Montrose Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church

2024 January Volume 1



Pastor's Column

There is no "Pastor's Column" for January! Pastor Mark will be with us Sunday, Jan. 7th, then on Paternity leave January 9th through February 21st.

Pastor Mark & Amy celebrate Ian's 1st Christmas!



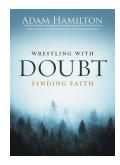


Coffee & Conversation with Pastor Mark will be on "PAUSE" during his paternity leave, and resume in March 2024!

Reverend Paul Baker, Pastor, will be our Guest Speaker on Sundays beginning Jan. 14th through Feb. 18th while Pastor Mark is on Paternity Leave.



Here is Pastor Paul's Sermon Series for his 6-weeks with us!



Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God.

In Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith, best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton, discusses some of our most significant sources of doubt and shows how a steady trust in God can emerge from them. We will delve into questions like:

"Does God exist? How can I know?" "Is the Bible true?" "Why do prayers go unanswered?"

Hamilton approaches these sources of doubt with honesty and insight, drawing on the rich wisdom of the Bible, Christian tradition, and his experience walking with thousands of people on their spiritual journey. Whether you're a longtime Christian or someone brand new to faith, this book will lead you to a trust in God that is unafraid of hard questions. Wrestle with doubt and find faith—belief and trust, not certainty; mystery rather than simple answers.

We hope you'll join us for this sixweek sermon series.

January Worship Theme

Sunday, January 7, 2024

~ Epiphany Sunday ~

~ Baptism of the Lord Sunday ~

Communion Sunday

Rev. Mark Schlasner, Pastor

Communion Steward: Christie Illies

Sunday, January 14, 2024

~ 2nd Sunday After Epiphany ~
Communion Sunday
Rev. Paul Baker, Pastor
Message: "Is There a God?"
Scripture: John 1:43-51
And Psalm 8:3-4

Sunday, January 21, 2024

~ 3rd Sunday After Epiphany ~
Special Giving Sunday
"Human Relations Day"
Rev. Paul Baker, Pastor
Message: "The Good Book?
Wrestling with the Bible."
Scripture: Psalm 119:105
And Il Timothy 3:16-17

Sunday, January 28, 2024

~ 4th Sunday After Epiphany ~
Rev. Paul Baker, Pastor

Message: "Are All Non-Christians
Going To Hell?"

Scripture: I Timothy 2:3-6a



Bishop Lanette Plambeck asks us to Renew our covenant with God As you say "Goodbye" to 2023 and "Hello" to 2024.

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with
whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth.

let it be ratified in heaven. Amen



PRAYER PAGE

Grieving with Families

† The Lavine Family, friends of Diane Folkestad. The mom, age 94, lost her only son to a heart attack. Her surviving daughter is 70.



† The Joe Scholl Family. Joe, a good friend of Jane Gessinger's dad Duane Brunkow, passed away Dec. 4th at 83 years-old.

† The Barb Johnson Family. Barb, a longtime friend of Pam Johnson's from Girl Scouts, passed away after a 3-year battle with cancer and in hospice for 9 months.

† The Julie Hovel Family. Julie, a family friend and hunting partnered of Russ Johnson's, passed away Dec. 2nd at 52 years-old.

Our Friends at Home

Living at Home -Gloria Adickes John Hylland



Lifting in Our Prayers...



Continued prayers for Ukraine, at war almost two years now (Feb. 2022) and neighboring countries impacted.





Continued prayers for Israel and the people of Gaza at war since Oct. 7th, as the war intensifies. So many innocent people and hostages killed, some released.

Russ Johnson, hospitalized Thanksgiving night for 5 days for extreme pancreatic pain.

Bill & Sandy, friends of Linda Marquette. Bill is having a third brain surgery Dec. 4th for a brain tumor and removal of dead tissue. *UPDATE:* Bill is in rehabilitation, but his left side still very weak. **Mike Wagner,** still fighting a lung virus 2 months now. Good news, he hasn't smoked for 8 weeks now!

Friend of Sherry Ovall's, suffering with a severe case of shingles despite being vaccinated.

Jessica Tousignant, following a surgery, Jess was transported by ambulance to Mayo Clinic and hospitalized in ICU after complications from that surgery. She had a second surgery there and the source of her cancer discovered in her fallopian tubes.

Norm Jerde, battling multiple health issues and not doing well. Kathy Jerde asks for continuous prayers for Norm.

Kim & Mike Wagner, their cat Mr. Duke, age 10, died unexpectedly Dec. 15th.

Amy Chaffins, having surgery Dec. 19th.

Alrik Becker, Galen Becker's grandson, taken by ambulance to Children's Hospital Dec. 16th for a ruptured appendix. Alrick had surgery and is recovering.

Angie Ferrell's dad, hospitalized Dec. 16th with kidney stones. Karen Duske, friend of Keith & Carol Prestidge, having medical issues.

Those having to travel on snow & ice covered roads. Those having surgery in the next few weeks.

Ricki Malerich, having pre-op appointment this week before her hip surgery in three weeks.

Blessings and Celebrations

Stephen Hayes, voted volunteer of the month (Nov.) by Grace Place! Well done good and faithful servant!



Blessings and Celebrations - continued

Carol Hoppe & Galen Becker, Married Sat., Dec. 3rd! Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Becker! Isabella "Belle" Johnson, passing her written driving exam!

Mildred Klarstrom, playing the organ again! A duet on Dec. 10th with Jacque, and at Christmas Eve candlelight service with her daughter Amanda Larson! Ricki Malerich's brother, celebrating his 75th Birthday! Alyssa Prestidge, volunteering at the December Free Community Meal with The Grinch!

Kelsey, Jack & Hazel Marquette, traveling to Milwaukee to visit family for Christmas!





MUMC Youth Group, (Alyssa Prestidge & Isabella Johnson) making Christmas cookies & ornaments then delivering them to our shutins, Gloria Adickes and John & Sue Hylland!

Kaelob Preston, Isabella Johnson's friend, shoveling the church sidewalks before service today! (Recently hired for this job.)



We celebrate all the special birthdays in December!



We want to thank Don Danford for recognizing our military service men & women on Veteran's Day, presenting them with Recognition of Military Service Plaques.



We thank Gerry Smith, a great, longtime friend and neighbor of Don & Betty Danford, for making these beautiful, wood carved plaques for those among us that have served.

Paul Baker - US Coast Guard Galen Becker - US Navy Don Danford - US Navy Diane Folkestad - US Army Joel Folkestad - US Army Russ Johnson - US Air Guard James Kuhn - US Army Joe Prestidge - US Marine Corp Luke Prestidge - US Marine Corp Robert Prestidge - US Army

If you would like to send a thank you note to Gerry, here is his address: Gerry Smith PO Box 269, Howard Lake, MN 55349

Sunday School News!



Happy New Year 2024!

Sunday School resumes Sunday, Jan. 7th at 9:30 am! We're kicking off the new year with the curriculum, "The Fruit of the Spirit" by Children's Ministry. This 9-week lesson will take us through March 3rd, then we'll start the curriculum "Jelly Beans" March 10th through March 31st for Lenten Season and Easter.

The fruit of the spirit is food for our hearts that helps us love like Jesus. Our memory verse is *Galatians 5:22-23*.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this.

The kids will enjoy games, making snacks, crafts and more! We look forward to seeing everyone January 7th!

All kids K - 6 welcome!

Angie Ferrell Christian Education Director (763) 442-4876



NEW ORDER DAYS EFFECTVE JANUARY 2024 <u>NOW ON FRIDAYS!</u>

January order dates are the 5th and 19th

So, how many gift cards did you receive as Christmas gifts? And were those gift cards purchased through RAISERIGHT, with the rebates benefitting the church? The church earned \$2,500 in rebates this year, a huge help considering all the expenses we've incurred in 2023!

Still don't have the FREE **RAISERIGHT** app? It's so easy! ASK FOR HELP TO INSTALL AND LEARN HOW! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Remember, we always have Cub Foods, Target, Walmart, Casey's, KwikTrip and Holiday Gas gift 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!

Happy New Year & Happy Earnings Everyone!

God Bless, Angie

CHOUR

JANUARY 2024

Sunday, Jan. 7th 6 pm - 7 pm Youth will have their second *AL-PHA Lesson*, enjoy sloppy joes & chips, and help make plans for upcoming "FUN & MISSION" days!

Saturday, Jan. 20th, 10 am to 1 pm - MISSION PROJECT Youth will meet at the church at 9:45 am then go to the Waverly Food Shelf to help pack emergency food boxes. Lunch will be included.

Thank you Isabella Johnson and Kaelob Preston for your ideas on updating the Youth Room. Blue paint and a white erase board on the list! Maybe that's a February project, painting!

BRING YOUR IDEAS OF WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO FOR IN FEBRUARY, MARCH, ETC. COSMIC BOWLING? SNOW TUBING? FMSC?

Your Youth Group Leaders: Pastor Mark Schlasner, Angie Ferrell & Kim Wagner

UWF HANNAH CIRCLE



First, the Candy, Cookie & Craft Sale results! The total amount raised was just under \$600. Thank you to all who donated and purchased items for the sale. The proceeds from the sale are

going towards the cost of the furnace replacement on the old side of church building, \$15,340.

Join Us Sunday, Jan. 28th at 9:30 am for a FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST!

Hannah Circle is co-sponsoring this fundraiser with Josh Illies. Josh is taking part in a Mission Project for SDSU during his spring break this year. All proceeds will benefit this mission project. Josh will provide more details during announcements on Sunday., Jan. 7th and be providing support at the breakfast. He can answer any questions you have about the project.

(Please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for food & beverage items needed to support this fundraiser.)

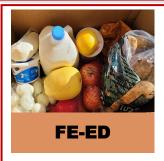
The UWF Hannah Circle invites you to join us on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Library. We start each session with a devotional program, then move into our monthly business meeting.

We try to keep the meetings to 1-hour.

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

Our next Hannah Circle meeting is Thursday, Jan. 18th at 7 pm

FE-ED Update



FE-ED Food Drop Report For December 26, 2023

"T'was the day after Christmas, a food drop was held, lots of produce and volunteers together did meld!"

December's food drop was smaller because we anticipated fewer people and ordered less food. We were very close to right on target.

Being able to take advantage of Second Harvest Heartland's receipt of a grant they were awarded means we do not have to pay for several months of the standard produce we receive. This stretches our money allowing us to serve more people and buy more items.

A donation of \$1 to Second Harvest Heartland currently provides 6 meals!

We did not have our Phoenix students this month as they were on Christmas vacation, but our volunteers were awesome and truly in the Christmas spirit as they sorted, packed, and distributed the food. We had Christmas music playing added to the holiday mood! We were finished early with no cars waiting.

We are looking forward to 2024 and another year of helping FE-ED our neighbors!

We had 27 volunteers for a total of 94.75 hours this drop! OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEST!



December Statistics:

- 4,893 pounds of food from SHH.
- 2,300 pounds of food from the Buffalo Food Shelf
- Families served 150
- Individuals served 445
- Veterans served 35
- First time visitors 6
- Communities served 19



The next food drop is Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Respectfully submitted by Pam Johnson, Secretary

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



If you would like to donate to FE-ED simply scan the QR Code with your phone or place your check, made out to FE-ED, in the MUMC offering plate.

Four Ways to Share Your Generosity in 2024!

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.

MONTROSE COMMUNITY DINNER



MONTROSE COMMUNITY CENTER 200 Center Ave S Dinner, Crafts & Bingo

Dinner: Scalloped Potatoes & Ham w/Green Beans Dessert: French Silk Pie

> January 18th, 2024 5:00pm-6:30pm

Meals sponsored by *Grace Place Collaborative* and local family donations

WE WILL ALSO HAVE CASH BINGO FROM 6:00PM-8:00PM \$1.00 Single Card or \$2.00 for 3 Cards



Bingo is in partnership with the Montrose VFW

Proceeds from Bingo will go towards the VFW and Grace Place The crafts & meal are a free gift to build community & help neighbors

Board of Trustees UPDATE

Goodbye Hello ²⁰²⁴ What a year it has been! From start to finish, 2023 has been quite a year for the BOT! From major elevator and electrical repairs in the elevator pit; to our sprinkler dry-system air leaks and water pipe breaks; then capping off the year needing a new furnace for the old side of the church building!

It's ironic that at almost every Church Council meeting as we discuss trustee's projects and building needs - Kelly Rux always reminds us, "We need to keep our reserves in case the furnace goes out, God forbid." And about now you're humming Alanis Morissette's song "IRONIC"! Be assured you have a great finance team watching over the budget, expenses and any expenditures. They are a blessing!

An update to our November 1st water pipe break. We are still waiting for the final estimate for repairs by Lindstrom Restoration. Insurance will cover some - but not everything. To date the insurance company has paid \$44,606.70 towards our claim. Costs will exceed this amount! The next step is getting the sanctuary and lower-level rooms back to pre-flood condition. Affected areas will be painted, carpets cleaned, reconstruction of ceilings/walls, ceiling tile replacement, etc. There is much work to be done in advance of repairs. The large meeting space has been cleaned out to temporarily accommodate our groups that meet at the church and the Sunday school class. This room, along with the art room, nursery, SS closet, copier area, etc. will need to be emptied out once repairs begin. We hope repairs begin in February once the estimate is signed-off on. We need to weigh the cost of repairs vs. what insurance covers and decide if there's things the Trustees can do to reduce our costs, yet not overwhelm ourselves. Our immediate task is to sort through everything and determine what's salvageable, wash and clean things off, then move everything prior to start of repairs.

The Trustees are looking for 3-4 volunteers between now and February 1st to help with sorting and cleaning, possibly 1-2 hours a couple of weekdays after 4 pm or a Saturday morning. If you are interested in helping please let Kim Wagner know your availability.

The Trustees will use Ken Segler again for our snow plowing needs. Good news... we had already spent close to \$1,000 by this time last year for snow removal! In addition to plowing, we've just hired Kaelob Preston, a friend of Isabella Johnson's, to do the shoveling at the church this winter. He lives close by and attends BHS. You've seen him at church already and volunteering with Belle at the Free Community Meals!

We want to thank Angie Ferrell and Kim Wagner for giving the church a more festive holiday look this Christmas! Angie purchased LED battery-lit candles for the windows in the sanctuary and fellowship hall, lit garland for the front lamp post and a large porch pot for the space next to the marquee sign. Kim purchased solar Christmas lights for the front railings, however the SUN is needed to power the solar lights!

The two NEW furnaces have already been installed by Dok's Heating and Air Conditioning! One heats the fellowship area and the other one heats the youth room, lunchroom and kitchen. They are quieter, more efficient and we can already feel the heat! We are very grateful that Matt Dokkebakken was able to get this done over the holiday, and just before the colder temperatures arrived!

Your Board of Trustees Wish Everyone a Happy & Blessed 2024!

Finance Committee Update

2024

Welcome to 2024!

A few quick items from the finance team. First, thank you for your support in 2023. We've had a challenging year with so many building projects and unex-

pected repairs. Sadly this has drained a lot of our savings. Our goal is to build this back up in 2024.

Effective immediately, our Hospitality Treat donations will go back to the Building Fund. We want to thank those of you that have provided hospitality treats on Sunday mornings. See the sign-up sheet for 2024 in the Fellowship Hall!

Thank you to those of you that supported our *Advent Giving Campaign* to help support our obligation to our Conference Apportionments and replenish funds to our building repairs. Your support is very much appreciated.

I will be preparing the 2023 Giving Statements and sending them out shortly. If you do not receive yours in the next 3 weeks, please let me know.



Income Expenses 2024 BUDGET \$ 99,800 \$108,100 2023 BUDGET \$ 109,400 \$ 100,600 +/- % - 10% + 8%

A LOOK BUDGET A year-end 2023 summary will be provided In the February 2024 newsletter. At the end of July 2023 the church was at 95% to budget on Income and 107% of Expenses.

Expenses are already well beyond the budget due to building repairs & improvements.

If you're not able to make it to Sunday service you can mail a check to the church (at PO Box 13) or we do have our PayPal account, which makes it easy for safe, online giving.



As always, any questions can be directed my way.

Kelly Rux, Financial Secretary (952) 221--8659



Church Council Update



The Church Council met on Wed., November 18, 2023 and voted to approve a 5% salary increase for Pastor Mark for 2024.

On Sun., December 10, 2023 the council met and voted to approve the 2024 budget. At that meeting it was decided not to have our regularly scheduled December meeting due to the busy holiday season.

NOTE: There will be no Annual Church Conference meeting to approve budgets, reports, etc. as it is no longer a requirement of the Minnesota conference. A packet with the usual required forms will be available the end of January 2024 upon request to Kim Wagner.





FE-ED FOOD DROP

Tuesday, Jan. 23rd - 3 pm until gone Montrose Community Center

Drive-thru pick-up on a first comefirst serve basis while quantities last. ALL ARE WELCOME!

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) | 1 New: *Years *Day** | 2 NO BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL | 3 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S) | 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (K) 7-8 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S) | 5 <u>NEW</u> RAISE RIGHT ORDER DAY | 6 6:30 pm BINGO (KC Hall WAV) 5-9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C) |
| 7 EPIPHANY & BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 6 pm Youth Group (Y) | 8 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S) | 9 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S) | 10 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S) | 6:30 pm 4H Club (C) 7-8 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S) | 12 | 9:30 am DECORATION TAKE-DOWN (S/F) 5-9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C) |
| 14 HUMAN RELATIONS SPECIAL GIVING SUNDAY 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) | NO BOY SCOUT MTG. 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S) | 16 12 pm FE-ED Meeting (GP) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S) | 17 NO CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:15 pm Church Council (L) | 18 5 - 6:30 pm FREE Comm. Meal (MCC) 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (K) 7 pm Hannah Circle (C) 7 - 8 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S) | 19 NEW RAISE RIGHT ORDER DAY | 20 10 am - 1 pm YOUTH Mission Project (OFF) 5-9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C) |
| 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) | 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Rehearsal (S) | 23 12 - 2 pm FEED Set-up (MCC) 3 pm FEED Distro (MCC) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S) | 24 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S) | 25 7-8 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S) | 26 | 27 5-9 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 8-10 pm AA Mtg. (C) |
| 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 Fundraiser Breakfast Mission Project (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) | 29 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7 pm Palabra Viva Practice (S) | 30 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S) | 31 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S) | Pastor Mark is on Paternity Leave Tue., Jan. 9th through Tue., Feb. 21st. Pastor Paul Baker will be our Guest Speaker for these 6-weeks. | | |
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3rd-Cheryl Goode 3rd-Heather Parks 4th-Ricki Malerich 8th-Jean Kuhn 8th-Tracy Johnson 8th-Kelly Prestidge 11th-Kelly Rux 18th-Pam Johnson 18th-Ryley Ashbaugh 29th-Kirk Lomker 31st-Kari Larson

ANNIVERSARIES!

12th-Kim & Mike Wagner





MONTROSE United Methodist Church

PO Box 13, 230 Center Avenue So., Montrose, MN 55363, OFFICE (763) 675-3571

Email: montroseumc@hotmail.com Website: www.montroseumc.com
Facebook.com/Montrose United Methodist Church Pastor Mark's Cell (763) 656-3490

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



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 23rd
February 27th
March 26th

Starting at 3:00 pm

<u>Drive-thru</u> 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

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!

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