

MONTROSE Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church

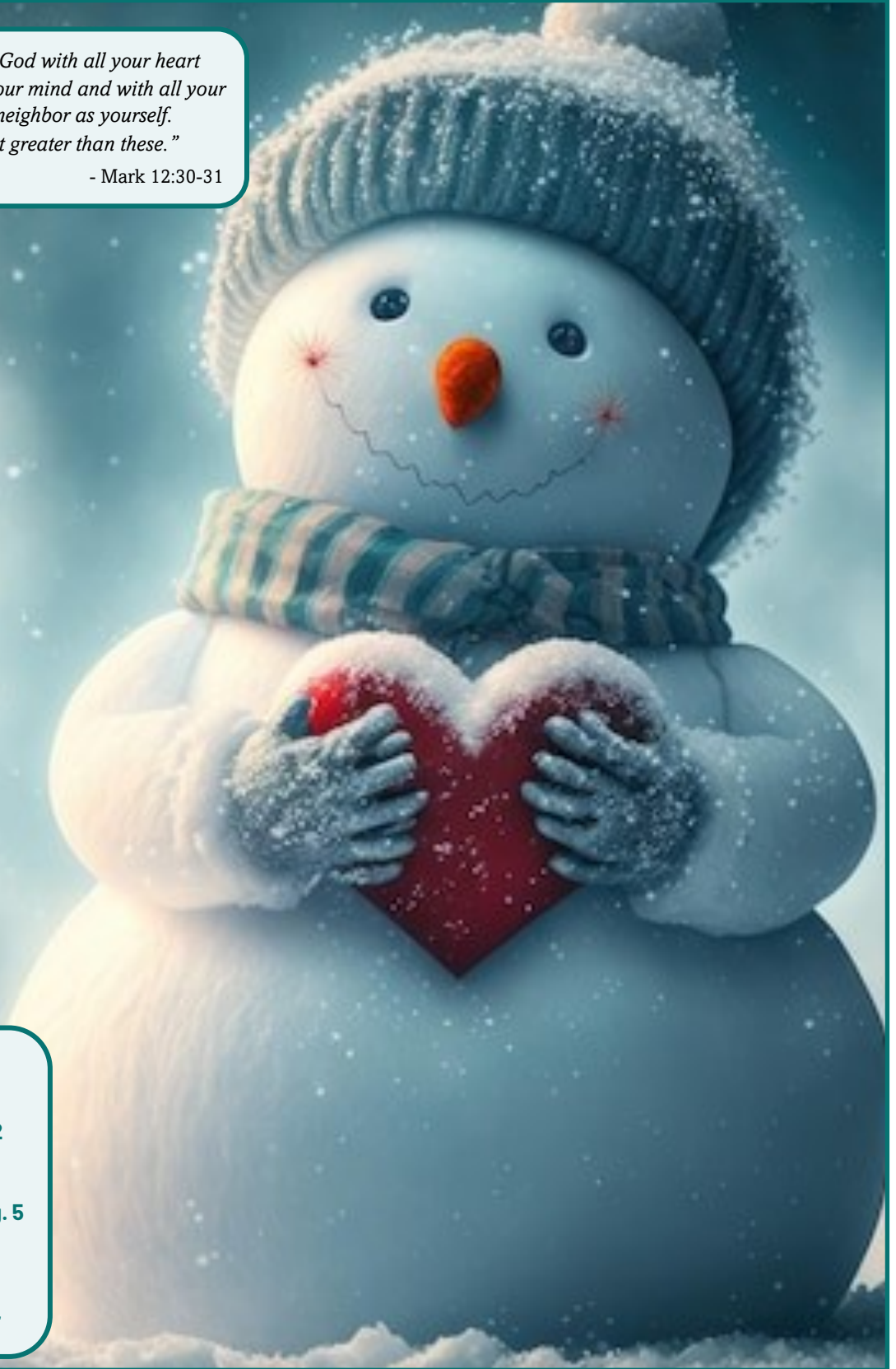
February 2025 Volume 2

*"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
And with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your
strength... you shall love your neighbor as yourself.
There is no other commandment greater than these."*

- Mark 12:30-31

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Pastor's Column



February invites us into a season of life-changing encounters with Jesus. Through the stories we'll hear this month, we are reminded that Jesus meets people right where they are. In moments of pain, doubt, and longing, He brings healing, hope, and new life. He doesn't stay distant or unreachable—He steps into real lives, offering a love that changes everything.

Time and time again, Jesus defies expectations. He doesn't follow the rules people try to place on Him. He doesn't turn away those others reject. Instead, He sees people with compassion and acts with a deep, unstoppable love. Where others see rules, Jesus sees an opportunity to heal. Where others see failure or hopelessness, He brings life. He transforms brokenness into beauty.

These moments with Jesus reveal more than physical miracles. They show us what God's kingdom is really like—a kingdom of grace, kindness, and endless mercy. Jesus lifts up those who feel forgotten. He comforts those in sorrow. He forgives those weighed down by guilt. In Him, we see God's heart—a heart that is always drawing us toward healing and wholeness.

But meeting Jesus is not always easy. His presence can challenge us, shaking us out of our comfort zones and showing us where we need to grow. Sometimes it's hard to face the truth about ourselves. Some people in these stories respond with joy and gratitude. Others hesitate, unsure if they're ready to accept a grace they didn't earn. Yet no matter where we find ourselves, Jesus offers the same thing: to be seen, known, and loved beyond measure.

These stories also ask something of us. Jesus shows us how to live with grace and love. Where in our lives are we being called to offer forgiveness? Who in our world needs hope? These moments in Scripture aren't just stories—they are invitations for us to be part of God's healing work today. We can carry that same transforming love to the people around us.

As we worship together this month, may these stories touch our hearts and change the way we live. May we hear Jesus calling us, challenging us, and offering us grace. And may we, like those who met Him so long ago, leave with renewed faith, knowing that His love is still reaching out to heal and restore today.



With Love and Blessings,
Pastor Mark Schlasner

Email: am.umc.pastor@gmail.com

Phone/Text: (763) 656-3490

February Worship Theme "Life-changing Encounters with Jesus"

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Communion Sunday

Communion Steward: Christie Illies

Message: *"Healing on the Sabbath"*

Scripture: Luke 6:1-16

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Message: *"Raising the Widow's Son"*

Scripture: Luke 7:1-17

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Message: *"More than a Prophet"*

Scripture: Luke 7:18-35

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Message: *"Forgiven at Jesus' Feet"*

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50



Wednesday, March 5th

Ash Wednesday*

Sunday, April 13th

Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 17th

Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 18th

Good Friday*

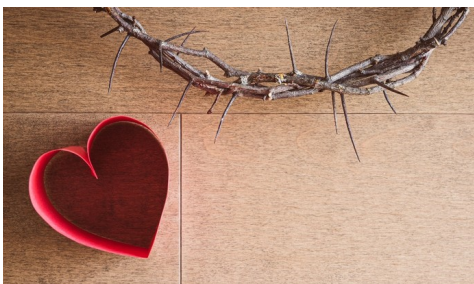
Saturday, April 19th

Holy Saturday

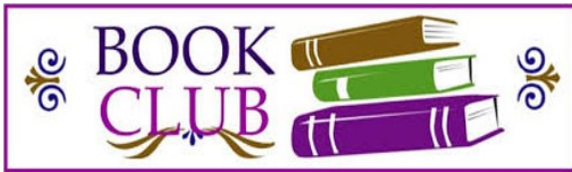
Sunday, April 20th

Easter Sunday

*worship service time pending



Spiritual Growth and Opportunities to Serve at MUMC!



Join the Montrose UMC Book Club

Love a good book and great conversation? We're starting a Montrose UMC book club! We'll meet **every six weeks** to chat about the current book. We'll read fiction books and discuss some of the themes found within. It's the perfect chance to connect with others and share insights on some thought-provoking reads.

If you're interested, **sign up at the information table** so we can get an idea of how many folks want to join in.

Keep an eye out for details on our first book and meeting date. We can't wait to read and discuss with you!

Pastor Mark
am.umc.pastor@gmail.com

Help Shape Our Church's Future – Join the Nominations Committee!



We're creating a Nominations Committee to help identify and recommend future leaders for our Montrose congregation. This committee will play a key role in prayerfully discerning who can best serve and guide our ministries in the coming years.

We need passionate, thoughtful individuals who care about the life and mission of our church. If you're interested in being part of this important work, we invite you to sign up!

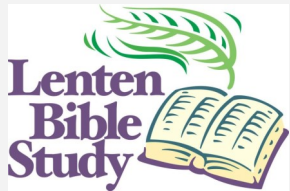
What's involved?

- Helping identify and nominate leaders for key roles.
- Participating in discussions about the future of our leadership.
- Praying and discerning together as a team.

If you'd like to join or want more information, please contact Pastor Mark or sign up on the sign-up sheet on the information table.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!

Pastor Mark
am.umc.pastor@gmail.com



Lenten Bible Study at Montrose UMC - Sign Up Today!

As we prepare for the Lenten season, we invite you to join our Lenten Bible study at Montrose United Methodist Church. This is a meaningful opportunity to grow in your faith, reflect on Christ's journey to the cross, and strengthen our connection with one another. We'll start meeting the week of March 9th going to the week of April 6th.

We'd like to gauge interest and determine the best meeting times. If you're interested in participating, please sign up on the sheet located at the information table. Whether you're a long-time Bible study attendee or new to the group, all are welcome!

Let's embark on this spiritual journey together as we seek deeper understanding and renewal during Lent.

For any questions, contact Pastor Mark at
am.umc.pastor@gmail.com

Opportunities to Serve in the Church. See the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall!

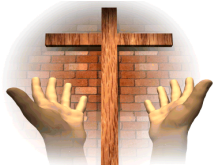
- ♦ Acolytes & Ushering
- ♦ Reading Scripture
- ♦ Hospitality Treats
- ♦ Sunday School Helper
- ♦ Various Committees



A Little Church Humor!



"TO ENCOURAGE OUR CONGREGATION TO SIT IN THE FRONT PEWS, I'VE INSTALLED CELL PHONE CHARGING STATIONS IN THE FIRST THREE ROWS."



PRAYER PAGE

The Joys & Concerns
Lifted in January

Our Friends At Home

Gloria Adickes
John Hylland



Lifting in our Prayers

Those sick with the Flu, Covid, Colds, etc.
Roger Vanderlinde's Brother, recovering from a blood clot in his lungs.

Those traveling to visit family, for vacations, or seeking warmer weather!

Angie Ferrell's nephew Patrick, having to evacuate due to the LA fires.

Angie Ferrell's friend, Nad, diagnosed with non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, starting chemotherapy Jan. 13th.

9-year-old boy at the daycare where Kalley Illies works, diagnosed with leukemia and starting chemotherapy.

All those impacted by the devastating fires in California.

Don Danford, recovering from pneumonia, then Covid.

Marilyn Tompkins son-in-law Suresh, losing his sister to an undiagnosed brain tumor at age 36. She leaves a 6-year-old daughter and her mother is absolutely grief-stricken.

Alyssa Prestidge, recovering from a concussion after a car accident, then getting influenza.

Kole Johnson, battling covid and hospitalized for an infection/fluid in his shoulder 8 months after his surgery.

Karen Duske, friend of Carol & Keith Prestidge, hospitalized with pneumonia and very weak. *UPDATE:* Karen was placed in hospice care the week of Jan. 19th. She passed-away Saturday, Feb. 1st.

Angie Ferrell's elderly neighbor, fell down his stairs and broke 2 vertebrae, cracked his skull and has other issues.

Betty B., friend of Ricki Malerich's and former MUMC attendee, now living in Park Rapids to help her 23-year-old son adjust to adult responsibilities.



Blessings and Celebrations

Pam Johnson, her left knee is healing well after knee-replacement surgery, but now the right knee is starting to go!

Josh Illies Mission Trip breakfast fundraiser a success, a little over \$1,000 raised!

Amber Bloom's Special Olympics Poly Hockey team, won 2nd place at the regional tournaments!

Cora Mae Marquette, getting baptized February 2nd!



We celebrate all the special Birthdays and Anniversaries from January!



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

WCCA would like to thank you for all the donations that you have collected for the food shelf. We would like to continue to use the guide of items that we go through, using a list for each month throughout the year. We hope this list helps you with planning fundraisers and frequently asked questions about what can be donated.

February: Personal Hygiene Items **"Open Your Heart Campaign"**

Deodorant (for men & women)
Shampoo
Body wash
Body soap
Conditioner
Body lotion
Hand Soap

Thank you for your donations!

Tammy Prestidge, Food Shelf/Thrift Store Coordinator
Office (763) 658- 4414

FOOD SHELF HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Tuesday

8:30 am - 6:00 pm

Friday

8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Thank You

Josh Illies says thank you to all of you that provided food for the fundraiser breakfast and also to everyone that came out on such a cold day to support it! A little over \$1,000 was raised for

his Mission Trip to Tucson, Az in March, enough to help contribute towards his friend Mariah's trip too!

Your support means everything!

Board of Trustees Update



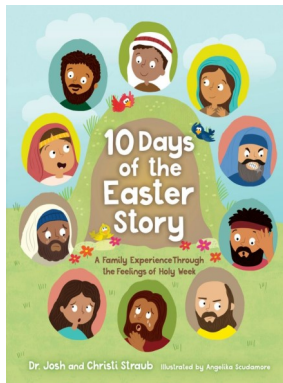
Just a quick update from the Board of Trustees with some GOOD NEWS!

The water heater in the kitchen finally gave out, so a new electric, 50-gallon one has been installed by Hoss Plumbing at a cost of \$1,800.

Trustees met with a sanctuary lighting specialist and have signed the contract for work to begin the end of February. All lights in the sanctuary will be retrofitted to LED, keeping the current lighting system and stage lights to be directed to where they should be. This is a costly upgrade, \$15,868, but very much needed. The sanctuary will be fully lit now and look so much more inviting! The church also qualified for a rebate program by Xcel Energy's Center for Energy & Environment to change all other bulbs in the church to LED at no charge, a \$3,600 savings! The savings will continue for years with more efficient lighting reducing our electric bills and less money spent on bulbs as LED bulbs last a long time! B.O.T.

February Announcements & Community Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!



The Sunday School Class just finished their unit ***"Lights of Christmas - Hope Shines Bright"*** and is moving on to a 10-week curriculum, ***"10 Days of the Easter Story"***.

We will be trying something new with this unit. The happiness of Palm Sunday, the surprise at the Last Supper, the sadness at the cross, and the joy of finding out what the empty tomb meant - the week of Jesus' death and resurrection was filled with emotions and we will be

exploring all of them. During this unit we will journey through key moments of the Holy Week with the retelling of the Easter story with games, snacks and activities!

This unit invites the whole family to participate in the roller coaster of feelings through Holy Week: Happiness, Anger, Gratitude, Surprise, Fear, Sadness, Disgust, Joy, Remorse and Bravery.

We invite children Pre-K through 6th grade to join us at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings!

Angie Ferrell
Christian Education Director (763) 442-4876



MONTROSE FIREFIGHTER'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION PRIME RIB or SHRIMP DINNER

Saturday, February 1st
5 pm - 8 pm
Montrose Community Center



KITES ON ICE FESTIVAL

Saturday, February 8th
11 am - 3 pm
Sturgis Park on Buffalo Lake
Event is FREE with Food Trucks and more!



FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

Thursday, February 20th
4:30 pm Coffee, Meet & Greet
5 - 6:30 pm Dinner Served
(Harvest Chicken, Roasted Potatoes, Honey Tarragon Carrots, Salad and Dessert.)

This February Dinner is sponsored by ASCENTEX



FEBRUARY

Your Youth Group Leaders will meet in early February to discuss future plans for the Youth Group, and will be scheduling a meeting with youth & parents to discuss the 2025 Mission Trip in August.

Information will be sent out shortly!
Pastor Mark Schlasner, Angie Ferrell & Kim Wagner



CELEBRATE MONTROSE CHILI SUPPER & BINGO

Saturday, February 22nd
Chili Supper 5 pm
Bingo 5:30 - 7:30 pm

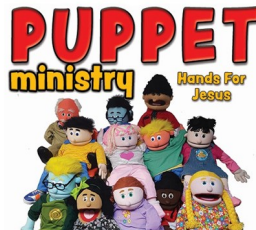


MONTROSE LION'S PANCAKE & FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 23rd
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Montrose Community Center

Attention All Youth

We're starting a PUPPET MINISTRY!

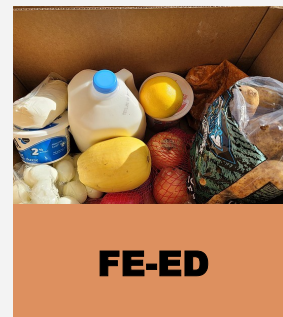


Are you ready to bring stories to life and make a difference?

This is your chance to learn the art of puppetry and share God's message in a fun and creative way during children's sermons. We'll train together, perform together, and bring joy to the kids of our church. No experience needed—just enthusiasm and a love for storytelling!

Interested? See the sign-up sheet at the **information table** today! Let's make something amazing together!

Pastor Mark
am.umc.pastor@gmail.com



FE-ED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, February 25th
12 - 1:30 pm Set-up & Packing
2 pm Drive-thru Distribution
Montrose Community Center

**NOTE
NEW 2 PM
START TIME FOR
DISTRIBUTION**

**THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION IS
FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE**

FINANCE UPDATE



(This is from Kim Wagner)

A LOOK at the BUDGET

When I sent an email asking for feedback on what the congregation would like to see in the newsletter or bulletins, a few responded with financials to see the financial health of the church. The Church Council reviews financials with the Finance Committee at every meeting, and I can assure you they do an amazing job watching the budget and expenses.

Here is a snippet of the 2024 end-of-year Actuals vs. Budget. Last year was an odd year due to the water damage repairs and insurance payouts, and additional costs to repair several other underlying building problems. I'm not an accountant but my background was retail, so I was always looking at numbers! Kelly will provide a recap going forward, and I hope this meets with her approval (and that there's no errors)! 🙌

LINE ITEM	Actual YTD 2024	2024 BUDGET	% TO BUDGET
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 146,233	\$ 99,782	146%
TOTAL STAFF EXPENSE	\$ 74,558	\$ 58,228	128%
TOTAL MISSION & OUTREACH	\$ 7,357	\$ 10,032	73%
TOTAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES	\$ 51,156	\$ 35,850	143%
TOTAL MUSIC & WORSHIP	\$ 100	\$ 250	40%
TOTAL FINANCE & ADMIN	\$ 1,528	\$ 530	290%
TOTAL SPIRITUAL EDUCATION	\$ 1,642	\$ 600	275%
TOTAL OFFICE SUPPLIES/EXPENSES	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,600	69%
TOTAL OF MISC. EXPENSES	\$ 4,139	\$ -	100%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$ 141,580	\$ 107,090	24%

*Income and Trustee expenses
reflect water damage ins. pymts. & add'l bldg. repairs

FE+ED UPDATE



FE-ED

FE-ED REPORT FOR THE JANUARY 28, 2025 FOOD DROP

We had 39 volunteers giving 110 hours. Thank you volunteers!! We prepared 200 boxes and ran out for the first time. There were about 6 families who did not receive a box but received some

food. The need is indeed increasing and more zip codes are reported for communities we have not seen before. Volunteers noted increased anxiety related to food security and people are very concerned about having enough to eat.

The Phoenix kids (pictured left) were amazing! So much laughter and energy. Their teacher, Shana, is seeing such an amazing transformation in these kids. What a blessing! Some may say we are "just" giving out food but it is far more than that. It is a tidal wave of love being sent out into the community. The impact we may never fully know, but it is truly a God sighting of EPIC proportions! (These comments were from Kimberly Niska, Grace Place Executive Director.)

We were blessed with additional food from the following:

- **Coburn's Delano:** Deli, Salads, Fruit and Vegetable.
- **Monticello Help Center:** Tortilla Shells, Poblano Peppers, and Various Chips. Approximately 1000 pounds.
- **Buffalo Food Shelf:** Beverages, Bread, Baked Goods, Celery, and Lettuce. Approximately 480 pounds.

January Statistics:

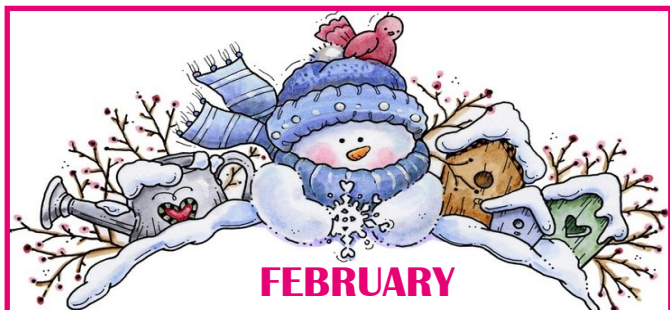
- 6,601 lbs. of food from Second Harvest Heartland (SHH)
- Families served 204
- Individuals served 558
- Veterans served 53
- First time visitors 16
- Communities served 27

Please consider helping with your resources of time and/or money to FE-ED or your local food shelf.

Respectfully submitted

Pam Johnson, Secretary





**NOTE NEW
START TIME!
2 pm**

FE-ED FOOD DROP
Tuesday, February 25th
2 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>Montrose Lion's Annual Pancake/French Toast Breakfast Sunday, February 23rd from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Montrose Community Center</p>						<p>1 5-8 pm MFD Annual Prime Rib/ Shrimp Dinner (MCC) 4 - 9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)</p>
<p>2 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) BAPTISM of CORA MAE MARQUETTE</p>	<p>3 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 4:30 pm Youth Comm. ZOOM Mtg. 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)</p>	<p>4 10 am COFFEE & CONV. (F) 7 pm Hand Bells Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>5 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>6 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)</p>	<p>7 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)</p>	<p>8 11 am - 3 pm KITES ON ICE FESTIVAL - Buffalo 4 - 9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)</p>
<p>9 SUPER BOWL SUNDAY 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)</p>	<p>10 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)</p>	<p>11 10 am COFFEE & CONV. (F) 7 pm Hand Bells Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>12 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>13 6:30 pm 4H Club (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)</p>	<p>14 RAISE-RIGHT ORDER DAY! 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)</p>	<p>15 4 - 9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)</p>
<p>16 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 11:45 am Church Council (F)</p>	<p>17  6:30 pm Boy Scouts (K) 6:30 pm Hannah Circle (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)</p>	<p>18 10 am COFFEE & CONV. (F) 12 pm FE-ED Mtg. (GP)</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm FREE COMM. MEAL (MCC) 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)</p>	<p>21 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)</p>	<p>22 4 - 9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm CHILI SUPPER & BINGO (MCC)</p>
<p>23 8:30 am - 12:30 pm LION'S BREAKFAST (MCC) 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)</p>	<p>24 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)</p>	<p>25 10 am COFFEE & CONV. (F) 12-1:30 pm FE-ED Set-up 2 pm FE-ED Distro (MCC) 7 pm Hand Bells Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>26 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>27 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)</p>	<p>28 RAISE-RIGHT ORDER DAY! 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)</p>	<p>MUMC FAMILY GAME DAY Sun., March 2nd 11:30 am - 1:30 pm </p>

BIRTHDAYS!

1st-Josh Illies
6th-Sue Hylland
6th-Kelsey Marquette
7th-Sherry Oval
13th-Joe Prestidge
16th-Austin Peterson-Lomker

24th-Russ Johnson
25th-Stephen Hayes
28th-Sue Lieser
28th-Wayne Oberlander
28th-Austin Torres



ANNIVERSARIES!

No February
Anniversaries!

EVENT LOCATION KEY

S Sanctuary
F Fellowship Hall
L Library (former Chancel)
C Classrooms -Lower Level
O Church Office
K Kitchen and Lunchroom
Y Youth Room
MCC Montrose Comm. Center

MONTROSE UMC, 230 Center Avenue So., 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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Montrose United Methodist Church
(A WCCA EMERGENCY FOOD BOX NETWORK PARTNER)



FE-ED

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

THE NEXT FREE FOOD
DISTRIBUTION IS:
Tuesday, February 25th

Drive-Thru Event
Starting at 2 pm
Montrose Community
Center

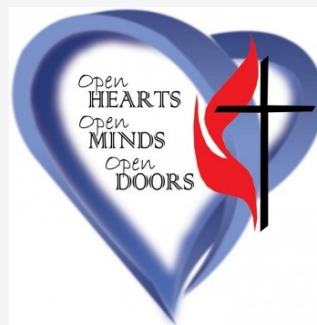
NOTE
NEW 2 PM
START TIME FOR
DISTRIBUTION

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

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

For more information email us at:
feed.montrose.mn@gmail.com
Or go to the FE-ED website:
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!

