



The Messenger

August 2024

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

Montague Campus

8555 Cook Street

Montague, MI 49437

The Praise Center

of White Lake UMC

117 S. Division Street

Whitehall, MI 49461

From the Pastor's Desk

We really do need each other!

We really do need each other. God created White Lake United Methodist Church through a merger of two worshipping communities 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.

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. 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!

Our Vision Statement

Worship God

Follow Jesus

Love and Serve All

2024 Michigan Conference Special Sunday Offerings

January 14th

Human Relations Day

March 10th

UMCOR Sunday

April 14th

Native American Sunday

May 12th

Golden Cross Sunday

May 26th

Peace with Justice Sunday

August 25th

Christian Education Sunday

September 8th

Rural Life Sunday

October 6th

World Communion Sunday

October 13th

Disability Awareness Sunday

November 24th

United Methodist Student Sunday



OFFICE

NOTES

The Church office is located at
8555 Cook Street, Montague, MI 49437
Phone # 231-894-5789

Church Office Hours

Mon 10am—3.30pm

Tues 12pm—3.30pm

Wed 10am—3.30pm

Thurs 10am—3.30pm

Fri 10am—3.30pm

Deadline for the September newsletter

Monday, August 26th, 2024

“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 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:

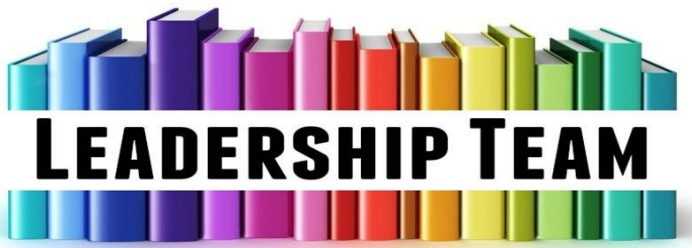
- Prayers for Bob and Lee Suits.
- Continued prayers for Pat Klotz nephew, Matthew as he continues treatment for cancer. Please pray for him and the whole family.
- Prayers for Ron Farmer who had surgery recently. He is now in rehab.
- Sue Marble is now at home. Prayers for a good outcome & comfort.
- For Mark Meyer, friend of Peggy Clune, who is struggling with a serious infection.
- For David Carey relative of Tracy Kiel, who is in very serious condition with diagnosis of leukemia.
- Prayers for Jan Dyer, who has had eye surgery this week.
- Prayers for the parents of Rachel Fekken. Mom had her ankle surgery revised and cleaned out following an infection. Dad is struggling with exhaustion and lung problems due to poor air quality.



To all the members

Thanks so much for all the prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls during my recent heart surgery and hospital stay. Your kind words and thoughtfulness meant a great deal to me during this time. I am improving and hope to be back to normal activities before too long.

Love Linda Cudney



A Message from Your Leadership Team

As many of you know, on July 2nd a special Leadership Team meeting was held to consider a recommendation from the Stewardship Team regarding our financial concerns, and the future of our buildings. On July 3rd a letter was sent by email to members and regular attendees at our services. The letter was also read aloud on July 7th at both the 9am and 11am services.

The letter was to share the Leadership's proposal that we divest ourselves of the Whitehall facility (The Praise Center) to cut our expenses and enable us to work within our budget. It stressed that this move was intended to improve our financial footing so that we can continue and even improve our missions and outreach to the community.

Two teams were created by the Leadership Team, and they reported to the church meeting. The Transaction Team is working on the legal and financial elements of the proposal and communicating with the District Superintendent and Conference level personnel. Pastor Tim shared the progress the team has made thus far. He has informed DS Jodie Flessner of the proposal, and she has offered advice on how we properly proceed in accordance with the United Methodist Book of Discipline.

The Transition Team was asked to consider the practicalities of moving ALL our existing activities and mission to one building. They met on Friday, July 19th. A comprehensive PowerPoint presentation was shared at the church meeting to show the impact the sale of either campus would have, and how our ministries could be housed in the remaining building. It was clear that giving up a building has a significant impact, but that the Montague building has more space for current ministries, as well as space for future expansion. The Praise Center has some serious limitations for space and accessibility, but it does have a superior kitchen and Fellowship Hall, as well as a downtown location. Each of the buildings has its strengths, and its emotional attachments.

A church meeting was held on Sunday, July 28th when over 50 people attended to hear more details, ask questions, and share concerns.

On July 30th, the Leadership team met. In the light of a general impression at the church meeting (on 28th) it was decided to move ahead with scheduling a Special Church Conference with our District Superintendent Jodie Flessner. At the time of writing this we have not yet confirmed a date but will publish it widely once we do. We are required to give 10 days' notice for this meeting.

A final decision on the sale of the Praise Center will be made at the Special Church Conference. The meeting is open to all, but only church members may vote. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Leadership team and we will try to address your concerns.

Remember, the Church is its people, not its buildings. We are the body of Christ and very much alive. Our buildings are some of the tools with which we carry out our mission to make disciples for the Kingdom and bring the love of Jesus to all we meet. White Lake United Methodist church is NOT closing. Our ministry here is continuing and growing. It is hoped that by downsizing our buildings we will be better able to move forward in a positive way with new things and grow as the people of God. Although it is the end of a chapter, it is by no means an end to our story.

Your Leadership Team members are Glen Naghtin (chair), Ward Heaton (Lay Leader), Pastor Tim Dibble, Dick Baerman (Trustees), Bob Suits (SPRC), Steve Welter (Finance chair), Ruth Tuttle (Faith Formation), Ruth Grenell (Missions), and Fiona Dibble (Membership/Communications)



A Future with Hope

*June 2nd through
August 11th, 2024*

"For surely I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." — Jeremiah 29:11

The image of a tree and the progression of the growth of living things offers a way to focus on our growth as the people of God: who we are and what we are called to do and be. In a time when hope is needed so desperately by so many, it is good to be reminded that not everything is a "quick fix" and patience is sometimes needed. We plant the seeds for a "Future with Hope" and wait in the knowledge that God is always present.



2024 SPECIAL MUSIC SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Aug 4th | Denny Atchison | Sept 8th | Rachel Fekken |
| Aug 11th | Lily Butts | Sept 15th | Gwenneth Bean and Cindy Pierce |
| Aug 18th | Jinny Bellinger | | |
| Aug 25th | Bob Tuttle | Sept 22nd | Bell Choir |
| Sept 1st | Communion | Sept 29th | Men's Chorus |

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Aug 4th | Sue Petersen/Sue Lloyd | Sept 1st | Denny Atchison |
| Aug 11th | Tonja Stembol/Sue Lloyd | Sept 8th | Martha Sadony |
| Aug 18th | Nancy Fry | Sept 16th | Tim Todd |
| Aug 25th | Lois Rozdilsky | Sept 22nd | Gwen Bean |



Praise Ringers Gearing Up For Another Season

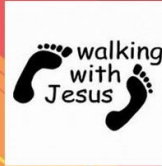


Summer is drawing to a close; soon the leaves will be turning, and we will all be enjoying another West Michigan fall replete with all the colors of the rainbow—or at least most of them. And with this season comes the beginning of another year of bell choir as well—color isn't important here, just that all who are interested show up for practice.

The Praise Ringers will begin its performance season with practice on Wednesday, August 28th at 7:00 p.m. Practices will continue each Wednesday night throughout the performance season from September through May. Performances are usually the third Sunday of the month, although the first time playing in worship this year will be on the fourth Sunday of September, the 22nd.

The Praise Ringers are always looking for new members who might be willing to have fun playing Christian music while adding their talents to the Sunday morning worship experience. Why not give it a try? Not sure about how to ring the bells? Join the rest of us! Maybe start as a substitute ringer and grow into full-time membership. Or start full-time and send someone else into bell choir retirement. To learn more about this unique group of musical amateurs, call the chief ding-a-ling, Charlene Lindquist, at 893-5025 or 726-8364 today! Scrry to the phone right now before you forget where the phone is because you are still enjoying yet another summer of West Michigan fun and excitement.

Faith Formation



CHURCH FAMILY CAMP-OUT August 2 - August 7

You are welcome to come out and visit us at Lake Michigan Camp and Retreat Center, near Pentwater.

WHITE LAKE UMC
Women's Retreat
ST. FRANCIS RETREAT CENTER
DEWITT, MI * SEPTEMBER 27-29

Your Word is a Lamp for my feet

SPEAKER: REV. ANNE RIEGLER

COST: \$150.
\$50 DEPOSIT DUE AT REGISTRATION.
DEADLINE TO REGISTER SEPT. 6TH.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.
INCLUDES 2 NIGHTS LODGING,
ALL MEALS & MATERIALS FOR THE RETREAT.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFO,
CONTACT WHITE LAKE UMC
231-894-5789 OR
RUTH TUTTLE 517-902-6112

Women's Retreat

September 27th – 29th.

Ladies, it's time to sign up for our Annual Women's Retreat. Save your place now with a \$50 deposit. Please book by September 1st, after which we will be advertising to the district and local community.

I'm sure those of you who attended last year remember what a blessed, relaxed, and fun time we shared. For more details or information please contact Ruth Tuttle or call in at the church office.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Our small groups, studies and more will be starting up again soon. Which one fits your schedule?

Tuesdays 10am - led by Ruth Tuttle

Wednesday 5.30pm—Sister's group

Wednesday 7pm—led by Ken Wentworth

Thursday 10am—led by Fred Nichols

Thursday 7pm—Pastor's Bible study

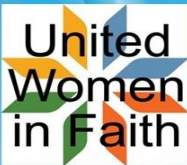
Thursday 7pm—led by Fiona Dibble

Watch this space to find out what each group will be studying next!



Did you know that ALL women and girls in the United Methodist Church are members of the United Women in Faith? All pastors are members too! The UWF is here to raise awareness of justice issues, as well as raising funds to support women and children in the U.S. and around the world. You can be a part of this great work. Come along and find out more.

Ladies, you are invited to the UWF



Movie Night Social

Monday, August 12th from 6.30pm

At our Montague Campus

Popcorn, ice cream and drinks provided.

R.S.V.P to the church office # 231 894 5789
or email whitelakeunitedmethodist@gmail.com



September meeting

We encourage all our ladies to consider attending the

Women's Retreat,

Sept 27th – 29th.

Information is available at the church office.



YARD SALE



A big THANK YOU to all who contributed in anyway to our yard sale. A total of around \$1700 has been raised to date.

Thank you!



Health & Wellness Ministries

Next Blood Pressure Checks

Sunday, August 18th, 2024 (both services)

Get your blood pressure checked free of charge after church.

Know Your Numbers!

WLUMC HEALTH MINISTRIES TEAM

AGE-WELL SERVICES

ACRYLIC PAINTING WORKSHOP



This is a workshop for people aged 60+

August 19th 2024 at 1—3pm

White Lake UMC (Montague Campus)

Space is Limited - BOOK NOW!

Call Renee at (231) 733 8641

Thank you!

Barbara Plekes, in North Carolina received this beautiful prayer quilt recently. Barbara is Ruth Grenell's sister, and we have been praying for her as she struggles with some health issues.

Barbara (and family) send their thanks for this lovely quilt, and for the love and prayers that it represents.



Nurture

Outreach

Witness



SUMMER SPLASH!

This event is for the whole family. Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbor's kids, and your granny!

Bring a picnic dish to pass, and a non-perishable food item to donate to the Dollar Dinner pantry. Celebrate harvest and the changing of the seasons with a splash!



Say goodbye to Summer
and hello to Fall with us



Summer Splash!

Sunday, September 15th 2024

3– 6pm at the Montague Campus (8555 Cook Street, Montague)



Please donate non-perishable food items for our Dollar Dinner's program—thank you

Fun for all ages

Potluck picnic & hotdog roast, Camp fire, Hay rides,
photo ops, Inflatable fun, Games and Activities

Something for Everyone!

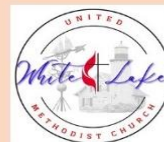


White Lake Community Free Store

The Free Store Needs

Summer clothing for infants and children of all ages
New and gently used backpacks for all grade school ages
and school supplies to fill them. Please help if you can!

Located at
117 S Division Street
Whitehall, MI 4941
(Inside the Praise Center)



Let's support the
Free Store

As they collect
school supplies
for our local kids.



TRUSTEES NEWS

REPORT FOR AUGUST

Not much news at this point. We are progressing with some major proposals for Solar and attending to our buildings.

Praise Center:

- Our sanctuary leak is like an old friend; Just keeps on returning. We have attended to it once again. We do need to replace the source of the leak but are unable to do so with our current finances.
- The A/C unit is running erratically. We are checking on thermostat issues.

Thank you so much for the continued efforts to maintain our incredible facility and the many missions it supports.

Montague Campus:

- Work is continuing on our Bell Tower etc. after the lightning strike and fire. We do have a new camera, router and extender installed. Working on replacing other WIFI related losses: speakers in the bells of the bell tower, speakers/Amplifier in sanctuary WIFI extenders, TV module for the rear TV in sanctuary. Work is progressing as we have some funds from our insurance carrier to replace this equipment.
- OK, the canopy is finally complete. Thanks to Robyn Semonelli for all his work to finish the brick work around the columns.
- John Lloyd has completed his work to remove all our individual (7 of them) lighting circuit programmers. We are successful with one unit to run the parking lot lighting, walkway lighting, and will work on the sign and Cross and Flame circuit next.
- Bob Tuttle and I will be finalizing the building and internet costs for submission to our insurance carrier. Hopefully we will be on our way to rebuilding the bell tower and getting our internet and electrical house in order to resume normal streaming and internet applications.

Thanks for the efforts of all those helping to maintain and improve our facilities. What an incredible group.

Parsonage:

- Some minor deck work is needed. Some supports have dislodged, and we will be putting them back in place. Thanks to Mike Drazba for his efforts to replace a fallen support. We will see if more needs to be done. Thanks Mike!

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



June 2024 Finance Report

The June 2024 Finance Report below is much healthier than in recent months. Income exceeded budget by nearly 30% and expenses were lower than expected, returning the checkbook balance to a more manageable condition. We are now starting to catch up on our ministry shares.

| June 2024 Finance Report | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| | June 2024 | Percentage of June Budget |
| Designated Funds Income | 5,376.67 | |
| General Fund Income | 34,172.44 | 129.49% |
| General Fund Expenses | 21,707.40 | 83.34% |
| General Fund Checkbook Balance | 13,107.33 | |
| June Income Budget | 26,389.50 | |
| June Expense Budget | 26,046.77 | |



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.



ENDOWMENT UPDATE



WLUMC ENDOWMENT MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2024

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Beginning Balance (6/1/2024) | \$190,207.06 |
| Dividend Income | +493.92 |
| Change in Market Value | +1,740.51 |
| Ending Value (5/31/2024) | <u>\$192,441.49</u> |

Another month, another win for our fund. I wasn't so confident about such a result as the month started slowly, but gradually the market gained momentum and the fund ended in the black. The fund gained \$2,234.43 in June to reach an all-time high of \$192,441.49.

How good is the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan? They have managed our fund since its inception and it has steadily increased in value all the while, releasing monies from the fund in the form of yearly grants to aid worthy programs, projects and the like in the church and in the White Lake community.

Of course, we cannot forget the guidance and care of our Father in Heaven, without whom none of this would be possible. All glory be to God! May God continue to grace us with knowledge and understanding, so that we may continue to be good stewards of this valuable instrument and help many others for years to come.

In Christ. Jeff Petersen (Endowment Fund Team Leader)

August Events at a Glance

- 2nd – 7th Church Family Camp-Out
- 4th Communion Sunday – Holy Communion served at both services.
- 12th UWF Movie night (Montague campus) 6.30pm
- 18th Blood Pressure Checks after service at each campus
- 19th Age-Well Painting class (Montague campus) 1 – 3pm
- 22nd NOW team meeting (Praise Center) 5.30pm
- 24th Men's Breakfast (Montague) 8am – 10am
- 25th Christian Education Sunday – special offering
- 1st Labor Day weekend - Communion Sunday – Holy Communion served at both services

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES, FAITH GROUPS, BIBLE STUDIES AND MORE
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (231) 894 5789 FOR MORE DETAILS**

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| 9am WORSHIP @ Montague 11am WORSHIP @ Praise Center 4-6pm YOUTH GROUP @ Praise Center | 6.30pm NA MEETING @ Praise Center | 7pm AL-ANON @Montague | 7pm Faith Group @ Montague 7pm NA MEETING @ Praise Center | 9.30am Stitchers group @ Montague 5-8pm FREESTORE @ Praise Center 6-7pm THE GATHERING FREE MEAL @ Praise Center | 6.30pm NA MEETING @ Praise Center | 11am—2pm FREESTORE @ Praise Center 12-1pm THE GATHERING FREE MEAL @ Praise Center |

Men and boys of all ages

**YOU are invited to an informal breakfast meeting
to explore the formation of a United Methodist men's group.**

Please come to enjoy fellowship with your friends, and share your needs, ideas, and thoughts. We'll have a light breakfast followed by conversation.



Date: August 24th

Time: 8-10 am

Location: Montague Campus

Please RSVP with the office or Tom Hinken (call or text 231-730-0075)

If you are able to bring fruit, donuts, etc. please let Tom know

If you cannot attend but would like to share your ideas, call Tom