

Montrose Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church

2022 January Volume 1

*"A new year is God's gift.
In the joyful moments – Thank Him.
In the busy moments – Bless Him.
In the trying moments – Trust Him.
In the quiet moments – Praise Him."
~ Roy Lessin*

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Pastor's Column & January Worship Theme Pg. 2
- ◆ Prayer Requests and Church Announcements Pgs. 3 & 4
- ◆ Sunday School News Pg. 4
- ◆ FE+ED, Finance & Scrip News Pg. 4
- ◆ January Calendar Pg. 5
- ◆ Events Back Cover



Why? Making Sense of God's Will!

In a season of resolution making, followed by a time of resolution breaking or forgetting, may I make a better suggestion?

Let's make a resolution this year that is worth keeping.

Let's seek more sincerely to follow God's will for our lives and for the life of our community. Of course, like many things that is easier said than done. It takes at least two things to accomplish that goal. It takes both determination, or maybe we could call it commitment, and it also takes discernment.



? When it comes right down to it, we have lots of questions when it come to determining what God's will is for us. One person thinks God is leading us in this direction, the next person thinks God is leading us in that direction.

After he suffered a tragedy in his own family, Leslie Weatherhead wrote a wonderful little book about God's will. He describes three different aspects of God's Will. First of all, **God's Intentional Will** for us is to remain in perfect relationship with God, for us to experience paradise. Of course, we are human, and it makes it hard for us to remain perfectly in relationship with God. So second, God wishes the best for us as we deal with the circumstances of life. Things just happen, like natural disasters, illness, injury, loss of any kind, and God helps us to come out on the other side as best we can. He calls this **God's Circumstantial Will**. And third, we trust in the goodness of God, and know that ultimately, God's Will shall be accomplished. In the end we know that God wins, and **God's Ultimate Will** is unity with us all.

Some evangelists today have gotten rich by worldly standards simply by telling people that if they are good to God, then God will be good to them. And there is some basis for that in the Bible, but not much. The over arching message of the Bible is that God will be with us, through the good times, and yes, especially in the difficult times. To assume that our faith in God will keep us from experiencing tragedy, is misreading the Bible.



Adam Hamilton says it this way, "the Bible is largely a book about people who refused to let go of their faith in the face of suffering."

For example, think of Joseph who was sold by his brothers into slavery in Egypt, or Moses who does God's work, and yet is so miserable that he prays for God to kill him. Or Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown into the fire furnace, and Daniel thrown into the lion's den. You get the idea. I didn't even mention Jesus yet, who was executed on the cross for us.

Yet, their attitudes were of faith, maybe best summed up in Psalm 73:26 and 28, "My flesh and my heart fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever ,, I have made the Lord God my refuge." The Bible definitely does not teach that if you follow Christ life will be all sunshine and roses.

The promise of the Bible is that through it all, God shares with us the promise of hope, peace, joy, and love. God does not give as the world gives, God's gifts will last.



As John Wesley said on his death bed, "The best of all, God is with us still."

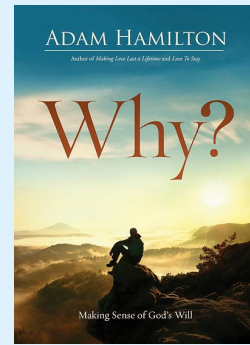
May God's Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven!

Pastor Paul

Pastor Paul D. Baker
(320) 455-7314



January Worship Theme



WHY? Making Sense of God's Will

Sunday, January 2, 2022
Holy Communion Sunday
"WHY? Why Do Innocent Suffer?"
Scripture: Genesis 1:27-28

Sunday, January 9, 2022
~ **Baptism of the Lord Sunday** ~
Confirmation Ceremony
"WHY? Why Do My Prayers Go Unanswered?"
Scripture: Psalm 22:2, John 15:7, Luke 22:42

Sunday, January 16, 2022
Special Giving Sunday
~ **Human Relations Day** ~
"WHY? Why Can't I See God's Will for Me?"
Scripture: Colossians 1:9-10

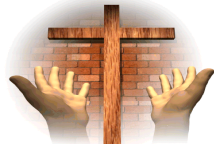
Sunday, January 23, 2022
"WHY? Why God's Love Prevails?"
Scripture: Romans 8:28, 35, 37-39

Sunday, January 30, 2022
GUEST SPEAKER
Reverend Fred Vanderwerf

DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN,
BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN,
AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN,
TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN,
AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN.

- JOHN WESLEY -

PRAYER PAGE



Grieving with Families

† **The Ken Bourdeaux Family.** Mike Wagner's niece's father-in-law passed away from Covid December 6th at 75 years of age.

† **The Pam Reiser ~ Bruce Tischer Families.** Pam was a long-time co-worker of Angie Ferrell's. They both passed away from Covid; Pam Dec. 12th at age 65. Bruce Dec. 1st at age 66.

† **The Joel Williams Family.** Joel, husband of Linda Williams - AUMC Secretary, passed away unexpectedly Dec. 16th. at age 65.

Lifting in Our Prayers...

Our Annual Conference meeting Wed., Dec. 8th (If anyone wants a packet from the meeting let Kim Wagner know.)

Roger Vanderlinde's brother, having foot surgery and needing patience as he recovers.

The victims, their families and the community of the Oxford, Michigan School shooting Dec. 3rd

Donna Marquette, recovering from surgery and a serious infection.

Dan Baker, continued prayers for healing after Covid and a fall. UPDATE 12/26: Dan is healing really well and staying with Pastor Paul & Debbie a few weeks!

Sarah Baker, Pastor Paul's sister-in-law, recovering from gallbladder surgery.

Friend of Ricki Malerich's daughter, battling a serious case of Covid.

Tod Ovall, having surgery Mon., Dec. 27th to remove a tumor on his pituitary gland. UPDATE 12/29: Tod's surgery went very well and he was sent home Wed., 12/29!

Jen Sanchez & Family. Jen had a kitchen fire and the family is out of the home until February, staying at a hotel until then.

Julissa Sanchez, continues to have some heart issues post Covid.

Victims of disastrous tornadoes in KY, TN & IL Dec. 10th. The town of Mayfield, KY flattened.

Those experiencing loss this year; loved ones, friends, pets, jobs, income, etc. and those with mental health issues.

Allan Malerich, having balancing issues and some problems with confusion.

Connie Nelson, hospitalized with heart & lung issues. UPDATE 12/26: Connie is resting a home.

Those impacted by tornadoes (16) in MN on Dec. 15th.

Galen Becker's granddaughter in San Diego, has Covid.

Angie Ferrell, suffering with a bad cold. (Covid negative).

Blessings and Celebrations

Adopt-a-Family and Adopt-a-Senior gift recipients, thanks to the generosity of our congregation and Sunday School class!

Prayers of THANKS to MUMC Congregation for continued giving in these tough times, from Kelly Rux!

Carol Hoppe, retiring as Financial Secretary the end of this year!

THE MUMC MORTGAGE PAID IN FULL!

Luke Prestidge, home for the holidays!

Those traveling to see loved ones this Holiday Season!

Carol Hoppe & Galen Becker ENGAGED!

All those celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries in December!



A special note of Thanks from the Carol Hoppe ~

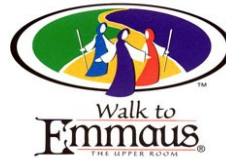
Special thanks to all who donated items for the Adopt A Family Program in

December. The Buffalo Rotary provided the information as to the needs of the children. The Hannah Circle provided gift cards to the parents for Walmart, Kwik Trip, Holiday and Cub Foods.

Items for the children were dropped off at the Buffalo United Methodist Church on December 5th. Because of your generosity a family in Montrose with three children was able to have a Merry Christmas.



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 participating 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.

MEN'S WALK 127 - FEBRUARY 3rd - 6th (Mankato)

WOMEN'S WALK 128 - FEBRUARY 10th - 13th (Mankato)

Pastor Paul and Debbie would be happy to sponsor you for either Walk experience. ("Walk" is just an expression, not much walking required, but there are lots of goodies for your tummy!)

More info at: <https://www.mnemmaus.org/page/walk-sponsorship>

Let Pastor Paul know if you are interested (320) 455-7314

We continue to be PHASE YELLOW

For more info on the various phases, go to our Minnesota Conference webpage <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan> For our specific county we have been asked to make safe decisions based on the positive test rate for our county. If the positive test rate is over 5% then we are asked to consider whether we need to initiate more precautions.

As of this publication, Wright County has improved slightly and is now hovering around the 15% positive test rate level. We will be making adjustments to our response weekly, with an eye to whether the infection rate either declines or increases, and how the new rapidly spreadingOMICRON variant is impacting these numbers.

We would like to ask you to consider wearing a mask indoors. Some churches in Wright County have gone back requiring masks indoors, however at the time of this writing, we have opted to continue with the precautions we have in place. If you feel so led, please wear a mask when indoors.

First let's do a recap of how we did in 2021, it was a tough year, but we still did pretty good with the Scrip Program. In total we had 12 participants and earned \$2,390.77 back in rebates for the church. I've said it once & I will say it again and again how easy this program is to be able to fundraise for our church. It costs you nothing - buy gift cards for the places you're already going to spend your money at (groceries, gas, eating out) and give back to the church AT THE SAME TIME! Having a hard time paying your apportionments each year? Do it through the Scrip program and forget about it! Yes, you can designate where you want the rebates you earn for the church to go (so apportionments anybody?).

We will continue to have gift cards on-hand for your convenience for **Cub Foods, Holiday, Kwik Trip, Target, Walmart.** (SEE ANGIE OR KELLY.) And if you haven't downloaded the **RAISERIGHT** mobile app, I'm happy to help you with that.

January order dates will be the 10th & 24th.

Happy Scriping 2022! Angie (763) 442-4876.

Sunday School News!



The Sunday School class had a fun time during Advent Season studying The Grinch, and how his heart grew three sizes! With special appearances from the Grinch, Max the Dog and Cindy Lou!

Does Heather know the Grinch is right behind her?

We're back in session starting January 9th. We will be doing a 12 week curriculum titled **Bible Scavenger Hunt - Discovering**

God's Plan! Scavenger hunts are fun adventures where we search for different things in hopes we can win the prize. In this series, we'll be searching for clues from the Bible that will help us find God's plan. I'm super excited and can't wait to see where our hunts take us!

Happy New Year!

Angie



Finance Committee Update

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas!

A few items of note from the finance team as we head into 2022. First, and most important is that we have officially paid off our church mortgage. This is very exciting news. We appreciate the support from all of you over past many years. What a relief it is to have this done. We will celebrate on Sunday, May 1, 2022 with an official "Burn the Mortgage" party!



The second item, now that the mortgage is paid, is looking at our building and maintenance needs. We have many projects, some long term and some more immediate. A compressor recently went out with a cost of \$2800. Then we have the parking lot in desperate need of some repairs/replacement, front concrete steps, railings, flooring in basement, lighting and more. Unfortunately, none of this comes cheap. We are asking our members to continue giving to the building fund. Instead of a mortgage account it becomes a building maintenance savings account. This allows us to save up for these projects.

Finally, a thank you to Carol Hoppe for serving as our church's financial secretary for so many years. She is retiring from this position and we are very thankful for her service. Kelly Rux will be taking over this position. One favor we have is writing on your check or giving envelope where you are designating your giving - general, building maintenance, apportionments, etc. Kelly doesn't have the history Carol did, so your help is much appreciated.

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

Kelly Rux, Financial Secretary
(952) 221-8659

FE+ED Update

Lessons learned at the November food drop made for a much smoother process this time around! A HUGE Thank You to everyone that helped at the December Food Distribution! It was amazing to have so many people brave the snow & cold weather to get food out to the community. We are meeting a huge need!

A special Thank you to *Melissa Hausladen* who braved the weather from start-to-finish to register people and get the MCC emptied, leadership above & beyond. Also, Thank You to *Roger Vanderlinde* who had the MCC keys and stayed through unloading the truck. It was amazing work by everyone to help make "the plan" and keep things running smoothly and getting packaged in time to deliver to our drive-thru clients.

OUR FE+ED VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEST!

December Statistics:

- 5,740 pounds of food from SHH, 12 boxes of bread, and food from the Buffalo & Delano Food Shelves. There were a lot of special items, including some boxes of Hot Chocolate (30 packets), some chicken and meat.
- Families served 106
- Individuals served 407
- Veterans served 20
- First time visitors 8
- Communities served 14

The next food drop is **Tuesday, January 25th**



Respectfully submitted by Pam Johnson, Secretary



**Drive-Up
Food
Distribution**



FE+ED FOOD DROP
Tues., Jan. 25th 3 pm until gone
Montrose Community Center
 Drive-thru pick-up on a first come- first
 serve basis while quantities last.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Attention Confirmands! Confirmation Ceremony Rehearsal is Wed., Jan. 5th at 5:30 pm. Confirmation Ceremony is Sun., Jan. 9th during Worship Service</p>						<p>1 4-8 pm Palabra Viva (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C)</p>
<p>2  NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)</p>	<p>3 6:30 pm Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Practice (S)</p>	<p>4 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>5 5:30 pm Conf Class Ceremony Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>6 6-8 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9 am Christmas <u>Decoration take-down</u> 4-8 pm Palabra Viva (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C)</p>
<p>9 <u>Baptism of the Lord Sunday</u> 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service & Confirmation Ceremony (S)</p>	<p>10 SCRIP ORDER DAY 6:30 pm Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Practice (S)</p>	<p>11 NO BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 6-8 pm Palabra <u>Viva Worship (S)</u> 6:30 pm 4H Club (C)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 4-8 pm Palabra Viva (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C)</p>
<p>16 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)</p>	<p>17  7 pm Hannah Circle (L) 7 pm Palabra Viva Practice (S)</p>	<p>18 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>19 7:15 pm Church Council (F)</p>	<p>20 6-8 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 4-8 pm Palabra Viva (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C)</p>
<p>23 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)</p>	<p>24 SCRIP ORDER DAY 6:30 pm Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Practice (S)</p>	<p>25 12 pm - 1:30 pm FEED Set-up 3 pm FEED Distro (Mont. Comm. Ctr) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 6-8 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 4-8 pm Palabra Viva (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C)</p>
<p>30 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)</p>	<p>31 6:30 pm Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Practice (S)</p>	<p>Stay-tuned! Hannah Circle is planning a potluck & game day on Sunday, February 6th after Worship Service. It will depend on the Covid-19 data at the end of January and if safe to gather.</p>				<p>5 Montrose Fire Dept. Annual Dinner (MCC) See Steve Hayes for Tix</p>

BIRTHDAYS!

1st-Robin Mrozek
 3rd-Cheryl Goode
 3rd-Heather Parks
 4th-Ricki Malerich
 8th-Jean Kuhn
 8th-Tracy Johnson
 8th-Kelly Prestidge
 11th-Kelly Rux

12th-Rowan Sanchez
 18th-Pam Johnson
 18th-Ryley Ashbaugh
 22nd-Ronda Spreeman
 29th-Kirk Lomker
 31st-Kari Larson

ANNIVERSARIES!

12th-Kim & Mike Wagner

Coffee & Fellowship has resumed on Sundays prior to worship service at 9:30 am! See the sign-up sheet if you'd like to provide hospitality treats. Donations now go towards our "Building Maintenance Fund". Thank You to those that have provided treats The past four months!



MONTROSE UMC, 230 Center Avenue So., Montrose, MN 55363, 763-675-3571
 Email: montroseumc@hotmail.com Website: www.montroseumc.com
 Facebook.com/Montrose United Methodist Church Pastor's Cell 320.455.7314

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

Happy New Year 2022

www.montroseumc.com
Facebook.com/Montrose United Methodist Church



Montrose United Methodist Church



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

**UPCOMING FOOD
DISTRIBUTIONS:
January 25th
February 22nd**

Starting at 3:00 pm

**This will be a drive thru event at the
Montrose Community Center**

**Volunteers are needed & welcome starting at
12:00 pm to pack food boxes!**

FE+ED will have drive-thru food distributions every
4th Tuesday of the month! Pre-packed boxes/bags of dairy,
produce and food items will be distributed starting at
3 pm until gone at the Community Center parking lot.

Go to the FEED website for more information:

www.fe-ed.org



*We invite you
to join us on
Sunday Mornings!*

*Sunday School 9:30 am
Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am*

*Watch our Worship Service Live on
Facebook or anytime at our website!*

Reverend Paul Baker, Pastor