately felt at home.

Which areas of the church's work are you most involved with?

I am the Director of Faith Formation, a position that is part of the staff of this church, as well as on the Leadership Team. I oversee the classes and groups for all ages, but personally spend most of my time facilitating small groups.

What dreams and visions do you have for our church?

My hope and vision for our church is that our outreach and witness to the community, and beyond will grow. I hope that we will be known as a faith community that loves and cares for ALL.

August Events at a Glance

- 3rd Stewardship Team meeting 10 am at Montague Campus
- 4th Picnic with the Pastor 12 noon, Montague Campus
- 6th Communion Sunday
- 7th United Women in Faith 10am – 12pm at Montague Campus
- 9th Unity Christian Music Festival 4-9pm (Heritage Landings, Muskegon)
- 10th Stewardship Team meeting 10 am at Montague Campus
Unity Christian Music Festival 4-10pm (Heritage Landings, Muskegon)
- 11th Unity Christian Music Festival 4-10pm (Heritage Landings, Muskegon)
- 12th Unity Christian Music Festival 4-10pm (Heritage Landings, Muskegon)
- 17th Stewardship Team meeting 10 am at Montague Campus
- 18th Picnic with the Pastor 12 noon at Montague Campus
- 19th Leadership Team Meeting
- 20th Health Ministries Blood Pressure Checks – both campuses
Christian Education Sunday – special offering
ALL CHURCH TOWNHALL AND FAMILY PICNIC 1-3pm Montague Campus
- 24th Stewardship Team meeting 10 am at Montague Campus
- 25th Picnic with the Pastor 12 noon at Montague Campus

<i>WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES, SMALL GROUPS, BIBLE STUDIES AND MORE</i>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9AM WORSHIP (MONTAGUE)	10AM - 3.30PM OFFICE HOURS	12 - 3.30PM OFFICE HOURS	10AM - 3.30PM OFFICE HOURS	10AM - 3.30PM OFFICE HOURS 10AM	10AM - 3.30PM OFFICE HOURS	11AM—2PM FREESTORE (PRAISE CENTER)
11AM WORSHIP (PRAISE CENTER)	1ST MONDAY OF MONTH U.W.F.	7PM AL-ANON (MONTAGUE)	7PM NA MEETING (PRAISE CENTER)	10AM—3PM STITCHERS GROUP (MONTAGUE)	6.30PM NA MEETING (PRAISE CENTER)	12-1PM THE GATHERING FREE MEAL (PRAISE CENTER)
4-6PM YOUTH GROUP (PRAISE CENTER)	6.30PM NA MEETING (PRAISE CENTER)			5-8PM FREESTORE (PRAISE CENTER)		
				6-7PM THE GATHERING FREE MEAL (PRAISE CENTER)		