



The Messenger

September 2023

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Where Did the Summer Go?

Where did the summer go? For that matter, what happened to all my plans? Isn't that just like life? Our days, and weeks, and months are all so busy and hectic; filled with gardening, youth soccer, baseball, softball, visiting family, taking vacations, working too hard to pay for it all, and so much more! And yet, what have I, and what have we, truly accomplished? What greater purpose has been fulfilled, and provided our daily lives, with meaning and satisfaction? As Christians, have all our activities and efforts led even one more neighbor to accept Jesus as their personal savior?

The summer may be about over, but the opportunity to live out our callings as faithful disciples remains before us. The restart of both secular and Sunday school heralds a time of new beginnings for many of us. How about you? Where is God calling you to fine tune your faith journey? Where is Jesus inviting you to a deeper commitment of your time and resources? Let's not let the autumn season get away from us. Let's focus together on the blessings God has, and is, providing us. Let's explore together, in worship, prayer, praise, service, and fellowship, how we can and will better serve the purpose of God's growing Kingdom. You can get off to a great start by simply reading over and prayerfully considering the opportunities for discipleship in this newsletter!

Let's get started on the right track this autumn! On Sunday, September 17th we celebrate "Back to Church Sunday" and kickoff the return of Sunday school, our Bible studies, our Chancel Choir, our Bell Choir, and our Wednesday Dollar Dinners. Sunday school will meet at The Praise Center, after we share The Peace together, for a time of joy and praise. In addition to our regular Bible studies, we are offering a special series following onto our worship series, "A Disciple's Path" through which we explore together the deeper meaning of our membership vows.

Contact Us

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Fiona Dibble

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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

Our Wednesday Dollar Dinners will restart on September 20th at 6:00 p.m. Back to Church Sunday is a great day to encourage someone back to church whom you have noticed missing recently. What a perfect occasion to invite someone to join us and share in our time of study and worship for the very first time! September 17th is Back to Church Sunday. Let's work together to make it a day, and a season, in which God will be praised and pleased!

God bless!

Rev. Jody JTA



A Note from the Office

Deadline for October Newsletter items -
Monday, September 25th, 2023.

Stop by the office some time and see the lovely new carpet. What a generous gift in memory of Diane Kroll. It really makes the whole room more comfortable. Thanks to those who helped moving the furniture out (and back in) and to Karen Stembol for organizing the whole thing.



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:

- Wanda Lee Suits needs continued prayers during her treatment for cancer.
- David Peters is still struggling with heart issues. Please pray for him and Winnie.
- Kay Michael is doing better despite a fall resulting in a compressed vertebra. She is now in a back brace.
- Laura Kiel's close friend Shirley, whose sister Nancy is in the hospital with multiple blood clots. Prayers for the whole family.
- Prayers for the Tanis family, especially for Jim & his siblings as their sister Pat Tanis Rush died Monday night.
- Martha Tanis' brother Lynn Nelson. Prayers for successful hip surgery (3rd one) & no infection.
- Linda Allen's sister who is struggling with serious back problems.
- Continued prayers for June Schmelzer as she recovers from a broken hip.
- Gwen Bean is now home and doing well. Prayers greatly appreciated.

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

November 26th

United Methodist Student Sunday

District Superintendent Jodie Flessner

toured each campus during her visit on August 9th, 2023.



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 began practice on **Wednesday, August 30th** 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.



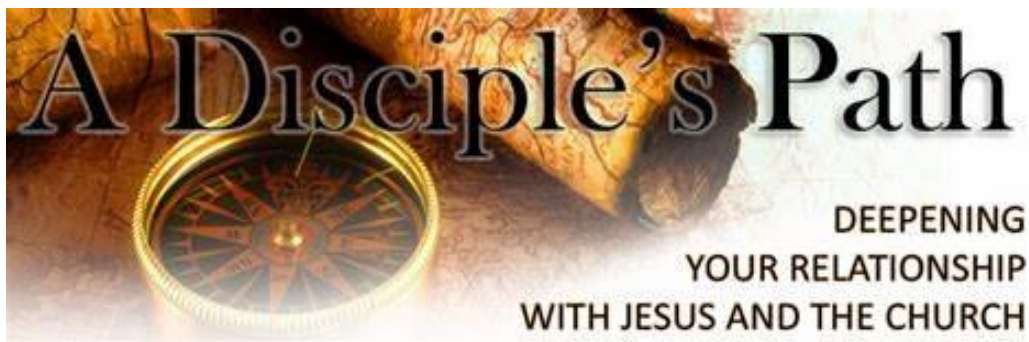
Faith Formation

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?

Ruth Tuttle Faith Formation (517) 902 6112



FAITH GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Exploring 'A Disciple's Path'

MONDAY – 1pm at the Praise Center – led by Ruth Grenell

TUESDAY – 10am at Montague – led by Ruth Tuttle

2pm at Montague – led by Pastor Tim Dibble

WEDNESDAY – 5.30pm Sister's Group at Montague – Ruth Tuttle

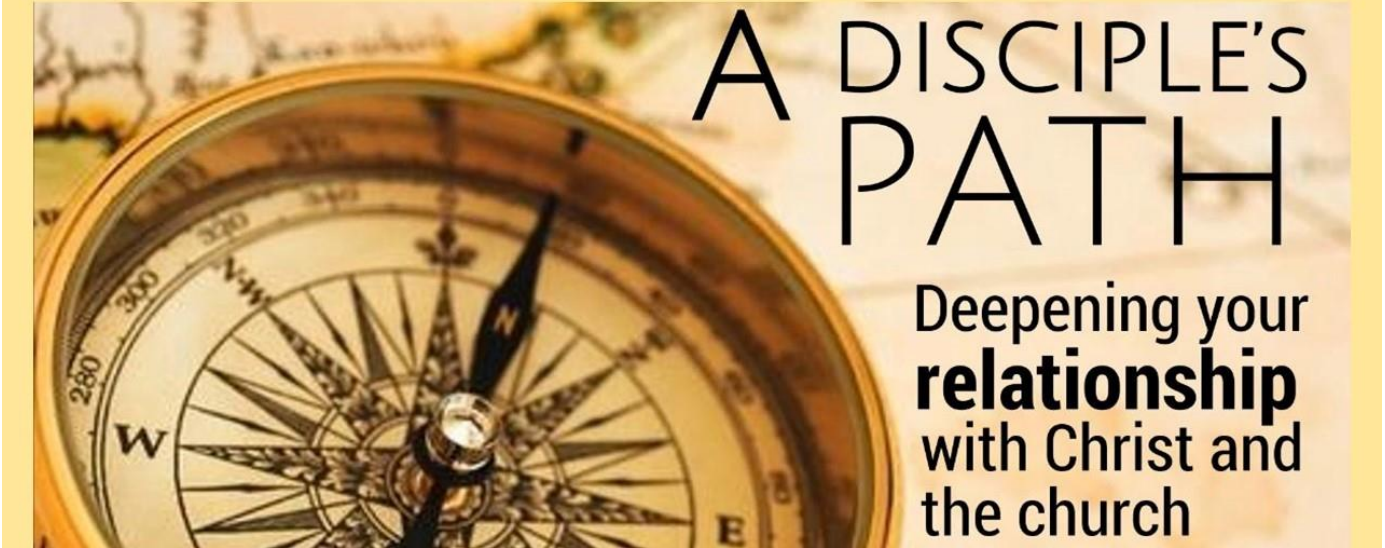
7pm at Montague – Ken Wentworth

THURSDAY – 10am at the Praise Center – led by Fred Nichols

7pm at the Praise Center – Disciples Path 101 - Fiona Dibble

Worship News

**A new worship and all-church study series
beginning on Back to Church Sunday,
September 17th 2023**



STITCHERS GROUP

Thursdays, 10am – 3pm at the Montague Campus

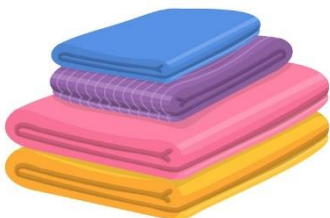
Do you have a sewing project you can't seem to finish? Do you need gift ideas for the upcoming holiday season? Have you always wanted to add homemade soft furnishings to your home? Do you have a pile of fabric that you plan to use some day? Do you just love to sew or knit?

THIS IS THE GROUP FOR YOU!

We can help with reading a pattern or understanding assembly. We have ideas and examples of gifts for friends or family. We have experience that may help you see your project to completion.



Come visit us on Thursday and see how we can encourage you with your project. If you would just like to find a friendly face and someone to chat with, come along and visit us.



Join us for companionship and encouragement. We gather to make a variety of projects. All levels of skill are welcome.

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.



IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE
WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH
GOD AND THE WORD WAS
HIM. HE WAS WITH GOD AT THE
BEGINNING, THROUGH HIM ALL
THINGS WERE MADE. WITHOUT
HIM, NOTHING WAS MADE THAT
HAS BEEN MADE. IN HIM WAS
LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT
OF MEN. THE LIGHT SHINES IN
THE DARKNESS, BUT THE DARK-
NESS HAS NOT UNDERSTOOD IT.

the gospel of
JOHN

Beginning on September 21st 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Bible Study
With
Pastor Tim
Thursday
Evenings
7:00 p.m.
At
The Praise
Center
All Welcome!

DOLLAR DINNERS BACK!

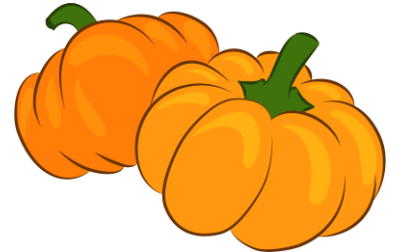
N urture
O utreach
W itness

Dollar Dinners will be starting back up on September 20th, 5pm at our Montague campus. Sign-up sheets are now available in the Welcome Center of the Montague campus. We can only maintain this program if we all lend a hand where we are able. Join a team with prep, serving or clean up.



Please keep supporting our Fellowship time after Sunday services. The sign-up sheet for future dates is in the Welcome Center (Montague campus). Donations of cookies or treats can be left in either of our kitchens. We have recently had a few new faces coming to our services. Please be sure to introduce yourself and make all feel welcome!

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 in the kitchen at Montague or the office until I get a tote to keep them in. We almost always run close to having enough candy to pass out.



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

HALLOWEEN PARTY - Friday Oct 27th - Montague Campus

TRUNK OR TREAT - Tues, Oct 31st - Montague Campus

CANDY SHOOT -Tues, Oct 31st - The Praise Center

CHRISTMAS PARADE FLOAT - Sat Dec 2nd – White Lake area

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – Dec 8 – 9th - Montague Campus

BRUNCH WITH SANTA - Dec 16th - Praise Center

The N.O.W. team will be meeting on Thursday, October 12th, 5pm at the Praise Center. We have space for a few new team members if you are interested.



WELCOME

What a joy it was to welcome members of the Welch family for their baptisms on Sunday, August 13th at The Praise Center.

Chloe, Myles, Axell, and their mom Janet were all baptized by profession of faith at our 11am service.

We look forward to getting to know them better over the coming months and years.



Townhall Meeting and Picnic August 20th
A fun time was had by all!

Stewardship Matters

As we enter September, the WLUMC Stewardship Team continues to work on its goal of celebrating acts of generosity, large and small, individual, and cooperative, that happen within our church and sometimes beyond its physical borders. We hope our readers will begin to look forward to this portion of the Messenger each month as we shine a light on those who have served and supported others in so many ways in the spirit of generosity.

September's Big Thank You to: LANDSCAPING VOLUNTEERS

On behalf of the entire White Lake United Methodist Church, the Stewardship Team would like to acknowledge and thank the many volunteers who put in countless hours working on all aspects of landscaping across the two campuses that comprise our church.

Many may not know that, within our two locations, we have several acres of lawn to mow, planters to maintain, shrubs and trees to prune, and over 20 garden sections to weed. All these areas represent a great deal of work for the volunteers who tend to them throughout a long growing season.

This church is grateful to the team leaders (listed below) and their small armies of volunteers who have committed hours of personal time, enthusiasm, muscle, and sweat equity to these project areas.

While the leaders of these groups have been sent a thank you from the Stewardship Team, we encourage each one of you to also thank them as well as their volunteers for the ministry they provide whenever you have the opportunity. Their work deserves our praise. They make our campuses pleasant and beautiful places to be which, in turn, glorifies the Father who guides us.

Praise Center Mowing Team: Steve Welter

Praise Center Prayer Garden: Sue Lloyd

Montague Mowing Team: Jeff Petersen

Montague Parking Lot Gardens: Claire Schlaff

Montague Memorial Garden: Lois Rozdilsky

Montague Pantry Garden: Ray Schlaff

Montague Community Garden: Art Kiel

WLUMC Stewardship Team



Fresh produce from our pantry garden was distributed to folks visiting The Gathering on Saturday



Next meeting: -September 11th,2023
At the Montague Campus

DURING SEPTEMBER WE ARE STILL 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.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR CRAFTING WORKSHOPS

We will be meeting at the Montague campus, 9am till noon on Fridays 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.



We recently had a lovely visit with our lovely friend Judy Cole



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



TRUSTEES REPORT

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

Praise Center:

- Decisions are looming for the continued use of our elevator. Stay tuned for more info.
- Prayer Garden is a continuing process. Looking better and better.
- Lawn sprinkling is discontinued for now.
- Mowing crews are still working their magic.
- Chart House Energy is backing off their proposed financing of the roof replacement. More to come on this. \$13,000 is quoted roof replacement under the proposed panels.
- Boiler inspections went well!!! Looming issues, age mostly, with the two small boilers heating the sanctuary area. We do, however, thanks to Dave McDonald, have a newer furnace to heat as well as cool that area.

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

Montague Campus:

- Thanks to Karen Stembol, in memory of Diane Kroll, for our new carpet in two of our rooms and office area.
- Our local Rembrandt, Carla Heaton, is painting the walls in the Bride's Room in preparation for the new carpet in that room.
- Huge issues with our lawn sprinklers seem to be resolved. Lots of folks worked on this mess before we finally had a system that works.
- Solar Project is on hold for the time being. Financing the roof replacement under the proposed, roof mounted, panels is in question. \$33,000 is quote for that replacement.
- The power for the sign is still in question. We have not found that pesky break in the wire supplying power to that sign. Stay tuned.
- Thanks so much for Jim Tanis and his magic with our picnic tables. He has made some very necessary repairs and their continued use is happening.
- More help is still needed supporting our Garden Mission(s). Dave Allen and Lois Rozdilski have picked up the gauntlet for the areas west of the building. A big THANKYOU to them.
- Claire Schlaff continues to work her magic in all the areas east of the church. WOW, what a blessing. She has purchased three benches to be placed in a couple of those garden areas. Wonderful Ministry. Help is always needed and appreciated.
- Pantry Garden is delivering. Thanks to Ray Schlaff for his huge efforts in planting, caring for and harvesting the bounty.

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

Parsonage:

- Solar Panel Project for the parsonage is in question. Same issues with roof financing as we have seen for our other two buildings. \$9,000 to replace the roof area under the proposed panels.
- We have discontinued lawn sprinkling. Water cost is the issue for this as well as beneficial rain are driving this decision.

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 to building and continuing our missions.

CANOPY PROJECT UPDATE

- Remove air lock ceiling/roof (save side 'L' channels)
- Attach new end room supports/side framework and seal to building. (Cover roof opening when left exposed)
- Install lighting relay system for bells, under canopy and walkway.
- Remove the inner door frame and glass.
- Finish the welcome center ceiling and entrance with above light and exit sign package.
- Install canopy metal to tubing framework. Bolt on treated wood, plywood, and roofing with trim work.
- Finish with lower column brick work, ceiling lights, and landscaping.



We estimate that the final projected cost at \$105,000 or \$10,700 is left to raise before 9/15/2023.

John C Lloyd

Canopy Team Leader

MUSKEGON CONSERVATION GROUP VISITING OUR MONTAGUE CAMPUS



During August the Muskegon Area Conservation Group had a Pollinators Workshop. Our Montague Campus gardens were featured on their tour of pollinator habitats. Here's Claire Schlaff speaking to the group. As always, we are grateful for all the hard work Claire does to design and maintain this beautiful place.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Steve Welter
Finance Team Chair



What are your earliest memories of church? Going to Sunday School class at First Presbyterian Church of South Charleston, WV. Dr. White gave the sermons. There was a great choir. Mr. Hickman would sing solos with his amazing voice. When I was in High School my mother would accompany the organist on the piano.

When do you feel closest to God? I feel closest to God hiking in the wilderness.

One weekend I found myself returning from a climb up a ridge in the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma, boulder hopping back down. The boulders were about 8 feet in diameter and jammed one next to the other. I stopped at one point and considered that, if I slipped on a hop, I could find myself in serious trouble. No one knew where I was, and the park did not have cell phone service. I simply shrugged and continued hopping down the boulder strewn slope.

The next weekend I was hiking in Copper Breaks State Park in Texas. I was climbing down the side of a mesa, when the ground gave way from under my left foot but held under my right, folding my right leg under me. I was able to stand up but felt a deal of pain when I stepped down the side of the mesa. After walking a little further, I realized that I would need help getting out. There was a deep ravine between me and my car. This park not only had cell phone service but this weekend I remembered to bring my cell phone. I forgot on some trips. Also, the one piece of litter that I had picked up was the park trail map. So, when I called 911, I was able to tell the attendant the name of the trail that I was on. I had cell phone service. I had a cell phone. I had a map that I had picked up off the trail. The above gave me a strong sensation that God was telling me not to take risks hiking by causing me to break my ankle on a hike but doing so in a way that had an easy outcome. I never hiked off the trail after that.

What brought you to this church? I was brought up in the Presbyterian Church. However, when my job brought me to Whitehall, MI from Cincinnati, OH, I bought a house across the street from the Whitehall United Methodist Church. Of course, the only Presbyterian Church in Muskegon County is in Muskegon. So, I started attending the Methodist Church.

Which areas of the church's work are you most involved with? I spend the greatest amount of time heading up The Gathering, the free meal program initiated by our church. I have recently been asked to serve as Finance Team Leader and have been busy learning the details of the White Lake United Methodist Church budget line items, so that I can better track the state of our church's financial health.

What dreams and visions do you have for our church? I would like to see our church develop ways to reach out to the numerous members of our community that are currently unchurched and currently do not see a reason to attend a church.

September Events at a Glance

- 3rd Communion Sunday
- 4th LABOR DAY – Church office closed.
- 6th Bell Choir season begins.
- 7th Stewardship Team meeting 10 am at Montague Campus
- 10th Christian Education Sunday (special offering)
- 11th United Women in Faith 10am – 12pm at Montague Campus
- 13th Choir Season Begins 6pm at Montague Campus
- 14th Stewardship Team meeting 10 am at Montague Campus
- 17th BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY
Health Ministries Blood Pressure Checks – both campuses
- 20th Dollar Dinners Fall Kick-off – 5pm at Montague Campus
- 21st Stewardship Team meeting 10 am at Montague Campus
- 22nd – 23rd District Lay Servant Training Event – Lake Michigan Camp and Retreat
- 30th Leadership Team Meeting 10am at The Praise Center

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	U.W.F. 1ST MONDAY OF MONTH 10am	10am Faith Group @ Montague	5pm Dollar Dinner @ Montague	10am Faith Group @ Praise Center	12 pm Picnic with the Pastor @ Montague	11am—2pm FREESTORE @ Praise Center
11am WORSHIP @ Praise Center	1pm Faith Group @ Praise Center	2pm Faith Group @ Montague	5.30pm Sister's Group @ Montague	10am—3pm 9.30am 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	7pm AL-ANON @Montague	6pm Choir @ Montague	5-8pm FREESTORE @ Praise Center		
			7pm Bell Choir @ Montague	6-7pm THE GATHERING FREE MEAL @ Praise Center		
			7pm Faith Group @ Montague	7pm Bible Study @ Praise Center		
			7pm NA MEETING @ Praise Center			