



The Messenger

December 2025

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

8555 Cook Street

Montague, MI 49437

Website:

www.whitelakeumc.org

From the Pastor's Desk

What Do You Want for Christmas This Year?

In the beginning God provided the world with everything it needed. The critical element in making the world work as God intended was sharing the basic elements of life and caring for one another in relationships characterized by love and respect.

God did not promise to provide us with all that we want, but God did promise to provide us with all that we need. Often times what we want is not even truly "good" for us. In the Creation story in the Bible's Book of Genesis, the pursuit of want we wanted, the proverbial forbidden fruit, over living as God intended as faithful stewards in a mutually supportive society got humanity into all sorts of trouble.

Want does have its place in our lives. Want provides us with the incentive to try harder, work harder. Want drives our dreams. Want feeds our vision for our lives and for the relationships of which we are a part. Want can build character in the budding lives of our children.

The more important question is what do we really want? A new car? A bigger house? The latest computer game? More money? More specifically do you just want for more, more, more or do you want what God wants. Do you want for yourself, your family, your friends, your community, for everyone what you and they **need?** To live lives of meaning and purpose...of joy and love?

About two thousand years ago, our Jewish brothers and sisters lived under the tyranny of a foreign power. What they wanted was God to send them a Messiah King; a warrior to lead them in a war for freedom. What they got was what they needed. They were given an infant born into a family of simple means but built upon a

foundation of love and faith. They were given a Messiah who showed them, and us, what it truly means to live a full and fruitful human life with priorities in order and God's will lived out. A Messiah who came to show that God is still building the eternal Kingdom one person . . . one transformed soul at a time. That each of us is a part of God's greater plan and the freedom we can gain by living our lives according to God's Great Commandments to love God first in our lives and to love one another even as Jesus has showed us his love for us.

We too live in difficult times today. Political divisiveness. Racial unrest. Jobs lost. Many of our local families are living in a sort of economic bondage as forces beyond their control breach the financial security of their lives. Others among us live in bondage as well to such circumstances as loneliness, depression, and grief.

God has and is providing us all that we need to live abundant and rich lives. The questions before us are rather simple really. What do you want for Christmas this year? Material goods and gains or lives lived and shared in love and respect. Lives consumed not by a culture of me-me-me but of love for neighbor as God has intended. Everyday lives limited by social distancing or relationships that have found new ways to flourish. What do you want for your children this Christmas? Do you wish to give them all that the world has convinced them they want, even if you know deep in your hearts that giving in to this self-centeredness and greed is counterproductive to their development and character? Or do you "want" for them a deeper understanding of the importance of loving relationships characterized by common dignity, shared respect, and a common purpose to live in a world built upon love for God and their neighbors.

I pray that the Christ child will be born again in our hearts this Christmas season. I hope that we will share the same unequivocal love for one another that a newborn child shares with loving parents. I will strive this year to **want** for my family and all my neighbors, near and far, what they truly need – the love that came to us so long ago and comes to us again and again seeking to fill our lives with the true spirit of Christmas.

I invite you to join with me in celebration of the great and wondrous gift we have been given – life – this Christmas season. Join in the community celebrations...safely. Connect with a friend in need of a kind word of prayer. Give of the blessings you have received this year so that those who are finding life more difficult than you might know that they are loved and valued by you and our God. Support those striving to provide for and share the resources of food and clothing with our neighbors who are struggling this year. Join in the warmth of Christian fellowship by worshipping together, fellowshiping together...even online!

God blesses 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
Tuesday, December 23rd, 2025

“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.”

Fellowship Hour is an important time in our church as we make connections and build relationships over a simple cup of coffee and snack.

The schedule for the Coffee Hour servers is posted on the office door. There are a couple of spaces not filled, and they would be perfect for someone who wants just a one-time date!

If you haven't tried doing a Coffee Hour at church, give it a try! You get to see everyone who attends and enjoy a smile from each one! There is always someone to help make the coffee for you.

Contact Barb Lloyd if you have questions, 231-894-2543. Paper supplies are in the kitchen cupboard next to the refrigerators.

Open Dates:

Fourth Sunday of December _____

Fourth Sunday of January _____



GREETINGS FROM
LONDON, ENGLAND

From Corina Monet

Corina is doing very well in school. She is settled in and making many wonderful friends. In addition to classes and exploring London, she is cooking for her many friends and enjoying getting to know so many new cultures. Coco says she misses home and all of you too. She enjoys the updates she gets on everyone and wants the church family to know she appreciates the care, concern and prayers.

Call Rachel Fekken or the church office if you would like contact information for Coco.





Prayer Request Cards – are available on our Welcome Desk in the Welcome Center. 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** has 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:

- Several of our members, family and friends are currently in treatment for cancer. Some prefer to remain private, but we pray for each of them. God knows their names and needs.
- Pat Klotz is now in a rehab facility in Hart after major neck surgery following a fall. She is likely to be home soon to continue her therapy. We continue to pray for strength and comfort.
- Steve LaBounty had a quadruple bypass recently and is now back home. Prayers for his recovery, and for Pam and the family.
- Please pray for Denise Eilers who fell and injured her back. Pray for relief from the pain and a rapid recovery.
- Prayers for Tonja Stembol. She is in rehab in Memphis, TN after a fall and short hospital stay. She has broken bones in her pelvis.
- Prayers for Grant Belinger who is in hospital with pneumonia.
- Prayers for Bruce Hawk. After a hospital stay he is now in rehab with severe heart failure. Please pray for his care and comfort. Also, prayers for his wife Sondra and the family.
- Betty, who works with the Free Store, needs our prayers. She only has one lung (which was a transplant). She has been in the hospital for over a week with serious problems with that lung.

Worship Ministries



Sunday Morning

Services

9:00am

Traditional style

10:00am

Fellowship Time

10:15am

Youth class

11:00am

Praise Band Service
& Kids Church



Heaven *and* Earth **PLEASE JOIN US!**

ADVENT *and* the INCARNATION

Welcome to *Heaven and Earth*, an Advent sermon and worship series on the mystery, surprise, and earthshaking good news of the Incarnation. Advent is the Christian New Year. As the world's year ends, the Christian year begins—four weeks to take time, mark time, and make time differently from the way the world keeps time. The appointed Advent scriptures are an answer to a number of New Year's questions: Are we ending or beginning? Are our human efforts the only agency in history? Have we come to the end of the road, or is something new afoot? Is it the same old thing, or a fresh start? Are we stuck, abandoned to our own devices? Or is it possible that God might show up and disrupt, intervene, shake up, and take time for us?

It's not within our own power to make a fresh start. If we're to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our devising. What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a Creator who is not aloof from our time. We need a God who not only cares about us but who is also willing to show up among us, and do something with us, here, now.

Good news! Advent, marking the church's New Year, says, in a number of different ways, that's just the sort of God we've got.

CHRISTMAS

Special Offering

Our special Advent & Christmas offering will be 50% for local food ministries, and 50% for Church maintenance roof fund.

THANK YOU!

ONLINE GIVING



Music Ministry

Do you have some special music that you would like to share over the Christmas period? Call the church office or contact Gwen Bean to let her know. Musicians, singers, poets, dancers..... Let's share our gifts as we celebrate the Advent and Christmas season.

Christmas Services

Check out the schedule for moments of worship, reflection, and joy.

Wednesday, Dec 24th

6.30PM Carol Service with Nativity
incl Praise Ringers, Choral Joy, & Special Music

11.30PM Midnight Communion Service
a quieter service with Holy Communion

Sunday, Dec 28th

10AM Combined Christmas Celebration
Led by Nancy Frye & Fiona Dibble



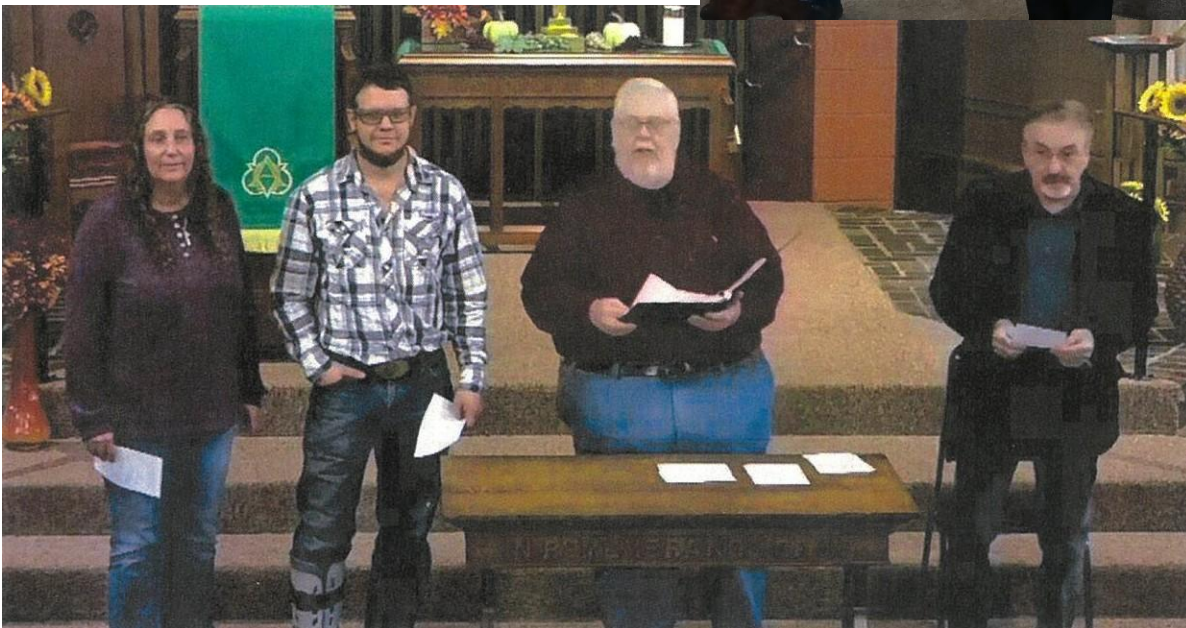
As Christmas draws closer it is time to think about our special services on Christmas Eve. Please call in at the office if you are willing and able to take a role in our Nativity. Prophets, Shepherds, Wise Men, and Angels and needed – all ages and abilities welcome – no speaking parts involved so don't be shy!

NEW MEMBERS

What a joy it was to welcome 10 new friends as members of White Lake United Methodist Church at the service on Sunday, November 16th, 2025



Some well-known faces, some new to the area, each one welcome among us. Make sure to greet them and invite them into fellowship.



John & Suzanne Baldwin, Sunny Evans, Kristine Ellerbruch, Deb & Bill Leister, Jeff Dillen, Brenda Colby, Chris Robinson, and Carl Webb.
Welcome one and all!

Faith Formation



Here is an opportunity for parents to spend time getting to know one another while someone else watches the children!

Professional childcare provided

Every Monday 9.30 - 10.30am

PARENTS Morning Off

Get to know other parents, talk about your joys and concerns and share parenting stories while the little ones play in the nursery with qualified helpers

All are welcome

- ✓ Play time
- ✓ Make friends
- ✓ Share ideas
- ✓ Have fun

CONTACT KAREN SNIDER-SMITH TO REGISTER - CALL OR TEXT 231-750-2267

at White Lake UMC, 8555 Cook Street, Montague, MI 49437 Office # 231 894 5789
This is a non-denominational group




White Lake UMC

POP-UP SOCIAL

FUN STUFF FOR YOUNGER ADULTS
CHRISTMAS MOVIES AND COOKIE DECORATING

CALL JESSICA ON 231-292-6026 FOR DETAILS AND MENU IDEAS

Next meeting Sat Dec 6th @ 6pm

8555 Cook Street, Montague, MI 49437

Bring snacks to share!

whitelakeumc.org






Look out for the next Pop-Up Social Saturday, Dec 6th Christmas movies and cookie decorating

Saturday Dec 20th Christmas Bake-off and secret Santa

Watch this space or call Jessica to find out more!

Find a faith group that fits your schedule

Speak to Ruth Tuttle if you have any questions or suggestions.

FAITH GROUPS

Tuesday 10am room 3 with Ruth Tuttle
 Wednesday 5.30pm room 11 Sisters Group
 Wednesday 7pm room 3 with Ken Wentworth
 Thursday 10am room 3 with Fred Nichols
 Thursday Thinkers room 7 with Fiona Dibble

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE






Did you know that ALL women and girls in the United Methodist Church are members of the UWF?

All pastors are members too!

Next meeting is on Monday, December 1st at 10am.



A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our collection of items for the Food Pantry. Watch this space for future 'in gathering' efforts as we endeavor to meet the needs of our neighbors.

Volunteers can sign up in the Welcome Center.

Let's make this the best Mini Bazaar and Bake Sale ever!



UWF Mini Bazaar and Bake Sale at the Christmas Tree Festival December 12th and 13th from 4:00 - 8:00p.m.

There will be signup sheets in the Welcome Center from November 24th for helpers. There will also be a list of suggested baked goods, candies, craft items and other donations and help. Please help where you can.



TUESDAY, DEC 16TH AT 6PM



ONE FOR THE LADIES

CHRISTMAS

DINNER PARTY WITH FRIENDS

OUR UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH GROUP WILL BE HAVING A FESTIVE GATHERING AT HANSON HILL WATERFRONT GRILL. PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND SO WE CAN BOOK SUFFICIENT SEATING.

Call the office to book your place for our annual festive dinner. The menu is available online if you would like to see it in advance.

Youth Group Scoop

Good News! Our youth group is growing in size! More on that later

Most of November we have been working on the Sunday service for November 23rd, along with normal plotting and planning. We are trying to get one more fishing day in before the weather gets somewhat prohibitive (probably at the fishing bridge in Montague/Whitehall).

We will be helping at the Gathering free meal on Dec 1st, having a Tree in the Tree Festival, and a buffet/party on New Year's Eve. We are, of course, hoping for a good sledding day in between or later this winter.

Look out here for more activities as information and dates become available. Stay tuned in to watch as our youth group continue to grow in so many ways!

Ain't God Great!?! Youth Team



A big thank you to the youth group and their leaders for leading worship this past Sunday (Nov 23rd). What a wonderful job you did. We are very proud of you all.

Well done!





NURTURE

Caring for and encouraging growth or development

OUTREACH

Showing kindness, compassion, and support to those in need.

WITNESS

Openly professing one's faith through words and actions



Christmas Gift Bags

Between December 15th to 19th we will be putting together gift bags for our shut-in, sick, or absent friends. Please plan ahead to help fill them up. Individually wrapped treats, personal items such as gloves, lipbalm, hand cream, or soaps, and small mementos of the season. The bags will need delivering on December 20th and 21st, so please let the office know if you can help with this. Let's make sure that no one feels left out in the cold this Holiday season.

THE MUSKEGON CHAMBER CHOIR PRESENTS

“Wreath of Carols”

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025, 3:00 P.M.
AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.C.C., 1201 JEFFERSON
ST. MUSKEGON, MI, 49441.

THIS FREE CONCERT INCLUDES SACRED AND SECULAR
CHRISTMAS MUSIC OF ALL STYLES AND GENRES.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

WHITE LAKE UMC

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 12TH AND 13TH

4PM - 8PM

We are into serious planning mode for the upcoming Christmas Tree Festival.

Our UWF are planning a wonderful Mini Bazaar with crafts, cookies, cakes, pies etc. for sale, to support their important mission work. Signup sheets are in the Welcome Center. How can you help?

We have some special events during the festival.

- Bob Swan will be giving a talk about traditional Christmas music on Friday Dec 12th at 7pm.
- The White Lake Junior Strings will be performing on Saturday Dec 13th at 4pm.
- Grief Share Tree of Remembrance where you can add the names of those you have loved and will miss this Christmas.
- We will have a Community Carol sing on the Saturday at 6pm, with our own Ruth Carson on the piano.
- Throughout the festival there will be an exhibition of Nativity Scenes (safely in a side room) for folks to share the true meaning and joy of the Christmas season.

We will have some activities available for our visitors. A craft table, Candy Cane Café, serving free coffee and hot chocolate, cookie decorating, and photos with Santa Claus himself!

To have a tree festival we need decorated trees. Local community groups and businesses are welcome to put up a tree for an entry fee of just \$20 towards our mission activities and costs. Individuals can also join in the fun.

It would be wonderful if groups within the church would add a tree. In the past the following groups have participated – Health & Wellness team, UWF, Grief Share, Youth Group, choir, and the office. If every team/work group in the church contributed a tree, it would be quite a display, wouldn't it? Check in with the office for more details.

How can you help?

- Provide a decorated tree or help decorate trees during the week of the festival
- Lend us your nativity scene for the exhibition
- Make baked goods etc. for the UWF Mini Bazaar
- Make plain sugar cookies for the decorating table
- Sign up to help during the festival – sign up sheets are in the Welcome Center
- Spread the word to family, friends, neighbors, and even strangers – the more the merrier!
- Finally, show up to the special events and activities and share the joy of Christmas!



TRUSTEES NEWS

Praise Center:

Not much new to report here. We have made the changes necessary for building to be heated. Batteries in thermostats and such. Did have a sink leak in the kitchen. Karen found it and we got it fixed. No other major events to report.

Thank you all for the mowing and care of that building over the spring and summer months.

Montague Campus:

- Gardens are waning. However, we need help from any of us willing to roll up a sleeve or to and dig in some dirt. Supporting this ministry of a wonderful, visual and environmental masterpiece needs some TLC. Memorial Gardens, Raised Garden, Bio Swales, Fern Garden, Sign Garden, Fruit Garden, Retention Area, East Tree Area, plantings around the church building, Prayer Labyrinth and Playground Area. Claire Schlaff is asking for help in a number of these areas.
- Thanks to the huge donation of a backpack blower, we have a good way to move leaves instead of running the mowers and dumping bags every few minutes. We can now use the mowers for cleanup instead of moving piles of leaves. Thank you to the Schlaffs. What huge benefit to our ground maintenance.
- We have added a sign rack to the east side, exterior of sanctuary. We will add one to west side if all stays in place. This rack will allow for different banners to be placed on the rack. The sign was originally placed on the lawn but wind and such made it impossible to hold in place. I had to separate the two halves to mount them as I did. Sorry Pastor Tim: I did not know about these signs until after I had separated them and hung up one half. I am not sure if we have funds to replace the sign rack and to allow for its intended use.
- Air conditioners are out, and cold weather systems are in place.
- We have a huge kitchen project to consider. A preliminary drawing is complete, and we are looking for input to finish the design and go for the money it will take to make this NEW kitchen a reality. What a wonderful mission, The Gathering. We will need to make significant changes to our original kitchen if we are to continue to keep this mission alive and well. Our existing kitchen is not sized or placed appropriately for serving a continuous meal process. Space for preparing and serving is extremely limited. Then there is the cleanup that needs a drain system capable of handling dish washing and other clean up. Fiona has provided some information to those of us using the kitchen repeatedly. Ken Wentworth, Glen Naghtin and Dick Baerman are the project committee. Ken has agreed to head this committee. If anyone else is interested in joining this group, please let one of us know. We plan on having an information gathering meeting soon. Hopefully with a more final design with some costs we can put to the project we can move forward. This is no small feat. We will need to dig deep both financially and

organizationally to allow this project to become reality. We have very interested people, mostly those directly involved in producing the twice a week Gathering Meals. A new kitchen may invoke some new missions we can offer both our congregation and the community.

- Grounds: lawns are winding down. Mabe one more clean up session before snow stops that process from continuing. We have made some repairs to the playground equipment and added mulch to the area. Thanks Craig Cudney.

Parsonage:

- We will need some help with the leaves. We had a huge cleanup session this past spring. However, leaves don't wait for spring. I will be in touch seeking help with this process to assist our parsonage family.

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

ENDOWMENT UPDATE



Market Value (09/30/2025)	209,782.99
Dividends	385.86
Disbursements	0.00
Change in Market Value	2,923.99
Market Value (10/31/2025)	213,092.84

Thank you for your support of the Endowment Fund.

In CHRIST, Tim Todd

Endowment Team Leader

December Events at a Glance

- 30th First Sunday in Advent
- 1st Parent's Morning Off (rm 3) 9.30am
UWF meeting – 10am
- 2nd Hanging of the Greens 1pm
Grief Share (rm 7) 1pm
- 5th Health & Wellness team meeting 10am
White Lake Cares meeting (rm 7) 3pm
- 6th Pop-Up Social 6pm – Christmas movies and cookie decorating
- 7th 2nd in Advent – Holy Communion served at both services
- 8th Parent's Morning Off (rm 3) 9.30am
- 9th Dirt Daubers Christmas Gathering
Grief Share (rm 7) 1pm
- 12th Christmas Tree Festival 4pm – 8pm
- 13th Christmas Tree Festival 4pm – 8pm
- 14th 3rd Sunday in Advent
- 15th Parent's Morning Off (rm 3) 9.30am
- 16th Grief Share (rm 7) 1pm
UWF Christmas Dinner at Hanson Hill 6pm
- 20th Pop-Up Social 6pm - Christmas bake-off and secret Santa
- 21st 4th Sunday in Advent – blood pressure checks available after both services
- 24th Christmas Eve Carol Service 6.30pm
Midnight Communion Service 11.30pm
- 28th **COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10am** – led by Nancy Frye and Fiona Dibble
- 30th Grief Share (rm 7) 1pm
- 31st ALL AGE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY – 6PM – MIDNIGHT – ORGAINZED BY THE YOUTH GROUP



WEST MICHIGAN CONCERT
WINDS

**A Christmas
Collaboration**

**7:00 PM MONDAY
DEC 1ST 2025**

**COMMUNITY
REFORMED CHURCH**

10376 FELCH ST.
ZEELAND, MI 49464

WEEKLY SCHEDULE AT WHITE LAKE UMC, 8555 COOK STREET, MONTAGUE

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (231) 894 5789 FOR MORE DETAILS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>9am TRADITIONAL WORSHIP</p> <p>10am Fellowship Time</p> <p>Kids Church</p> <p>Youth Study</p> <p>11am PRAISE BAND WORSHIP Including Kids Church</p> <p>YOUTH GROUP 4-6pm</p>	<p>Office open 10am to 3.30pm</p> <p>UWF 10am (first Monday of the month)</p> <p>3.30pm Chair Yoga</p> <p>THE GATHERING FREE MEAL 6-7pm</p> <p>NA MEETING 6.30pm</p>	<p>Faith Group 10am</p> <p>Office open 12 to 3.30pm</p> <p>AL-ANON 7pm</p>	<p>Office open 10am to 3.30pm</p> <p>3.30pm Chair Yoga</p> <p>5.30pm Sister's Group</p> <p>6pm Choral Joy (choir practice)</p> <p>7pm Praise Ringers (bells practice)</p> <p>7pm Faith Group</p> <p>NA MEETING 7pm</p>	<p>Office open 10am to 3.30pm</p> <p>Faith Group 10am</p> <p>Stitchers group 9.30am onwards</p> <p>FREESTORE 5-8pm</p> <p>THE GATHERING FREE MEAL 6-7pm</p> <p>Thursday Thinkers 7pm</p>	<p>Office open 10am to 3.30pm</p> <p>3.30pm Chair Yoga</p> <p>NA MEETING 6.30pm</p>	<p>FREESTORE 11am—2pm</p>



YOU CAN MAKE AN OFFERING OR DONATION TO THE MINISTRIES OF WHITE LAKE UMC. JUST FOLLOW THE QR CODE!



CALL (231) 894 5789 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP FOR OUR MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER