

MONTROSE Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church

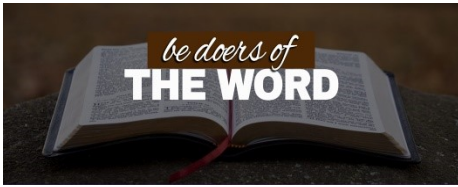
March 2025 Volume 3

The Season of Lent Begins

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Pastor's Column



"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
— James 1:22



Throughout Lent, our Sunday sermons will guide us through essential spiritual practices—**Prayer, Scripture, Forgiveness, Generosity, and Praise**. These are not just individual actions but a rhythm of life that draws us closer to God and transforms how we engage with the world.

James reminds us that faith is more than understanding; it is something we embody. Spiritual practices are how we move beyond hearing God's word to living it.

- ◆ When we pray, we open ourselves to God's presence.
- ◆ When we engage scripture, we allow it to shape our hearts.
- ◆ When we forgive, we reflect the mercy we have received.
- ◆ When we give, we participate in God's abundance.
- ◆ When we praise, we acknowledge the goodness of God that sustains us.



Lent is a season of preparation, a time when we intentionally draw near to God through disciplines that renew our hearts. It is a season of reflection, repentance, and transformation. Whether we take on new practices or let go of what distracts us, Lent invites us to realign our lives with Christ. In these weeks leading to Easter, we are reminded that faith is not passive—it is lived out daily in the ways we seek God and love others.

Each of these practices, taken on its own, strengthens us. Together, they form a foundation that helps us navigate both the joys and challenges of life. Like any habit, they require intention and commitment. But in practicing our faith, we discover that God is already at work in us, transforming our hearts and deepening our connection to Christ.



This season, I invite you to reflect on what spiritual practices shape your faith. What rhythms help you draw near to God? What next step is calling you deeper into discipleship? Let's journey together, not just as hearers, but as doers of the word.

With Love and Blessings,
Pastor Mark Schlasner

Email: am.umc.pastor@gmail.com

Phone/Text: (763) 656-3490

**Montrose UMC & Grace Place,
Pastor Mark & Pastor Cathy,
will join together during
Lenten season for
Worship Services.**

All Sunday Services at 10:30 am

March 9th, 23rd & April 6th
at Grace Place

March 16th, 30th & April 13th, and
Easter Sunday the 20th at MUMC
(16th, 30th in the Fellowship Hall)

March Worship Theme
"A Rhythm of Life"

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Transfiguration and Communion Sunday

Communion Steward: Carol Prestidge

Message: *"Transfiguration"*

Scripture: Luke 9:28-45

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025

At MUMC Service at 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 9, 2025

At GRACE PLACE

Message: *"Forgiveness"*

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Sunday, March 16, 2025

MUMC In the Fellowship Hall

Message: *"Being in the Bible"*

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, March 23, 2025

At GRACE PLACE

Message: *"Giving"*

Scripture: Luke 11:5-13

Sunday, March 30, 2025

MUMC In the Fellowship Hall

Message: *"Praise"*

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

**Details for April Worship Services
will be in the April Newsletter**

Sunday, April 6, 2025

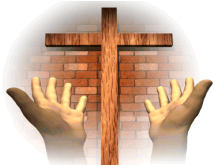
At GRACE PLACE

Sunday, April 13, 2025

**Palm Sunday at MUMC
in our Sanctuary**

Sunday, April 20, 2025

**Easter Sunday at MUMC
in our Sanctuary**



PRAYER PAGE

The Joys & Concerns
Lifted in February

Grieving with Families

The Karen Duske Family. Karen passed away Feb. 1st at 85 years old.

The Esther "Gay" Metz Family. Esther, a longtime friend of Linda Prestidge's, passed away Feb. 7th at 102 years old.

The Craig Clausen Family. Craig, the husband of Deb Clausen - a former pastor at MUMC, passed away Feb. 20th.



Our Friends At Home

Gloria Adickes
John Hylland

Thinking
of you

Lifting in our Prayers

Pat Steinberg, a former co-worker of Jessica Reinhart's at Randy's Sanitation. Pat is battling cancer for a third time, now in his lungs and esophagus.

Diane K.'s son Jake. Diane is a co-worker of Linda Marquette's. He is having a second major surgery at only 38 years old. Hospitalized in ICU Heart unit for an issue with a major artery.

Leilani, a friend of Ricki Malerich's living in Rhode Island, facing multiple crises in her life.

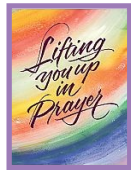
Dick Prestidge, Keith & Bob Prestidge's brother, has heart valve replacement surgery Feb. 11th.

Denise, a friend of Carol & Keith Prestidge's, awaiting a heart transplant.

Families with ill family members.

Owen Sage, Carol & Keith Prestidge's great-grandson, diagnosed with influenza A.

Brad Scheie, Sherry Ovall's brother, needing surgery after blowing 3 discs in his back.



Blessings and Celebrations

Cora Mae Marquette, baptized February 2nd!

Neighbors helping neighbors, plowing and shoveling snow for those less able to.

Christie Illies' co-worker's sister-in-law, already feeling better and responding well to chemotherapy for stage 4 cancer.



We celebrate all the special Birthdays from February!



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 fund-raisers and frequently asked questions about what can be donated.

March: CLEANING SUPPLIES "Open Your Heart Campaign"

Dish soap	Laundry soap
Toilet cleaner	Dishwasher soap
Fabric softener	Sanitizing wipes

Thank you for your donations!

Tammy Prestidge, Food Shelf/Thrift Store Coordinator
Office (763) 658- 4414

FOOD SHELF HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Tuesday

8:30 am - 6:00 pm

Friday

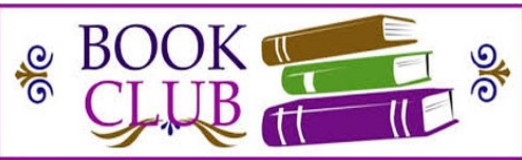
8:30 am - 1:30 pm



**Join Pastor Mark
on Tuesday mornings at 10 am
for Coffee & Conversation!**



Spiritual Growth and Opportunities to Serve at MUMC!



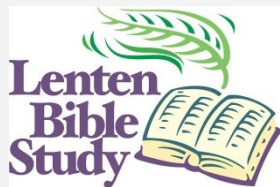
Montrose UMC Book Club

Love a good book and great conversation? We're starting a Montrose UMC book club! We'll meet **every six weeks** to chat about the current book. We'll read fiction books and discuss some of the themes found within. It's the perfect chance to connect with others and share insights on some thought-provoking reads.

If you're interested, **sign up at the information table** so we can get an idea of how many folks want to join in.

The book is on the sign-up table in the Fellowship Hall. Our meeting date & time is pending. We can't wait to read and discuss with you!

Pastor Mark



Lenten Bible Study Starting Friday, March 14th at 10 am Meeting weekly.

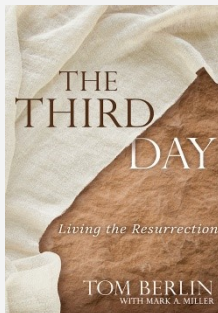
Join us on Friday mornings starting March 14th at 10 am as we journey through *The Third Day* by Tom Berlin.

Each week, we'll gather for meaningful conversation and reflection—no prior study required! Come as you are and explore Christ's journey to the cross and resurrection with us.

Please sign up to participate.

All are welcome! Questions? Reach out to Pastor Mark. We hope to see you there!

Pastor Mark
am.umc.pastor@gmail.com



Opportunities to Serve in the Church. See the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall!

- ♦ Acolytes & Ushering
- ♦ Reading Scripture
- ♦ Hospitality Treats
- ♦ Sunday School Helper
- ♦ Various Committees



Help Shape Our Church's Future – Join the Nominations Committee!



We're creating a Nominations Committee to help identify and recommend future leaders for our Montrose congregation. This committee will play a key role in prayerfully discerning who can best serve and guide our ministries in the coming years.

We need passionate, thoughtful individuals who care about the life and mission of our church. If you're interested in being part of this important work, we invite you to sign up!

What's involved?

- Helping identify and nominate leaders for key roles.
- Participating in discussions about the future of our leadership.
- Praying and discerning together as a team.

If you'd like to join or want more information, please contact Pastor Mark or sign up on the sign-up sheet on the information table.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!

Pastor Mark
am.umc.pastor@gmail.com

EASTER PLANT DONATION FORM 2025 EASTER IS ON SUNDAY, APRIL 20th



Hannah Circle will take delivery of the plants and arrange them for Easter Sunday Worship. Donated plants are yours to keep and take home after worship service. Please complete the form and place it in the offering plate with payment or give to Linda Marquette or Jacque Vanderlinde.

Plant orders are DUE BY SUNDAY, MARCH 16th!

Easter Lily 5+ blooms	\$17.00	Qty. _____	Total \$ _____
Begonia	\$15.00	Qty. _____	Total \$ _____
Cyclamen	\$15.00	Qty. _____	Total \$ _____
Mum	\$15.00	Qty. _____	Total \$ _____
Hydrangea – Pink	\$30.00	Qty. _____	Total \$ _____
Hydrangea -Blue	\$30.00	Qty. _____	Total \$ _____
Peace Lily Plant	\$17.00	Qty. _____	Total \$ _____

Donation towards Easter Cross Amount \$ _____

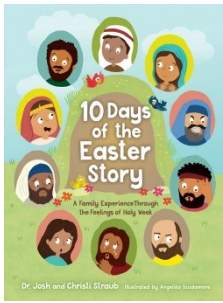
Order Total \$ _____

Donation in memory of: _____

Donation in honor of: _____

Donated by: _____

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!



The Sunday School Class is continuing the curriculum, **"10 Days of the Easter Story"**.

We are on lesson #4 "The Last Supper", and will be making a special craft - a 3D collage of the last supper and experience our own "last supper" table! We will continue to journey through the key moments of the Holy Week with the retelling of the Easter story with games, snacks and activities!

We invite children Pre-K through 6th grade to join us at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings!

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL APRIL 13TH (PALM SUNDAY) OR APRIL 20TH (EASTER SUNDAY).

The class will start an exciting NEW unit on Sunday, April 27th!

Angie Ferrell
Christian Education Director (763) 442-4876



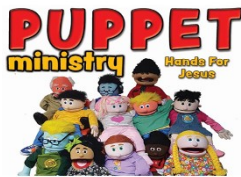
MARCH NEWS!
Youth Group Gathering
Wednesday, March 19th
time & place
to be determined!

Hey everyone! We're getting together for Youth Group on Wednesday, March 19th, and we want YOU to be there! It's going to be a great time to connect, have fun, and grow together in faith. We're still locking in the perfect time and place, but no matter where we meet, you won't want to miss it! So mark your calendar, invite a friend, and stay tuned for details. Can't wait to see you there!

Questions? Reach out—we'd love to hear from you!
Pastor Mark, Angie, and Kim

Attention All Youth

We want YOU for our
PUPPET MINISTRY!



Are you ready to bring stories to life and share your talents? We're starting a **Puppet Ministry**, and this **Easter season**, we're looking at an opportunity to showcase what we've learned!

This is your chance to explore the art of puppetry and creatively share **God's message** during children's sermons. We'll train together, perform together, and bring joy to our church family. **No experience needed—just enthusiasm and a love for storytelling!**

Interested? Sign up on the sheet at the information table today! Let's make something amazing together!

Pastor Mark

UWF HANNAH CIRCLE NEWS!



United
Women
in Faith

Montrose UMC
United Women in Faith
Hannah Circle

We meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm!

Our next meeting is March 17th!

We share a short devotional program, sometimes a craft or mission project, then move to the business portion of our meeting. We try to keep meetings at one-hour.

United Women in Faith Day of Giving
Sunday, March 23rd!

For generations to come by uniting our hearts and hands, we are building a future filled with hope and support for women, children, and youth. Every gift you make, regardless of size, will make an impact for generations to come.

****Watch the special live-streamed event****

Sun., March 23rd at 12 pm CDT

Go to: **www.uwfaith.org/dayofgiving**

Support *The Legacy Endowment Fund* on this special day!



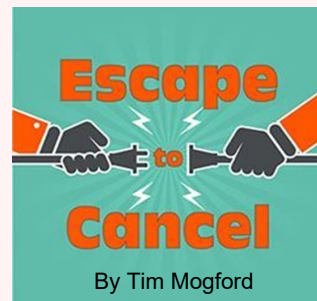
Mother's Day Play "Escape to Cancel"
& Luncheon on Saturday, May 10th
11 am to 1:30 pm ~ Fellowship Hall

11 am Welcome! Light refreshments

11:30 am Play Performance

12 pm Luncheon (Salads, Breads, Desserts & Beverages)

There will be some door prizes too!



Anyone who has ever tried to cancel their service with any tech company, cell phone company, magazine subscription, etc. will sympathize immediately with Meghan as she attempts to cancel her service!

This fast-paced, comedy will have you laughing in your seats!

*****CALLING ALL ACTORS*****

Hannah Circle is seeking 3-4 people for parts in the play; Men, women or youth! There are 8 characters and there will be 4-5 rehearsal dates prior to the event. If you'd like to join in on the fun, please contact or see Jacque.

montrosemnumw@gmail.com

FINANCE UPDATE



Hello Friends,
We are hopefully nearing the end of winter soon - cannot wait. One item I was asked to provide going forward is a summary of monthly giving and expenses, below you will find the details for January. Please note, income can often be sporadic as some individuals give annually, so make sure you are looking at this on an annualized basis.

January Income:

General Fund \$7,633.17. This includes Designated Giving, Apportionments, Palabra Viva rent, Special Offerings, etc. Building Maintenance giving - \$3,638.63.

January Expenses:

Salary items \$4,221.60. This is for pastor, secretary, janitor, pianist, and all benefit costs. Board of Trustees \$4,221.60. This includes all utilities, maintenance agreements, repair expenses (water heater for January). There will be other smaller expenses but these are the two biggest categories.

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

Kelly Rux, Finance Chair
(952) 221-8659
Email: kellyrux@hotmail.com



200 Boxes packed and distributed!



FE+ED UPDATE



FE-ED

FE-ED REPORT FOR THE FEBRUARY 25, 2025 FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

We had a wonderful warm day to hold our February food drop. Everyone was happy to enjoy lighter clothing and no hats or gloves needed.

Our students from the Phoenix Learning Center were so helpful and eager to work, it made for lots of smiles and laughter!

We celebrated 3 February birthdays: Steve Hayes, Mary Lytle, and Russ Johnson with cake and song!

This was our first advertised new 2 pm start time, which went well but it will take awhile for people to become accustomed to it.

We had an abundance of good food! Apples, Cabbage, Carrots, Red & Sweet Potatoes, Onions, Tomatoes, Spaghetti noodles, Tomato Sauce, Ground Turkey, Biscuits, Milk and even Eggs!

We had 40 volunteers giving 117.75 hours of work!

We were blessed with additional food from the Community:

- The Waverly Food Shelf donated 400 lbs. of food.
- Dollar General in Montrose donated 5 lbs. of Hanes Kids Cotton Face Masks.
- Buffalo Food Shelf donated 70 lbs. of various Hot Sauces

February Statistics:

- 9,797 lbs. of food from Second Harvest Heartland (SHH)
- Families served 200
- Individuals served 554
- Veterans served 55 (*A new record*)
- First time visitors -0-
- Communities served 26

March is Minnesota Food Share Month

**Support your local food shelf, FE-ED or
Second Harvest Heartland.**

Respectfully submitted
Pam Johnson, Secretary



**NEW 2 PM
START TIME FOR
DISTRIBUTION**

FE-ED FOOD DROP
Tuesday, March 25th
2 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
<p>Lenten Bible Study starts Friday, March 14th at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall and will meet weekly through Lent.</p>						<p>1 4 - 9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)</p>
<p>2 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY & COMMUNION 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)</p>	<p>3 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)</p>	<p>4 10 am COFFEE & CONV. (F) 7 pm Hand Bells Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>5 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (s) 7:30 pm Worship Service (s)</p>	<p>6 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)</p>	<p>7 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)</p>	<p>8 4 - 9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F) 3 - 7 pm Waverly Lion's FISH FRY (WVH)</p>
<p>9  9:30 am Sunday School (C) 10:30 am Worship Service at GRACE PLACE</p>	<p>10 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)</p>	<p>11 10 am COFFEE & CONV. (F) 7 pm Hand Bells Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>12 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>13 6:30 pm 4H Club (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)</p>	<p>14 RAISE-RIGHT ORDER DAY! 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)</p>	<p>15 10 am - 12 pm Palabra Viva PRIVATE EVENT 4 - 9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)</p>
<p>16 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S) 11:45 am Church Council (F)</p>	<p>17  6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 6:30 pm Hannah Circle (S) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)</p>	<p>18 10 am COFFEE & CONV. (F) 12 pm FE-ED Mtg. (MUMC)</p>	<p>19 YOUTH GROUP (Time & Place TBD)</p>	<p>20 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)</p>	<p>21 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)</p>	<p>22 4 - 9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)</p>
<p>23 UWF GIVING DAY 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 10:30 am Worship Service at GRACE PLACE</p> <p>30 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Fellowship Hour (F) 10:30 am Worship Service (S)</p>	<p>24 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)</p> <p>31 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (F)</p>	<p>25 10 am COFFEE & CONV. (F) 12-1:30 pm FE-ED Set-up 2 pm FE-ED Distro (MCC) 7 pm Hand Bells Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>26 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>27 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Bible Study (S)</p>	<p>28 RAISE-RIGHT ORDER DAY! 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Music Practice (S)</p>	<p>29 4 - 9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)</p>

BIRTHDAYS!

1st-Erik Marquette
3rd-Cole Dostal
7th-Bonnie Ashbaugh
7th-Debbie Baker
9th-Jan Kanduth
13th-Don Klarstrom

14th-Alyssa Prestidge
16th-Hazel Marquette
17th-Hudson Lieser
18th-Jeff Dostal
23rd-Brandon Torres
26th-Owen Sage
30th-James Kuhn



ANNIVERSARIES!

No March
Anniversaries!

EVENT LOCATION KEY

S Sanctuary
F Fellowship Hall
L Library (former Chancel)
C Classrooms -Lower Level
O Church Office
K Kitchen and Lunchroom
Y Youth Room
MCC Montrose Comm. Center

MONTROSE UMC, 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

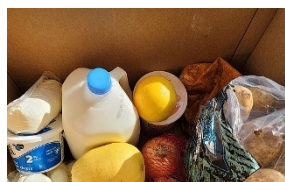


Montrose UMC
PO BOX 13
230 Center Avenue So.
Montrose, Minnesota 55363

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



Montrose United Methodist Church
(A WCCA EMERGENCY FOOD BOX NETWORK PARTNER)



FE-ED

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

THE NEXT FREE FOOD
DISTRIBUTION IS:
Tuesday, March 25th

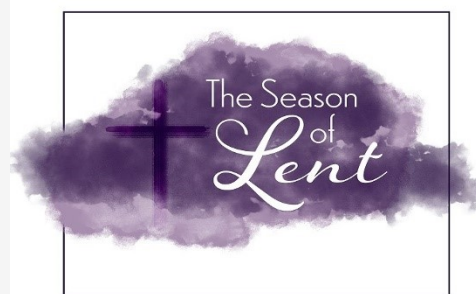
Drive-Thru Event
Starting at 2 pm
Montrose Community
Center

NEW 2 PM
START TIME
FOR
DISTRIBUTION

Volunteers are always 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, giving out pre-packed boxes
of dairy, bread, produce and food items.

For more information email us at:
feed.montrose.mn@gmail.com
Or go to the FE-ED website:
www.fe-ed.org



Ash Wednesday Service
March 5th at 7:30 pm
Montrose United Methodist Church

Joint Worship Service with Montrose UMC
& Grace Place starts Sunday, March 9th!
All Worship Services are at 10:30 am

Meeting at Grace Place
Sunday, March 9th & 23rd

Meeting at Montrose United Methodist Church
Sunday, March 16th & 30th