


# Montrose Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church

2023 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*

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## Pastor's Column



"Be glad in the Lord always!  
Again I say, be glad"  
- Philippians 4:4

We prepared for Christ's coming this advent season. We reflected on the life of John the Baptist and how he prepared the way for Christ's coming, and likewise we prepared ourselves for Christ's coming. We reflected on how we should remain faithful, repent of our sins, and study God's word. Christmas day we celebrated Jesus' birth in a manger! Now that Christ is here, and God is with us here on Earth: what do we do? As Christians, how do we live a Christian life?

That's a question a lot of pastors get asked, and there are many answers to that question. But I think the toughest answer to ever give is simply have fun with God. What does it mean to have fun with God? Christianity is so structured in the way that we remain faithful to the divine through study, reflection, and devotion. Being a Christian means that we have to work hard on sharing love with others through the difficult work of ministry. What about the idea of a lighthearted relationship with God? Is it possible for us to daily live a life not necessarily being dark and brooding, but instead playful and have fun with God?

We'll be focusing on this question in our new sermon series: Have Fun with God. I think that as we're thinking about the next year, there's already too many stresses in our lives. We have to start working on our taxes, catch up on any unfinished projects we put on the backburner during the holidays, and even try to lose some of those extra pounds we put on after eating so many Christmas cookies. Living a faithful life doesn't have to always be work! Just like any relationship, it can be hard work, but there are some fun times too!



We can share God's light with others by just being the wonderful people God created us to be!

We don't always have to read scripture to grow closer to God. Instead we can invite God on a hike in the woods. We can invite God to read a good book by the fire. We can invite God to have coffee and a scone.



So please join us this January as we discuss what it means to Have Fun with God!

Blessings!  
Pastor Mark

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



## LEADERSHIP RETREAT & POTLUCK

Join us on  
Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>  
10 am to 2 pm

This will be a time of worship and reflection as we gather together as a community and plan for the future at Montrose UMC. We'll also host a potluck, so please remember to sign up to bring your favorite dish to share with others. It'll be a wonderful time of community and spiritual growth for anyone who is interested. All are welcome to join our Leadership Retreat!

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 -

## January Worship Theme

"HAVING FUN WITH GOD!"

**Sunday, January 1, 2023**

**New Year's Day**

**~ Epiphany Sunday ~**

Guest Speakers: Tod & Sherry Oval

Scripture: II Corinthians 5:17

**Sunday, January 8, 2023**

**~ Baptism of the Lord Sunday ~  
Communion Sunday**

Communion Steward: Christie Illies

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

**Sunday, January 15, 2023**

**Special Giving Sunday**

**~ Human Relations Day ~**

"Scripture: Proverbs 17:22

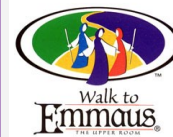
**Sunday, January 22, 2023**

Scripture: II Samuel 6:16, 20-22

**Sunday, January 29, 2023**

Scripture: Psalm 149:1-3

## WALK TO EMMAUS RETREATS



*While they were talking  
and discussing, Jesus him-  
self 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, worshipping, 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.

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

**MEN'S WALK -**

**FEBRUARY 16th - 19th, 2023**

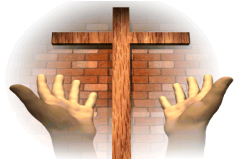
**WOMEN'S WALK -**

**FEBRUARY 23rd - 26th, 2023**

Retreats are being held at:

Lakeview Methodist Health Care Center,  
610 Summit Dr., Fairmont, MN 56031






## PRAYER PAGE

### *Grieving with Families*

† **The Lee Carver Family.** Lee passed away December 2 at the age of 82.

† **The George Musser Family.** George went missing Christmas Eve night in Stillwater and was found deceased on Christmas day in nearby Bayport.

### *Lifting in Our Prayers...*

 **Continued prayers for the county and people of Ukraine,** attacked almost one-year ago (Feb. 2022).



**Ed Smith, Betty Danford's brother in Idaho,** placed on hospice care.

**Mike & Kim Wagner,** having to put their cat Dessa down and facing decision on two more senior cats with declining health.

**Allan Malerich,** having surgery December 28th instead of January. *UPDATE:* Surgery went very well and Allan is home recovering. He faces a long recovery and continued check-ups for water on the brain.

**Kennedy, a friend of Belle Johnson's,** admitted to Children's Hospital with pneumonia and kidney failure.

**Those that have lost a loved one this year.**

**Sheri Baird, Kim Wagner's sister,** facing health issues and undergoing many tests.

**Amy, Jacque Vanderlinde's niece,** diagnosed with breast cancer.

**For those impacted by the extreme weather;** tornadoes in the south, blizzards in the Midwest, hundreds of thousands without power for weeks in the cold temps.

**Patty M., a co-worker of Mike & Kim Wagner's,** her daughter Abby going through some hard times right now.

**Victims (four) of two separate serious car accidents 12/23/22,** one in Buffalo, one in Waverly, all with life-threatening injuries and Lifeline helicopters unable to fly due to weather.

**Our US Troops,** away from their families all year and this Christmas season.

**Our Law Enforcement, EMT's, Firemen & Women,** all working this holiday to keep us safe and respond to emergency calls.

### *Blessings and Celebrations*

**Russ, Pam & Belle Johnson adopted two new kittens,** Buck (Russ's and Finn (Belle's)!

**Gordon Herrig, friend of Tod & Sherry Ovall's,** his health improving after taking potassium, now able to resume chemotherapy.

**Julianne Spreeman, giving birth to a baby boy,** Linkin Gabriel, December 27th!



*All those who celebrated Birthdays & Anniversaries in December!*

## FE-ED Update



### *We had a bountiful food drop in December!*

Thank you to Kim Wagner for producing the fliers with upcoming 2023 food drop dates and a squash recipe that was included in each box. We had 1000# of assorted squash this month. Volunteers helped bag frozen food at Grace Place before the drop which helped immensely. Connie Nelson's beautiful ornaments were given to volunteers and breakfast sandwiches were available from Caribou with some snacks.

Palabra Viva brought some fliers over for their Covid Vaccine Clinic when we began to give out food. \$50 gift cards were given to each individual who received a booster for Omicron/ Covid at the MUMC during the drop. This made traffic control and access confusing resulting in a few upset clients who were directed to the parking lot for safety concerns and did not retain their place in line. The line for the food drop extending a long way on highway 12 causing safety concerns. No accidents were reported. MN Department of Health vaccinated 25 people for Covid and they all got their free \$50 reward cards!

### *OUR FE-ED VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEST!*

#### **December Statistics:**

- 10,332 pounds of food from SHH.
- 1,840 pounds of food from the Buffalo Food Shelf.
- 17 boxes of bread from the Waverly Food Shelf.
- Our milk order was reduced because of supply issues.
- Families served 154
- Individuals served 468
- Veterans served 32
- First time visitors 11
- Communities served 14



**The next food drop is Tuesday, January 24th**

*Respectfully submitted by Pam Johnson, Secretary*

#### **Four Ways to Share Your Generosity in 2023!**

##### **Generosity with Your Time**

The gift of time is invaluable and speaks volumes to those we extend it to. When we place our busy schedules aside and seek to serve others with our presence, it shows our true compassion and extends an open heart to those that need it. Take time to listen, offer a hug, meet for coffee, or just sit and be present with one that is lost, lonely or hurting. It will be a gift that will bless you both.

##### **Generosity with Your Random Acts of Kindness**

When we offer random acts of kindness, we are never really sure who we touch or bless, but in doing so, it's bound to bring about joy. Share a smile with a stranger, offer to bring in groceries for a neighbor, help at a local ministry or mission, and be filled with God's love for you in return.

##### **Generosity with Your Gifts and Talents**

God has so graciously given us special gifts and talents to share with others to show Who He is. Tap into those gifts and see how you can use them to bless others. Some people are natural gift-givers like my sister, who knows exactly what a person needs to be blessed with, while others have more of a talent to share. Ask God to reveal ways you can use your gifts and talents to share with those in need.

##### **Generosity with Your Finances**

While this is the obvious one, it can also be the most difficult one to do. Christians often struggle with the terms tithe and offering. Yet, by giving our tithes and offerings, we are submitting our financial earnings to the Lord, recognizing He is the One who provides us with all things.

### January order dates will be Monday the 9th & 23rd.

If you've listened to me at all the past few years, you know how much I LOVE the idea of doing my everyday shopping or other activities while earning money for the church - I mean seriously, it just doesn't get any better than that, but wait: IT HAS!!

#### Now McDonald's Gift Cards are available!



A very special little boy (ok not so little - he's 21!) absolutely loves McDonald's. So now we can support the church whenever we go to either one of his favorite spots (Casey's is his other one)! I am just jumping for joy at this.

It's the simple things in life that brings us the most joy isn't it. And it really couldn't get any simpler! You get gift cards for the things you're going to spend money on anyway like groceries, gas, and "treats" (like going out to eat) and the church gets a % of that without you having to do anything more.

And let's talk Apportionments folks! It's a new year, our Apportionments for 2023 are \$10,105. Say our church has 100 members - that's roughly \$101 per member. That's less than \$10 per month (\$3 a week) - you could easily earn that much and more just by shopping and designating a portion of the rebates you earn on your gift card purchases go towards Apportionments. SO SIMPLE! Now you're starting to see why I LOVE THIS PROGRAM SO MUCH! If you have any questions regarding the RaiseRight program, how to designate part of your earnings to any part of the church you feel passionate about (parking lot, building fund, choir/bells, etc.), or just want to purchase a gift card from any of the retailers we have on-hand (Casey's Cub, Holiday, Kwik Trip, Target, Walmart - all in \$25 denominations), just reach out to me. You can text anytime (763) 442-4876 or catch-up with me at church. 😊

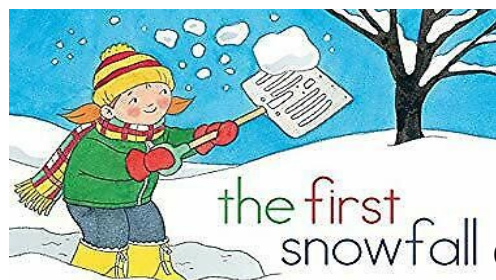
Happy New Year & Happy Earnings Everyone!

God Bless, Angie

**NOTE:** I will have our Total Rebates Earned for 2022 in the February Newsletter so everything we've earned these last few days of the year will be accounted for.

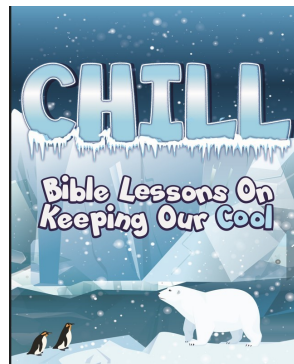
#### **FEE INCREASE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 9, 2023**

The transaction fee for orders placed using your bank account will increase from \$0.15 to \$0.29 per order so we can enhance our gift card catalog and develop new features to grow your earnings. We have not increased fees since 2011 and remain committed to keeping our fees as low as possible. The change will be reflected in the mobile app and on [RaiseRight.com](https://www.raise-right.com) during checkout when selecting bank account as your payment option.



## Sunday School News!

Happy New Year!



The Sunday School class kicks-off January 2023 with an Arctic-themed lesson on keeping your cool!

Oh Boy! I think we could all use this unit from time to time. When things heat up, it can be hard to keep our cool.

But God calls us to show love, be slow in anger, and be kind to others. With His help, we can stay as cool as an arctic wind, no matter what we face. I'm super excited to see what this unit has in store for us.

God calls us to be stewards, but we can't do that very well if we're hot under the collar.

We look forward to seeing everyone when Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 8th at 9:30 am!

Angie Ferrell  
Christian Education Director  
(763) 442-4876



## Finance Committee Update

Happy New Year!

A quick update from finance team. First, thank you for your giving in 2022. Finance statements will be distributed in the next couple of weeks. With the February newsletter I will have a better update on where we were with our final giving on apportionments and other fun facts for 2022 giving.

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

Kelly Rux, Financial Secretary  
(952) 221-8659

## Want to Share Your Time & Talents!

If you want to give some of your Time and use your Talents, consider joining one of the committees or groups at MUMC!

Where is your passion in leadership, or areas you feel your voice and ideas can make a difference?

SPRC (Staff, Pastor Relations Committee), Church Council, Trustees, Youth Group, UMW Hannah Circle, Chancel Choir, Hand Bell Choir, FE-ED (Monthly Food Drops), Missions, Community Outreach?

Feel free to talk to Pastor Mark Schlasner or better yet, Join us on Saturday, January 14th from 10 am - 2 pm to learn more about the opportunities and future vision For Montrose United Methodist Church!





**FE-ED FOOD DROP**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 24th 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
<b>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> <b>EPIPHANY SUNDAY</b> <b>**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:30 am Fellowship New Year's Day Breakfast (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) <b>**NO CONFIRMATION CLASS</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)	<b>3</b> 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>4</b> 7 pm Palabra Office Hour (O) 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (C) 7-8 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>9:30 am Decoration take-down (S/F)</b> 5-9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C)
<b>8 BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY</b> 9:30 am Sunday School (C)  9:30 Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 7 pm Confirmation Class (Y)	<b>9 RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY!</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)	<b>10</b> 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>11</b> 7 pm Palabra Office Hour (O) 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm 4H Club (C) 7-8 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>10 am - 2 pm MUMC Leadership Retreat</b> 5-9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C)
<b>15 HUMAN RELATIONS SPECIAL GIVING SUNDAY</b> 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service 7 pm Confirmation Class (Y)	<b>16</b>  <b>NO BOY SCOUTS MTG.</b> 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)	<b>17</b> 12 pm FE-ED Meeting (GP) <b>NO BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL</b>	<b>18</b> 7 pm Palabra Office Hour (O) <b>NO CHOIR REHEARSAL</b> 7:15 pm Church Council (L)	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (C) 7-8 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5-9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C)
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 7 pm Confirmation Class (Y)	<b>23 RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY!</b> 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S)	<b>24</b> 12:30 pm - 2 pm FEED Set-up (MCC) 3 pm FEED Distro (MCC) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>25</b> 7 pm Palabra Office Hour (O) 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>26</b> 7-8 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5-9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C)
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 7 pm Confirmation Class (Y)	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Practice (S)	<b>31</b> 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>1 FEB</b> 7 pm Palabra Office Hour (O) 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (C) 7-8 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S)	<b>3</b>	<b>4 Montrose Fire Dept. Annual Prime Rib/Shrimp Dinner (MCC)</b> 5-9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C)

<b>BIRTHDAYS!</b> 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 29th-Kirk Lomker 31st-Kari Larson	<b>ANNIVERSARIES!</b> 12th-Kim & Mike Wagner
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 Facebook.com/Montrose United Methodist Church Pastor Mark's Cell (763) 656-3490



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**Happy New Year 2023**

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 24th**  
**February 28th**  
**March 29th**

**Starting at 3:00 pm**  
**Drive-thru event at the**  
**Montrose Community Center**

**Volunteers are needed & welcome starting at**  
**12:30 pm to help 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 FE-ED website for more information:

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



*We hope to see  
you at  
C H R C H  
on Sunday Mornings  
In 2023!*

*(The Only thing missing is "U")*

*Sunday School 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!*

*Reverend Mark Schlasner, Pastor*

