

Montrose Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church

2024 April Volume 4

*You are Precious and I Love You,
- Isaiah 43:4*



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Pastor's Column



Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.

- Isaiah 43:18-19

At the end of this month, we will have the long awaited 2020 General Conference of the United Methodist Church. This conference has been a long time coming and will go down in history as one of the most important general conferences in the history of the Methodist church. It will be a divisive time where the United Methodist Church won't be as united as we'd like to be. The issue that has been highly debated is how we interpret scripture on human sexuality. Many people point to this as the underlying issue, but Paul Chilcote writes in his book *Multiplying Love* that the real issue is we need a spiritual renewal in the church. He poses the question that we've been trying to picture this entire time: is God gifting us with a new vision of radical inclusion in the church?



This radical inclusion isn't anything absolutely new to the UMC. Our motto, "Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors" has always been inclusive to me, but have we always lived out this motto as a church? Sure, no one can be perfect, but how have we made extra effort to share that radical love that we celebrate each time we gather as Christians? Sometimes we forget that the open doors that we refer to are not the doors to the church, but the doors to each of our hearts. There is a desperate need for spiritual renewal in the church and that renewal needs to happen *outside* of the church.

In this broken world, there is a huge need for healing. It isn't just physical or mental, but also spiritual healing. Many people have been hurt by the church through exclusion. For example, I was attending a private Christian school in Texas and they had some certain policies that normal schools wouldn't have. We had to wear school uniforms and we had to attend a weekly chapel service. Also, there were certain expectations for behavior. I know of a girl who was kicked out of the school simply because she had become pregnant. The school thought it had to practice what it preached. However, by doing so they were actively hurting the body of Christ. We all fall short of the grace that we have received through Jesus Christ. We all have wronged God in one way or another, but we shouldn't exclude others because of that. We should turn to radical love and radical inclusion!

This month we will briefly go through Paul Chilcote's *Multiplying Love* as we reflect upon the big changes coming up in General Conference. I ask that you pray for the delegates, bishops, and other participants. Pray that God may guide their hearts in their participation within the conference. I also ask that you pray for our church that we may this month learn more about what's in store for our future as we reflect on what it means to Multiply Love through radical inclusion.

Blessings!

Pastor Mark Schlasner

Email: am.umc.pastor@gmail.com

Phone/Text: (763) 656-3490

April Sermon Series

"Multiplying LOVE"

A Vision of United Methodist

Life Together

Book by Paul W. Chilcote

Sunday, April 7, 2024

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Communion Steward: Carol Prestidge

Sermon Message:

"Love is the Highest Gift"

Scripture: I Corinthians 13:2, 12-13

Sunday, April 14, 2024

NATIVE AMERICAN

SPECIAL GIVING SUNDAY

Sermon Message:

"The Opportunity Before Us"

Scripture: Colossians 3:11-15

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Sermon Message:

"A Community of Love and Grace"

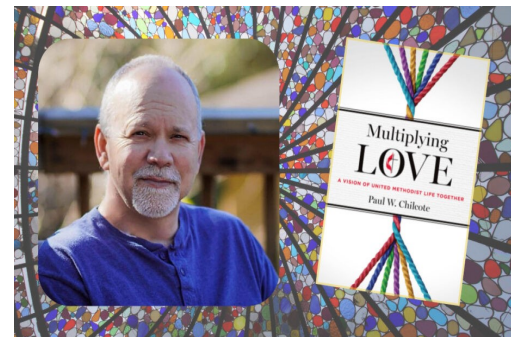
Scripture: John 15:4-5, 8-10

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Sermon Message:

"Discovering Love Again"

Scripture: I John 4:19-21



**There will be no
WORSHIP SERVICE
at Montrose UMC
Sunday, May 19th
Worship Service will be at
Annandale UMC,
along with the Baptism of
IAN MAURY SCHLASNER!
(Service time to be announced.)**



SAVE THE
DATE!



PRAYER PAGE

Our Friends at Home....

Gloria Adickes
John Hylland



Lifting in Our Prayers...

Jacob Smothers, having a surgical procedure March 12th to check for celiac disease. Prayers he doesn't have it. *UPDATE*: Procedure went well, waiting for test results.

Mike Wagner, having defibrillator put in March 14th. Off work 2-weeks for recovery.

Don & Betty Danford, both ill with influenza.

Laurie, Diane Folkestad's sister, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and has already begun chemotherapy. Cancer contained and hoping for surgery in the fall.

Hudson Severson-Lieser, ill with strep throat and influenza B on his 6th birthday (March 17th). Tonsil surgery scheduled for March 19th had to be postponed.

Mike Smothers, having hernia surgery March 26th with a 6-week recovery. (Extra prayers for Angie as she cares for him!)

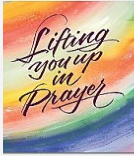
Brian Malerich, Ricki's son in Michigan, avoided getting ill when the whole family was sick but now has influenza and shingles.

Linda Prestidge's sister Betty, fighting stomach cancer and now in hospice.

People having to travel in the impending big snowstorm.

People traveling for Spring Break.

Roger Vanderlinde's Mom, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, now in a Nursing Home in Winsted.



Blessings and Celebrations

Hazel Marquette, celebrated her 2nd Birthday March 16th!

Isabella Johnson & Hunter Reinhart, both selling coffees as a fundraiser for BHS Marching Band's trip to Boston, MA in July!

Josh Illies, made it home from his Los Angeles, CA mission trip (at 5 am)!

Families, always there to help one another!

Sherry Ovall's cousin Raymond, baptized today (Easter) in Roseau, MN.

Heather & Devon Prestidge, celebrating birthdays this week, April 3rd & 5th respectively.

Linda Marquette, celebrating her birthday this week April 6th!

Ricki Malerich's parents, married on Easter day 80 years ago!

FE-ED, having a successful drop and many volunteers to help, despite all the snow, bad roads, and cold on Tuesday!

MUMC Youth, making "Empty Tomb Rolls" for Easter breakfast and helping serve at the breakfast!



*We celebrate
the many special
Birthdays in
March!*



Montrose UMC is participating in the FMSC Mobile Pack at Delano UMC Saturday, April 20th 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

We have spots reserved!
This is a churchwide event open to everyone wanting to help pack Manna Meals.

See the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

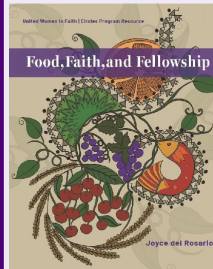
(Kids must be 6 or older, no jewelry, long hair put up - hair nets are worn, no open-toe shoes,)



United
Women
in Faith

**Montrose UMC
United Women of Faith
Hannah Circle**

**Next Meeting - Monday, April 15th
6:30 pm in the Library
(Different day & time)**



We start our meetings with a short devotion program, currently from the NEW 2024 program book, **"FOOD, FAITH, AND FELLOWSHIP"**. This program invites all of us to gather at God's banquet table and explore what it truly means to "be community" - not just in our circles, but with all creation. Monthly meetings and our Missions for 2024 will focus on a journey of food, spiritual practices, and God who dwells with us at the table. (At each meeting we will share food; whether it's a meal, dessert, snack, etc.)

After the Devotion program we move to a short meeting to discuss and plan out missions and/or activities. All women in the congregation are welcome to join us and we hope to see you at the next meeting!

For our **April Mission** we are sponsoring and serving a meal at **Love INC's FRESH START PROGRAM Mon., April 22nd at 5 pm at the Westpointe Church in Delano**. We are serving **"Breakfast for Supper"** and sharing in the meal! They expect about 35 adults and 8 children. Food/Volunteers should be there by 4:30 pm - serving meal at 5:15 pm.

We are looking for additional volunteers to help!
See sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall
or talk to Carol Becker.

Have questions or suggestions for Hannah Circle? Please contact us at: montrosemnumw@gmail.com



Family Game Day
Sunday, April 28th
 (after worship service)
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

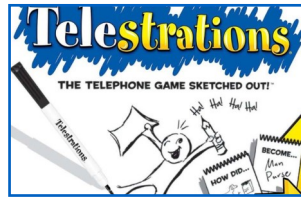
Everyone is Welcome!

We'll have snacks & beverages but feel free to bring your favorite snack to share if you'd like!

Join us for fun & games as we play dominoes, card games, board games, cribbage and more! Bring your favorite game to play!

Everyone is Welcome... bring a friend, bring a neighbor!

We hope you'll join us for a fun time!



Finance Update



Happy Spring (wait, is it though?)!! Nothing too exciting happening with the Finance Team. A few reminders available to you. Apportionments - these are amounts we pay to the conference each year to cover our share of the various administrative costs and other programs they offer.

For 2024 our Apportionment total is \$10,032. This usually equates to around \$150 per member. Because money is generally so tight, we do not use funds from our general fund to cover Apportionments. So if you are able, please designate giving towards your Apportionments. In 2023 we came close with our designated giving and pulled a little out of savings so that at a minimum we could cover the Minnesota portion of Apportionments. An example of benefits was the conference paying for Pastor Paul's coverage during Pastor Mark's paternity leave. This was a huge budget saver for us! If you have questions or want more information around this are, please let me know.

Other things to note, we are trying to build back our reserves in our Building Fund. 2023 was a rough year on our savings, but we were grateful to have it! A new furnace, elevator repairs, outside building repairs, the water pipe break, and more caused our savings to decrease. We have an aging building with many more updates that need to occur, so your faithful giving is very much appreciated.

Kelly Rux, Finance Chair
 (952) 221-8659
 Email: kellyrux@hotmail.com



Thanks
 for Your
 Support!

Sunday School Update



The Sunday school class will begin a new 8-week curriculum, by Children's Ministry, starting April 7th called "CREATION" that will take us to Award Sunday and our last day of Sunday school, Mother's Day, May 12th!

The Class will follow the same lesson plan as the other curriculums with a story, skits and puppet shows, crafts, games and of course, snacks! The Puppet Shows & Skits help us connect with the children and has become a favorite! The kids are even doing the puppets shows! The games keep them engaged so they don't go home saying Sunday school was so boring (we hope)! Crafts and snacks are an activity they usually do themselves that gives them a physical reminder of the lesson!

What will they *create* during this lesson?



"Creation" Curriculum - God Made Everything!

God created the universe in only six days, but we could spend many lifetimes just admiring His handiwork. When we see all that God has made, we can see his power, beauty, care, and love and we can praise Him for all He has done.

OUR MEMORY VERSE:

"The earth belongs to the Lord. And so does everything in it. The world belongs to him. And so do all those who live in it." - Psalm 24:1

We'll see you on Sunday mornings back in the large classroom area at 9:30 am!

Angie Ferrell
 Christian Education Director
 (763) 442-4876

Coffee & Conversation
 with Pastor Mark
Now on Tuesday mornings at 9 am
in the Fellowship Hall!

No
 April
 9th
 meeting





For 2023, the **RAISERIGHT** Program (formerly SCRIP) **raised over \$2,500 for the church!** That's with 12 people participating in the program! How much could be raised with more participants? This program costs you nothing extra, but benefits the church a lot! You can designate where you want your rebates to go; Building Fund, General Fund, Sunday School, your Apportionments, etc.

BEST OF ALL... IT'S SO EASY TO USE!

As always, these Gift Cards are always on-hand at the church for you to purchase in \$25 increments for your everyday shopping needs, special occasions, or to just fill your gas tank!



APRIL ORDER DATES: FRIDAY the 5th & 19th

Need gift cards, want to sign-up, have questions? Please see or contact Angie Ferrell (763) 442-4876 or Kelly Rux (952) 221-8659.



**Montrose Lions
-All you can eat-
Smelt Fry**

Friday April 12, 2024

4:00-7pm

(While supplies last)

at the Montrose Community Center 200 Center Ave So

Smelt, Scalloped Potatoes, Coleslaw, Bread Stick, and a Beverage



\$15 for ages 12 and up
\$10 for ages 5-11
Free for ages 4 and under

CONCERT



**ERNIE & JASON COUCH
REVIVAL**

Annandale UMC
Thursday, May 9th
7 pm - Concert
Free will offering



MONTROSE COMMUNITY DINNER



**MONTROSE
COMMUNITY
CENTER
200 Center Ave S
Dinner, Crafts & Bingo**

*Dinner: Baked Ziti, Italian Salad, and Croissants
Dessert: Chocolate Chip Cookie w/Ice Cream*

**April 18th, 2024
5:00pm-6:30pm**

Meals sponsored by *Grace Place Collaborative* and local family donations

**CASH BINGO 6:15PM-8:00PM
\$1.00 Single Card or \$2.00 for 3 Cards**



**Free Meal & Crafts
Building
Community
Together!**



Bingo is in partnership with the Montrose VFW

Proceeds from Bingo will go back into our Community

March 26, 2024 FE-ED Food Drop Report



FE-ED

We had the biggest snow storm of winter this season on Monday & Tuesday! The past year has given us every type of weather condition Minnesota has to offer; high winds, pouring rain, sleet, excessive heat, and now the elusive 2023-2024 snow-storm! FE-ED and our volunteers prevailed!



Our Phoenix students were unable to come help us because of busing and road conditions. We were very thankful the semi came on time and our wonderful volunteers came from Howard Lake, Rockford, Watertown, Waconia, Buffalo, Waverly and Montrose! Some of the driving was challenging. But it did not stop them from coming to make the food drop happen.

**WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS**

We had a huge drop this month, nearly 10,800 pounds! We had so much fresh produce; potatoes, carrots, onions, apples, cabbage, brussell sprouts, turnips, parsnips and rutabagas, plus other food items and milk. It was a lot of work counting and weighing amounts for each prepared box. We had extra boxes of food at the end of the drop which went to Grace Place. The boxes were distributed later on Tuesday and on Friday, providing lots of food for Easter weekend and beyond.



We sincerely thank every person who worked this week to get this bounty of food to people who need it! We are fulfilling the mission of feeding our neighbors. We are also forming strong community bonds with each other. There is celebration in accomplishing each step to get the boxes filled and delivered to waiting cars. We have a lot of laughs together and would welcome anyone who would like to join us! Jobs include counting food items, packing boxes, greeting people, loading boxes into cars, etc. There are many jobs that aren't so strenuous but important and FUN! We invite you join us!

On behalf of FE-ED, we wish everyone a Happy Easter!

Our community contributed a lot of extras:

- 200 pounds of bread and pastries from the Buffalo Food Shelf and Breadsmith Bakery.

March Statistics:

- 10,594 pounds of food from SHH
- Families served/Boxes distributed 185
- Individuals served 620
- New Visitors 10
- Veterans served 33
- Communities served 17

March is food share month, but people need food all year long. Please consider making a contribution to any of the following organizations to help support feeding our neighbors:

- **FE-ED**
<https://foreachandeveryday@gmail.com>
(Checks to FE-ED can be put in offering plate at MUMC.)
- **Second Harvest Heartland:**
<https://secure.2harvest.org/site/donation>
- **Waverly Food Shelf:**
[https:// www.WCCAweb.com](https://www.WCCAweb.com)

NEXT FOOD DROP TUESDAY, APRIL 23rd

Report prepared by
Pam Johnson, Secretary





FE-ED FOOD DROP

Tuesday, April 23rd

3 pm until gone

Montrose Community Center

Drive-thru pick-up on a first come-first serve basis while quantities last.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools Spring Break Mar. 29th - Apr. 5th</p>	<p>1 No Boy Scouts 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>2 9 am Coffee & Conversation (F) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>3 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>4 No Cub Scouts</p>	<p>5 RAISE RIGHT ORDER DAY!</p>	<p>6 5-9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)</p>
<p>7 COMMUNION 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)</p>	<p>8 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>9 NO Coffee & Conv. today 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>10 5:30pm Youth Bible Study (Y) 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>11 6:30 pm 4H Club (C) 7-8 pm Palabra Bible Study (S)</p>	<p>12 4 - 7 pm LION'S SMELT FRY (MCC)</p>	<p>13 5-9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)</p>
<p>14 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)</p>	<p>15 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Hannah Circle Mtg. (L) 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>16 9 am Coffee & Conversation (F) 12 pm FE-ED Mtg. (MUMC) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>17 7:15 pm Church Council (L)</p>	<p>18 5 - 6:30 pm FREE COMM. MEAL (MCC) 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (C) 7-8 pm Palabra Bible Study (S)</p>	<p>19 RAISE RIGHT ORDER DAY!</p>	<p>20 12:30 - 2:30 pm FMSC at DUMC 5-9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)</p>
<p>21 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)</p>	<p>22 4 pm Hannah Cir. Fresh Start Mission (OFF) 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>23 9 am Coffee & Conversation (F) 12 pm FE-ED Set-up (MCC) 3 pm FE-ED Distro (MCC) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>24 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>25 7-8 pm Palabra Bible Study (S)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 5-9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)</p>
<p>28 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 11:30 am MUMC FAMILY GAME DAY! (F)</p>	<p>29 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>30 9 am Coffee & Conversation (F) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">  <p style="text-align: center;">FE.ED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILE PACK **THIS IS A CHURCHWIDE EVENT**</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, April 20th 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm Delano UMC (See sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall)</p> </div>			

APRIL BIRTHDAYS!
3rd-Heather Prestidge
5th-Devon Prestidge
5th-Richard Wyatt
6th-Linda Marquette
9th-Gloria Adickes

15th-Mark Schlasner
19th-Diane Folkestad
21st-Norman Jerde
21st-Terry Rux
23rd-Amber Bloom
29th-Zoey Parks

ANNIVERSARIES!
7th-Debbie & Paul Baker
30th-Angie & Jeff Dostal



MONTROSE UMC, 230 Center Avenue So., PO Box 13, Montrose, MN 55363

Church Office 763-675-3571 Pastor Mark's Cell (763) 656-3490

Email: montroseumc@hotmail.com Website: www.montroseumc.com

Facebook.com/Montrose United Methodist Church



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PO Box 13
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Facebook.com/Montrose United Methodist Church



Montrose United Methodist Church



FE-ED
For Each and Every Day
(4th Tuesday of the Month)

NEXT FREE FOOD
DISTRIBUTION:
Tuesday, April 23rd

Drive-Thru event Starting at 3 pm*
Montrose Community Center

***NOTE: WE MAY START EARLIER DEPENDING ON TRUCK ARRIVAL, WEATHER CONDITIONS, OR RISK OF FROZEN FOOD ITEMS THAWING.**

Volunteers are needed & welcome
starting at 12:30 pm to pack food boxes!

FE-ED will have drive-thru food distributions every 4th Tuesday of the month giving out pre-packed boxes of dairy, produce, bread and food items.

Go to the FEED website for more information:
www.fe-ed.org

We invite you to join us on
Sunday mornings!



Sunday School (K-6) 9:30 am
Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am

Watch our Worship Service live on
Facebook - Sundays at 10:30 am!

