

Montrose Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church

January 2025 Volume 1



Lord,
As the New Year begins...
Give us JOY to fill our days,
Give us PEACE to fill our hearts,
Give us LOVE to fill our lives.

Pastor's Column



January marks a time of reflection and new beginnings. Many of us approach the year with resolutions and goals, hoping to bring about meaningful change in our lives. Amid this forward-looking energy, the words of Micah 6:6-8 offer a grounding perspective:

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

This passage challenges us to move beyond external displays of piety or achievement. Instead, it calls us to focus on the values that shape our daily lives—justice, mercy, and humility. These practices are not about dramatic gestures but about aligning our hearts and actions with God's desires.

I once heard the story of a woman who decided to set a New Year's resolution that wasn't about personal success but about living out her faith more fully. She started visiting a local nursing home each week, spending time listening to residents' stories, sharing prayers, and being a kind and warm presence. Over time, she realized that her simple acts of justice, mercy, and humility not only blessed others but transformed her own heart. Through small, consistent actions, she experienced a deeper connection with God and a richer understanding of His love.



This transformation reflects how God often works in our lives. It's not always through grand or miraculous events but through quiet, faithful steps that reveal His presence. When we choose to walk humbly with God, we begin to see God's hand in the everyday moments and recognize the sacred opportunities to share God's love with others.



As we embark on a new year, let Micah's words inspire us to live intentionally. Resolutions are fleeting, but a life rooted in justice, mercy, and humility creates lasting impact—in our hearts and in the world around us. May this year draw us closer to God and to the people God calls us to love.



With Love and Blessings,
Pastor Mark Schlasner

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



**Coffee & Conversation
with Pastor Mark
Will resume weekly starting
Tuesday, January 7th
at 10 am**

Serving Keurig Coffees, Tea,
Apple Cider, Hot Chocolate
& Muffins!



January Worship Theme

**"Walking Humbly into
a New Year"**

Sunday, January 5, 2025

~ Epiphany Sunday ~
Communion Sunday

Communion Steward: Christie Illies

Message: "Boy in the Temple"

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

Sunday, January 12, 2025

~ Baptism of the Lord Sunday ~

Message: "Jesus' Baptism"

Scripture: Luke 3:1-22

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Special Giving Sunday

~ Human Relations Day ~

Message: "Sermon at Nazareth"

Scripture: Luke 4:14-30

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Message: "Fish For the People"

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11



**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.

**January: Baby Items
"Open Your Heart Campaign"**

**Diapers
Baby wipes
Baby food
Baby lotion
Baby wash
Baby formula**

Thank you for your donations!
Tammy Prestidge
Food Shelf/Thrift Store Coordinator



PRAYER PAGE

*The Joys & Concerns
Lifted in December*

Grieving with Families

† **The Duane Brunkow Family.** Duane, Jane Gesinger's Dad, passed away Mon., Dec. 16th after a long battle with heart disease.

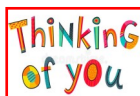
† **The Jeff Reynolds Family.** Jeff, a Dunn County, WI Corrections Officer, was killed in a traffic accident on Christmas Eve by a drunk driver.

† **The Maryann Mallak Family.** Maryann, Angie Ferrell's sister-in-law's Mother, passed away Dec. 28th.



Our Friends at Home....

Gloria Adickes
John Hylland



Lifting in Our Prayers...

Don Danford, home with pneumonia.

Willie Bauernschmitt, retired Montrose firefighter, home recovering from a mild stroke.

Pam Johnson, having a full knee replacement surgery Dec. 9th. *UPDATE:* Surgery went well and Pam is concentrating on her PT and recovery.

Arville Mortenson, friend of Carol Prestidge's, hospitalized after having his leg amputated early December.

Don Berg, friend of Carol Prestidge's, diagnosed with non-Hodgkins Lymphoma and will undergo chemo treatments for 3-4 months. *UPDATE 12/22:* Don was having an MRI to see if cancer cells have spread to his brain.

Kelly, Sandy Dmystryszyn's daughter, having surgery Dec. 13th.

Susan Patricia, a server at Eddie Mays, injured in a car accident Dec. 13th.

Gary, Meri Ault's brother, at home receiving hospice care.

Prayers for those traveling over the holidays.

Prayers for those facing the holidays with sadness, rather than joy.

Chad Larson, hospitalized Dec. 22nd with pancreatitis and bio ducts blocked with gallstones, MRSA and blood infection. *UPDATE:* After moving to a third hospital, the U of M, Chad finally had surgery Dec. 26th and is recovering at the hospital. May go home Dec. 31st.

Ricki Malerich, has tripped twice on curbs and is thankful no serious injuries.



Lifting in Our Prayers continued...

Those that have faced devastating tragedies this year; floods, hurricanes, wildfires, etc. losing everything.

Gary Elfstrand, of Annadale UMC, having chemo treatments for stage 4 liver cancer.

Faith Prestidge, broke her ankle Dec. 24th and is scheduled for surgery Jan. 3rd.

Don Danford, hospitalized with Covid.

Jackson Joseph Weidell, 18-month-old found unresponsive on Christmas day, died of suspected accidental drug overdose in St. Paul. (Both parents arrested.)

EG Autoworks in Waverly, destroyed by fire Christmas morning. Eric Gustafson, the owner, and brother Brian out of work now.

A go-fund-me page has been set-up:

Aid EG Auto: Fire Relief Fund

Former President Jimmy Carter, passed away Dec. 29th at 100 years-old.

Blessings & Celebrations

Herman Epple, celebrating his birthday for weeks with family and friends, his grandson Nate coming from Williston, ND to visit!

Laurie, Diane Folkestad's sister, recovering well after surgery and finally eating much better.

The Joy of seeing the Annual Holiday Train with family and grandkids!

Kelsey Marquette's brother and sister-in-law, expecting a baby next year!

Brianna Dockter & Kollin Knutson, got engaged Christmas day!

Prayers for safe travels for our snowbirds, leaving for warmer climates!



*We celebrate all the special
Birthdays & Anniversaries
in December!*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Sat., Feb. 1st 5:00 - 8:00 pm**
MONTROSE FIREFIGHTER'S RELIEF ASSOC. DINNER
Prime Rib or Shrimp at Comm. Ctr.
- **Thu., Feb. 20th 4:30 - 6:30 pm**
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL
Roasted Chicken, Potatoes, Salad, Carrots and Dessert at Comm. Ctr.



*A special note
of Thanks
from
Carol Becker*

Thank you to all who supported the Adopt-A-Family program this year. Because of your generosity a family with three children were able to have gifts under their tree for Christmas.

Every item that was listed on the children's list (and more special gifts) were delivered to the drop site on December 8th. Special thanks to those who donated grocery & gas cards totaling \$100.



**Sun., Jan. 19th
9:30 am - 10:20 am
Josh Illies 2025
Mission Trip**

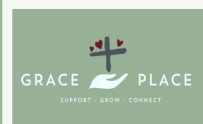
FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST

Hannah Circle will help sponsor a fundraiser breakfast for Josh Illies. There will be French Toast Bakes, Egg Bakes, Sausage, Muffins, Orange Juice, Milk & Coffee.

Josh is going on another mission trip with his church in Brookings, SD traveling to Tucson, AZ March 8th - 15th through **Praying Pelican Missions.**
www.ppm.org

Josh will be helping at the breakfast and can give more details about his mission trip then!

NOTE: We are looking for people to donate food items for the breakfast.
Sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.



**Saturday,
January 25th
1 pm - 3 pm**

**Volunteer Appreciation Event
Hosted by Grace Place**

Saying Thank You for all your hard work, dedication, and passion and celebrating the impact you've made in our community! **MUST RSVP BY JAN. 10**
To Kim Niska 612.599.2229

Community OUTREACH



The Community Outreach Committee will meet on
Tuesday, January 14th - 12 pm
in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you Meri Ault, Betty Danford & Diane Folkestad for signing-up.

- Pastor Mark

Sunday School News!

Happy New Year! The Sunday School class has a few more weeks of our **"Lights of Christmas"** unit, because we haven't had class due to other churchwide events going on and to celebrate the holidays!

As always, the kids have enjoyed their crafts, games, snacks and the puppet shows, which they're even helping with!!

We will start a new, fun curriculum next month which will be covered in the February newsletter!

Angie Ferrell - Christian Education Director
Call/Text: (763) 442-4876



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We will have a Youth Group New Year's Party on Sunday, January 19th at 11:45 am (after Worship Service) since the Christmas Party didn't work for everyone's schedules.

SAVE THE DATE NOW!

Sunday, January 19th ~ 11:45 am

(Josh Illies Fundraiser Breakfast is at 9:30 am)

Your Youth Group Committee is still working on some of the details so stay tuned for more information! Plan on Appetizers, Games, Fun, and to take a little time to discuss plans for 2025!

****Please RSVP to Angie by Thur., Jan. 16th****

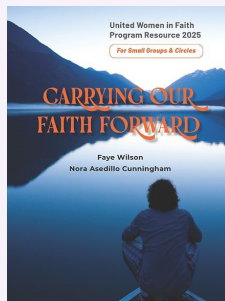
UWF Hannah Circle



United
Women
in Faith

The Hannah Circle invites you to join us the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Our next meeting is Monday, January 20th at 6:30 pm.



We'll start our January meeting with the new UWF Program book, **"Carrying Our Faith Forward"**, which explores intergenerational conversations and what it looks like to carry our faith forward in an expanding or new context. Compared to the path of water, our faith stories reflect a push and pull, peaks and waterfalls, and stagnant ponds and storms.

After our program, we move into the business and planning part of our meeting. As always, you are free to join us for the program, the business meeting, or both. We try to keep the meetings to one-hour. Our meetings are open to all women in the congregation. We would love for you to join us and see what we do!

A BIG THANK YOU to all who supported the **Annual Candy, Cookie, and Craft Sale** held December 15th! We had a great selection of goodies and beautiful crafts donated this year. The sale brought in more than \$750! These funds will be put towards the updated lighting project for the church sanctuary. Again, thank you!



SATURDAY, MAY 10TH
UWF HANNAH CIRCLE
MOTHER'S DAY EVENT!

Please contact us with any questions, comments or suggestions for the group at:
montrosemmumw@gmail.com

MATTRESS FUNDRAISER FOR BUFFALO HIGH SCHOOL BAND SUMMER TRIP 2025

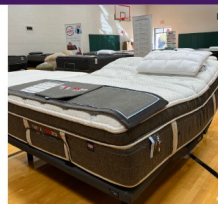
This is their largest fundraiser of the year and they need your support!

**DO YOU NEED A NEW
MATTRESS, OR DOES SOMEONE
YOU KNOW?**

Please see Isabella Johnson
or Hunter Reinhart
For more information.

BUFFALO HIGH SCHOOL BAND MATTRESS FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY JANUARY 18, 2025
10AM - 5PM @ BUFFALO HIGH SCHOOL



WE BRING THE SHOWROOM TO THE SCHOOL

Advent Season 2024



Pictured above: Isabella Johnson & Hunter Reinhart provide special music on December 22nd, playing "O Little Town of Bethlehem".

Pictured below: Women of the Chancel Choir (L-R: Angie Ferrell, Sherry Oval, Ricki Malerich, and Carol Becker sing, "Hark now, O Shepherds" Christmas Eve.



Pictured above: The Jubilant Ringers Hand Bell Choir plays introit "Silent Night" and postlude, "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" on Christmas Eve. (L-R Back Row: Kelsey Marquette, Linda Marquette. Middle Row: Kelly Rux, Sonya Tourville, Diane Mumford-Sohns. Front Row: Erin Heath, Judy Mumford-Torres. Bell Choir Director: Jacque Vanderlinde



Pictured left: Candle-light Service at Montrose UMC on Christmas Eve.

**Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year**

FE-ED Update



FE-ED

FE-ED Food Drop Report for December 17, 2024

December's food drop was one week early due to Christmas Eve falling on the 4th Tuesday. The time change did not impact the number of people served. We

actually had more communities served than ever before. Food insecurity is so hard during the holidays with schools being out and having extra guests.

The student volunteers from the Phoenix Learning Center were very much appreciated, especially with the cold weather! We had 31 volunteers at this drop totaling 100.5 hours of service.

WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our partner for pet food, *For The Love of Pets*, brought double the amount of pet food to distribute which was a great surprise! The Monticello Food Shelf provided pizza and cheese puffs to distribute.

December Statistics:

- 8,942 lbs. of food from Second Harvest Heartland (SHH)
- Families served 202
- Individuals served 569
- Veterans served 45
- First time visitors 4
- Communities served 29

Due to some confusion in reporting last month, these are corrected November Statistics for people served:

- Families served 200
- Individuals served 602
- Veterans served 45
- First time visitors 5
- Communities served 23

This year, 2024, the Tuesday FE-ED Food Distributions have distributed over 111,000 pounds of food, served 2,192 families and 6,549 individuals!

10

FE-ED will celebrate 10 years next summer 2025!

We have held at least one food distribution each month, even during the pandemic. Our deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported this effort to FEED our neighbors.

The next food drop is Tuesday, January 28th

Respectfully submitted by Pam Johnson, Secretary

Montrose UMC Giving Update



May - December 2024 GIVING:

The May 2024 Newsletter had a giving update for January through April. Here is the balance of the year, May through December.


<u>WEEK</u>	<u>GEN. FUND</u>	<u>BLDG. FUND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
May 5	\$ 2,714	\$ 584	\$ 3,298
May 12	\$ 1,710	\$ 420	\$ 2,130
May 19	INCL. IN MAY 26TH		
May 26	\$ 1,223	\$ 717	\$ 1,940
Jun 2	\$ 1,272	\$ 705	\$ 1,977
Jun 9	\$ 1,326	\$ 379	\$ 1,705
Jun 16	\$ 979	\$ 340	\$ 1,319
Jun 23	\$ 2,757	\$ 70	\$ 2,827
Jun 30	\$ 1,281	\$ 353	\$ 1,634
Jul 7	\$ 1,445	\$ 522	\$ 1,967
Jul 14	\$ 860	\$ 1,449	\$ 2,309
Jul 21	\$ 1,596	\$ 210	\$ 1,806
Jul 28	\$ 593	\$ 201	\$ 794
Aug 4	\$ 1,416	\$ 610	\$ 2,026
Aug 11	\$ 776	\$ 274	\$ 1,050
Aug 18	\$ 1,235	\$ 745	\$ 1,980
Aug 25	\$ 1,441	\$ 1,324	\$ 2,765
Sep 1	\$ 1,797	\$ 625	\$ 2,422
Sep 8	\$ 940	\$ 260	\$ 1,200
Sep 15	\$ 845	\$ 164	\$ 1,009
Sep 22	\$ 1,754	\$ 141	\$ 1,895
Sep 29	\$ 636	\$ 163	\$ 799
Oct 6	\$ 1,722	\$ 711	\$ 2,433
Oct 13	\$ 1,286	\$ 329	\$ 1,615
Oct 20	\$ 1,077	\$ 590	\$ 1,667
Oct 27	\$ 934	\$ 75	\$ 1,009
Nov 3	\$ 1,881	\$ 606	\$ 2,487
Nov 10	\$ 1,358	\$ 453	\$ 1,811
Nov 17	\$ 1,734	\$ 239	\$ 1,973
Nov 24	\$ 1,328	\$ 272	\$ 1,600
Dec 1	\$ 1,281	\$ 484	\$ 1,765
Dec 8	\$ 1,851	\$ 428	\$ 2,279
Dec 15	\$ 1,405	\$ 394	\$ 1,799
Dec 22	\$ 2,393	\$ 649	\$ 3,042
Dec 24**	\$ 1,200	\$ 900	\$ 2,100
Dec 29	\$ 1,777	\$ 1,083	\$ 2,860
TOTAL	\$49,823	\$17,469	\$67,292

****Christmas Eve giving**

May-Dec Giving Includes: \$5,518 towards Apportionments; \$827 towards Sunday School; \$6254 to Bldg. Fund through Hospitality Treats; \$70 towards Special Sunday Giving; \$4,400 rental income from Palabra Viva.



FE-ED FOOD DROP
Tues., Jan. 28th 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
Sunday, January 19th 9:30 am to 10:20 am Fundraiser Breakfast for Josh Illies March 2025 Mission Trip to Tucson, AZ			1 	2 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)	3 RAISE RIGHT ORDER DAY 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)	4 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship Service (S/F)
5 COMMUNION & EPIPHANY OF THE LORD SUNDAY 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)	6 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)	7 10 am Coffee & Conv. (F) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	8 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	9 6:30 pm 4H Club Franklin Friends (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)	10 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)	11 9:30 am Advent Decoration take down 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship Service (S/F)
12 BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)	13 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)	14 10 am Coffee & Conv. (F) 12 pm Outreach Comm. Mtg. (F) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	15 7 pm Choir Rehearsal <u>To Be Confirmed</u>	16 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)	17 RAISE RIGHT ORDER DAY 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)	18 10 am - 5 pm BHS MATTRESS SALE 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship Service (S/F)
19 9:30 am JOSH ILLIES FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST (F) **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 11:45 am YOUTH GROUP NEW YEAR'S PARTY (C)	20 MLK DAY NO BOY SCOUTS 6:30 pm Hannah Circle (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)	21 10 am Coffee & Conv. (F) 12 pm FE-ED Planning Mtg. (MUMC) NO BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL	22 7 pm Choir Rehearsal <u>To Be Confirmed</u>	23 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)	24 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)	25 1 pm - 3 pm VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER (GP) 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship Service (S/F)
26 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 11:45 am Church Council (C)	27 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)	28 10 am Coffee & Conv. (F) 12 pm - 1:30 pm FE-ED Set-up 3 pm FE-ED Distro (MCC) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	29 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	30 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)	31 RAISE RIGHT ORDER DAY 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)	FEB 1 5 pm - 8 pm MFD Prime Rib/Shrimp Dinner (MCC) 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship Service (S/F)



BIRTHDAYS!

3rd-Cheryl Goode
 3rd-Heather Parks
 4th-Ricki Malerich
 8th-Jean Kuhn
 8th-Tracy Johnson
 8th-Kelly Prestidge

11th-Kelly Rux
 13th-Sandy Dmystryszyn
 18th-Pam Johnson
 18th-Ryley Ashbaugh
 29th-Kirk Peterson-Lomker
 31st-Kari Larson

ANNIVERSARIES!

7th-Jean & Jim Kuhn
 12th-Kim & Mike Wagner



MONTROSE UMC, 230 Center Avenue So., PO Box 13, Montrose, MN 55363, 763-675-3571
 Email: montroseumc@hotmail.com Website: www.montroseumc.com
 Facebook.com/Montrose United Methodist Church Pastor Mark's Cell (763) 656-3490

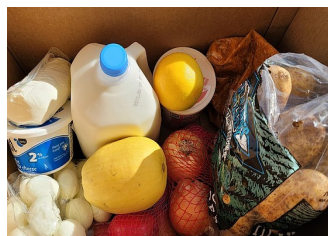
Montrose UMC
PO Box 13
230 Center Avenue So.
Montrose, Minnesota 55363

Happy New Year 2025

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



Montrose United Methodist Church



FE-ED

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

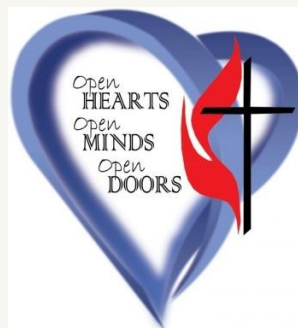
**NEXT FOOD
DISTRIBUTION:**

**Tuesday, January 28th
Starting at 3 pm ~ Drive thru Event
Montrose Community Center**

FE-ED is a partnership between Montrose United Methodist Church and Grace Place, with support from SHH (Second Harvest Heartland) and many others in our community.

**Volunteers are 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.
All are welcome!*

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

*Watch our Worship Service Live on
[Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)
Search Montrose United Methodist
Church (Minnesota)*

Reverend Mark Schlasner, Pastor