

Montrose Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church

2025 December Volume 12



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Pastor Mark's Column

As the days grow shorter and the calendar turns, we enter the season of Advent—the sacred beginning of the church's new year. Yet, this is not a time of frantic resolution-making, but rather a call to a different kind of purpose. It is an invitation to a deep, collective breath; a conscious and watchful waiting that stands in stark contrast to the world's hurried pace. In this space, we are asked to attune our hearts to a profound longing that echoes not just within us, but across all of creation. This holy anticipation is not passive, but active—a time to prepare room, to nurture hope, and to tap into the universal yearning for redemption and transformation that hums just beneath the surface of our everyday lives.

This year, our journey is guided by the beautiful hymn, *Toda la Tierra Espera* - "All the Earth Waits." Its poignant verses give voice to this global yearning, reminding us that "All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty." This line allows us to look back with gratitude to the humble manger, where God's love became flesh, and to look forward with burning hope to the full coming of God's kingdom. Our waiting is rooted in the promise that the story of salvation is still unfolding, moving toward a day when God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. This is the fulfillment for which all of creation groans.

In our worship together this Advent, we will seek to perceive the signs of this nearness. As we light the candles on the wreath, raise our voices in familiar carols, and gather at the table, we are doing more than observing tradition. We are practicing the art of recognizing Emmanuel, God-with-Us, in our midst. This season calls us to open our eyes to the glimpses of the divine already breaking into our world, assuring us that our active, hopeful waiting is never in vain. We are not merely counting down the days; we are participating in the sacred story, joining with all the earth in its faithful and expectant hope.

With Love and Blessings,

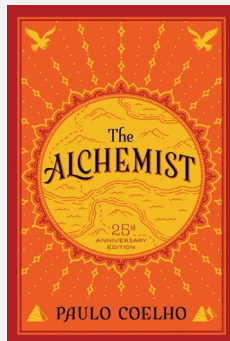
Rev. Mark Schlasner

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY Starting the week of November 30th!

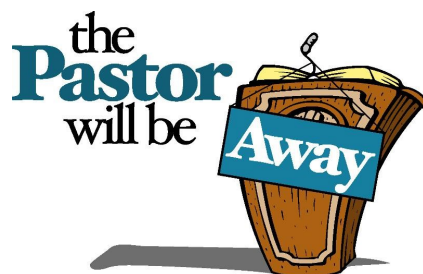
****See the sign-up sheet****
in the Fellowship Hall if you are interested and note your time/day preference.

This is the time to reflect, grow, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. All are welcome as we journey together through this sacred season. For more information, please contact Pastor Mark (763) 656-3490.

THE MUMC BOOK CLUB Will Meet at 9 am January 17th At The Heights Bar & Grill!



We will be reading
"The Alchemist" by Paul Coelho
and discussing it at our meeting.
For more information, please
contact Pastor Mark
(763) 656-3490.



December 26 - January 2

Toda la Tierra Espera (All Earth Is Waiting) Advent 2025 Worship Series



Sunday, November 30 - 10:30 am First Sunday of Advent "HOPE"

Message: "Signs and Time"
Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44

Sunday, December 7 - 10:30 am Second Sunday of Advent "PEACE"

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Communion Steward:
Carol Prestidge

Message: "Signs and Stories"
Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday, December 14 - 10:30 am Third Sunday of Advent "JOY" Message: "Signs and Truths" Scripture: Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday, December 21 - 10:30 am Fourth Sunday of Advent "LOVE" Message: "Signs and Faithfulness" Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

****CHRISTMAS EVE**** **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** Wednesday, December 24 - 7 pm Lighting of the Advent Candles and Christ Candle Message: "Signs and Glory" Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 28 - 10:30 am ~ GUEST SPEAKER ~ Sherry Ovall Message: "Signs and Power" Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23



PRAYER PAGE

Grieving with Families

† The Amber Czech Family.

Amber, age 20, was brutally attacked and killed by a co-worker at her workplace in Cokato.



Our Friends at Home...

Living at Home -
Gloria Adickes
John Hylland



Lifting in Our Prayers

Brianna Knutson (Dockter)

hospitalized with extremely high blood sugars, diagnosed with DKA, a serious complication to diabetes.



Amber Bloom, working through some emotional problems.

Ed Vitovsky Family, as he's laid to rest.

Jason Sohns, recovering from surgery.

Jim T., battling cancer.

Bonnie Hitchcock, Kim Wagner's son-in-law's mom, recovering from surgery after a fall that broke her hip 11/6.

Lisa Taft, Kim Wagner's former co-worker, recovering from surgery after a fall that broke her hip mid-September.

Deer hunters, for their safety.

Diane Folkestad's sister Laurie, still undergoing chemo for her liver cancer.

Duane, Diane Folkestad's brother-in-law, recovering from a heart attack.

Ricki Malerich, fighting to get her voice back in time for holiday concerts with the Golden Aires.

Debbie Baker, for safe travels to Kansas City to visit her sister, driving through a snowstorm in Iowa.

Linda Prestidge, hospitalized and recovering after falling from a ladder and breaking two vertebrae. She'll be in a back brace several months.

Christie Illies' Uncle Don, recovering from colon surgery to remove a nodule which was cancerous.

Jacque Vanderlinde, suffered a stroke in her right eye. Has a follow-up appointment with a retinal specialist.

David Malerich, missing a family tradition of attending U of M's Marching Band concert, due to being ill for a week.

Betty B.'s son Gabriel, still looking for affordable housing in Park Rapids area.

Jack Jones, Pastor Cathy's son, seriously ill after a procedure for kidney stones.

Lifting in Our Prayers - cont.

Two National Guard members from West Virginia ambushed and shot.

Sarah Beckstrom, age 20, died from her injuries, Andrew Wolfe, age 24, remains in critical condition.

Victims of tragic apartment fire in Hong Kong, 128 dead and over 200 people unaccounted for.

People traveling this Thanksgiving weekend in poor weather/roads.

People hit with flu and colds.

People grieving this holiday season.

Blessings and Celebrations

Prayers of Thanks to the organizations & volunteers that do Adopt-A-Highway!

Christie Illies' niece Ashley and her husband, welcoming their first baby, a girl, Harlow Estelle!

Belle Johnson, getting a buck during deer hunting!

Prayers of Thanks for the meal & dessert donations, for Hannah Circle to serve the Montrose FD dinner on 11/4! Alyssa Prestidge, performing at Concordia College in Moorhead with an orchestra made up from schools across MN!

Prayers of Thanks to the congregation and Pastor Paul, for prayers & support during Pastor Mark's 8-week paternity leave!

Prayers of Thanks to our MUMC members that donated lunch items and served lunch at the Annual Day of Giving on 11/22.

Annual Day of Giving! Organizations (Hands & Hearts, Grace Place, FE-ED, MUMC and House of Grace) and volunteers coming together to change lives; giving out winter clothing, food, personal care items, and serving a free lunch

Prayers of JOY for the Ecumenical Service 11/23, with 5 area churches coming together to give thanks and enjoy fellowship. Thank you to MUMC members that donated pies and served for the pie social.

Prayers of thanks to those that helped decorate the church for Advent!



We celebrate all the special Birthdays & Anniversaries from November!



Save the Date!

Sunday, Jan. 25th - 11:45 am

The Church Council is sponsoring a Fundraiser Luncheon for Isabella Johnson's trip to France in March as part of the Student Foreign Exchange Program!

Soup, Salad, Sandwich,
Dessert & Beverage!

More information to come in the January Newsletter!



We sincerely thank the following people for a year filled with giving of their Time and Talents.

- Bob Prestidge, Head Usher.
- Church Council and SPRC Committee Members.
- Jacque Vanderlinde, Music Ministry Director and Hand Bell Choir Director.
- Our Hand Bell Choir: Sonya Tourville, Linda Marquette, Kelly Rux, Kelsey Marquette, Judy Mumford-Torres, Diane Mumford-Sohns, and Alyssa Prestidge.
- Jewell "Ricki" Malerich, Chancel Choir Director.
- Chancel Choir Members: Carol & Galen Becker, Angie Ferrell, Sherry Oval, Diane Rux, and Bob Prestidge.
- Angie Ferrell, Christian Education Director, and Kim Wagner, Asst. Sunday School Teacher.
- Our MUMC FE-ED Board Members and Volunteers.
- Angie Ferrell & Kelly Rux, managing the RaiseRight program.
- The Rux Family, maintaining church grounds and all the work to upgrade the front garden.
- Carol & Galen Becker, taking WCCA Food Shelf donations to Waverly.
- Pastor Mark, Diane Folkestad and Meri Ault, MUMC Outreach Committee, for their work with Rivers of Hope.
- Jeff Dostal, trimming the oak tree in the Memorial Garden.
- Donations of copier paper, postage stamps, cleaning supplies, floral porch pots, coffees, etc.
- Those that provide and serve hospitality treats each Sunday.
- Those that support Sunday Worship reading scripture and ushering.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

The Sunday School class will finish out the year with the curriculum **"Two or More"** then start a new curriculum in January. Details to follow in the next newsletter!

The Sunday School children are looking forward to singing *"Silent Night"* with the Chancel Choir sometime in December. The children have the lyrics and should be practicing at home.

We will have a Service Project and go to Lunch On Sat., Dec. 13th—meeting at the church at 10:30 am

There will be **no Sunday School Sunday, Dec. 28th** so kids can enjoy their winter break! We wish our Sunday School children a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Any questions on Sunday School can be directed to Angie Ferrell, our Christian Education Director, at (763) 442-4876.



The Montrose UMC Youth Group will resume meeting on the **3rd Wednesday** of the month starting in January 2026.

We will begin planning for 2026 missions, outreach, and some fun activities. Bring a friend, bring your ideas, and be prepared to participate.

**YOUTH GROUP WILL MEET
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21st ~ 5:30 pm
At STARBUCKS
(on Hwy. 25 next to Chipotle)**



Your Youth Group Committee,
Pastor Mark, Angie & Kim



Thank You to those of you that donated new or slightly used Bras for this mission. Bras were all collected and will be sent to Cuba!

Thank You Meri Ault for organizing this project and taking care of the postage and handling.



24/7 crisis line:
763-295-3433

The Outreach Committee delivered another round of donations to Rivers of Hope in mid-November.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR DONATIONS.

We will continue to collect personal care items for women (shampoo, conditioner, soaps, razors, deodorants, toothbrush, toothpaste, feminine hygiene items, etc.) and Baby items (diapers, wipes, etc.) Items can go in the donation tote in the Narthex.

Thank you! Diane Folkestad & Meri Ault

UWF HANNAH CIRCLE



United
Women
in Faith

Montrose UMC
United Women in Faith
Hannah Circle

Hannah Circle meets on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is Monday, December 15th

Hannah Circle's Outreach Mission in November was serving a meal to our Montrose volunteer firefighters. We served a chicken enchilada casserole and goulash casserole, a fresh salad, beautiful fresh fruit, dinner rolls, and yummy desserts—Jacque's pumpkin bars and Diane's apple pies! The firefighters were very appreciative of the meal.



In lieu of the Buffalo Rotary's Christmas Program this year, Hannah Circle planned to team up with the Montrose Lion's to support our Montrose Elementary School Families with Christmas gifts this year, however we learned no names have been turned in by the school. So instead, Hannah Circle will support **WCCA's Christmas Gift Card drive for Teens.** We'll be purchasing gift cards in \$25 increments through the **RaiseRight** program and donating them to the Waverly Food Shelf/WCCA. If you would like to contribute towards this program please see Carol Becker. We will work with Angie Ferrell & Kelly Rux to order the gift cards by **December 7th.**

****MARK YOUR CALENDARS****

**Sunday, February 22nd
9:30 am - 10:15 am**

Hannah Circle will sponsor a **Fundraiser Breakfast for Alyssa Prestidge** to help with her costs to attend Aquatennial Week 2026. The costs can exceed \$1,500 to attend this event with hotels, meals, dresses, etc. so we hope you'll all come out and support this fundraiser! We'll have French toast bakes, egg bakes, sausage, and more!

Our next Outreach Mission will be preparing and serving a meal for the Love INC's Fresh Start Program in April 2026.

We would love to have you join us at our next meeting. It was so nice to have Angie Ferrell join the November meeting! Please contact us at: **montrosemnumw@gmail.com** with any questions.

FE-ED UPDATE



FE-ED Report & Statistics for November 23, 2025

Despite the cold and rainy weather, our November food distribution was a tremendous success, providing essential groceries to 160 families from 23 different communities!

We were especially glad to welcome one new family to our distribution. This impactful event would not have been possible without the incredible dedication of our volunteers, who worked tirelessly with smiles on their faces to fill and distribute 170 boxes of food.



We Love
OUR VOLUNTEERS

A special "Thank You" to Grace Place for their generous donation of pasta, proteins, and other items that helped make this possible. Your commitment to our neighbors is truly inspiring.

We Thank the Phoenix Learning Center Students for the beautiful Evergreen Holiday Pot on the piano.

NOVEMBER FOOD STATISTICS

- 8,752 Lbs. of food from Second Harvest Heartland.
- 170 bags of Pasta, 340 packs of chicken, along with some Slim Jims Snack Sticks and packages of Hot Dogs, donated from Grace Place.

NOVEMBER DISTRIBUTION STATISTICS

- 160 Families served
- 366 Individuals served
- 1 First Time Visitor
- 33 Veterans served
- 23 Communities served



Respectfully submitted by Linda Marquette and Pastor Mark Schlasner (in Pam Johnson's absence)

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

**THE NEXT FOOD DISTRIBUTION IS
Tuesday, December 23rd at 2 pm**

To donate to FE-ED, use the camera on your phone, focus the QR Code until the direct link pops up, tap the link and PayPal will take you directly to the FE-ED account!



(Donations are tax deductible)



A Message From W.C.C.A. Wright County Community Action

WCCA would like to thank you for your continued donations to the food shelf, especially with the needs increasing in our communities.

The Holiday Program at WCCA is as follows:

- ♦ WCCA is doing a **Toy & Gift Card Drive** for our clients at Christmas. We have a lot of toys but are looking for gift cards for the teens.

(SEE ANGIE FERRELL OR KELLY RUX FOR GIFT CARDS)

DECEMBER "Open Your Heart Campaign"

Canned vegetables	Canned fruit
Au Gratin potatoes	Mashed Potatoes
Jell-O	Stuffing
Canned green beans	Cream of mushroom soup
French fried onions	Gravy packets

With sincere thanks for your continued support,
Tammy Prestidge
Food Shelf/Thrift Store Coordinator
Wright County Community Action
(320) 963-6500 Ext. 231

**The Waverly Food Shelf
donation tote is in the Narthex**

Please join us for the
**St Mary's Annual
Cookie Walk/Boutique**
Saturday, December 6, 2025

**Cookie Walk
Boutique**
Gingerbread House Contest
Soup-er Bowl Cook-Off Contest

Cookie walk	10am to 1pm	Soup-er Bowl	10am to 12pm
<i>Cash or check only for cookies/candies</i>		Cook-off	
Boutique	10am to 1pm	Gingerbread Contest	10am to 12 pm

Boutique Vendors

Custom Apparel & Accessories by J-Lo Made it (Jenn Loebertmann)	Jams, jellies, salsas & jewelry by Homestead Harvest Ellen Yantas
Natural Soaps by Alice Larson	Crochet items by Marilyn Ringold
Handmade leather purses & more by Jackie Lueck	Rustique & Revived items by Janet Perry
Epique (food & cookware) by Jessica Pavlenko	Kendra's Closet (gently used women's apparel, jewelry) by Kendra Bray
Honey, gift baskets, vanilla extract by Karen Swartzner	And more...

**St Mary's Catholic Church
Fellowship Hall
303 North 6th Street
Waverly, MN 55390**



This Advent Season Montrose UMC will be holding our annual fundraiser, and again focusing on our 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 Maintenance Donations: (CIRCLE ONE)

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

Conference Apportionment Donations: (CIRCLE ONE)

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

Total Donation: \$ _____

Donated By: _____



CHRISTMAS IS ONLY WEEKS AWAY!

Gift cards make the best gift for those hard to shop for people! And they're a great way to purchase your groceries for that Christmas dinner or family gatherings over the holidays while giving back to the church at the same time!



To make sure you get your Gift Cards in time for Christmas, you need to order by December 12th (to ensure holiday delivery). And remember... those \$25 gift cards are always on hand for those quick grab-and-go needs for Casey's, Cub, Holiday, KwikTrip, Target and Walmart!

Make sure you've downloaded the RaiseRight app to take advantage of all the special savings and rebates being offered for the holidays! See Angie Ferrell or Kelly Rux for any questions, orders, gift card needs or help getting set-up to participate in the program via the app.

Those rebates add up quick and help the church more than you can imagine, almost \$1,400 through October!

Angie Ferrell 763.442.4876 Kelly Rux 952.221.8659

Finance Update



December and the Christmas season is upon us. As we wind down the year and plan for all things—Christmas gifts, gatherings with family and friends, etc. let us also remember our church and church family. Please consider a special gift to church. You can designate your gift as you wish, but we do have our annual

Advent Fundraiser - with funds going to either Apportionments or towards our Building Fund. We have a lot of projects for the upkeep of the church come Spring 2026 and appreciate your support to do this. With Apportionments, we do owe the conference a set amount each year. Please remember that the conference helps with the administration aspects of running a church and helps with things like covering Pastor Paul's support during Pastor Mark's paternity leave. Your support in helping us pay our full Apportionments to the conference is appreciated. We would like to not have to pull funds from our limited savings to cover this amount due.

Here is a summary of October giving and expenses.
(November details were not available at time of newsletter.)

October Total Income \$6,608.13

Total General Fund (designated giving) \$5,287.94

This includes Palabra Viva rent \$550.00, Apportionment Giving \$365.00; RaiseRight income \$184.30 and other giving.

Total Building Fund Giving Income \$1,320.19

This is designated giving and "Hospitality Treat" receipts.

October Total Expenses \$7,850.12

This includes salaries of \$3,118.13 for pastor, secretary, janitor, pianist, and all benefit costs. Other costs and Building expenses were \$4,731.99 which includes payment to Pastor Paul, and Trustees expenses (utilities, maintenance agreements, and insurance).

As always, please reach out to me with any questions.

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



Simply use your camera on your phone, focus QR Code until the direct link pops up, click the link and PayPal will take you directly to our account!
It's as easy as 1-2-3!



MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR



FE-ED FOOD DISTRIBUTION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd
2 pm until gone
MONTROSE COMMUNITY CENTER

Drive-thru pick-up on a first come,
 first serve basis while quantities last.
NO COST - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Advent Sunday HOPE	1 <u>6:30 pm Boy Scouts (K)</u>	2 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	3 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)	4 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)	5 RAISE RIGHT ORDER DAY 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)	6 10 am - 1 pm St. Mary's Cookie Walk & Boutique Waverly 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
7 Advent Sunday PEACE COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	8 <u>6:30 pm Boy Scouts (K)</u>	9 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	10 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)	11 6 pm - 9 pm Scouts Christmas Party (F) 6:30 pm 4H Club <u>Franklin Friends (C)</u> 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)	12 RAISE RIGHT ORDER DAY 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)	13 9 am - 1 pm "JINGLE ALL THE DAY" (MCC) 5 - 7 pm MOVIE (MCC) 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
14 Advent Sunday JOY 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 11:40 am - 12:40 pm CHURCH COUNCIL (F)	15 6:30 pm UWF Hannah Circle (F) <u>6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C)</u>	16 12 pm FE-ED Meeting (MUMC)	17 NO ACTIVITIES	18 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)	19 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)	20 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
21 Advent Sunday LOVE 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	22 <u>6:30 pm Boy Scouts (K)</u>	23 12 pm FE-ED Set-up (MCC) 3 pm FE-ED Food Drop (MCC) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	24 7 pm CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (S)	25 	26 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)	27 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
28 **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	29 NO ACTIVITIES	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	JAN 1 	Pastor Mark will be on vacation Dec. 26 - Jan. 2.	

BIRTHDAYS!

6th-Landon Tourville
 9th-David Goode
 15th-Craig Zitzloff

16th-Clayton Prestidge
 24th-Gloriann Bastin
 28th-Chris Parks
 29th-Jane Gessinger

ANNIVERSARIES!

2nd-Carol & Galen Becker

Happy December Birthdays and Anniversaries!



MONTROSE UMC, PO Box 13, 230 Center Avenue So., Montrose, MN 55363
 Church Office 763-675-3571
 Email: montroseumc@hotmail.com
 Facebook.com/Montrose United Methodist Church

Pastor Mark's Cell (763) 656-3490
 Website: www.montroseumc.com

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[Facebook.com/Montrose United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/MontroseUnitedMethodistChurch)

Montrose United Methodist Church



FE-ED
(For Each & Every Day)
On the 4th Tuesday of
Every Month!

THE NEXT FREE FOOD
DISTRIBUTION:

Tuesday, December 23rd at 2 pm

Drive thru event is first-come,
first-serve at the
MONTROSE COMMUNITY CENTER.

NO COST - ALL ARE WELCOME!

FE-ED is offered through the partnership of
Montrose United Methodist Church & Grace Place.

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

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



We invite you to join us on
Sunday mornings!

Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am

Candlelight
Service

Join us

December 24
7:00pm

