

Montrose UMC



MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER
SUMMONED BY GOD TO LOVE, GROW, GO, AND DO.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Mike Przymus	1st
Evelyn Smith	1st
Susie Garrett	3rd
Beth Heumiller	3rd
Joan Brown	4th
Alayna Johnson	7th
Peyton Cleveland	8th
Dan Smith	9th
Brian Smith	10th
Issiah Heumiller	10th
Jonathan Miller	12th
Terri Smith	21st
Darci Jansen	25th
Tony Meyer	25th
Becca Hagemann	30th
Kristi Meyer	31st
<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>	
Jerry and Joan Brown	1st

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.
NO WOW ON MARCH 27TH.

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.
NOTE: APRIL'S MEETING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 14TH.

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

MESSY CHURCH - MARCH

Join us for our next **Messy Church on March 17th** during Sunday worship at 9am! We'll be worshipping God through songs, prayers, word, and actions. All are welcome!

THURSDAY MARCH 28TH - WORSHIP @ 7PM

Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, is a time in which we remember Jesus' last night with his disciples before his death on the cross.

FRIDAY MARCH 29TH - WORSHIP @ 7PM

The Friday before Easter is known as **Good Friday**. On this day we reflect on Jesus' final hours before his death, finding space to worship the one who died for our sins.

SUNDAY MARCH 31ST

Christ is risen; He is risen indeed! **Easter Sunday** worship will be at 9am with a **breakfast** served from 7:30-8:30am.

APRIL 7TH DURING WORSHIP

To **celebrate 20 years** of worship in our current church building, we will have a special Sunday of worship and celebration! Join us as we remember the building process, reminisce on all that's happened within this new building space, and look ahead at what God may have in store next for us and this building.



Pastoral Note



PASTOR VALERIE HUMMEL LABOUNTY



The book I chose for our Lenten book study was *Remember* by Susan Robb; each chapter in this book focuses on a different covenant made with God's people, as found within scripture, and how that covenant relates to our relationship with God through the new covenant Jesus made through his life, death, and resurrection.

In one of the chapters we are reminded of the covenant God made with the Israelites after they were liberated from their lives as slaves in Egypt. Within this part of Robb's writings, she mentions a few reasons that may relate to the length of Lent spanning forty days. The author mentions Jesus' fasting and temptation in the wilderness for 40 days (Matthew 4:1-10), Noah and his family experienced 40 days of rains flooding the earth while they were safely on the ark (Genesis 7:17), the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years before arriving at the Promised Land, and during this wandering, Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days when he received the Ten Commandments from God.

There was an additional reason that Robb included in her list of reasons why Lent may be 40 days long. She shares, "Some people speculate that these forties were chosen because they coincide with the number of weeks a woman carries a baby in her womb before new life appears." And she goes on to mention the other forties also include some type of new life or new creation after the forty days/weeks/years is complete.

Naturally, as a new mother, this idea stood out to me, and the connection the author makes to arriving to a space of new birth/creation after a time of reflection or wilderness fits in so well within this season of Lent. We spend, or at least I hope we are spending, these forty days in a season of intentionality as we come to the Lord wearing repentance. We have sinned. We have fallen short. We are imperfect. God knows this AND God loves us anyway. And I would argue God uses this time of Lent to prepare us for a newness God is creating within us.

These forty days of Lent are not to be wasted - they are to be used as preparation so we are ready for the newness of Easter, the miracle of the resurrected Christ. It is through Jesus' resurrection in which we have been given new life; maybe Lent is a time for us to think about how we can best live into a new life in Christ. Maybe Lent is to prepare our hearts for a new thing God is wanting to do in our lives, our community, and our world so we can be more like Christ in our word and deed. Maybe we can use Lent to acknowledge our sins in order for us to release them to better and more fully live into God's call on our lives.

It's okay if we don't do Lent perfectly. It's okay if we don't live perfectly. There is still time for us to prepare for the resurrection, to prepare for an opportunity of new life and new creation within our lives. What new things is God preparing you to be a part of?

CONTACT INFORMATION
Email: ladypastorvalerie@gmail.com
Website: montrosesdumc.org
Office Phone: 363-5004

