

Montrose Messenger

Newsletter for Montrose United Methodist Church October 2026 Volume 10



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***"When Gratitude becomes an
essential foundation in our lives,
miracles start to appear everywhere."
- Emmanuel Dagher***

Pastor Mark's Column



We often treat gratitude like a seasonal decoration. We pull it out of the box when the calendar turns to November, or when we are celebrating a specific milestone, and then we carefully pack it away when the holiday passes. But what if gratitude wasn't meant to be an occasional visitor? What if it isn't just an emotion we feel when things are going well, but rather the very ground we stand on? In the life of faith, giving thanks is less about a reaction to our circumstances and more about the posture of our hearts.

When we view gratitude as a foundation rather than a reaction, it changes how we navigate the world. It becomes the starting point for our journey, a lens through which we view our relationship with God. It is the tool that fortifies us for the long haul. When we begin from a place of thankfulness, we are reminded of who God is and what He has already done. This perspective gives us the strength to remain steady, not just when life is good, but when the path gets steep and the struggle feels heavy.



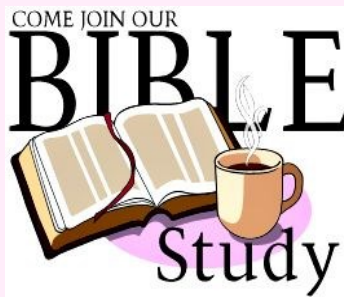
We must be honest that the road of faith is not paved with constant ease. There are seasons of deep joy, but there are also seasons of profound difficulty. However, in the midst of the unknown, we cling to a promise that changes everything: we are never alone. We are promised His presence. The recognition that God is walking beside us—in the quiet, in the chaos, and in the waiting—is the catalyst for a deep, unshakable thankfulness that transcends our circumstances.

As we look ahead to our time together as a church family, we are preparing to explore what it looks like to build our lives on this bedrock. We want to move beyond the surface level and discover how a lifestyle of thanksgiving equips

us to follow Jesus more closely. No matter what this season holds for you, we invite you to join us as we learn to embrace a gratitude that goes deeper than a holiday, anchoring us securely in the presence of the One who never leaves our side.



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



Bible Study Is Back!

We are restarting our Bible Study groups the week of **October 11th** and you can join either in person or online.

In Person: Sign up at church on the sign-up sheet.

Online: Sign up on our Facebook page.

We can't wait to study God's Word together again.
See you there!

Pastor Mark Schlasner
(763) 656-3490

October Worship Theme

We Continue with "Pressing On"

October 4, 2026
COMMUNION SUNDAY

Communion Steward:

Christie Illies

Message: *"The Heavenly Call"*

Scripture: Philippians 3:4-14

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Message: *"Rejoice in the Lord"*

Scripture: Philippians 4:1-9

New Worship Theme
"Always Give Thanks"

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Message: *"Chosen"*

Scripture: I Thessalonians: 1-10

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Message: *"Tested"*

Scripture: I Thessalonians: 2:1-8



NEW! On the First Sunday of Every Month...

Friends, Faith & Fellowship

Starts Sunday, October 4th after church service!

(Approximately 11:30 to 12:30)

People will sign-up to provide a light snack/meal to extend our Fellowship Hour and enjoy more conversation!

Sun. 10/4 - Meri Ault

Sun. 11/1 - Hannah Circle

(See the Hospitality Sign-up Sheet if you'd like to provide for December.)



PRAYER REQUESTS LIFTED IN SEPTEMBER

Grieving with Families...

† **The Jan Ferrell Family.** Jan, Angie Ferrell's dad, passed away September 6th at 84 years old.



Living at Home...

Gloria Adickes (Now residing at Parkview Care Center in Buffalo - Room 209.)

John Hylland



Lifting in Our Prayers

Devon Prestidge, taken to hospital after a bee sting by his eye (he's allergic).

People with medical issues.

Prayers for all around the world impacted by devastating disasters; floods, wildfires, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.

People traveling over Labor Day weekend and taking trips to see family.

Tammy Prestidge, recovering from foot surgery.

Tod Ovall, starting radiation after the tumor that was removed 5 years ago near his pituitary gland has come back. Prayers for Sherry too as she drives Tod to and from Abbott-Northwestern Hospital.

A good friend of Christie Illies, diagnosed with stage 3 cancer.

Russ Johnson, sick with the flu.

Those with colds, flu, allergies, etc.

Gloria Adickes. Gloria fell out of bed and is in great pain. She's receiving strong pain meds and it's very concerning to the family.

Kole Johnson, Russ & Pam's son and Belle's dad, recovering from surgery in So. Dakota. He had a procedure to relieve fluid around his lungs called a "trans jugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt."



Joys & Blessings

Jacque & Roger Vanderlinde celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary!

The Marquette Family, celebrating Cora's 2nd birthday, and Hunter's 18th birthday!

Pastor Mark and his family enjoying a trip to Disneyworld!

The Joy of a great harvest! Vanderlinde's have squash, pumpkins, apples and more!

The Joy of Celebrate Montrose Hometown Days newly crowned **Royalty!** 2026-2027 Montrose Ambassador - LilyRosa Carlson and Junior Montrose Ambassador - Lilith Will!

Pastor Sarah Bunge, pastor at House of Grace, is moving to Texas with her family October 11th.

****SPECIAL DONATION MATCH** TO THE BUILDING FUND**

On Sunday, October 4th it was announced that **Tod & Serry Ovall** are donating up to \$5,600 in a match to replenish our Building Fund after mold remediation, needed maintenance, upgrades and parking lot improvements. See the poster of the CHURCH in the Fellowship Hall as we "color" the 56 spots in the church with every \$100 donation!



**We celebrate all the special
Birthdays & Anniversaries
from September**

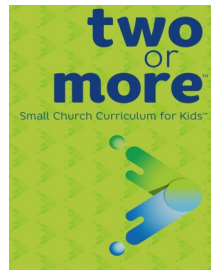
On Sunday, September 27th these 15 volunteers from both Montrose UMC and House of Grace represented FE-ED and walked (or rode) in the **CELEBRATE MONTROSE HOMETOWN DAYS** parade, handing out small bottled waters and Goldfish Cracker packets. (Pictured L-R) Back row: Kim Wagner, Pam Johnson, Pastor Mark Schlasner, Stephen Hayes, Angie Ferrell, Heather Noble, June Sorenson in van, (name unknown), Maggie Muller, Pastor Sarah Bunge, Jess Tousignant. Kneeling in front row: Brinlee, Lilah, Luna (dog), Isabella Johnson, Christie Illies.





Spending time with Jesus on the First Day of Sunday School!

Angie Ferrell, our Christian Education Director, sharing a Bible story with Jack & Hazel Marquette.



We will continue to use the curriculum **"TWO OR MORE"**, designed for smaller churches and ages 3 – 12. The lesson plans include weekly Bible versus and stories, hands-on discovery, games, crafts, activities, and singing together! We would love more kids to join us!

No Sunday School October 18th (MEA)!

Please reach out if you want to enroll your child or have any questions!

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



United
Women
in Faith

Montrose UMC United Women in Faith Hannah Circle

Our next meeting is Monday, October 19th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Ricki Malerich will lead the program.

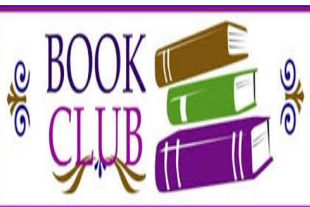
Hannah Circle met on September 21st. There were 7 women in attendance and Sherry Oval led the program. We had a great time putting together bags of goodies to give to someone of our choice "just because". Thank you Sherry for providing all the goodies!

Our next mission project will take place Monday, October 12th, serving dinner to the Love INC's Fresh Start Program participants at WestPointe Church in Delano. We'll be serving goulash, dinner rolls, fruit salad, dessert bars and milk.

At our October meeting we'll be planning what we'll serve for *Friends & Fellowship* on November 1st. At the SPRC meeting in September it was suggested that it would be nice to have a light lunch one Sunday a month in order to take more time to visit our church family and Pastor Mark. SPRC decided to do the 1st Sunday of the month - which is also Communion Sunday. The new fellowship time starts October 4th after church!

Hannah Circle will be participating in the **ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING on November 14th** at the Montrose Community Center. (See page 6 of the newsletter.)

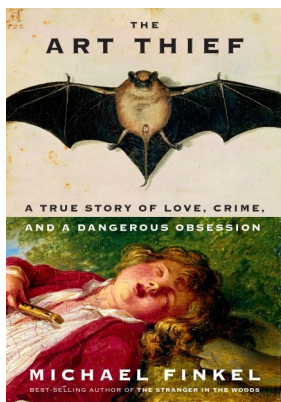
Have questions or suggestions for Hannah Circle? Please contact us at: montrosemnumw@gmail.com



Book Club is back!

Our next book club meeting is Saturday, October 10th at 9:00 am at The Heights Bar & Grill in Buffalo.

We'll be discussing our latest read, **"The Art Thief: A True Story Of Love, Crime, And A Dangerous Obsession"** by Michael Finkel.



The Art Thief is a wildly entertaining true-crime page-turner about a man who stole billions in art simply because he couldn't bear to be apart from it—perfect for sparking debate about obsession, beauty, and whether love can ever justify crime.

All are welcome, whether you've finished the book or not.

Hope to see you there!
Pastor Mark Schlasner
(763) 656-3490



We are starting to plan a new Young Adult Group, and we need your help to make it happen.

We are currently in the brainstorming phase and are looking for two things:

- ♦ **Planners:** Volunteers to help organize events and set the vision.
- ♦ **Participants:** People who are interested in joining us once we launch.

We want this group to reflect the needs and interests of our young adults, so your voice is essential.

Interested in helping or participating? Please contact Pastor Mark at am.umc.pastor@gmail.com or text/call him at 763-656-3490 to let us know!

We'd love to hear your thoughts.



The Montrose UMC Youth Group is in the process of becoming a new **Young Adults Group**. as our youth have graduated and moved onto college or are now seniors and graduating next year.

Stay-tuned for more information!

Pastor Mark, Angie Ferrell and Kim Wagner

FE-ED Update



REPORT FOR THE **SEPTEMBER 22, 2026** **FREE FOOD DROP**

The Second Harvest Heartland semi came early. Our order of sweet corn was not good so we took it to the Veteran's Farm here in Montrose for their animals.

We were delighted to have 12 volunteers from the Phoenix Learning Center to help us. Thank you Linda for the frosted brownies-yum!

We collected many "story cards" from people expressing their thanks and how they benefit from the monthly FE-ED food drops.

The Marysville United Fund's generous contribution funded this drop.

At the September food drop we had 38 volunteers giving 123.1 hours of service!



Our Community Contributions:

- We received 732 pounds of Breads, Sweets, and Meats from **Grace Place**.
- **Monticello Help Center** gave FE-ED 1,259 pounds of Milk, Meat, and Sweets - which FE-ED in turn transferred 84.5 gallons of Milk to Grace Place, and 5.25 pounds were transferred to Maggie & Deb (House of Grace) for Phoenix Learning Center Students.

September Statistics:

- 4,866.5 pounds of food from Second Harvest Heartland
- 120 Families served
- 433 Individuals served
- 3 New Visitors
- 29 Veterans served
- 20 Communities served

**YOUR NEXT
FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION
Tuesday, October 27th**

Respectfully submitted by Pam Johnson,
FE-ED Secretary

**See page 3 of the newsletter for
FE-ED's participation in the
2026 Celebrate Montrose
Hometown Days Parade!**

Finance Update

Here we are... one quarter left for the calendar year 2026 ~ October, November, and December.

In case you missed the email that Kim sent out from the Finance Committee the middle of September, here it is again.

I want to provide a financial update following our ZOOM Administrative Council meeting on Sat., September 12, 2026.

Angie Ferrell, our Treasurer, reported a balance of \$7.30 remaining in our checking account. While there are no outstanding bills in need of payment as of today, we have a couple of large expenses coming due in the month of September. The parking lot is being repaired and seal coated on Tue. Sept. 15th. at a cost of \$9,750. At our meeting today, the council voted to move forward with final repairs in the lunchroom and storage room (former youth room) at a cost of just over \$5,600. These two expenses are in addition to normal expenses coming due in September for payroll, electric, sewer/water, internet/phone, and mowing. In order to cover the additional expense \$15,000+ worth of expenses this month, funds will be drawn from the building fund. While our church is blessed to no longer have a mortgage payment, we still have expenses to cover in order to maintain the building and parking lot. And I will add that the parking lot could no longer be put off. So, I will get to the point of this email. Finance is asking our church members to prayerfully review their giving to see if you are able to donate anything extra to the Building Fund at this time. Or through the remainder of the calendar year. Any amount is greatly appreciated. Earmarked to "Building Fund".

I was studying the year-to-date budget information sheet that Angie prepares each month (as of August 2026) and there was a couple of items that could use a boost. Through July, our Apportionment giving is just under \$4,500. Our budgeted amount for 2026 is \$8,400 - so we're 55% there.

RaiseRight (RR) is a great and simple way to add to the church income. My example is Great Clips, my go to place to get a haircut. Very seldom do I get a haircut without having a RR card in hand to use for payment. Great Clips offers an 8% rebate on their gift card. I get a haircut approximately every 6 weeks, or 8 times a year. By purchasing EIGHT gift cards per year (8X25) that amounts to \$200. 8% of \$200 is \$16 - which goes back to the church as income. Angie gives me a separate giving statement at the end of the year showing the amount that I gave to the church through the RR program. As we all know, it doesn't take much to spend \$100 at Cub, Walmart, Target, Holiday, Casey's or KwikTrip for groceries, gas, and essentials each week. These are just a few of the many, many options that are available through the RaiseRight Program.

***Consider using the RaiseRight for the upcoming holidays...
Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas!***

If you have any questions regarding finance, please see me at church or contact me via email at choppe59@gmail.com or by phone (763) 913-9540.

Thank you!
Carol Becker
Finance Chair

Save the Date

Upcoming Events at Montrose UMC!

- ♦ Saturday, October 31st - Halloween Trunk-or-Treat
5-6 pm
Montrose Community Center parking lot.
- ♦ Saturday, November 7th
Christmas Card Making Workshop
10 am - 2 pm Montrose UMC Fellowship Hall
- ♦ Saturday, December 5th
Mom & Dad's Day Off!
10 am - 2 pm Montrose UMC
Leave the kids with us and get your Christmas shopping done or just enjoy the afternoon!



+ 5th Annual Day of Giving

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Saturday, November 14, 2026
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Montrose Community Center
200 Center Ave S., Montrose



Winter Wear
Coats, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and more



Personal Care Items
Hygiene essentials for all ages



Kids' Craft & Cookie Decorating
Fun for all ages!



Food Items
While supplies last



Light Lunch Served

All Are Welcome!

Sponsored by:
House of Grace
Hands & Hearts for All
Montrose United Methodist Church



GRACE PLACE
SUPPORT - GROW - CONNECT

SAVE THE DATE

Community THANKSGIVING MEAL

GOOD FOOD ♥ GREAT COMPANY ♥ STRONGER TOGETHER

Thursday, November 19, 2026
Montrose Community Center
200 Center Ave So,
Montrose, MN 55363

Doors Open at 4:30 PM
Dinner Service
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Traditional THANKSGIVING MEAL

A TIME TO CONNECT,
SHARE AND GIVE THANKS
AS A COMMUNITY.

All are welcome!

Good Food Brighter Tomorrows

♥ FOOD IS WHAT WE DO AND LOVE IS HOW WE DO IT. ♥

HELLO October



FE-ED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

(Brought to you by Montrose UMC & House of Grace)

Tuesday, October 27th
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
				1 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Women's Bible Study (S)	2 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (C)	3 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
4 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am MUMC Worship Service (S) 10:30 am House Grace Service (F/C) 11:30 am NEW! FRIENDS & FELLOWSHIP MEAL (F) 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	5 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (K) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (C)	6 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	7 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	8 6:30 pm 4H Club Franklin Friends (C) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Women's Bible Study (S)	9 RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY! 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (C)	10 9 am Book Study Mtg. (Heights) 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
11 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 am MUMC Worship Service (S) 10:30 am House Grace Service (F/C) 11:30 am Church Council (F) 6 pm AA Meeting (C) 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	12 3 pm Hannah Circle Outreach at Fresh Start (OFF) 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (K) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (C)	13 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	14 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	15 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Women's Bible Study (S) 6:30 pm Cub Scouts (K)	16 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (C)	17 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
18 **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am MUMC Worship Service (S) 10:30 am House Grace Service (F/C) 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	19 6:30 pm Hannah Circle Meeting (F) 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (K) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (C)	20 12 pm FE-ED Board & Planning Meeting (C)	21	22 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Women's Bible Study (S)	23 RAISERIGHT ORDER DAY! 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (C)	24 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)
25 9:30 am Sunday School (C) 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship (F) 10:30 am MUMC Worship Service (S) 10:30 am House Grace Service (F/C) 6 pm AA Meeting (C)	26 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (K) 7-9 pm Palabra Viva School of Ministry (C)	27 12 pm FE-ED Set-up (MCC) 2 pm FE-ED Food Distribution (MCC) 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)	28 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (S)	29 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Women's Bible Study (S)	30 7-9 pm Palabra Viva Men's Bible Study (C)	31 4-9:30 pm Palabra Viva Worship (S/F)

BIRTHDAYS!

1st-Keith Prestidge
3rd-Raechel Chaffins
4th-Taylen Zitzloff
8th-Jessica Reinhart

15th-Kyzer Parks
16th-Kenadee Bickmann
17th-Kodie Ashbaugh
23rd-Connor Dostal
23rd-Ian Schlasner

25th-Bob Prestidge
31st-Kim Wagner

ANNIVERSARIES!

3rd-Brianna & Kollin Knutson
4th-Don & Mildred Klarstrom

11th-John & Jane Gessinger
11th-Dennis & Jeannie Yager
23rd -Keith & Carol Prestidge

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

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

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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:
Tue., October 27th

Drive-Thru event Starting at 2 pm
at the Montrose Community Center

Volunteers are needed & welcome starting at
12:30 pm to help sort food and pack food boxes!

FE-ED offers a drive-thru food distributions each month giving out pre-packed boxes of dairy, produce, bread and other food items.

One box per car - Open to everyone.
No requirements - No cost.

FE-ED is brought to you in partnership by Montrose United Methodist Church and House of Grace.
Go to the FEED website for more information:

www.fe-ed.org

Please Join Us On Sunday Mornings!

- ♦ Sunday School (Pre-K - 6th Grade) 9:30 am
- ♦ Coffee & Fellowship Hour 9:30 am
Serving Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, etc., & pastries
- ♦ Worship Service Montrose UMC 10:30 am
- ♦ Worship Service House of Grace 10:30 am

Communion on the first Sunday of the Month,
with an extended Fellowship Hour after
Church Service serving a light lunch.

Unable to attend in-person?
Watch the service on **Facebook Live!**
(Search Montrose UMC Minnesota)