

Montrose Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church

2023 December Volume 12

Please join us
Sunday, December 24th at 7 pm
For our Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

(No 10:30 am worship service)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and
peace in believing, so that by the power of
the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

~ Romans 15:13



hope

will never fail
to satisfy
our deepest need...

Romans 5:5a

Pastor Mark's Column



I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge.

- 1 Corinthians 1:4-5

'Tis the season to be jolly, and what better way to embrace the holiday spirit than by reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas? As we gather with loved ones and exchange gifts, let us not forget the essence of gratitude and the joy that this festive season brings. Inspired by 1 Corinthians 1:4-5, let us explore how this biblical passage reminds us of the significance of Christmas.



First and foremost, the passage emphasizes the importance of **gratitude**. Christmas serves as a reminder to express thanks for the blessings we have received throughout the year. It encourages us to take a moment to appreciate the love, peace, and joy that surround us during this special time. By practicing gratitude, we cultivate a positive mindset and foster a deeper connection with those around us.

Moreover, the passage also highlights the **joy** that comes with celebrating Christmas. It speaks of the joy that believers have in Jesus Christ, who is the reason for the season.



Christmas is a time to rejoice in the birth of our Savior, who brought hope and salvation to the world. This joy can be found in the laughter of children, the warmth of family gatherings, and the spirit of giving. Let us spread this contagious joy to others as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

In conclusion, as we immerse ourselves in the festivities of Christmas, let us remember to approach this season with **gratitude and joy**. May this holiday be a time of reflection, appreciation, and spreading love to all those around us.



Wishing you a merry and meaningful Christmas filled with blessings, peace, and joy!

Blessings!

Pastor Mark Schlasner
Email: am.umc.pastor@gmail.com
Phone/Text: (763) 656-3490

**PASTOR MARK WILL BE ON VACATION
Mon., Dec. 25 thru Tue, Jan. 2**



Thanks to Benoit Paquette 03-01
THIS IS GREAT, BUT IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY I ASKED FOR A "ROOM WITH A PEW"

December Worship Theme *"Jesus, the True Reason for the Season"*



Sunday, December 3, 2023 1st Sunday of Advent "HOPE" **COMMUNION SUNDAY**

Steward: Carol Prestidge
Lighting of "HOPE" candle
Message: *"Meanwhile"*
Scripture: Mark 13:24-37
CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE HYMN!
Jubilant Ringers perform



Sunday, December 10, 2023 2nd Sunday of Advent "LOVE"

Lighting of "LOVE" candle
Message: *"Surprised"*
Scripture: Mark 1:1-8
CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE HYMN!



Sunday, December 17, 2023 3rd Sunday of Advent "JOY"

Lighting "JOY" candle
Message: *"Light"*
Scripture: John 1:6-8; 19-28
CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE HYMN!



Sunday, December 24, 2023 4th Sunday of Advent "PEACE"

CHRISTMAS EVE
7 pm Candlelight Service
(NO 10:30 am SERVICE)
Lighting of "PEACE" candle
Message: *"Rejoice"*
Scripture: Luke 1:26-55
CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE HYMN!
Jubilant Ringers & Chancel Choir perform



Sunday, December 31, 2023

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Guest Speaker:
Jewell "Ricki" Malerich
Message: *To be announced*
Scripture: Isaiah 61:10-11



For those of you that may want a Christmas Eve morning service here are several options:

- ◆ Buffalo UMC 9 am
- ◆ Delano UMC 10:30 am
- ◆ First Presbyterian Howard Lake 9:30 am (Pastor Cathy)



Prayer Page

The Joys & Concerns Lifted in November

Grieving with Families

† **The Dorothy Jean Fulkema Family.** Jean, Bob & Keith Prestidge's cousin, passed away Oct. 29th at 92 years old.

† **The Corrine Benoy Family.** Corrine, mother of Kim Wagner's best friend Lisa, passed away Oct. 9th at the age of 99.

† **The Carol Kjesbo Family.** Carol, wife of Lee Kjesbo - Director of BHS Marching Band, passed away Oct. 19th at the age of 77.



Our Friends at Home....

Gloria Adickes
John Hylland



Lifting in Our Prayers

Continued prayers for Ukraine, Israel and all countries impacted by war, and so many innocent people being killed.

Karen Blom, Jane Gessinger's Mother-in-Law, hospitalized in Sioux Falls and in her last days.

Deer hunters.

Jess Tousignant, fighting stage 4 cancer. Jess had scans and is hoping for surgery to get all cancer removed.

Telal, friend of Russ & Pam Johnson's, intubated at a St. Cloud hospital for a drug reaction.

The Oct. (and Nov.) Free Community Meal, that there will be enough volunteers to help.

Steve Hayes, as he grieves on the 1-year anniversary of his sister Judy's passing.

Mike Wagner, still battling shortness of breath and an ear/sinus infection,. (Joy of 48 days not smoking!)

Allan Malerich, having increased memory loss despite his recent surgery, and for **Ricki Malerich** as his caregiver and the worry this is giving her.

All those that struggle during the holiday season.

Shelagh, Carol Prestidge's friend, home after a successful surgery, but dealing with a lot of pain.

Russ Johnson, hospitalized in Brainerd Thanksgiving night, extreme pain. Doctors running tests, possibly pancreas. UPDATE: Able to go home Tue., Nov. 28th, test results pending.

Buffalo Women's Connection and Planning Committee. Life has changed for many on the committee so a hiatus necessary for months now. Prayers new people come forward to help and BWC can rebuild and go forward.

Ricki Malerich, saw a surgeon re: her right hip Mon., Nov. 27th. She is scheduled for surgery Tue., Jan. 23rd.

Chad Larson, leaving O'Brother's Liquor (and temporary social media hiatus) to take time to rest.

Blessings and Celebrations

Betty & Don Danford, celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary Nov. 8th!

The Joy of longtime friendships!

Pastor Paul back worshipping with us for two Sundays, during Pastor Mark's paternity leave!



Advent Season Events at MUMC



Sunday, Dec. 17th
9:30 am to 12 pm

The Most YUMMY Time of the Year... our Annual Candy, Cookie & Craft Sale hosted by UWF Hannah Circle.



Thursday, Dec. 21st
7:00 pm

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

For those experiencing loss this service of song, prayer, candlelight and reading may comfort and console you

whether you have lost a loved one, your job, a significant relationship or another burden. Join with others in a time of supportive fellowship. This service is open to anyone who would find this helpful.



Sunday, Dec. 24th
7 pm

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

Featuring the Jubilant Ringers Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir.

(There is no Sunday School or 10:30 am worship service)

Blessings and Celebrations - continued

Betty Danford, stepping in to help the choir with Diane R. gone and Carol H. home ill!

Kim Wagner, Confirmed Sunday, Nov. 19th!

Travelers during the busy Thanksgiving holiday season.

Pastor Mark enjoying a 1-week vacation to celebrate Thanksgiving and Ian's first Thanksgiving!

Bob Prestidge, Kim Wagner appreciates all he does for the church each week and sweeping snow off sidewalks Sun., Nov. 26th!

Herman Epple, celebrating his 82nd birthday with family and friends!



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

ANNUAL CANDY, COOKIE & CRAFT SALE Sunday, December 17th!

It's the most yummy time of the year!

- * Everyone in the church is invited to donate their favorite holiday candies, cookies and/or holiday crafts to make this a great event! Please see sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, we're trying not to have a lot of duplicates!
- * We'll need help to assemble cookie trays and set-up the sale on Saturday, December 16th at 11 pm.
- * Spread the news... tell your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. and invite them to join us Sunday, December 17th at 9:30 am to 12 pm.

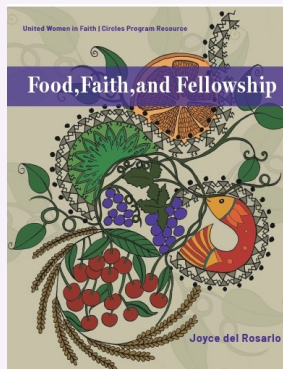


UWF HANNAH CIRCLE



United Women in Faith

The UWF Hannah Circle invites you to join us! The group meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Church. We start our sessions with a devotional program, then move into our monthly business meeting. As always, you are free to join us for the program, the business meeting, or both. Our meetings are open to all women in the congregation. We would love for you to join us and see what we do!



We will use the **NEW 2024 Program Book** during our monthly meetings; "**Food, Faith, and Fellowship**".

We share a devotional program, sometimes a craft or mission project, then move to the business portion of our meeting. We try to keep meetings at one-hour.

Please contact us at: montrosemmw@gmail.com with any questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE



We finished our Thanksgiving unit, "**Give Thanks**" with a fun skit and craft. Thank you Heather Parks for helping us with the skit by being "Frank the Turkey"!

For December, we will be doing our Christmas Unit:

"Christmas Cookies"

Making Christmas cookies is a sweet labor of love. These sweet treats require the finest ingredients, shaped just right, baked properly, and iced to perfection - but they are worth the effort. God brought everything together perfectly with the birth of Jesus - to give us the sweetest Christmas gift ever given.



- ◆ **Saturday, Dec. 9th is the date for our Annual Winter Service Project, Adopt-a-Senior!** This year we are sponsoring a lady from the Howard Lake Good Samaritan Home, and also a disabled man through MN Christmas Blessings. We will leave the church at 11 am, have lunch at Buffalo Culver's, then do a little Christmas shopping from our "candidates" wish lists.

- ◆ **Sunday, Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve)** there will be no Sunday School due to Christmas break and the fact that we will not be having Sunday morning worship service that day. There will be a **Candlelight Service at 7 pm** that I hope everyone can make. It is literally my favorite worship service of the whole year! The Jubilant Ringers Bells will be ringing, the Chancel Choir will be singing, and of course, my favorite part of the whole night, the candle-lighting portion of the service.

As we end 2023 (already!), I just want to say THANK YOU to the families for bringing your children to Sunday School to learn more about Jesus' love for us and starting a foundation for a faith-filled life. THANK YOU to Kim Wagner for volunteering her time to help again this year. Lastly, THANK YOU to the Kiddos that come! I have so much fun "playing" with you all while basking in the glory of God's love.

Wishing All of You a Blessed Christmas!

Angie Ferrell
Christian Education Director
(763) 442-4876



NOTE: The Sunday School class is meeting in the kitchen until classroom space is repaired and safe to gather in.

YOUTH GROUP

DECEMBER

Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 6 pm - 7 pm
Youth will have their 2nd **ALPHA Lesson**, enjoy pizza, and decide whether to do a Secret Santa Gift exchange with each other.

Sunday, Dec. 16th, 11 am - 1 pm
Youth will meet to bake cookies for our shut-ins and make a Christmas ornament, and some simple Christmas FUN!

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO IN JANUARY?



**Coffee & Conversation
With Pastor Mark
Thursdays at 9 am
December 7th, 14th and 21st**



Remember, you can support the church this Christmas Season whether you are buying gifts to give, sending gift cards to out of town family (or those picky teenagers), or are hosting family & friends for a meal.

There are 100's of retailers to choose from that make it easy to find the perfect gift card for your holiday needs. Order dates are on Mondays; Dec 4th, 11th and the last date for Christmas Delivery is the 18th.

Don't have the FREE **RAISERIGHT** app yet? It's so easy!
ASK FOR HELP TO INSTALL AND LEARN HOW!

Need a Gift Card for that last minute gift? We have Cub Foods, Target, Walmart, Casey's, KwikTrip and Holiday Gas cards on hand to sell (\$25 increments)!

As always, any questions or assistance needed, just send me a text (763-442-4876) or see me or Kelly Rux at the church!

Angie Ferrell



**Minnesota
Annual Conference**
of the United Methodist Church

ANNOUNCEMENT



Effective December 1st: NEW District Administrative Assistant (DAA) Mai Larson. Your district office phone number now will be (612) 230-6117. Your district administrative assistant can be reached directly via email at: mai.larson@minnesotauc.org.



Reminder, our District Superintendent is Rev. Dr. Woojae Im, appointed in June 2023.

MUMC will continue to work with Laurie Huston, Lead DAA, as she will continue to be in charge of annual charge and church conference reports.

FE-ED UPDATE



FE-ED

November 28th FE-ED Food Drop Report

The Second Harvest Heartland truck was late, arriving at 2 pm rather than 11 am or noon! The Phoenix School students were super helpful and ready to count and load items into boxes. The food distribution only started 15

minutes late... that is amazing turnaround considering the truck was so late!



The weather was brisk but not unbearable. Thanks to the volunteers who worked fast and hard to make this drop happen. We are so blessed and very grateful for everyone's support to make these food drops happen.



We had 40 volunteers for a total of 163.75 hours this drop!

Our community contributed a lot of extras:

- 1,500 Lbs. of frozen food from the Buffalo Food Shelf.
- 240 Lbs. from Waverly Food Shelf.

November Statistics:

- 8,888 Lbs. of food from Second Harvest Heartland
- 191 Families served
- 552 Individuals served
- 11 New, first time families
- 35 Veterans served
- 21 Communities served
- 14 extra boxes went to Grace Place for later distribution

Respectfully submitted by
Pam Johnson, Secretary

NEW FE-ED EMAIL ADDRESS:
feed.montrose.mn@gmail.com

Financial Update



Merry Christmas! I hope this holiday season finds you well. Attached in the newsletter is our annual fundraiser, "Tis the Season of Giving", going towards our Building Fund and Apportionments. We hope you will remember the church this holiday season.

We are going to have a lot of expenses coming up, as mentioned in previous months. This now includes the extensive water damage from the broken water pipe in the sanctuary Nov. 1st. At the time of writing this article, it was still being determined what our insurance will cover. (See the Board of Trustees Update for more information.)

Our church building is ageing - the original church and the new addition, now 20 years old! The concrete repairs and railing replacement are complete, and look beautiful, thanks to everyone's generosity. We are still going to have a lot of repairs in the coming years and things that will need replacing, that we need to start saving for now.



Your continued giving towards the Building Fund is very much appreciated. **NOTE:** Effective December 1st, all Hospitality Treat donations will once again go to the Building Fund.

If you would like to donate to Montrose UMC safely online, simply scan the QR Code with your phone.



Thanks for Your Support!

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



This Advent Season Montrose UMC will be holding our annual fundraiser. This year we will be focusing on Conference Apportionments and Building Repairs. Please return the below form to Kelly Rux at the church – or to PO Box 13, Montrose, MN 55363. Forms are in Fellowship Hall.

Building Repair Donations: (CIRCLE ONE)

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

Conference Apportionment Donations: (CIRCLE ONE)

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

Total Donation: \$ _____

Donated By: _____

Board of Trustees Update



The good news! The new railings in the front of the church were installed mid-November and look beautiful. The old railing along the handicap ramp (building-side) will be removed next Spring.

The back entrance needs some landscaping by the doors, which will be done in Sprint too! The church was decorated for the holiday season a week early, as there was private

function Sat., Dec. 2nd. Advent set-up completed Sun., Dec. 3rd! We're looking at Christmas lights and more décor in the front of the church this holiday season to "brighten" things up! The Nativity Scene we've had outside the past 4 years has a damaged wire - so not sure we can display it.

We finally received and paid the invoice for the catch-basin and drainage replacement from the Montrose Downtown Project, \$9,834.00.

UPDATE ON WATER DAMAGE: The water pipe leak Nov. 1st caused quite a bit of damage, mostly in our lower-level. We ask for everyone's patience as we wait for repairs to be completed and for everything to "be put back together". Water damage clean-up is complete, thanks to Lindstrom Restoration. We have received the estimate for the repairs (over \$25,000) which includes carpet cleaning, painting, construction on windows and ceiling in

Sanctuary, and ceiling in the large classroom. Rooms will have to be CLEARED once Lindstrom Restoration starts repairs (mid-January). Thus the reason for the clipart! **THERE IS MUCH TO DO IN THE MONTHS TO COME!** Right now, we still have a lot to sort through, whether to keep or toss, things to clean, etc. Stuff is kind of everywhere, while we are still accommodating meeting groups. The bills are still coming in... electric bill for the 13 days of clean-up with industrial fans & humidifiers, the recent water bill did not reflect the many thousands of gallons of water lost, and Frontier Fire will still bill us for emergency repairs in Nov. We will continue to update everyone as we receive more information.

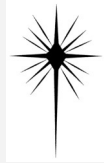
We will use Handyman Ken again this year for our winter plow services. **NOTE: WE ARE HIRING SOMEONE TO SNOWBLOW & SHOVEL THE FRONT STAIRS, HANDICAP RAMP AND BACK SIDEWALKS THIS WINTER.** (Mike Wagner cannot do it, and Herman E., Bob P., nor Roger V. should be either!) Please... if you know someone that does shoveling over the winter have them contact us.

*****THERMOSTATS ARE SET AT 68 DEGREES*****

Reminder: When using space in the church, please remember to clean-up. If hosting Fellowship, please wipe off tables. Custodian will take care of trash. Thank you! B.O.T.



December



**Sunday, December 24th Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm (ONLY)**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Advent</p>	<p><i>Pastor Mark will be on vacation December 25th through January 2nd, then PATERNITY LEAVE January 9th though February 21st</i></p>				1	2 10 am - 2 pm PRIVATE EVENT (S/F) 5 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 7 - 9 pm AA (K)
<p>3 First Sunday of Advent "Hope" COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 9:30 am Sunday School (K) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 6-7pm YOUTH GROUP (Y)</p>	<p>4 RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (K) 7 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>5 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>6 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>7 9 am Coffee & Conversation (F) 7 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S) 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (K)</p>	8	<p>9 9 am BREAKFAST with Santa (MCC) 11 am - 1 pm Sunday School Service Project 5 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 7 - 9 pm AA (K)</p>
<p>10 Second Sunday of Advent "LOVE" 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 9:30 am Sunday School (K) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 11:30 pm Church Council Meeting (L)</p>	<p>11 RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (K) 7 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>12 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>13 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>14 9 am Coffee & Conversation (F) 6:30 - 9 pm ALL SCOUTS CHRISTMAS PARTY (F) 6:30 pm 4H Club (K) 7 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)</p>	15	<p>16 11 am YOUTH GROUP Cookies & Crafts (K) 11 am Cookie Tray Set-up (F) 5 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 7 - 9 pm AA (K)</p>
<p>17 Third Sunday of Advent "JOY" 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 9:30 am Sunday School (K) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 9:30 am - 12 pm Candy, Cookie & Craft Sale (F)</p>	<p>18 RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (K) 7 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>19 12 pm FE-ED Meeting (GP) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>20 3-6 pm Set-up Comm. Dinner (MCC) 7:15 pm Church Council (L)</p>	<p>21 9 am Coffee & Conversation (F) 5-6:30 pm FREE COMM. DINNER (MCC) 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (K) 7 pm BLUE CHRIST- MAS SERVICE (S)</p>	22	<p>23 5 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 7 - 9 pm AA (K)</p>
<p>24 Fourth Sunday of Advent "PEACE" 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (S)</p> <p>31 New Year's Eve 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)</p>		<p>26 12:30 pm- 12pm FE-ED Set-up (MCC) 3 pm FE-ED Distribution (MCC)</p>	<p>27 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>28 7 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)</p>	29	<p>30 5 - 9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 7 - 9 pm AA (K)</p>

BIRTHDAYS!

6th-Landon Tourville
9th-David Goode
16th-Clayton Prestidge

28th-Chris Parks
29th-Jane Gessinger



ANNIVERSARIES!

No December Anniversaries!

Montrose UMC
PO BOX 13
230 Center Avenue So.
Montrose, Minnesota 55363

Office (763) 675-3571
www.montroseumc.com
Facebook.com/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 26th
Starting at 3 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



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

Sunday, December 24th at 7 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
NO MORNING SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE

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