

Montrose Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church

2026 July Volume 7



IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Pastor Mark's Column Pg. 2
- ◆ July Worship Theme Pg. 2
- ◆ Joys & Concerns lifted in June Pg. 3
- ◆ Hannah Circle & Committee Updates Pgs. 4-5
- ◆ Trustees Update Pg. 6
- ◆ July Calendar Pg. 7
- ◆ FE-ED Food Drop Back Cover

**"The morning sun has a lesson to teach us -
without judging love everyone as He does."**

- Debasish Mridha. M.D.

Pastor Mark's Column



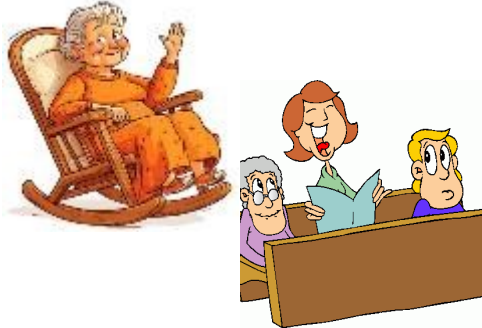
There's a sacred rhythm to a Minnesota summer. It's the season of kids screaming in pure joy, the scent of pine needles warming in the sun, and the glassy stillness of a lake at dawn. For many of us, these long days are spent at the cabin—a place where we instinctively take a deep breath and feel our shoulders drop. But if we're honest, even in that quiet escape, our minds rarely settle easily. Worries drift in like a sudden storm on the water, and the restlessness we thought we left in the city finds us on the dock, staring at the stars. Perhaps the cabin isn't just a place to escape our daily lives, but a place to finally sort through what's rattling around inside them. It's in this spirit that we invite you to join us for a new sermon series designed to anchor your soul, no matter where you find yourself this summer.



This July, Core Faith is a deep dive into Romans chapter 8, a passage that feels remarkably suited to the quiet intensity of cabin life. Up north, we're closer to creation—we feel the lapping of the water against the rocky shore and hear the wind moving through the birch trees. Paul taps into this very imagery when he describes all creation groaning as in the pains of childbirth, waiting eagerly for renewal. There's a connection here we often miss in the hum of the highway: our spiritual journey is mysteriously bound up with the world around us. As we explore this ancient text, we'll ask what it means that the loons, the wall-eye, and the towering pines are, in their own way, participants in God's redemptive story.

Of course, a cabin isn't only about solitary sunsets; it's about the crowded tables on the porch, the shared stories around a campfire, and the laughter echoing across the lake. In the same way, Core Faith isn't just about our private, internal peace. We'll explore how the Spirit binds us together as a body of Christ, linking our lives in both suffering and joy. When Paul talks about setting our minds on the Spirit instead of our sinful nature, he's describing a shift as tangible as turning off the noise to finally hear the rain on the roof. Over these weeks, we'll unpack how the law functions in our faith, what it truly means to be free from condemnation, and how we can possess the unshakable confidence that neither the depths of the lake nor the height of our worries can separate us from the love of God.

So whether you're joining us in the pews or streaming from a rocking chair with an iffy cell signal, we encourage you to lean into this series. Let's take this season to set our minds on the Spirit, letting the truths of Romans 8 settle into our hearts with the slow, steady rhythm of a Northwoods summer. Come as you are, and together, let's explore what it means to be securely anchored in our Core Faith.



Love and Blessings.
Pastor Mark Schlasner
Cell (763) 656-3490
Email: am.umc.pastor@gmail.com



July Worship Theme

"Core Faith - The Truths Of Romans Chapter 8"

Sunday, July 5, 2025

Message: *"Delight in the Law"*

Scripture: Romans 7:15-25

Sunday, July 12, 2025

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Communion Steward:

Carol Prestidge

Message: *"Set the Mind"*

Scripture: Romans 8:1-11

Sunday, July 19, 2025

Message: *"Wait with Eager Longing"*

Scripture: Romans 8: 12-25

Sunday, July 26, 2025

Message: *"More Than Conquerors"*

Scripture: Romans 8:26-39



Apportionments can be seen as an ugly word, but I can testify that apportionments have helped our church. This, my fourth article, sharing how apportionments help support international, national, and local missions in the United Methodist Church.

The Minnesota conference uses apportionments to help support rural ministries through the Rural Ministry Matters group. This Rural Ministry Matters group offers isolated rural pastors a vital community for connection, shared resources, and mutual encouragement through regular in-person and virtual gatherings. By providing a space to address their unique challenges and recharge together, the initiative helps sustain and uplift clergy so they can move from surviving to thriving in their vital ministry. Ultimately, it empowers rural pastors to find their collective voice and model creative, vibrant ministry for the broader church.

The only money collected for apportionments are those indicated as such. So we ask that you prayerfully consider giving whatever you can for apportionments so we can pass it on and bless other congregations.

With love and blessings,
Pastor Mark



PRAYER REQUESTS LIFTED IN JUNE

Grieving with Families

† **The Cari Aksamit Family.** Cari, only 46 years old, was killed in a one-vehicle rollover accident June 14th. She leaves behind her husband and a teenage daughter.



† **The Roy Henry Family.** Roy, a longtime Montrose resident, passed away June 14th after an eight year battle with cancer. He was 86 years old.

Living at Home...

Gloria Adickes (At Parkview Care Center)
John Hylland



Lifting in Our Prayers

Gloria Adickes, having hip surgery after a fall. Gloria has had two additional falls while recovering, leading to additional trips to Waconia Hospital for surgeries to fix her hip. *UPDATE:* As of July 3rd Gloria is recovering at Parkview Care Center in Buffalo.

Bonnie Hitchcock, Kim Wagner's son-in-law's mom, in remission two years from throat cancer, now diagnosed with breast cancer and starting chemo therapy again.

Ron Fadden, friend of Carol Prestidge, hospitalized at Abbott Northwestern Hospital for tests.

Gene, Jean Halderson's twin brother, suffering from Parkinson's Disease and has had several strokes.

Those with unspoken prayers.

Angie Ferrell's Family, as they meet with hospice care for her Dad. He was recently diagnosed with mesothelioma and decided against treatment. *UPDATE:* He's been put on medicine to keep him comfortable.

People suffering with balance issues and memory loss.

The Randy Mortenson Family, as they celebrate his life with family, friends and the community June 27th.

La Guaira, Venezuela, hit hard by two +7 magnitude earthquakes June 24th. The death toll is over 2,600, over 12,000 are injured, over 15,000 are homeless, and an estimated 38,000 are still missing. *Survivors are still being found after 8 days!*

The three firefighters killed battling wildfires in CO & UT; Emily Barker, Nick Hutcherson, and Sydney Watson. Prayers that the wildfires can be contained.

Joys & Blessings

Celebrating our 2026 Graduates, Nash Mumford-Sohns and Alyssa Prestidge, as they move onto their next achievements!

The 2026 Minnesota UMC Annual Conference in St. Cloud!

2026 USA Special Olympic Games starting in MN June 20th, with our friends Jared & Austin Peterson-Lomker representing the Buffalo Herd in Softball competition! *UPDATE:* They won the Gold Medal!

The Johnson's and the Ovall's celebrating wedding anniversaries!

Carol Prestidge, celebrating her 80th Birthday July 4th!



Waverly COFFEE CLUB

— Good Coffee. Great Company. Stranger Community. —

Every **WEDNESDAY**
9 - 10:30 AM
WAVERLY CITY HALL
Chambers Room
Waverly, Minnesota

COME FOR THE COFFEE.
Stay for the community.

CONNECT. • CONVERSE. ♥ COMMUNITY.



We celebrate all the Birthdays & Anniversaries from June!

A TRUE GOD MOMENT!

A powerful image from storm damage on June 29th at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Highmore, SD where 131 mph winds split open the roof of the church and the sunlight came down on Christ's figure.





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

**Our next meeting is Monday, July 20th
at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

Carol Becker led the June meeting held on the 15th. There were 5 members who attended the meeting. All women are welcome to join us on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. We meet in the fellowship hall and our meetings typically last one hour.



We have 14 people signed-up to attend our July 25th - 2 pm outing to "A Second Helping; The Church Basement Ladies Sequel" at the Plymouth Playhouse Theater. We will have a carpool from both Montrose and Buffalo. There are still tickets available if others would like to order on their own and attend.

Our next meeting will be on July 20th at 6:30 pm. Kim Wagner will be leading the program. At this meeting we will pick a date to serve a meal at Love INC's Fresh Start Program in Delano, one of our favorite outreach missions! We hope to see you then!

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



No updates at this time.



No scheduled meeting at this time.



***NO Coffee & Conversation/
Games in July.***



***Youth Group gatherings
will resume in September!***

FREE
Weeds
You Pick

***Bring the Kids, bring
the grandkids for a
"weed picking good
time!"***

**Please... any time you
can spare, 10 minutes
or an hour, to come up
to the church to pick
weeds out of the rocks,
mulch, Memorial
Garden, etc. is needed
and appreciated!**

HELP IS NEEDED!
What ideas do YOU have?



We need people ASAP to help plan our
Sunday, September 13th
Outdoor Worship & Block Party
~ And ~

Our participation at the
Celebrate Montrose Hometown Days (CMHD)
Sat., September 26th & Sun., September 27th!

- * **Hannah Circle** is planning to serve Coffee & Donuts On Saturday at the Car Show (exact time still to be determined).
- * **FE-ED**, in partnership with MUMC & House of Grace, are planning to participate in the parade Sunday.

Celebrate Montrose Hometown Days has been moved to the last weekend in September. The parade route will continue to be through the neighborhood north of town, starting by the community garden.

Interested in helping plan or volunteer?

Please let Pastor Mark, Kim Wagner, Carol Becker, or Pam Johnson know!

MONTROSE FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

PORK CHOP FEED



**SATURDAY
AUGUST 1ST**

5PM - 8PM

**MONTROSE
FIRE STATION**

\$10 PORK CHOP MEAL
PORK CHOP, BEANS,
COLESLAW AND A BUN

FE-ED UPDATE



FE-ED REPORT FOR June 26th FOOD DROP

**We had 24 volunteers giving
75.25 hours of work!**



The June drop went well despite Second Harvest Heartland having issues with their inventory program and not having the Phoenix Learning Center students help. Second Harvest was unable to fill some orders at all so we were blessed to get most of our order. The last week of school did not work for the students to participate.

Severe storm warnings were issued so we began earlier than advertised so the people waiting could get served and leave before the storms began.

For the Love of Four Paws was delayed with their distribution time which is normally the same time as our drop. Our volunteers were flexible, adjusting to all the changes we made as we assessed the weather and number of vehicles assembled. These are great workers and problem solvers! We adjusted our numbers from 150 to 120 boxes when packing. We were unable to account for 7 of those boxes. Our ending numbers will not reflect how many people benefitted from those since we were unable to recover those numbers. We are concerned about the declining participation. We think the impending stormy weather may have been a concern and we had not posted to Facebook in the days previous to the drop.

I was recently asked why FE-ED needs money? Everyone is a volunteer - money goes for food, community involvement, and volunteers. Since July 2015 we have held at least once a month food drops. We purchase food from Second Harvest Heartland, and there is a delivery charge. (Every dollar donated provides up to 6 meals, so the very best bang for your buck!)

JUNE STATISTICS:

- 5,342 pounds of food from Second Harvest Heartland and 105 pounds of Bread from Grace Place.
- 136 Families served
- 309 Individuals served
- 4 New Visitors
- 30 Veterans served
- 20 Communities served

Respectfully submitted by
Pam Johnson

**THE NEXT FREE
FOOD DROP IS
TUESDAY,
JULY 28th at 2 pm**

To Donate to FE-ED



Scan QR code above to
donate to FE-ED

(Donations are tax deductible)

FINANCE UPDATE



The Finance Team met with Board of Trustees members Mike & Kim Wagner on June 12th to discuss needed repairs and upkeep, giving the finance team an idea of the financial needs for these projects.

PARKING LOT: There have been two bids received for parking lot repairs, crack fill and sealcoating only, with one more bid due.

YOUTH ROOM/LUNCHROOM: The last glass-block window on the west side of the church in the lunchroom area has now been found and exposed. The work to seal off these windows is scheduled for the week of July 6th. More issues were discovered when this paneling was removed, with water damage to insulation and sheetrock. The trustees will be getting bids for repairs in the lunchroom, replacing the insulation and sheetrock. The youth room, used mostly for storage now, will just have the west concrete block wall painted for now.

MISCELLANEOUS: Mike Wagner has a small list of other projects around the church, one being removing one of the church mailbox units, as one unit will (sadly) be enough now.

(Spending money but making money in return, using the RaiseRight Program to purchase Menard's gift cards!)

Funds for these major repairs are available in the building fund. Finance is also looking at a couple of upcoming opportunities for fundraising. I will provide updates once we have that set up.

During the month of June another \$200 was donated towards mowing. Mowing to date has cost \$750, with an estimated 16 more weeks of mowing! To those contributing towards this expense, Thank You!



Thank you Kim Wagner for listing the weekly breakdown of the giving each Sunday. As of June 23, (with 1 more Sunday left in the month) the weekly giving is just below the \$2,250 average (needed each week estimate). This number includes automatic deposits that are made in the general account through PayPal. The first Sunday of the month typically is the highest week for giving with lower amounts for the balance of the month. Weekly giving goes down during the summer months due to the many activities we enjoy during the weekend. If you would like to send contributions in the mail during the summer months the address is:

Montrose UMC, PO Box 13, Montrose MN 55363
Attn: Carol Becker.

Giving statements for the first half of 2026 will be going out in the next week.

Thank you for your continued support of our church, it's appreciated more than words can say.

Carol Becker
choppe59@gmail.com Cell 763.913.9540

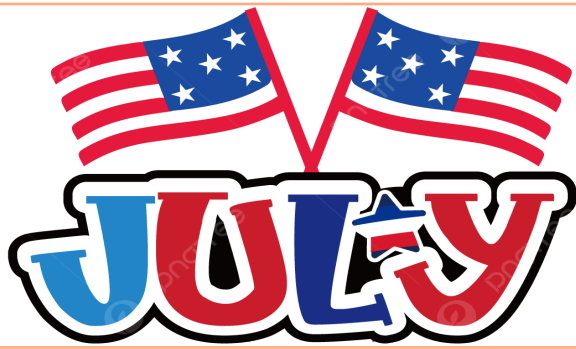




Showing off our church grounds and some improvements made around the outside! **Clockwise:** The beautiful flowers in front of the marquee planted by Carol Becker and the flower pots by the railings donated by Sonya Tourville. Thank you Carol for watering everything each week. The Little Library bench with new boards, work done by Ken Segler. Thank you Angie Ferrell for your donation to make these repairs. NEW SIGN added due to a father teaching his son how to ride his bike up & down the handicap ramp and the church stairs! The Lions Bench and flower pots inviting folks to take a seat and relax! Thank you Kim Wagner for donating the flowers in the pots. The church still does "adopt-a-park" in the Pheasant Hills development west of Buffalo Ave. on 55th Street. There are a few new additions to the Memorial Garden! Thank you Angie Ferrell for the new plaque by the oak tree and the flower basket and garden flag in the corner to remember those that have passed away. More flowers are coming soon to the empty spots where the tulips bloom in the Spring. Hopefully the flowers will grow in place of the weeds (we can pray, right?). Not pictured, and for good reason, is the eye sore parking lot! We have several bids and plan for work to be completed before Celebrate Montrose Hometown Days. Before then, "the small forest of weeds will be killed, the two remaining evergreen trees along Lion's Park will be trimmed-up, and the City of Montrose will come with the street sweeper to clean the lot.

Our work is endless...





FE-ED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, July 28th
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
PLEASE NOTE: Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are not shown on the calendar as they did not confirm they would be meeting in the church in July.			1 NO ACTIVITIES	2 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Women's Bible Study (S)	3 RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY! NO ACTIVITIES	4 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
5 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) **NO HOUSE OF GRACE WORSHIP SERVICE 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	6 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (C)	7 NO ACTIVITIES	8 NO ACTIVITIES	9 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Women's Bible Study (S)	10 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (S)	11 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
12 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 10:30 am House of Grace Wor- ship (F/L) 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	13 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (C)	14 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal Rehearsal (S)	15 NO ACTIVITIES	16 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Women's Bible Study (S)	17 RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY! 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (S)	18 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
19 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 10:30 am House of Grace Wor- ship Service (F/L) 11:30 am Church Council (C) 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	20 6:30 pm Hannah Circle Meeting (F) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (C)	21 12 pm FE-ED Meeting (C)	22 NO ACTIVITIES	23 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)	24 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (S)	25 2-4 pm Hannah Circle Outing to Play (OFF) 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
26 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 10:30 am House of Grace Wor- ship Service (F/L) 1-4 pm Carol Prestidge Private Event (F) 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	27 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (C)	28 12 pm FE-ED Set-up (MCC) 2 pm FE-ED Food Distribution (MCC)	29 NO ACTIVITIES	30 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Women's Bible Study (S)	31 RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY! 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (S)	AUG 1 5-8 pm MFD Pork Chop Dinner (MCC) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's 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
23rd-Save Ashbaugh
23rd-John "JD" Gessinger
25th-Gini Gutknecht

JULY ANNIVERSARIES!

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



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

Church Office 763-675-3571 Pastor Mark's Cell (763) 656-3490

Email: montroseumc@hotmail.com Website: www.montroseumc.com

Facebook.com/Montrose United Methodist Church



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

WEBSITE: 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)

THE NEXT FREE
FOOD DISTRIBUTION:
Tuesday, July 28th

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)