



# Montrose UMC

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

*SUMMONED BY GOD TO LOVE, GROW, GO, AND DO.*

## APRIL CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

William Smith 2nd  
Carter Heumiller 4th  
Hayle Bals 6th  
LaRay Behrens 7th  
Asher Hagemann 8th  
Asher Johnson 11th  
Larry Miller 16th  
Jerry Brown 16th  
Jerome Kipp 20th  
Rawley Meyer 20th  
Bricelynn Heumiller 21st  
Connie Zimmer 23rd  
Justin Smith 26th  
Justin Hagemann 30th

### ANNIVERSARIES

John and Sara Smith 5th  
Gene and Cindy Fisher 19th  
Mark and Hayle Bals 22nd

## ONGOING WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

### WOW - Children's Ministry Program

Each Wednesday evening from 6-7:30p, we learn, grow, worship, and connect with 40+ children and youth. Join us, pray for us, and find ways to support us within this large ministry the church leads weekly.

### Church Board

Our church board meets monthly on the first Sunday of the month after coffee hour. This meeting is a time to connect with each other and see where God has been at work and where God may be working next within our church community. All are welcome.

### United Women in Faith

This group of faithful women is open for anyone to join. They meet the third Thursday of the month at 2p to find ways in which to best be Jesus' hands and feet in the world.

## EVENTS

### Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday April 17 @ 7pm



### Good Friday Worship

Friday April 18 @ 7pm



EASTER WORSHIP  
SUNDAY APRIL 20

## SUPPORT FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

### FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING

This quarter, our fourth Sunday offering will go in support of the Heifer Project. This ministry seeks to support families around the globe in a sustainable way by providing animals for them to care for and farm.

### CAMPER GOAL

This year, our goal as a church is to send 12 kids to camp! Help us achieve this goal by inviting friends to camp, telling WOW students about camp, sharing our camping brochure, and signing you and your family up for camp!



# Pastoral Note



PASTOR VALERIE HUMMEL LABOUNTY

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I know it is hard to believe but Easter is just around the corner! Last year at this time we had already celebrated Easter and were fully into the post-Easter season, remembering when Jesus walked with his disciples on the road to Emmaus, and we reflected on Jesus' message that he would promise to be with us always.

We aren't quite there yet; as I write this note, I have just prepared the order of service for Palm Sunday. I can never decide when I prepare for the Sunday before Easter, do I want to focus solely on the story of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, or do I want to add some of the stories of Jesus' passion, too? In worship, Palm Sunday can be just that, or it could be Palm Passion Sunday if a preacher wanted to bring in those stories covered on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and discuss them after the Palm Parade.

I always feel a little torn: on one hand, if we are focusing just on the story of Jesus' entrance, we aren't overwhelmed by what the rest of the week brings. We can simply stay in the present story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey with people shouting "Hosanna" as he comes into town. Yet, I know there are a few who may choose to not attend the Maundy Thursday or Good Friday worship services, thus going from Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem one week to Easter Sunday the next.

By missing these stories that happen in the middle of the week, we skip some of the main events. Yes, Jesus' resurrection is important and exciting - it is why we are Christians! But when we don't go through what Jesus went through those last 24 hours or so before his death, the resurrection loses some of its importance, in my opinion. There are many meaningful moments that lead up to the excitement and rejoicing of the Easter resurrection. Moments that are found within the upper room during a passover supper and on the path to Golgotha where Jesus would hang on a cross.

No matter what you choose to do during holy week this year, I invite you to check out these important stories. Whether you join us for worship or find them within the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), I invite you to reflect upon these stories and what they might mean for you as we all seek a resurrected Christ on Easter Sunday.

The hard stuff, the stuff we don't always like to sit in, makes the good stuff even better. Easter morning is an even bigger celebration when we know where Jesus has been before he is resurrected, even if it may be difficult for us to read or hear.

May the end of Lent and beginning of the Easter season bring us learning and blessings as we reflect on God's great sacrifice for us.

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