



The Messenger

December 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

As we begin a new “church year”, Advent takes its rightful place in our hearts as we look with longing for Jesus to come again. I know that the world seems to be such a chaotic, dark place, but when we let Jesus be born in our hearts our fears are dispelled, our own shortcomings, and sins are forgiven. We can begin to experience the “rest” or peace only experienced through a deepening, loving relationship with God.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

The light of Christ sustains, guides, and feeds us to enable us to continue our spiritual journeys, individually and congregationally. It is His strength, not our own, which provides us with the hope we desire and our hearts long.

***Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.***

If one as insignificant as a baby born to a poor couple in barn can change the world, then what might you and I accomplish with the many and manifold blessings that we have inherited? How can we reach out to our neighbors as followers of this Kingdom builder? How can we follow in the footsteps of a carpenter's son? Only one way...with open hearts.

By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

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

Let us recognize and honor the birth of our Lord of Lords, and King of Kings this Advent and Christmas season. Let us follow as faithful disciples the way He has shown us. As Christ takes up home and possession of our hearts and minds, we are sanctified, God is glorified, and all is reconciled, forgiven, recreated, and reborn.

It is my prayer that the Love of Christ descends upon the homes and families of you all and that we respond in praise for and worship to our Savior. That we take up his calling in our lives and, as a church, move forward as faithful disciples as God uses us to transform the world.

God bless us, everyone!



Our Vision Statement

Worship God

Follow Jesus

Love and Serve All

OFFICE
NOTES



Church Office Hours

Mon	10am—3.30pm
Tues	12pm—3.30pm
Wed	10am—3.30pm
Thurs	10am—3.30pm
Fri	10am—3.30pm

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

Deadline for the January newsletter

Friday, December 27th, 2024

The Church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday December 26th for the Christmas break.

Coming Soon: A New Website for WLUMC

Work continues on the new website for White Lake UMC. The current “web committee” (Bill Raffail, Steve Welter, Pastor Tim, the Stewardship Team) continues to gather and create text, and then edits that content. Next Bill uses that content to build the pages for the website. Once those pages have been finalized, they will be posted at [<https://whitelakeumc.org>]. Yes, this is a time-consuming process so please be patient. Questions? You may direct any questions to Bill at [wsrafaill@rafaill.com] or during coffee time between services.

Sunday Morning

Services

9:00am

11:00am

Praise Band Service
Including Kids' Church
Hallelujah Kids' Chorus &
the Youth Discussion Class

“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 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:

- Winnie Peter's sister is doing a lot better. She is hoping to go home soon. Please continue to pray for her.
- Please pray for Mark Meyer. He has been dealing with an infection in the stump of one leg (it was amputated 10 years ago). He has to have more of that leg amputated and new prosthetic made.
- Please pray for Bob and Lee Suits with their ongoing medical concerns.
- Continued prayers for Pat Klotz nephew, Matthew as he continues treatment for cancer. Please also for the whole family.
- Becki Goudreau would like continued prayers for her husband, Chuck, who has been in the hospital with pancreatitis. He will be home for Thanksgiving!
- Bette, who volunteers at the Freestore, asks for prayers for her husband Tom who is having serious health problems.
- Robert Miller diagnosed with acute Leukemia. Hospitalized in Moffitt Hospital in Tamps Florida.
- Paula Berry diagnosed with a spinal fluid infection causing the loss of use of her legs. Hospitalized in Clearwater Florida.

MEAL TRAIN – Our sister Becki Goudreau could use some support. Her husband, Chuck, has been in hospital for some weeks. Becki goes back and forth to his bedside in Grand Rapids after work and is exhausted, so let's try and help Becki out with some good, home cooked food.

Please click on the link below (or cut/paste it to your browser) for details on how you can help. If you cannot manage the website, call the church office and Fiona will help you.

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/ddvvnz/>

Worship Ministries



W
o
r
s
h
i
p

EXPERIENCING CHRISTMAS

CHRIST IN THE SIGHTS
AND SOUNDS OF ADVENT



In Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Advent, we will explore how the sights, sounds, and other signs we associate with Christmas point us to the coming miracle of Christ's



A MESSAGE FROM THE

TECH BOBS!

We are working to get some bugs out of our new Sound system (at least New for Montague), there are so many new things this board can do compared to our old board, 2 additional speakers have been installed next to the T.V.'s, and they're on our to-do list, we should have everything up a running shortly, and thanks for your patience. Bob Tuttle & Bob Suits



**Invite Someone
to Church!!!**

Christmas Eve December 24th Worship Schedule

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Carols
(Festive music beginning at 6.30 p.m.)

11:30 p.m. Midnight
Communion



Special Advent Offering

This season of Advent we will be taking up a special offering. It will be divided equally between UMCOR's Disaster Relief Fund, and our 2024 Ministry Shares.

Thank you

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE

At our 7pm Christmas Eve service, we will be creating living tableaux of characters to bring the Christmas story to life.

No speaking is required. Costumes will be supplied.

We will need angels, shepherds, prophets, and kings!

Please let Pastor Tim or the office know if you can help.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH 2024

ONE SERVICE AT 10AM



'A CHRISTMAS SING FOR JOY'

A SERVICE OF REFLECTION & AN OPPORTUNITY TO SING
OUR FAVORITE CAROLS BEFORE THE SEASON ENDS!

FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP & REFRESHMENTS



*Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas
And a Blessed,
Peaceful New Year*

*Love From
Pastor Tim, Fiona,
And Family*

Music Ministry



CHORAL JOY

Rehearsals on Dec 4th , 11th, & 18th

Singing at the 9am service on Dec 8th, & 22nd

PRAISE RINGERS

Rehearsals on Dec 4th, 11th, & 18th

Playing at the 9am service on Dec 15th

CHORAL JOY AND THE PRAISE RINGERS WILL TAKE PART IN THE
CHRISTMAS EVE 7PM SERVICE

IN ADDITION WE WILL HAVE SOME WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS MUSIC
BEFORE THE 7PM SERVICE—COMMENCING AT 6.30PM

Come early so you don't miss it!



All are welcome to attend the
Muskegon Chamber Choir presentation of

'A Wreath of Carols'

3:00 p.m., Sunday, December 15, 2024,

at First Congregational Church,
1201 Jefferson Street, Muskegon, MI 49441.

Free admission.



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!
Next meeting is on Monday, December 2nd at 10am.

BOOK YOUR PLACE BY DECEMBER 6TH – PLACES ARE LIMITED



Ladies, you are invited to the UWF

Festive Dinner Party

Thursday December 10th at 6pm

Hanson Hill Waterfront Grill

8725 Water Street, Montague, MI 49437

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

Check out the menu of this local restaurant—there's a copy in the church office!

A Note of Thanks

I would like to thank everyone in the congregation for providing much needed emotional support, meals, and prayers. It's definitely been one of the toughest challenges of our lives. Unfortunately, it does not look good for him being home for Thanksgiving which makes our family very sad. He is getting a little bit better most days, so we are very thankful for that. I know that your prayers have kept us going.

Once he comes home it will still be a long journey to recovery as he has lost about 40 pounds since he was admitted to the hospital on October 2nd. He will also continue tube feedings, antibiotics, and physical therapy once he is home. So, the challenges will not be over for quite a while.

Thank you so much!

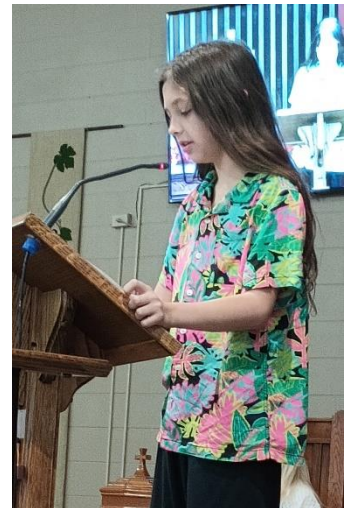
Becki Goudreau and family

South Group Scoop



**A special thank you
to our youth group
for leading us in
worship on Sunday,
November 24th,
2024**

And thank you to all the 'not youth' who helped make it happen!



"WONDER"

A Song/Poem Written by Jakob, Landon, and Malakai

As we sit here in church
Wondering how this makes sense,
An angel comes along
And sings us this song.

God is the redeemer
He gives us his love

Created this earth
Sent Jesus from above

Jesus was a missionary
Born from the virgin Mary
Spreading God's message to all

Faith Formation



WEEKLY FAITH GROUPS

TUESDAY 10am – Faith Group with Ruth T (@Montague)

WEDNESDAY 5.30pm – Sister's Group (@Montague)

WEDNESDAY 7pm – Faith Group with Ken W (@Montague)

THURSDAY 10am – Faith Group with Fred N (@Montague)

THURSDAY 7pm—Faith Group for non-readers with Fiona (@ Praise Center)



Men's Breakfast Group

Montague Campus
Fourth Saturday of the Month at 8 a.m.

Please come to enjoy fellowship
With your friends, and share your
Needs, ideas, and thoughts
Followed by conversation

NEW

GRIEF SHARE GROUP

HOW GRIEF SHARE WORKS:



**TO SIGN UP, OR FOR
MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:**

**SUZANNE COX (GROUP LEAD)
AT (616) 402-2487**

**RUTH TUTTLE (GROUP LEAD)
AT (517) 902-6112**

**OR, WHITE LAKE UMC OFFICE
AT (231) 894-5789**

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

TUESDAYS, BEGINNING OCTOBER 15TH 2024 1—2.30 PM

WHITE LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8555 COOK ST. MONTAGUE, MI 49437



Nurture
Outreach
Witness

Christmas Tree Festival

Please help make this year's festival a roaring success. How? Volunteer to help at the event. Advertise! The best adverts are by word of mouth. Offer to bake cakes, cookies, and candy for the UWF (speak to Laura Kiel).

Christmas Tree Festival

"Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas"

December 13th & 14th
 4pm – 9pm

Free digital photos




Santa Claus is coming to town

"Cookie, Candy, Cakes, and Crafts"

by our United Women in Faith

Children's Craft Activities

Hot Cocoa & Cookie Decorating

A festive walk among the trees is sure to make you feel the magic of the season



HANDEL MESSIAH

Friday,
 December 13th



White Lake Chamber Music Society

Featuring a Discussion with Bob Swan, sharing recorded excerpts of this timeless Christmas tradition



Bob Swan, retired musician with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, offers a conversation about one of the best of all Christmas traditions: *Messiah* by George Frederic Handel. This discussion, along with recorded excerpts, will be your guide to listening to and understanding this great composition.

We also need 100 plain sugar cookies for children to decorate. We need volunteers to watch over the craft activities, keep the hot chocolate flowing, and to welcome visitors to the festival.

"The Sounds of Christmas"

Come and share in the nostalgia of Christmas music led by our own musicians and singers

All the favorite songs of the season

Saturday, December 14th



And finally, of course we need lots of decorated trees. If each church team, group, etc. decorates a tree, we will have quite a magnificent display.

Above all else, please show up!

WHITELAKE UMC HERITAGE



Our Fellowship Hall now has a newly updated Pastoral Heritage plaque. The plaque is large because it contains both Montague and Whitehall histories. Three of our pastors served both churches at the same time. We have added some faith symbols to help tell our story.

The plaque is heart shaped. The outer edge is a golden rope that binds us together. The upper center is our Lord's last supper. The two doves represent our two churches that came together.

A big thank you goes to those who made it possible: John Lloyd, Dick Baerman, Steve Welter, Jim Tanis, Fiona Dibble, and Clay Cudney and Jack Lipka, our wood carvers.



What a Grandmother is

By a 3rd grade girl, told to Jameson Jones (submitted to us by Marilyn Dillen)

A Grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own. She likes other people's little girls; a Grandfather is a man-Grandmother. He goes for walks with boys and they talk about fishing, tractors, and things like that.

Grandmothers don't have to do anything except be there. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run; it is enough if they drive us to the market where the pretend hors is and have lots of dinner ready. If they take us for walks, they should slow down past pretty things like leaves and caterpillars. They should never say, "Hurry Up!" Usually they are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes; they wear glasses and wear funny underwear.

They can tak their teeth and gums off. They do not have to be smart, only answer questions lik: "Whyt do dogs hate cats?" and "How come God isn't married?"

When they read to us, they don't skip and they don't mind if it is the same story again. Everyone should have one, especially if they don't have a TV! Because ... Grandmothers are the only grown-ups who have TIME!



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

IS GOD NUDGING YOU?

Are you feeling the tug to help with Hurricane Helene relief efforts, but just don't know where to go and how to help?

On **January 25th** a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) coordinator will be coming to **OUR CHURCH** to help us put a team together so that we can help those devastated by the hurricane to put their lives back together.

If God is nudging you, **mark your calendar** and look for more information to come.

Questions ? Reach out to Tom Hinken or Ruth Tuttle

Christmas Gift Bags

We will be taking Christmas gifts to our shut-in, sick, and homebound friends. From Dec 15th the gift bags will be outside the office for you to add your contributions. Trinkets, candy, cookies, etc. Gifts will be delivered around Dec 20th.

If you can help with deliveries, please let me know.
Thank you!



MISSION SPOTLIGHT

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO IS INVOLVED IN OUR CHICKEN DINNERS FOR MUSKEGON WOMEN'S RESCUE MISSION

THANKS TO TED BOYDEN FOR HIS JAM FUNDRAISING AND FOR EVERY PERSON WHO HELPS PREPARE, COOK, AND DELIVER THE DINNERS

YOU ARE ALL AWESOME!





WOW, big move coming. Lots to be done to transition from the Praise Center to Montague Campus.

Praise Center:

- Transitioning out of the building. Help is always accepted.
- Completed the Sanctuary shut down. Heat will be at a minimum. We will begin the process(es) to shut down the sanctuary level completely.
- We will move the shed that houses the lawn equipment to the Parsonage. The lawn equipment is needed to maintain the parsonage grounds. Stay tuned for help with this move.
- Freezer and fridge decisions need to be made on where they will be placed at Montague.
- Activity on the Praise Center sale seems to be quite good.
- Insurance for the Praise Center will be reduced to "Actual Value" which will save an additional \$1000 dollars. Thanks, Glen, for the idea.
- The Free Store and Gathering moves are slated for early Jan. Stay tuned.

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

Montague Campus:

- Wow, squeezing in. Lots has been done to make space for the ministries to move to the Montague campus. All is done except for the Free Store and Gathering.
- Sprinkler system is upgraded. This is at the request of our sprinkler folks, Prime Seasons Lawn Care.
- We have purchased a new backpack blower and now available for leaf removal. Ray and Claire Schlaff have donated this to assist in maintaining our grounds. THANK YOU!
- The new sound has been problematic. Bob S. and Bob T. are constantly working to improve things. Keep at it, guys. It will work!
- Some kitchen changes are in the works, to help house the Gathering when it comes to Montague. We need to make this work somehow; and we will. The island and some pantry space are the most pressing issues. Thank you all for your patience and understanding in making space for this ministry.
- We have a new floor in what is to become the Free Store. Carla and Ward Heaton have made this possible. Thanks to all who assisted. What a huge difference it makes in the appearance and use of that space.
- The meeting room(s) have also undergone some nice changes. Conference table and comfy chairs and now in place.
- Youth rooms are being reviewed and some changes made for that addition.
- Sunday School rooms too are now looking better and are in use.
- Looking for assistance to remove leaves. Stay tuned for days and times for that process.

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

Parsonage:

- Not much to report here. Moving along with leaf removal.
- Making room for the shed and lawn equipment coming from the Praise Center.
- We will need leaf removal and clean up help before the snow flies. Stay tuned for dates and times.

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

December Events at a Glance

- 1st 1st in Advent – Holy Communion served at both 9am and 11am services.
- 2nd Celebration of Life service for Jim Lorenz. Visitation at 11am, service at 12noon (Montague)
UMF Meeting 10am (Montague)
- 4th Stewardship Team Meeting 10am in room 7
- 6th Health & Wellness Team Meeting 10am in the Welcome Center
- 10th UWF Christmas Dinner at Hanson Hill Waterfront Grill 6pm (by reservation only)
- 13th Christmas Tree Festival 4 – 9pm including the Handel’s Messiah talk at 7pm
- 14th Christmas Tree Festival 3 – 9pm including Sounds of Christmas concert at 6pm
- 15th Blood Pressure Checks after service at each campus
- 23rd Men’s Breakfast (Montague) 8-10am
Mental Health Seminar – Suicide Prevention (Praise Center) 12.30pm
- 24th Christmas Eve – Candlelit Carols Service 6.30pm
Midnight Communion Service 11pm
- 25th & 26th Church office closed
- 28th Men’s Breakfast 8am
- 29th Service of Carol Singing

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 11am WORSHIP Including Kids Church & Youth Study 4-6pm YOUTH GROUP	 6.30pm NA MEETING @ Montague	10am Faith Group @ Montague 9am ABCs of Cooking—Read Muskegon @ Montague 7pm AL-ANON @Montague	5pm Dollar Dinner @ Montague 5.30pm Sister’s Group @ Montague 5.30pm Choral Joy @ Montague 6pm Praise Ringers @ Montague 7pm 7pm Faith Group @ Montague 7pm NA MEETING @ Montague	10am Faith Group @ Montague 10am—3pm 9.30am Stitches group @ Montague 5-8pm FREESTORE @ Praise Center 6-7pm THE GATHERING FREE MEAL @ Praise Center	 6.30pm NA MEETING @ Montague	11am—2pm FREESTORE @ Praise Center 12-1pm THE GATHERING FREE MEAL @ Praise Center