

Montrose Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church

2026 May Volume 5



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***“By wisdom the Lord laid the earth’s foundations,
by understanding he set the heavens in place;
by his knowledge the watery depths were divided,
and the clouds let drop the dew.”***

- Proverbs 3:19-20

Pastor's Column



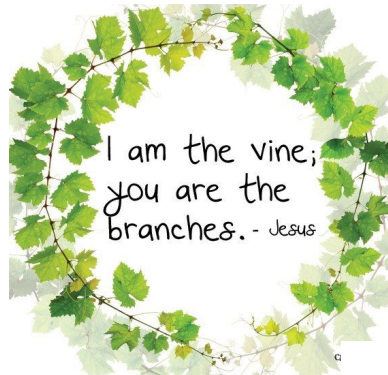
Something shifts in us when love stops being a reaction and starts becoming a reason. Most of us spend years operating from impulse, preference, or habit, and only gradually do we notice another current moving underneath—quieter, steadier, unconcerned with whether it feels good in the moment. When that happens, we're not just maturing emotionally. We're being anchored in something that doesn't shift with our moods. The strange thing is, we rarely notice the transition while it's happening. Someone looking from the outside might not see any difference at all. But inside, the center of gravity has moved.

That same hiddenness shows up in our praying. We can go a long time believing prayer depends on us—our focus, our words, our ability to show up with something to say. And then, often without fanfare, we stumble into a different experience. Maybe on a quiet afternoon when no profound thoughts come. Maybe in a sanctuary before the service starts. Maybe while folding laundry. We realize we're not performing anything. We're just there. And somehow that's enough. The story of Mary sitting silent at Jesus' feet while her sister busies herself with worthy tasks has always been less about who was right and more about what each was reaching for. One was reaching for something to do. The other was reaching for something to receive.



And we are shaped, more than we know, by the traditions we've stopped noticing. Hebrews speaks of a great cloud of witnesses—not distant heroes on pedestals, but a living surround of faithful presence. For most of us, that cloud looks like the people who taught us hymns we didn't appreciate at the time, the liturgies that formed our imagination, the ordinary rhythms we absorbed without thinking. These things don't announce themselves. They just keep quietly doing their work until one day we realize they've been carrying us all along.

Then there is the presence we offer one another, which the world is not especially equipped to value. We measure most things by output, growth, visibility. But Jesus speaks of abiding—of a connectedness that bears fruit in its own season, often in ways we never trace. Showing up week after ordinary week is not a small thing. It is how a vine works. It is how a people are formed. And at Pentecost, when the Spirit descends with wind and fire, we see what all that rootedness was for. The disciples weren't given that moment so they could stay in the room. They were filled so they could be sent. That is where the hidden work leads—not to comfort alone, but to a life poured out in places we didn't expect, speaking a language we didn't know we had.



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

May Worship Theme

"Where the Hidden Work Leads"

Sunday, May 3, 2026

COMMUNION

Communion Steward: Christie Illies
Message: *"When Love Becomes the Only Reason"*

Scripture: Ephesians 4:14-16

Sunday, May 10, 2026

MOTHER'S DAY

"Muffins For Mom's" for Fellowship

Message: *"What if Prayer Isn't About the Words?"*

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, May 17, 2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL AWARDS

~ Guest Speaker ~

Message: *"The Gift Hidden in the Familiar"*

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-2

Sunday, May 24, 2026

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

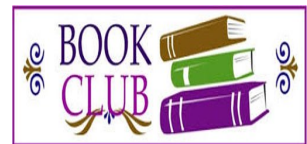
Message: *"What If Your Presence Is Meant to Be More?"*

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Message: *"The Fire That Sends You"*

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21



Our next Book Club meets Saturday, May 30th at 9 am at The Heights Bar & Grill in Buffalo to discuss the book **"Braiding Sweetgrass"** by author Robin Wall Kimmerer. This beautiful book weaves together indigenous wisdom, botany, and gratitude for the natural world - offering rich connections to stewardship, grace, and our relationship with God's creation. All are welcome, whether you've finished the book or not. Hope to see you there!

For any questions, contact Pastor Mark at 763.656.3490 or by Email: am.umc.pastor@gmail.com



PRAYER REQUESTS LIFTED IN APRIL

Grieving with Families

† **The Chad Davidson Family.** Chad passed away April 21st at 52 years old. His parents are close friends of Dick and Janie Prestidge.

† **The Ray Rejman Family.** Ray, Kim Wagner's uncle, passed away April 30th at 94 years old.



Living at Home...

Gloria Adickes

John Hylland

Note: Sue & John Hylland's daughter, Kimberly McStott, started a Go-Fund-Me page to help them purchase a wheelchair-accessible van for John. Website: <https://gofund.me/1895877ce>



Lifting in Our Prayers

The United States Military and their Families, as the war in Iran continues.

The missing US Pilot of plane shot down found and rescued, now healing from injuries.

Sandy Dmytryszyn, had a setback due to a fall at home. Resting and taking her time to recover, misses her church family.

Friend of Pam Johnson through Girl Scouts, in hospice.

Terry Painschab, Belle Johnson's grandpa, ill.

Bob, one of the Buffalo Goldenaires singers, passed away. Prayers for his family.

Tammy & Clayton Prestidge family, all having the flu.

Jessee, Angie Ferrell's friend since elementary school, diagnosed with cancer. Celebrating her 53rd Birthday April 26th.

Kathryn, Diane Folkestad's sister, recovering from surgery to repair her spine.

Attendees of White House Correspondence Dinner in Wash. D.C., all safe after active shooter situation.

John, Ricki and Allan Malerich's renter, fell and sprained his ankle.



Joys & Blessings

Thank you to all who donated Easter flowers (29) to decorate the sanctuary and towards the floral cross! (See pictures next page.)

Tod & Sherry Ovall, receiving much help from family & friends with the move into new house!

Isabelle Johnson, home from her trip to France!

Eleanor Mae Mumford, born April 10th! Kept in hospital for an infection a few extra days.

Alyssa Prestidge, accepted to Model College of Hair Design! Will start college Sept. 25th.

Artemis II and the four astronauts on a successful mission around the moon!

Galen Becker, becoming a NEW MEMBER April 26th!

Heather Parks, being recognized April 29th for her faith at the AWANA Program, receiving the prestigious Timothy Award! (See Sunday School update.)



Friday, May 8th
Saturday, May 9th
9 am – 1 pm

(Or come when it fits your schedule!)

Coffee & Donuts AM,
with pizza served at Noon!



**This is an all-church cleaning day...
Inside and Outside!**

The Church Grounds, Sanctuary, Narthex,
Fellowship Hall, Classrooms, Lunchroom/Kitchen.

If you can give an hour or more, it's
needed and appreciated!

Ceilings to floors, cupboards and more!

****SEE BOARD WITH TASKS****



*We celebrate
the many special
Birthdays in April!*

MAY BIRTHDAYS!

1st-Kinsley Rae Chaffins
2nd-Chad Larson
7th-Jeff Peterson-Lomker
12th-Lee Reinhart
16th-John Hylland
17th-Laura Vanderlinde
22nd-Brianna Knutson
22nd-Skyler Chaffins
23rd-Ashley Parks
23rd-Linda Prestidge

MAY ANNIVERSARIES!

2nd-Amy & Mark Schlasner
17th-Nancy & Wayne
Oberlander
31st-Brenda & Randy Segler



Easter 2026



Left: We Thank Linda Marquette & Jessica Reinhart for keeping their family tradition going and assembling the **Floral Cross** each year for everyone to enjoy at Montrose UMC Easter Service.

A big "Thank You" to everyone that donated towards the Floral Cross and Easter flowers to decorate the Sanctuary!



Above: Chancel Choir - Back row L-R: Keith Prestidge, Betty Danford, Carol Becker, Galen Becker, Bob Prestidge. **Front row L-R:** Sherry Ovall, Angie Ferrell, Jewel "Ricki" Malerich (Choir Director).



Right: Pastor Mark shares the Children's Sermon with L-R Evelyn Reinhart, Hazel Marquette and Ian Schlasner.

Left: Pastor Mark's son Ian joins his Dad at the pulpit and helps with the Easter Message.



Left: Handbell Choir (April 12) Back row L-R: Kelsey Marquette, Linda Marquette. **Middle row L-R:** Isabella Johnson, Sonya Tourville, Diane Mumford-Sohns. **Front row L-R:** Alyssa Prestidge, Jacque Vanderlinde.

Right: Thank you Angie Ferrell for the Easter Planter.



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." - I Timothy 4:12

This is the scripture the AWANA Program was founded on in 1952! On April 29, 2026, Heather Parks earned the *Timothy Award*, a prestigious milestone in the Truth & Training Program, awarded to students who complete four designated handbooks. It signifies deep engagement in Bible study, and scripture memorization with award participants roughly memorizing 300+ scriptures. We're so proud of you Heather for working towards building a strong foundation for your faith. **CONGRATULATIONS!**



The Sunday School schedule for May is as follows:

- ◆ **Sunday, May 3rd** - No Sunday School.
- ◆ **Saturday, May 9th** - offsite baking Muffins for Fellowship.
- ◆ **Sunday, May 10th** - No Sunday School. Instead, the class will be hosting Mother's Day "Muffins for Moms".
- ◆ **Friday, May 15th** - Service project refreshing the church Memorial Garden followed by lunch at Dave's Town Club.
- ◆ **Sunday, May 17th** - Last day of Sunday School and **AWARD SUNDAY!**

We thank the parents for getting the kids to Sunday School each week, and we thank the kids for another great year! We'll see YOU in September!

Wishing you all a Blessed and Happy Summer!

Angie Ferrell,
Christian Education Director
(763) 442-4876



MAY NEWS!

The Youth Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting is May 20th, at 5:30 pm... location pending!

WHERE SHOULD WE MEET?

Text your suggestion to Angie at (763) 442-4876 by Thursday, May 14th!

Your Youth Group Leaders: Pastor Mark, Angie, and Kim



United
Women
in Faith

Montrose UMC
United Women in Faith
Hannah Circle

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

**Our next meeting is Monday, May 18th
6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Ricki Malerich will provide the program.**



We continue to use our program book, "Mapping Our Way Forward". 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 and we'd love for you to join us and see what we do!

Hannah Circle will be ordering tickets to attend the NEW play, "**The Church Basement Ladies: A Second Helping**" at the Plymouth Playhouse Theater on Saturday, July 25th at 2 pm. If you are interested in attending with the group please contact Carol Becker **no later than Friday, May 15th**.

Tickets are \$45 per person

Call or Text (763) 913-9540 or email:
choppe59@gmail.com

We will plan to carpool with a vehicle leaving from Buffalo and a vehicle leaving from Montrose.



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



RaiseRight

NOW is the time to start thinking about Mother's Day, Graduations, Weddings, Father's Day, Teacher "Thank You" gifts, summer vacations or home projects. Get all the items needed for these things and more while helping the church out, and best of all, not taking any additional money from your pockets!

- ⇒ Raise Days Bonuses May 3rd!
- ⇒ Mother's Day Gift Card Bonuses through May 7th!
- ⇒ Grocery Card Bonuses May 15th - 21st (just in time for grilling!)
- ⇒ Summer Travel Bonuses start May 22nd!
- ⇒ Memorial Day Online Shopping Bonuses start May 21st!
- ⇒ Father's Day Bonuses starting May 29th!

I encourage you to check out the website <https://raiserright.com> Or download the RaiseRight app to take advantage of these great deals! And REMEMBER we have Gift Cards on-hand today!

Any questions, I can be reached anytime either at church or just send me text/call (763) 442-4876. Happy Shopping! Angie

FE-ED UPDATE



REPORT FOR THE APRIL 28, 2026 FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

**We had 32 volunteers giving
126.5 hours of work!**

**WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS**

The weather was a little chilly for our April food drop, but the sun shining was a real mood booster! The Second Harvest Heartland semi scheduled for noon arrival, arrived at 1:20pm. Our Phoenix Learning Center (PLC) students arrived at 12:50 pm. These students saved the day by getting boxes packed quickly. Even their bus driver pitched in to help. We started a little late but quickly caught up. These students and our faithful volunteers are amazing! Maggie and Deb donated 5 pounds of items for PLC student's bags.

Our bi-annual Second Harvest Heartland (SHH) review and certification took place during this food drop. I think we passed with flying colors as we did not get flagged on any of our food handling processes or distribution tracking procedures. When you are handling food there are so many things we must strictly adhere to. We are asking people to return their boxes if they are in good condition as it is hard to gather enough banana boxes each month to pack items into for each drop. We are looking into ordering boxes, too, if the right size and affordable. This will alleviate the need to scramble for boxes each month.

We want to give a shout out to Grace Place for their continued generosity and support. They donated 579 pounds of food; two meat items per box, eggs, milk and sweets. Thank you so much!

NOTE: The contact information for **Love of 4 Paws** pet food registration is now Mattie at 763-264-0730.

April Statistics:

- 5,790 lbs. of food from Second Harvest Heartland
- Families served 175
- Individuals served 487
- New Visitors 5
- Veterans served 38
- Communities served 24

Respectfully submitted by,
Pam Johnson
FE-ED Secretary

To Donate to FE-ED



Scan QR code above to donate to FE-ED

(Donations are tax deductible)

FINANCE UPDATE



Happy May! In an effort to be more transparent and keep everyone better informed of the church's finances, the Sunday worship bulletin will once again include the financial box showing the previous week's attendance and giving.

This will show funds received broken down by category; General Fund, Building Fund, Rental Income, Apportionments, etc. Per the 2026 Church Budget, shared in the February newsletter, the amount needed weekly is \$2,115. The Finance Team is reviewing the budget since we now have actual numbers for the first four months of the year and are seeing utilities and insurance already 15.6% higher than same time last year.

After reviewing the weekly deposits for April, including electronic giving, I found that the church broke even for the month. In May, we have another quarterly insurance premium due which is over \$1,700. We are accumulating expenses for repairs that are taking place in the former youth room, now transitioning to storage space. The three small glass-cube windows must be removed and sealed off due to age at a cost of \$1,435. Trustees are looking at hiring a lawn service company to maintain the church grounds, as those of us in our late 60's, 70's and 80's should not be mowing! A seasonal contract will run about \$1,000. (This shows you how much the church saved and what a blessing it was when the Rux Family did this work.)

As summer approaches, just a reminder that our church has its normal expenses as we do during the winter months, with typically lower attendance. We all (hopefully) have a lot of fun things planned during the summer, but please don't forget about the church. **The mailing address for contributions is Montrose UMC, PO Box 13, Montrose, MN 55363. ATTN: Carol Becker.** You can also scan the **QR Code** below to safely give electronically via PayPal.

As always - please let me know if you have any questions.



Carol Becker,
Finance Chair
Cell: (763) 913-9540
Email: choppe59@gmail.com



Apportionments can be seen as an ugly word, but here is my second testament on how Apportionments have helped our church. Every month I will be sharing how apportionments help support international, national and local missions in the United Methodist Church.

The Minnesota Conference is devoted to identifying and empowering local church leadership. Thanks to apportionments, laity receive training through webinars and learning modules designed to help them grow as effective leaders.

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

With Love and Blessings,
Pastor Mark

May



FE-ED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

TUESDAY, MAY 26th
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

Pastor Mark will be on vacation starting Monday, May 11th through Sunday, May 17th, returning Monday, May 18th.

1
 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (C)

2
 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)

3 COMMUNION
****NO SUNDAY SCHOOL****
 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F)
 10:30 am Worship Service (S)
 10:30 am House of Grace Worship (L)
 6 pm AA Meeting (C)

4
 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C)

5 NO ACTIVITIES

6 NO ACTIVITIES

7
10 am Bible Study??
 7-8 pm Palabra Viva Women's Bible Study (S)

8
RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY!
9 am - 1 pm ALL CHURCH CLEANING DAY
 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (C)

9
9 am - 1 pm ALL CHURCH CLEANING DAY
 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)

10 MOTHER'S DAY
****NO SUNDAY SCHOOL****
9:30 am Muffins For Mom by Sunday School Class (F)
 10:30 am Worship Service (S)
 10:30 am House of Grace Worship (L)
 6 pm AA Meeting (C)

11
 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (C)

12 NO ACTIVITIES

13 NO ACTIVITIES

14
 6:30 pm 4H Club Franklin Friends (C)
7 pm SPRC Mtg. (C)
 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Women's Bible Study (S)

15
TIME TBD Memorial Garden Refresh by SS
 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (C)

16
 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)

17 SUNDAY SCHOOL AWARDS!
 9:30 am Sunday School (C)
 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F)
 10:30 am Worship Service (S)
 10:30 am House of Grace Worship (L)
 6 pm AA Meeting (C)

18
 6:30 pm Hannah Circle (C)
 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (K)

19
12 pm FE-ED Planning Mtg. (C)

20
5:30 - 7 pm Youth Group (OFF)

21
 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (K)
 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Women's Bible Study (S)

22
RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY!
 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (C)

23
 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)

24
 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F)
 10:30 am Worship Service (S)
 10:30 am House of Grace Worship (L)
 6 pm AA Meeting (C)



26
12 pm FEED Set-up (MCC)
2 pm FEED Distro (MCC)

27 NO ACTIVITIES

28
 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Women's Bible Study (S)

29
 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (C)

30
9 am BOOK CLUB (Heights Bar & Grill)
 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)

31
 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F)
 10:30 am Worship Service (S)
 10:30 am House of Grace Worship (L)
 6 pm AA Meeting (C)

◆ The Handbell Choir is on hiatus until July!
 ◆ The Chancel Choir will enjoy summer and resume rehearsals in September!

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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, May 26th

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

Watch Worship Service at 10:30 am
on **Facebook Live!**

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