

# Montrose Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church

2022 December Volume 12

*"She will give birth to a son,  
and you will call him Jesus, because he  
will save his people from their sins."  
~ Matthew 1:21*

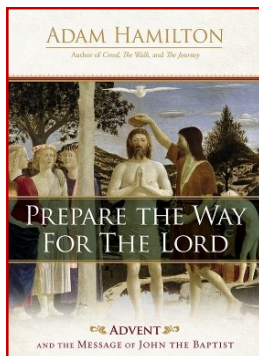
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## Pastor Mark's Column

*During the rule of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. They were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord's commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant and they both were very old. One day Zechariah was serving as a priest before God because his priestly division was on duty. Following the customs of priestly service, he was chosen by lottery to go into the Lord's sanctuary and burn incense. All the people who gathered to worship were praying outside during this hour of incense offering. An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw the angel, he was startled and overcome with fear.*

*The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many people will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the Lord's eyes. He must not drink wine and liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth. He will bring many Israelites back to the Lord their God. He will go forth before the Lord, equipped with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers [a] back to their children, and he will turn the disobedient to righteous patterns of thinking. He will make ready a people prepared for the Lord." - Luke 1:5-17*



This advent season we'll follow the life of John the Baptist in Adam Hamilton's new book: *Prepare the Way For the Lord*. It's that time again to prepare ourselves to celebrate Christ's birth! What do we have to do to prepare the way of the Lord? What is God calling us to do this year? We'll explore these themes and questions together in the next five weeks.

Today we're talking about how God hears our prayers by looking at John's very beginnings.



John's father, Zechariah, is a priest serving the temple in Jerusalem. He is part of the priestly division of Abijah.

Abijah is one of twenty-four divisions of priests. Each priestly division would take turns serving two weeks out of the year. All twenty-four divisions would come together to serve at annual festivals like Passover. We see that Zechariah was lucky enough to be chosen by a game of chance to offer incense in the temple. This is a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Unfortunately, there's a lot of shame that he carries as he enters in his role. People didn't understand the biological issues with infertility back then! They saw it as a sign of sinfulness that God hasn't blessed them with children. Thankfully scripture states how they weren't sinful as the author notes that Zechariah and Elizabeth were both "righteous" and "blameless". They had nothing to feel shameful about.



We read that Zechariah and Elizabeth were approached by the angel Gabriel. Like in many biblical stories, Elizabeth and Zechariah are parents struggling with infertility and turn to God for an answer to their prayers. Gabriel is there to give some good news! Just like Abraham and Sarah; just like Isaac and Rebekah; just like Elkanah and Hannah: they're going to have a son! We don't know how old the couple are, but we know that Zechariah and Elizabeth have been praying for a child for DECADES! Can you believe it? Just imagine the emotions they were going through: skepticism, excitement, and bewilderment (among many others).

It's important to note that God chooses the very old. Zechariah and Elizabeth were described as "very old". Abraham and Sarah were 100 years old and 90 years old when they had a kid. Moses was eighty years old when

God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Most congregations have a large number of older adults and rightfully so! Older adults often have incredible gifts, wisdom, experience, and leadership. Some of my best conversations are with older people who have seen what I've seen. I get the best advice and direction from others. God calls to each and every one of us in whatever stage of life. God seeks to use us like God seeks to use Zechariah and Elizabeth to parent one of the most important prophets in scripture!

One thing really speaks to me in this scripture. Gabriel says something we all wish we could hear, "Your prayers have been heard." How many years have we prayed asking God for our prayers to be answered? Remember those times where you were at the end of your rope and reached out to God for help? Just imagine how heartwarming it would've been to hear that those prayers were heard. What are your prayers this year? What have you been asking God to hear? How has God been responding to your prayers?

I believe we all get our prayers answered in one way or another. We believe in a God who answers our prayers. May we center our hearts and minds to God this season and turn to one another in love and care. May we prepare our hearts for when we experience Christ in others. It's through preparing that we can be open to God's will and even help be the answer for the prayers of others. We can spread the peace and joy of Christ and declare your prayers have been heard! Please join us this advent season as we learn more about John the Baptist and prepare for Christ's coming.

*Peace  
& Joy*

Blessings!

Pastor Mark

Email: [am.umc.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:am.umc.pastor@gmail.com)

Phone/Text: (763) 656-3490



## PRAYER PAGE

### Grieving with Families

† **The Judy Pauman Family**, Stephen Hayes sister. Judy passed away Nov. 11th at the age of 63. Let us all keep Steve in our prayers and care.

† **The Ronald Converse**, Lisa Taft's brother-in-law. Ron, of Buffalo, passed away Nov. 15th at the age of 85.

† **The Richard "Dick" Haberle Family**. Dick passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 12th at the age of 79. Prayers for his wife Mary and the family.

† **The Duane "Sonny" Bryant Family**. Sonny passed away Nov. 24th at the age of 92.



### Our Friends at Home....

Gloria Adickes  
John Hylland



### Lifting in Our Prayers

 Continued prayers for **UKRAINE** and all countries facing conflict.  
**Jason Chaffins' Aunt Gene**, recovering from open heart and valve surgery.

**Perry Marquette, Donna Marquette's son**, recovering from an accident, after a woman rear-ended his tractor.

**Donna Marquette**, traveling to AZ for the winter season.

**Deer hunters and their safety during hunting season. Jean Kuhn**, finished with chemo treatments now and awaits her 3-month check-up.

**Allan Malerich**, traveling to Mayo Clinic for tests. *UPDATE*: Allan needed fewer tests than doctors originally thought, but has one Nov. 21 and more doctor appts.

**Russ, Pam & Belle Johnson**, having to put down their longtime companion Clyde (cat). Clyde joins Claude in kitty heaven.

**Jeff Dostal's dad**, having complications after heart surgery and just recently released from the ICU.

**Ivy, Linda Prestidge's aunt**, passed away Nov. 17th.

**Amy W., friend of Linda Marquette's**, having major surgery on Thursday, Dec. 1st.

**Those impacted by the earthquake Nov. 21st in West Java area in Indonesia**, over 300 now dead.

**The people of Somalia impacted by the worst drought in 40 years, famine crisis, and attacks by Al-Shabab rebels.**

**Gordon Herrig, friend of Sherry Oval's**, reacting to chemo treatment and is quite ill.

**Roger Vanderlinde's Mom**, took another fall hurt herself, recovering at home. They are taking away her car this week.

### Blessings and Celebrations

**Isabella Johnson**, getting her first (2) deer!

**Angie Ferrell**, celebrating her 50th Birthday!

**Herman Eppe**, celebrating his 81st birthday with family, including grandson Nate from ND!



*We celebrate all the special Birthdays and Anniversaries from November!*

## DECEMBER/ADVENT WORSHIP THEME

Sunday, December 4 ~ 10:30 am

2nd Sunday of Advent - **LOVE**

Advent Readers: Don & Betty Danford

Communion Sunday

Communion Steward: Carol Prestidge

"Pregnancy, Birth, Circumcision, and Zechariah's Prophecy"

Scripture: Luke 1:57-79



Sunday, December 11 ~ 10:30 am

3rd Sunday of Advent - **JOY**

Advent Readers: Russ, Pam & Belle Johnson

"John's Ministry and Preaching"

Scripture: Luke 3:1-8



Sunday, December 18 ~ 10:30 am

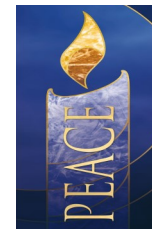
4th Sunday of Advent - **PEACE**

Advent Readers: Mike & Kim Wagner

"Compassion and Generosity:

Fruits Worthy of Repentance"

Scripture: Mark 6:14-29



Saturday, December 24 ~ 8 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Advent Readers: Carol & Keith

Prestidge

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

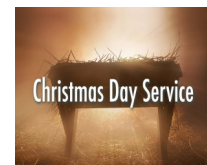


Sunday, December 25 ~ 10:30 am

Christmas Day Service

"Witnesses, Testifying to the Light"

Scripture: John 1:1-14



*Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel  
to say your nightly prayer.*

*And let faith be the bridge You build to overcome  
evil and welcome good.*

~ Maya Angelou



A special thank you to our volunteers that helped set-up and serve at the Nov. 17th Turkey Dinner, and to those that came to decorate the church on Nov. 26th.

Without YOU our work cannot be done!

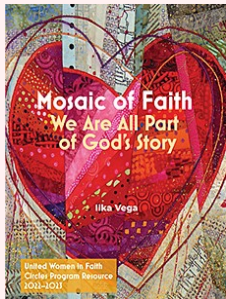
WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

### United Women in Faith ~ Hannah Circle

The MUMC Women of Faith  
"Hannah Circle" will resume meeting  
in **January 2023**.

The day & time will be announced in your  
January Newsletter & Worship Bulletins.



The **NEW 2023 Program Book** is titled, **"MOSAIC OF FAITH - We Are All Part of God's Story"**. The new program book shows how we can answer our calling today as women of passion committed to helping women, children, and youth. The programs are grounded in Mark 8:27-30 as an invitation to reclaim and explore our identity as children of God and as a community of women of faith.

We'd love for you to join us! We start with a short devotion then move to our program, either from the Program Book or The Upper Room Devotional book. Meetings are open to all women and girls, and we welcome your ideas, comments, or suggestions!

Please contact us at: [montrosemnumw@gmail.com](mailto:montrosemnumw@gmail.com)  
with any questions.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Hannah Circle  
co-sponsored the  
"Thankful Thursday"  
Turkey Dinner on  
Thursday, Nov. 17th!**  
Over 110 people were  
served a wonderful,  
home-cooked meal of  
turkey, gravy, mashed  
potatoes, stuffing,  
squash, green bean casse-  
role, rolls, beverage and  
pumpkin bars!

**Many Thanks to our MUMC Volunteers that helped!**



### Bishop Lanette Plambeck assigned to the Dakotas-Minnesota Area

Bishop Lanette Plambeck has  
been assigned as the resident  
bishop for the Dakotas-  
Minnesota Area effective Jan. 1,  
2023. She was elected to the epis-

copacy at the 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Confer-  
ence. Before her election, she served as the assistant to the  
bishop and director of clergy and leadership excellence in  
the Iowa Annual Conference.

Bishop Plambeck, in her pastoral service, has served as a  
local church pastor in four different pastoral settings in-  
cluding urban, county seat, town, and country. She has  
experience as a college chaplain and a licensed counselor  
in family systems and chemical and substance abuse. She  
is a veteran of the U.S. Army and was deployed to Desert  
Storm/Desert Shield.

She says the measure of her leadership is three questions  
she asks herself at the end of each day: Did I glorify God?  
Did I point people to Christ? Did I love? She describes her-  
self as "unapologetically Wesleyan and so in love with Je-  
sus and his ministry marked by compassion, grace and  
justice." A gift she brings as a leader is "to inspire others to  
live lives of significance as we work for 'kingdom on earth  
as it is in heaven' through active discipleship as we re-  
spond to the suffering in the world. I am committed to de-  
veloping leaders (clergy and laity) to grow into the very  
best versions of themselves so that they can be at their  
very best for God."



### WALK TO EMMAUS RETREATS

*While they were talking and discussing, Jesus  
himself came near and walked with them.*

- Luke 24:1

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience of  
Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-  
day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus  
Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you  
through other believers. You will enjoy three days of singing,  
learning, laughing, worshiping, reflecting, praying and participat-  
ing in small groups. Discussions center around fifteen talks given  
by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace,  
how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and how it  
is expressed in the world. You'll also discover how grace is real in  
your life, how you live a life of grace, and how you bring that grace  
to others.

[www.mnemmaus.org](http://www.mnemmaus.org)

**MEN'S WALK - FEBRUARY 16th - 19th, 2023**

**WOMEN'S WALK - FEBRUARY 23rd - 26th, 2023**

Retreats being held in Fairmont, MN

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS



### CANCELLED...

CAROL HOPPE NEVER HEARD BACK FROM THE BUFFALO ROTARY CLUB.

### Adopt-a-Senior for CHRISTMAS



The Sunday School class will once again participate in the **Adopt-A-Senior for Christmas** program. We will go shopping at Walmart for gift items and then enjoy lunch At Culver's.

**Sunday, December 4th after  
11:30 am - 2:00 pm**

*Save  
the  
Date*

**Ernie & Jason Couch return to  
Montrose UMC for another great  
evening of fun entertainment!**  
**Tell your family, friends,  
Neighbors... EVERYONE!**

**IN CONCERT**



Montrose UMC  
Friday, April 28th, 2023  
7 pm - Concert  
8 pm - Pie & Ice Cream Social  
Free will offering



### It's the final countdown to CHRISTMAS!



I will continue placing **RAISERIGHT** orders every Monday now through December 19th. Again, I encourage everyone to look and see if the cards you want are eligible for direct ship (ship to home) so you don't need to wait for me to place the order and get it to you at church! It comes directly to your home and it's a nice option!

Last minute shoppers remember... we have the following Gift Cards in \$25.00 increments available for purchase every Sunday during Fellowship time or immediately after worship service.

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| * <b>CASEY'S</b>     | * <b>CUB FODDS</b> |
| * <b>HOLIDAY GAS</b> | * <b>KWIK TRIP</b> |
| * <b>TARGET</b>      | * <b>WALMART</b>   |

It's not too late to designate where your rebates go! **RaiseRight** can help the church pay for the parking lot next spring, just by all of us shopping, traveling & going out to eat! Those rebates add up quick and can be slated for the parking lot, towards apportionments, Sunday School, or your choice!

**See Angie Ferrell or Kelly Rux for gift cards or if you  
have any questions on downloading the app!**

### December 18th Fellowship Hour!



In years past, this would be the day of our Annual Candy Cookie & Craft Sale!

For those of you that are baking Christmas Cookies, we invite you to bring a plate to share at Fellowship Hour on Sunday, December 18th at 9:30 am!

Who doesn't miss all those Christmas favorites; Spritz cookies, Fudge, Sugar Cookies, Teacakes, and more!

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 8 pm

This year we will be doing an All Church No Stress, No Fuss Christmas Program. Come to our candlelight service ready to be a part of the Christmas Story as a Narrator reads a Christmas Poem that tells of that very first Christmas Night. There are no lines to remember so everyone who wants to can participate, we need people who are willing to come forward during certain times in the poem to portray: Mary & Joseph, animals, angels, shepherds, wisemen & a star. What is the season calling you to be? I for one cannot wait to see.

(See Angie for questions or to volunteer!)



## Finance Update



Merry Christmas all! I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas season.

The finance group is still pretty quiet, but here are a few miscellaneous updates.

First, you should have noticed the street repairs in downtown Montrose are done for the year. Some final items will be completed next spring. We still have not heard if the church will have to pay street assessments or how much they will be. Second, we are still in the process of working with our insurance company regarding the elevator repairs that are needed and whether or not the insurance company will cover this. Let's all give an extra prayer that they deem the damages were caused by water damage from storms. If not, we are looking at \$29,000 in repairs. Lastly, any sort of parking lot repairs/replacement are on hold until we know more about the elevator.

Attached here and available at the church are the Annual Advent Fundraiser form. This year our focus is around our Annual Conference Apportionments and the Elevator/Parking Lot (lumping these together since there are so many unknowns at this time).

Your continued support is truly appreciated. As always, any questions can be sent my way.

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

**TO GIVE SECURILY TO MUMC  
SCAN QR CODE OR GO TO  
ONLINE TO WEBSITE:**

(Type URL info below into your web address bar)

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=XHRTL58RNZ5BE](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=XHRTL58RNZ5BE)



This Advent Season Montrose UMC will be holding our annual fundraiser with the hopes of filling a Christmas Tree with ornaments that are designed in various amounts towards our Conference Apportionments and the Elevator/Parking Lot. Please return the below form to Kelly Rux at the church – PO Box 13, Montrose, MN 55363.



Parking Lot/Building Maintenance Donations: (CIRCLE ONE)

\$25  
\$50  
\$100  
\$250  
\$500  
other

Conference Apportionment Donations: (CIRCLE ONE)

\$25  
\$50  
\$150  
\$250  
other

Total Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Donated By: \_\_\_\_\_

## FE-ED UPDATE



### Report for the November 22, 2022 Food Drop

FE-ED provided Thanksgiving blessings for over 400 people!

We were so blessed to have an abundance of wonderful food for our November drop. We were able to purchase 40 turkeys from Second Harvest. Kim and Mike Wagner's place of employment KLN/Tuffy's Treats donated another 16 turkeys. We had 450 chickens so everyone was able to have a main course for Thanksgiving dinner. We received additional meat and deli donations as well as 15 boxes of bread from the Waverly Food Shelf.

We are so thankful for a \$2,000 donation through the Montrose Lions from the Delano Hockey Association pull tab proceeds.

### November 22nd Statistics:

- 7,500 pounds of food from SHH
- Families served 151
- Individuals served 433
- First time visitors 13
- Veterans served 34
- Communities served 7

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Johnson



To Donate to FE-ED



Scan QR code above to  
donate to FE-ED

(Donations are tax deductible)



- ♦ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 8:00 pm
- ♦ Christmas Day Morning Service at 10:30 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Montrose UMC Annual Church Conference ~ Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022 11:30 am</b> <i>This meeting is to review the 2023 Budget, Pastor Mark's 2023 compensation, MUMC Leadership positions/openings, and annual conference forms. We hope you will plan on attending this important part of our church's business.</i> <i>Sincerely, Your Church Council</i>				<b>1</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (K) 7 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8 am - Noon Breakfast with Santa (MESI) 5 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S) 8 -10 pm AA Meeting (C)
<b>4</b> 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 11:30 Sunday School Outing (OFF) 7 pm Confirmation Class (C)	<b>5</b> <b>RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)	<b>6</b> 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>7</b> 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7 pm Palabra Viva Ofc Hour (O)	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm 4H Club Meeting (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S) 8 -10 pm AA Meeting (C)
<b>11</b> 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 11:30 am Annual Church Conference (F) 7 pm Confirmation Class (C)	<b>12</b> <b>RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)	<b>13</b> 12 pm FE-ED Order Mtg. (MUMC) <b>NO BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL</b>	<b>14</b> 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7 pm Palabra Viva Ofc Hour (O)	<b>15</b> 5 - 6:30 pm FREE COMM. DINNER (MCC) 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (K) 7 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S) 8 - 10 pm AA Meeting (C)
<b>18</b> 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 7 pm Confirmation Class (C)	<b>19</b> <b>RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)	<b>20</b> 12 pm FE-ED Set-up (MCC) 3 pm FE-ED Food Drop 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>21</b> 7 pm Palabra Viva Ofc Hour (O) 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:15 pm Church Council (L)	<b>22</b> 7 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)	<b>23</b>	<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 4 - 6:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S) <b>8 pm CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE</b> 8 - 10 pm AA Meeting (C)
<b>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <b>*NO SUNDAY SCHOOL*</b> 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) <b>*NO CONFIRMAITON CLASS*</b>	<b>26</b> <b>NO BOY SCOUTS</b> 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)	<b>27</b> 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>28</b> 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7 pm Palabra Viva Ofc Hour (O)	<b>29</b> 7 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)	<b>30</b>	<b>31 NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> 5 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S) 8 - 10 pm AA Meeting (C)

#### BIRTHDAYS!

6th-Iandon Tourville  
 9th-David Goode  
 15th-Morgan Prestidge  
 16th-Clayton Prestidge

28th-Chris Parks  
 29th-Jane Gessinger

#### ANNIVERSARIES!

7th-Gini & Lee Gutknecht

#### Event Location KEY

S Sanctuary	C Classrooms -Lower Level	G Outside Grounds
F Fellowship Hall	O Church Office	LOT Church Parking Lot
L Library (former Chancel)	K Kitchen / Lunchroom	OFF Offsite
	Y Youth Room	MCC Montrose Comm. Ctr.



**MONTROSE UMC, PO Box 13, 230 Center Avenue So., Montrose, MN 55363**  
**Church Office 763-675-3571**  
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**Pastor Mark's Cell (763) 656-3490**  
**Website: [www.montroseumc.com](http://www.montroseumc.com)**  
**Facebook.com/Montrose United Methodist Church**

Montrose UMC  
PO BOX 13  
230 Center Avenue So.  
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[www.montroseumc.com](http://www.montroseumc.com)  
[Facebook.com/Montrose United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/MontroseUnitedMethodistChurch)

## Montrose United Methodist Church



**FE-ED**

### **FE-ED**

#### **For Each and Every Day (4th Tuesday of the Month)**

A Partnership between Montrose United Methodist Church and Grace Place, with support from SHH (Second Harvest Heartland) and many others in our community.

### **NEXT FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION:**

**Tuesday, December 27th**

**Starting at 3:00 pm ~ Drive thru Event**

### **LOCATION:**

#### **Montrose Community Center**

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

Go to the FEED website for more information:

**[www.fe-ed.org](http://www.fe-ed.org)**



**Montrose United Methodist Church  
Invites You to Join Us this Advent Season  
on Sunday Mornings!**

**9:30 am - Coffee & Fellowship**

**9:30 am - Sunday School**

**10:30 am - Worship Service**

**Reverend Mark Schlasner, Pastor**

*Join Us Saturday, December 24th  
At 8:00 pm for our annual  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*



**Watch Worship Service Live on FB at 10:30 am  
on Sunday mornings!**