



The Messenger

December 2023

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

Website:
www.whitelakeumc.com

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

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Philippians 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

A small child asked his father, "Dad, what is a Christian?" The father replied, "A Christian is a person who loves and obeys God. He loves his friends and neighbors, and even his enemies. He prays often, is kind, gentle, and holy, and is more interested in going to heaven than in all earthly riches. That, son, is a Christian!" The boy looked puzzled and thought for a minute, then asked, "Have I ever seen one?"

What is a "Christian"? Broken down into its two components, Christ-ian, this term is used as a noun "belonging to Christ" and as an adjective "Christ-like".

During this season of Advent, I am contemplating on how I as a Christian might reflect these definitions honorably. The Christian calendar of seasons helps me in my thoughts by guiding me along my faith journey. Advent can be preparation for our life's journey in search of truly belonging too and being like Christ.

Christmastide can be seen as a chance to believe through faith and begin life fresh again as a child of God. . . Epiphany is our first stop to give thanks as we realize that Christ is at work in and through us and an opportunity rededicate our life to honoring God, much the same as those three Wisemen so long ago . . . Lent represents the lessons we learn navigating through times of trouble, anguish, illness, disability, and despair with Christ at our side . . . Palm Sunday reminds us that even those of us who have come to know Jesus by name as our Christ and Savior of the world can still fall short in our discipleship and in our love for one another . . . Christ's Passion reminds us of the consequences for our actions and our inactions as well as the actions and inactions of others in living and sharing God's Gospel of Grace. We are reminded that each and every time we sin against God's will it denies the Lordship of Christ in our lives, and we send that pain straight to God . . . Easter reminds us, that even in our own weaknesses and in our failures to be faithful to God that God never gives up on us.

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

God is always willing to forgive us and give us new life . . . Pentecost reminds us that God keeps his promises and lives amongst us still in Spirit. Forever present to guide, strengthen and inspire us.

And life moves on....and soon it is Advent again.

It is Advent now. It is time that we reflect on the past year of our lives together as individuals and as White Lake United Methodist Church. It is time to recognize and prune from our lives those aspects of our lives together that do not honor God nor respect one another. It is also time to celebrate the many ways in which God has and is working in and through our lives to make a difference in this world. Isn't it about time that we truly begin loving one another with the sort of commitment and conviction that Jesus exemplifies?

2 Corinthians 3:18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, dreamed he stood at the door to hell. He knocked and asked who were within, "Any Roman Catholics here?" he asked, "Yes," came the answer. In turn he asked if there were any Church of Englanders, any Lutherans, or any Calvinists in hell. Each time the answer was yes. Finally, he timidly asked if there were any who followed John Wesley in hell and again the answer was yes. Dismayed by the last answer he turned and walked upward and, in his dream, came to the gates of heaven. He asked the same questions – any Roman Catholics, Church of Englanders, Lutherans, Calvinists, and followers of Wesley. For each group here, the answer was no. Puzzled and dismayed he asked the doorkeeper at the entrance to heaven, "Then who is here?" "Only Christians," the angel said. "We know nothing of the names you have mentioned."

My brothers and sisters in Christ, now is the time for us to unite in a common journey of faith, a common purpose, following our uncommon Savior. Let's prepare the way of the Lord! Let's start right now . . . together!

God bless!



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!



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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Frank, (a friend of Peggy Clune's) needs our prayers. His bladder cancer has returned after several years.
- Bob Suits is home, but he needs to build up his strength and his sense of peace. Please pray for Lee and for him.
- Please pray for James Brennan (Mary Warnock's dad) He's in hospital with serious breathing issues. Also, safe travels for Mary and family as they head to St. Augustine, FL for a memorial and releasing of her brother and his two children 11/30 ashes and remembrance with his Florida friends and family.

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

A Season of Giving

For most Christians, Advent is the season leading up to the excitement of Christmas. It is our time of preparation for the arrival of the Christ child, the promised Messiah; a time of waiting and preparing our hearts to experience the wonder and joy of the miracle of God's greatest gift again. This time of preparation coincides with and often conflicts with the busyness of the season in the secular world we all live in as the holidays approach. Experiencing Advent allows us a respite from the hectic pace of the season. I embrace both traditions.

It is also the season of giving in both traditions. We have just concluded our annual Stewardship Campaign, Extravagant Generosity, and have celebrated the generosity of our congregation as we reach out to our friends, our community, and our world. This generosity and stewardship of our gifts, time, and talents as we continue our Christian journey does not end but needs to continue through all seasons.

Every year we choose a special cause as the recipient of our Advent Giving. Unfortunately, this year your Leadership Team has decided that the cause is our own church's General Fund. As we've taken on the responsibility of our missional outreach, it becomes even more imperative that we maintain and fund our buildings and obligations so that we can continue and expand this work. We have not fulfilled this obligation throughout 2023, necessitating this special plea at year-end. The Leadership Team also decided that ten percent of our Advent giving will be given to the Conference for its needs; our tithe.

As you prepare your heart this Advent season, please also prayerfully consider what you can offer to help your church fulfill its mission to *Love and Serve All*.

Ward Heaton, Lay Leader





Join us throughout this Holiday season for a splendid array of seasonal music from our choir, bell choir, instrumentalists, and singers.

Choir practice at the Montague Campus on Wednesday, December 6th, 13th, and 20th at 6pm. New members are always welcome. Call Gwen on (616) 430 2393 for details.

Bell Choir practice will be held on Wednesdays, November 1st, 8th, and 15th, at 7pm, at the Montague campus. New ringers are always welcome. Please contact our bell choir director, Charlene Lindquist on 231 893 5025 for more information.

KIDS CHORUS

We are pleased to announce that we have a new children's choir. They have been rehearsing during their Kids Church time each week. We look forward to hearing from them in the future. Their first performance will be on **Sunday, December 17th at The Praise Center**. Come along and give them your support!

The deadline for the January newsletter is Wednesday, December 27th.

Merry Christmas!

The Church office will be closed on
December 25th, 26th, and January 1st.



DOMINOES

The Ladies Domino Group is popular but full.

A new group may be started by popular demand! If you and your friends would like to meet to form another group to play Train style dominoes, please contact the church office or Barb Lloyd at 894-2543. The ideal group is 4 to 7 players.

If you don't know how to play the game, there will be instructions! If you can match colors and numbers on a domino, you will love this pastime. Lots of laughs (and maybe treats) are to be had. The date and time of the game play are to be determined by the players.

PS There is a possibility of a men's game too!

Worship News

“THE REDEMPTION OF SCROOGE”

December 3rd 2023

“Bah! Humbug!” – Holy Communion

December 10th 2023

“The Remembrance of Christmas Past”

December 17th 2023

“The Life of Christmas Present”

December 24th 2023

“The Hope of Christmas Future”

The Redemption of
Scrooge

Christmas Eve Services

10am All Church service at
The Praise Center

7pm Candlelight Carol
Service at the Montague
Campus

11.30pm Midnight
Communion Service at The
Praise Center

Faith Formation



Join us as we learn more about
God and ourselves through the
story of Scrooge.

Worship services and Faith
groups will again focus on a
joint theme.

Join us for our
worship series for *Advent*

The Redemption of
Scrooge

Contact Ruth Tuttle (231) 902 6112
to join one of our Faith Groups

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.**



Bring your little elves to
BRUNCH WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 16th
11am—1pm

'The Gathering'
At The Praise Center
117 S Division St.,
Whitehall, MI 49461

Pancakes, sausage,
and scrambled eggs,
A delicious dessert
and festive treat



N urture

O utreach

W itness

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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

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

BRUNCH WITH SANTA - Dec 16th - Praise Center

Christmas is a busy time for all, and especially for those involved in their church. The festive season is the best time for us to reach out to our community and connect with our neighbors.

Christmas Parade Schedule

Float Construction Friday, Dec 1st 4 – 8pm

We need – donations of Christmas lights and tinsel garlands.

Float builders please meet at the Montague Campus.

Parade Day – Saturday, Dec 2nd 2 – 3.30pm

Walkers to hand out candy and flyers.

Kids and adults to ride on the float.

(Meet at the Montague Campus)

Contact the office for information

or to volunteer # 231-894-5789



Health Ministries

Next Blood Pressure Checks

December 17th

Get your blood pressure checked
free of charge after church.
(both services)

Know Your Numbers!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR

SPREADING CHRISTMAS JOY!



Our **Free Store** seeks to support our customers with some extra help at Christmas. We will be collecting items for our clients to give to family and friends. We are collecting new books for all ages, baby rattles, bibs and blankets, flashlights with batteries (kids and adult size), coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, hair accessories, packages of kids' underpants (preferably with cartoon designs), eye makeup, bath products, and lotion, aprons, and individually packed cocoa mix.

We are also collecting new or gently used Christmas mugs, small rolls of wrapping paper, ribbons, and bows.

As always at this time of year we are gladly accepting winter boots (all age groups), coats, and jackets etc. and gently used blankets.

Children's clothes are always in shorter supply at our Free Store, especially during the colder weather.

If you have any other ideas, speak to the Free Store team. Contact the church office for more details.



White Lake Community Free Store



Located at 117 S. Division St.
Whitehall, MI 49461
(Inside the Praise Center)



Open Thursday 5 – 8 pm
Saturdays 11am – 2pm

We are currently in need of the following items :-
Personal hygiene items – shampoo, soaps, lotions, and feminine products etc.
Small bottles of laundry detergent and dish soap.
Winter coats, boots, hats, gloves etc.



Nurture
Outreach
Witness

WEDNESDAY DOLLAR DINNERS

White Lake UMC
Montague Campus
8555 Cook Street
Montague
For info call #231 894 5789

Everyone is welcome to join us for dinner at 5pm each Wednesday, at our Montague Campus. Want to help make this a success? There's a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center—join a team!

CANOPY PROJECT

Project Report

The White Lake UMC Montague Campus Canopy Project planning started right after the building's second addition was completed in 1988. An engineer at one of Montague's chemical plants made a proposal for building one, but soon afterwards he moved to a warmer climate for his wife's health. The project was forgotten.

The canopy we see today is a by-product of our Green Team's project to rework the parking lot and eliminate the entrance steps in 2010. Our Green Team leader Claire Schlaff asked Kate (Heaton) Marsh, an architectural student, to come up with some new canopy ideas. Kate presented three sets of drawings and the one selected to fit our building best was chosen. Claire presented the drawing to an architect for a set of plans.

We have so many people to thank for the completion of this canopy project, the project team of Larry Lindquist, Bob Tuttle, Joe Clark, Ken Wentworth, John Lloyd, and Dick Baerman. the electrical designer Jack Grenell, the ceiling by Dan Parsons, the hands-on team of Jim Tanis, Dave MacDonald, Glen Naghtin, Jeff Petersen, Steve Welter, Bob Suits, Ward Heaton, Jeff Dillen and Ray Schlaff and all those who worked to raise funds behind the scenes. Dick Baerman worked with Brad VanBergen at Winberg Construction to make this all possible.

John Lloyd



Next meeting: - December 4th,2023

At the Montague Campus

DURING NOVEMBER WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT 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.

thankyou

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

A big thank you to each, and every person who helped in any way with our Christmas Bazaar. We couldn't have managed this event without the many willing helpers who lent their time, talents, and support. We are happy to have raised over \$2,000 for the missions of our UWF group.

Come and check out our crafts and baked goods at the Christmas Tree Festival on Friday, December 8th and Saturday, December 9th. Donations for this gratefully accepted!

Laura Kiel
231-894-9253.

White Lake UMC, 8555 Cook Street, Montague, MI 49437

Christmas Tree Festival

December 8th from 4—8pm December 9th from 10am—6pm

*“Dreaming of a
White Lake’
Christmas”*



Call # 231-894-5789 for more information



Youth Group

at The Praise Center
Sundays from 4 – 6pm
(unless otherwise stated)

Here's a look at the schedule for December

December 3 rd	Angel Tree shopping/wrapping 12-6pm
December 10 th	Regular meeting at the Praise Center
December 17 th	Regular meeting with gift exchange
December 24 th	No Meeting – Candlelight Carol Service
December 31 st	New Year's Eve Lock-in 6pm – 9am



On behalf of the White Lake UMC youth,

“Thank you to all who have helped with the Praise Center welcome garden this past season!”

I send a special thank you to Jakob for hours of work gathering the fallen leaves and putting the arbor in a safe spot for the winter; and, to Corina for planting the last of the donated plants and 30 tulip bulbs before bravely cleaning out all the leaves under the ramp. Corina wins the title of champion leaf swimmer this year.

Next year we'll refinish the cement wall, fill in with more plants, landscape with stones and commemorative bricks and install a freshly painted arbor...maybe even get the fountain set up!

Thanks again for your help and support. Love and tidings good cheer to all.
Sue Lloyd



MEMORIAL BRICKS with BRICKMARKERS

Many of you will no doubt remember this worthwhile project. It provides us with a simple, but effective way to erect memorials to our loved ones, whilst giving much needed funds to our church.

Here's how it works!

1) Place an order for your brick(s)

- a. Supply the information to be engraved on it (by paper form or online). We will make this really easy.
- b. Pay \$60.00 for a standard 4"x 8" brick, which allows up to 3 lines of print of up to 20 characters each (engraved pictures/logos are available, too, but you have to give up some print space.
- c. Or, pay \$90.00 for an 8"x 8" brick, which allows up to 6 lines of print of up to 20 characters each.
- d. Wait until the day you see your new brick on the wall or walkway!

2) At both the Montague Campus and Whitehall Campus there will be:

- a. An area for "Memorial" bricks for loved ones who have died, whether recently or a long time ago.

Typically, this means the brick will contain a name or names and years of birth and death. There will even be a separate section to memorialize pets.

- b. An area for "celebratory" bricks, such as your family name or celebrations of weddings, births, graduations, silver and gold anniversaries, or anything else you wish to commemorate.

For the most part, it is just that simple!

If you prefer to pay by check [CLICK HERE](#) to download the printable order form.

Call in at the church office for help or further information.



December Events at a Glance

- 1st Parde float construction 4 – 8pm
 2nd White Lake Area Christmas Parade 2 – 4pm
 3rd Communion Sunday
 Youth Group Angel Tree Shopping/Wrapping 12-6pm
 4th UWF General Meeting 10am at Montague Campus
 6th United Women in Faith 10am – 12pm at Montague Campus
 7th Stewardship Team Meeting 11.30am at Montague Campus
 8th Christmas Tree Festival begins – 4pm at Montague Campus
 9th Christmas Tree Festival – 10am – 6pm at Montague Campus
 14th Stewardship Team Meeting 11.30am at Montague Campus
 16th Brunch with Santa at 'The Gathering' – 11am – 1pm at The Praise Center
 17th Blood Pressure Checks after service at each campus
 21st Stewardship Team Meeting 11.30am at Montague Campus
 24th Christmas Eve
 10am United Service at the Praise Center
 7pm Candlelight Carol Service at the Montague Campus
 11.30pm Midnight Communion Service at the Praise Center
 25th Christmas Day (Church office closed)
 26th Church office Closed.
 31st Youth Group Lock-In 6pm to 9am on January 1st

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 11am Kids Church & Choir 4-6pm YOUTH GROUP @ Praise Center	U.W.F. 1ST MONDAY OF MONTH 10am @ Montague 1pm Faith Group @ Praise Center 6.30pm NA MEETING @ Praise Center	10am Faith Group @ Montague 1pm Grief Share @ Montague 2pm Faith Group @ Montague 7pm AL-ANON @ Montague	5pm Dollar Dinner @ Montague 5.30pm Sister's Group @ Montague 6pm Choir @ Montague 7pm Bell Choir @ Montague 7pm Faith Group @ Montague 7pm NA MEETING @ Praise Center	10am Faith Group @ Praise Center 10am—3pm 9.30am Stitches group @ Montague 5-8pm FREESTORE @ Praise Center 6-7pm THE GATHERING FREE MEAL @ Praise Center 7pm Bible Study @ Praise Center	6.30pm NA MEETING @ Praise Center	11am—2pm FREESTORE @ Praise Center 12-1pm THE GATHERING FREE MEAL @ Praise Center