

Montrose Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church

2025 July Volume 7



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Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

- St. Francis of Assisi

Pastor Mark's Column



As we celebrate the Fourth of July—a holiday marked by fireworks, family gatherings, and reflections on liberty—it's also a fitting

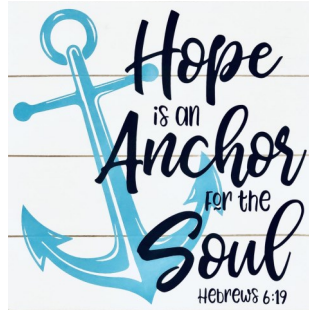
time to consider the deeper freedoms we cherish. True freedom isn't just about independence from external forces; it's about the hope that sustains us even in uncertain times. Like planting a tree in the middle of a storm, faith calls us to act with courage, trusting that brighter days lie ahead. This July, let's remember that the greatest freedoms—hope, renewal, and unshakable love—are gifts that no circumstance can take away.

The heart of true liberty lies in promises kept and justice fulfilled. It's found not just in laws written on paper but in truth written on our hearts, guiding us to live with compassion and integrity. As we enjoy the blessings of this nation, we're also reminded that the most enduring freedoms come from living in right relationship with God and one another. Whether in times of struggle or celebration, we can hold fast to the promise that love and righteousness will always prevail.



Freedom shines brightest when it's shared. Just as light pierces the darkness, acts of kindness, mercy, and justice illuminate the world around us. This season, let's reflect on how we can use our own freedoms to lift others up—offering hope to the weary, welcome to the outsider, and grace to those in need. True independence isn't just about personal liberty; it's about ensuring that others can experience it too.

As we gather this July, may we celebrate not only the freedoms we enjoy as a nation but the eternal hope that anchors our souls. Let's live with gratitude for the past, courage for the present, and unwavering trust in the future. Whether in times of peace or challenge, may we always remember that the greatest freedom of all is the love that never fails. Happy Fourth of July!



With love and blessings,
Pastor Mark Schlasner
Cell (763) 656-3490
Email: am.umc.pastor@gmail.com

July Worship Theme *"Reflections on Liberty"*

Sunday, July 6, 2025
COMMUNION SUNDAY
Communion Steward:

Christie Illies

Message: "Letter to the Exiles"

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:1,4-14

Sunday, July 13, 2025
Message: "Planting and Building"
Scripture: Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15

Sunday, July 20, 2025
Message: "Messiah and the New Covenant"
Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-18, and 31:31-34

Sunday, July 27, 2025
Message: "Greetings and First Vision"
Scripture: Revelation 1:4-8



FED

Feast, Enjoy, Discuss

We invite everyone to join us for a special summer outdoor worship series on the first Tuesday of the month with
Pastor Mark & Pastor Cathy

- **First meeting**
Tuesday, July 7th
Message: "Zaccheus"
- **Second meeting**
Tuesday, August 5th
Message: "Nicodemus"

In Lion's Park at 6 pm!
(Weather permitting)



Join Pastor Mark
on Tuesday mornings
At 10 am
in the Fellowship Hall
for Coffee & Conversation!

To those of you
providing hospital-
ity treats, reading
scripture and help-
ing usher at worship
service!



See sign-up sheets for summer!



PRAYER REQUESTS LIFTED IN JUNE

Grieving with Families

† **The Telal Al-Rifai Family.** Telal and wife Stephanie are friends of the Johnsons. Telal passed away at 57 years old.

† **The Margaret "Peg" Plaggerman Family.** Peg, a great Girl Scout volunteer and friend of Russ & Pam Johnson's, passed away June 5th at 72 years old.

† **Jody's Family,** Christie Illies' co-worker's sister-in-law. Jody passed away June 13th after battling cancer.

† **The Craig Hayes Family.** Craig, Etta & Donovan Hayes son, passed away June 10th at 75 years old.

† **The Clara Lieser Family.** Clara, Steve (Vicki) Lieser's Mom, passed away June 10th at 87 years old.

† **The Jane Settergren Family.** Jane, a former classmate of Carol Prestidge's, passed away June 14th at 79 years old.



Living at Home...

Gloria Adickes
John Hylland



Lifting in Our Prayers

Cheryl & David G., for healing as they work through some health issues.

Don Danford, as he deals with a "roller-coaster" of health issues, currently his heart working at only 20%.

Laurie, Diane Folkestad's sister. Her spleen/pancreas surgery was canceled due to doctors finding more cancer. She started chemo-therapy treatments June 10th to see if they can extend her life.

The State of Minnesota, our Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, and our Nation, after the shooting of two of our lawmakers, their spouses. Former House Speaker Melissa Hortman, her husband Mark and their dog, Gilbert, killed. Sen. John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette, are still recovering.

Mike Wagner, continues to battle health problems, now on oxygen. Diagnosed with pneumonia June 22nd and no improvement as of June 30th.

Bemidji area, hit hard by storms with straight lying winds over 100 mph.

Jamie Mortensen, friend of Carol Prestidge's, recovering after surgery at Sister Kinney Institute.

The Bemidji UM Church, lost most of their roof and had many downed trees, including the pastor's house. ****Stay tuned for information on a fundraiser to help the church****

The people and communities in MN & SD hit by storms and tornadoes June 28th.

The family of Manny Collins. The 16 year-old teen missing from Columbia Hts. for almost two months, his remains found at an Elk River landfill.



Joys & Blessings

Skyler Chaffins and fiancé Rachel Sage, got married May 31st!

Aubrey Vanderlinde, Roger and Jacque Vanderlinde's granddaughter, graduated high school in Michigan and will start at St. Thomas University here in the fall!



Joys & Blessings—continued

The Malerichs, enjoying a great, mini family reunion in Michigan!

Diane, Terry, and Kelly Rux traveling to ID & OR to see family and celebrate Adam Rux's graduation! Adam will attend Gustavus Adolphus University here in the fall!

Evelyn "Evie" Reinhart's Grandpa, celebrating his Birthday!

Donna Marquette, the joy that she wasn't having heart issues - her blood pressure medicine just needed to be adjusted!

Our Headwater's District - Conference Superintendent, Becky Jo Messinbrink, joining us for worship service June 29th!



**We celebrate all the
special
Birthdays & Anniversaries
from June!**



United
Women
in Faith

**Montrose UMC
United Women in Faith
Hannah Circle**

**Our next meeting is Monday, July 21st
at 6:30 pm in the lower-level classroom area.**

The June Hannah Circle meeting was canceled due to inclement weather - no - not a snowstorm this time - but due to tornado warnings in the area. Hannah Circle members met briefly after church the following Sunday, June 22nd.

One topic of discussion was that we know during the summer months kids are out of school and the group decided that we would collect snack items to be donated to WCCA's Waverly Food Shelf. Donations from the congregation are also welcome!

Hannah Circle decided that we will once again provide and serve a meal for the Fresh Start Program, offered by Love INC at the WestPointe Church, on Monday, September 8th. The attendees are always appreciative of a home-cooked meal and our members always enjoying serving them! This has become a favorite outreach program for Hannah Circle.

Hannah Circle members agreed that our group will be the main contact for funerals at Montrose UMC. Contact Carol Becker or Jacque Vanderlinde for questions.



Hannah Circle has an outing on Saturday, August 16th for the 2 pm performance of the **"CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES"**, showing at the Plymouth Playhouse Theater through August 24th! Tickets can still be purchased online through the Plymouth Playhouse Theater for anyone interested in going!

Our next meeting is Mon., July 21st at 6:30 pm. We would love for more women to join us! We start with a short devotion program followed by our business meeting.

Have questions or suggestions for Hannah Circle? Please contact us at: montrosemnumw@gmail.com.

FE-ED UPDATE



FE-ED REPORT FOR June 24th FOOD DROP

We were very thankful it did NOT rain! We had enough volunteers to quickly get the boxes prepared. The truck was late, arriving at 1:10 pm, and we did not have the Phoenix Learning Center students so we

were a bit concerned. We were actually ready a little early and able to begin on time at 2 pm!

The Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted High School Cheerleaders volunteered to help us this month. We really appreciated it. We also had a family volunteer that was looking for something to do together. We welcome everyone wanting to volunteer. It is fun and you get a good feeling knowing you are helping feed families.

There were 39 volunteers, but hours were not available. We use a **Volunteer Sign-in & Sign-out Form** to keep track of hours, but I do not have an accurate count on hours since most did not sign out. (If you are volunteering, please remember to sign-in and out.)

We received a lot of fresh produce and other items this month! Cabbage, carrots, celery, onions, potatoes, sweet potatoes, sweet corn, apples, cantaloupe, honey dew melon, breads/muffins, snack items, eggs, whole milk, and more!



JUNE FOOD DROP STATISTICS

- 7,945 pounds of food from Second Harvest Heartland
- 180 Families served
- 523 Individuals served
- 6 New Visitors
- 43 Veterans served
- 30 Communities served

Respectfully submitted by Pam Johnson

**THE NEXT FOOD DROP IS
TUESDAY, JULY 22nd at 2 pm**

FINANCE UPDATE



It's still pretty quiet for the finance team. Below are financials for April and May. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

April Income:

General Fund \$6,486.16. (This includes Designated Giving and Palabra Viva rent.) General Fund loose giving \$128.01, Apportionment Giving \$332.86, RaiseRight Income (rebates) \$122.02.

TOTAL GENERAL FUND GIVING	\$7,069.05
TOTAL BUILDING FUND GIVING	\$1,838.50
TOTAL GIVING IN APRIL	\$8,907.55

April Expenses:

Salaries \$4,473.99, Trustees* and Other (Utilities, Copier, insurance) \$19,831.27. (*Trustees includes \$15,000 cost of sanctuary lighting retrofit.)

TOTAL EXPENSES IN APRIL	\$24,305.26
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May Income:

General Fund \$5,409.82. (This includes Designated Giving and Palabra Viva rent.) General Fund loose giving \$33.00, Apportionment Giving \$368.43, RaiseRight Income (rebates) \$174.60. Sunday School and Other Giving \$120.00 (Native American Special Sunday).

TOTAL GENERAL FUND GIVING	\$6,105.85
TOTAL BUILDING FUND GIVING	\$1,785.89
TOTAL GIVING IN MAY	\$7,891.74

May Expenses:

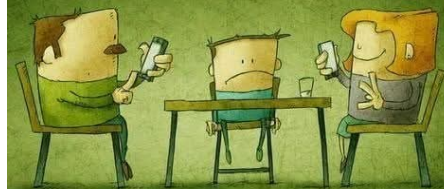
Salaries \$4,414.86, Trustees* and Other (Utilities, Copier, insurance) \$5,257.57. (*Trustees includes rock for front landscape and fire alarm panel repair.)

TOTAL EXPENSES IN MAY	\$9,672.43
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Kelly Rux, Finance Chair
Email: kellyrux@hotmail.com
Cell/Text: (952) 221-8659



Your cell phone has already replaced your watch, camera, calendar and alarm clock. Don't let it replace your family.





FE-ED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, July 22nd
2 pm until gone

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2025 Wright County Fair Wed., July 23rd through Sun., July 27th Fair Grounds - Howard Lake		1 10 am Coffee & Conversation (F)	2 NO ACTIVITIES	3 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)	4 	5 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
6 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	7 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)	8 10 am Coffee & Conversation (F) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	9 NO ACTIVITIES	10 6:30 pm 4H Club Franklin Friends (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)	11 RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY! NO ACTIVITIES	12 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
13 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	14 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)	15 10 am Coffee & Conversation (F) 12 pm FE-ED Meeting (MUMC)	16 5:30 - 7 pm Youth Group (OFF)	17 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)	18 NO ACTIVITIES	19 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
20 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) <u>10:30 am Worship Service (S)</u> 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	21 6:30 pm Hannah Circle Meeting (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)	22 10 am Coffee & Conversation (F) 12 pm FE-ED Set-up (MCC) 2 pm FE-ED Food Distribution (MCC) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	23 NO ACTIVITIES	24 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)	25 RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY! NO ACTIVITIES	26 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
27 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) <u>10:30 am Worship Service (S)</u> 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	28 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)	29 7 pm SPRC Meeting (C)	30 NO ACTIVITIES	31 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)		

JULY BIRTHDAYS!

4th-Carol Prestidge
8th-Tod Ovall
15th-Meri Ault
15th-Galen Becker
15th-Mike Smothers
18th-Jacque Vanderlinde

19th-Vicki Lieser
22nd-Don Danford
23rd-Steve Ashbaugh
23rd-John "JD" Gessinger
25th-Gini Gutknecht

JULY ANNIVERSARIES!

10th-Kelly & Joe Prestidge
25th-Diane & Terry Rux



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Montrose United Methodist Church



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

THE NEXT FREE
FOOD DISTRIBUTION:
Tuesday, July 22nd

Drive-Thru event

Starting at 2 pm

Montrose Community Center

**Volunteers are needed & welcome starting at
12 pm to help sort food and pack food boxes!**

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

One box per car - Open to everyone.

No requirements - No cost.

Go to the FEED website for more information:

www.fe-ed.org

Come Worship with Us
Sunday Mornings!



Rev. Mark Schlasner, Pastor

Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
Communion is on
the 1st Sunday of the month

Can't make it to worship service? Watch us on Facebook
Live at 10:30 am or when it fits into your schedule!
Search Montrose United Methodist Church (Montrose, MN)