



Church Charge Conference Date
Change! New date and time:

Monday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m., Zoom

(If you need help getting on zoom, call the
church office and ask us! We'll send someone

Blue Christmas

HONORING GRIEF
&
REACHING TOWARD HOPE

**Join us online December 17th at 7 p.m.
for a service of hope during this different
year of celebrating the holidays.**



New YouTube Channel to Watch Worship & More!

Visit our Church website: www.montrosumc.org for a link. Navigate to
the upper right corner to find the tab that says, "Worship Services," click
that, and then click "MUMC YouTube," and it will take you directly to
our services. Each Sunday morning as well as any special services for

the holidays can be found here and on our Facebook page. YouTube channel direct link: [https://
www.youtube.com/channel/UCK0vVOeQStH45wqtmOcDNJQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCK0vVOeQStH45wqtmOcDNJQ)



Montrose United Methodist Church

19 S. Park Avenue

Montrose, CO 81401

www.montroseumc.org



The Montrose Messenger

A Monthly Newsletter of the Montrose United Methodist Church

"Joyfully to love all, Serve all and to share Jesus Christ with the world!"

19 S. Park Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401 (970) 249-3716

www.montroseumc.org · office@montroseumc.org



Digital & In Print...AND Dinner too!

This year we are offering all sorts of choices for Advent devotions!
Sarah has put together a packet of devotions that can be picked up each
week in a drive-thru each Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. IF you reserve
your packet, you also get pizza! More information on page 7.

We also have devotions that will be available online on our website

Advent Music at Noon on Wednesdays to continue online!

Each Wednesday in Advent at noon you can log on to your
computer, tablet or phone and watch a concert. We know it's
not the same as being in the building, but it does bring music to
you wherever you are!

Wednesday, December 2nd—Montrose UMC Hand Bells

Wednesday, December 9th—Deb TenNaple on violin and Martha Ditto on cello

Wednesday, December 16th—Robin Freed on Harp

Wednesday, December 23rd—Kelly Thompson & Laurie Ranum: Organ & Piano

Director of Music Ministries, Kelly Thompson has set up concerts to warm your heart. Log on to our Facebook
page: www.facebook.com/montroseumc.org or our YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCK0vVOeQStH45wqtmOcDNJQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCK0vVOeQStH45wqtmOcDNJQ)



Christmas Eve Online Worship Worship online at: 4:00, 5:30, 8:00 & 11 p.m.

As COVID cases continue to rise, and at the urging of our Bishop,
we have made the difficult decision to offer our Christmas Eve
worship services digitally this year. We know all too well how
completely out of sorts this year feels, and yet, there is hope. As
Christians, we believe in the power of God and the love of a Savior.

It is my deep hope we will continue to endure this time away from many of our favorite people all in one place
so that we would come back together, not missing any one person due to this virus. So, with that, we will offer
a worship service that will stream on our Facebook page and also be available on our YouTube channel:

Pastor Lisa’s Lines

Like Easter this year, we find ourselves coming to our other “high and holy” time with frustration and grief. We are once again closed for worship in an effort to stop the rapid spread of the Corona Virus. No matter your thoughts on the pandemic, or the statistics of the small amount of fatalities in regard to contracted cases, I hope you will all agree that if even one of our members or loved ones were to die of it because we gathered and they didn’t even realize their health was in a risk category, we would be distraught.

Much like the tomb of Good Friday that gives way to the bright rays of light in a risen Christ on Easter, we find ourselves not quite ready to endure the waiting of Advent, even though we know it will give way to the Christ child’s birth.

Perhaps this year as we approach Advent, the waiting will feel more intense. Many of us will not have our ‘usual’ parties and gatherings. We will not sing Christmas carols together in worship and we will not bake quite as many holiday goodies. But perhaps we will still send Christmas cards with pictures and blessings; we will still light candles around a table and say a prayer; we will still decorate the home, even if it’s just for us to enjoy.

I know that this year has been especially hard for those who are prone to depression or who are simply deeply feeling people, or who live alone, or are in these vulnerable categories. So I’m hopeful that we, as a community of faith, can reach out and share some extra love and blessings with a card, phone call, small gift or other way of caring.

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As we begin this time of waiting, I want to invite you to actively participate in being a blessing to someone you may not know. So here is your homework...yes I know I don’t usually assign homework in our newsletter, just in worship...but I think you can all handle it.

Holiday Homework: If you are willing to send an extra card or two or three, or make a phone call or two, or drop by a small goody bag (no contact needed), call the church office and let us know that you are willing to send some extra holiday cheer. We will give you the name of someone who we think needs some cheering.

(Likewise, if you know someone who we maybe would otherwise miss, would you let Pastor Lisa know, so we get their name on this list!)

We are all waiting...we are all wondering when we will gather again in worship and sing our hearts out. We are waiting for God’s love to reign down in tangible ways...and we step back and realize it may be us who are called to share this love more than we ever have before.

Friends, I miss you and I love you, and though this Advent will be different, it will be meaningful and wondrous if we let it.

You are Blessed to be a Blessing,

Pastor Lisa



Christmas Pageant Premier

Who: Christmas Pageant Participants & Their Family.

When: December 18th 6:30– 8:00 PM

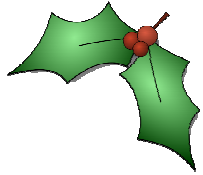
Where: Baldrige Hall

What: We hope (COVID dependent) to have all Christmas Pageant participants and their families meet for a Red Carpet Movie Premiere when we publish our Christmas Pageant to the public. We want you to dress up in your best and walk down the red carpet! We will have a table for each family, drinks and prepackaged snacks to munch on during the movie. More information will be given to families closer to the event.

The movie will premiere at 7:00 PM on the Church Facebook Page (Montrose United Methodist Church) for any

Keep your eyes on emails over the next few months as we may need to be flexible with our

Youth Christmas Party



Who: All Youth Grades 5-12

When: December 20th 11:00-1:00 PM

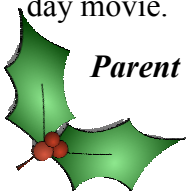
Where: Baldrige Hall/Youth Wing

What: Annual Youth Christmas Party and Sock Exchange!

Join us for our youth Christmas party and sock exchange. Please bring a silly pair of socks, already wrapped.

Lunch will be provided this day.

We will meet in Baldrige Hall for an early lunch and then head up to the youth wing for the sock exchange and a holiday movie.



Parent volunteers are needed for this event.



Advent Devotion To-Go, Wednesdays starting Dec. 2

Join us for this fun, free event series! Each week leading up to Christmas we will have dinner and an activity ready for you to pick up from the church!

Who: ANYONE in the Church or Community

What: Pizza Dinner & Advent Devotional

When: Wednesdays (December 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd)

Pick Up: Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00 PM

Cost: Free- Donations Accepted

All we need from you is to fill out the following form letting us know that you are going to participate. From there we will order the pizzas, put together activity packets and meet you out in front of the church for a limited contact pick-up. We will send a reminder out just before 5 just in case you forget! **RSVP’s must be submitted before noon each Wednesday.** RSVP Here: <https://montroseumc.breezechms.com/>

UMYF—Youth Fellowship

In Person Youth Fellowship will be held in person each Sunday, from 11-1 p.m., as long as we are able. Keep watch on email each week for updates!

We will not have in person gatherings on



Family Ministries

Nursery · Children · Youth

A Letter from Sarah

Dear Families,
At this time, many of us are stressing about how Advent and Christmas will look this year due to COVID. Though we may not get to visit with family and friends, we can instead create new traditions within our immediate family. For example, a new tradition that we are starting in the Seymour family is to purchase a new board game and have family game time on Christmas Eve. This is something we can do, wherever we might be for Christmas Eve, and helps us spend time as a family. So what new traditions can you start this year within your immediate family?

Sincerely,

Storybook Time: Christmas edition

Starting December 18th, go to the church Facebook page or go to the church YouTube Channel to hear Sarah or Pastor Lisa read a Christmas book! The last week in Advent, when we are spending time waiting for presents, yummy goodies, and most importantly, the baby Jesus, is sometimes hard. This year it may feel even harder. Take some time...5 or 10 minutes every night, the week before Christmas, and hear a story.



Sarah and Pastor Lisa miss being able to be with you more, but are thankful to share some fun stories with you!

Sunday School

In Person Sunday School from 9:45-10:45 a.m. at the church. If the weather is nice, we will meet outside. If bad weather, we will meet inside. Building protocol is in place. Kids will be asked to sit spread out, use the materials out of their own pencil box (provided by the church) and wash their hands regularly. **We will not have in person Sunday School on December 27th.**

Quick Care & Parent's Night Out

Quick Care is child care for ages 6 months to 6 years old every Tues. and Thurs. from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Space is limited to 6 kids and RSVP's are required. Cost: \$15 per kid.

Parent's Night Out is a program is for ages 6 months to 12 years old. Our program runs on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month from 6 to 9 p.m. This is an opportunity for parents to enjoy a night out while their kids are busy with theme specific activities. Space is limited to 8 kids (6 months-5 years old) and 12 kids (6 years old - 12 years old). Cost: \$15 per kid or \$30 for families

All nursery programs will now require an RSVP. Please visit www.montroseumc.org or go to <https://montroseumc.breezechms.com/form/167459> for more information or to RSVP for our November programs.



Need information? Have questions or comments? Contact Sarah Seymour at: 970-249-3716 x 18 or email: familyministries@montroseumc.org



GIVE TO THE CHURCH WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON!

You can shop AND give when you shop at AmazonSmile with no extra charge to you! To give through AmazonSmile, follow the instructions below:

1. Navigate to <https://smile.amazon.com/> instead of the regular amazon.com website.
2. If you are not already logged in, sign in to your Amazon.com account.
3. Once you are logged in, click on the "AmazonSmile" tab underneath the search bar.
4. Here, you can choose your charity by searching for "Montrose United Methodist Church." There are a few charities by the same name, so make sure the location says "Montrose, CO."
5. Once you have chosen "First United Methodist Church of Montrose" in Montrose, CO as your organization, you are done! Every time you make purchases on Amazon, AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the



Introducing Curtis Ross, Maintenance Tech/Custodian

Welcome Curtis, our newest staff member here at Montrose UMC. We have been vacant in this department as far as a staff member. However, thanks to Gary Preslan, Craig Taylor, and several other volunteers under the direction of Nancy Johnson, we have kept the building in great shape for our return.

Curtis Ross is originally a southern boy from Georgia. He is a believer in Jesus Christ, and comes with over 22 years of maintenance experience.

He has lived in Colorado for 23 years and is a proud father. He is husband to a wonderful lady named Rolanda. His hobbies include music, the outdoors and reading. He brings a positive "can do" attitude to the table, and is always willing to do anything to help others. One of his favorite quotes is, "We can make a positive impact on the world one person at a time".

Upper Room Discipline Devotional Orders

Are you looking for simple, easy-to-follow devotions? Find inspiration for your walk with Christ with the insightful, daily reflections in Disciplines.

The 2021 edition of Disciplines features 53 writers. We are ordering the Upper Room Discipline Devotional book with daily and weekly devotions.

The costs of these devotionals will be determined by the number of books ordered and their shipping costs. probably about \$14 each. **The ordering deadline will be December 4th** to receive individual books before the New Year.



How to Access the Newsletter from the Weekly Email

To view the newsletter virtually, follow these directions:

First, make sure you are signed up to receive our weekly emails. If you are not, you can email the office and asked to be added to our email list at: office@montroseumc.org or priscillajoe16@gmail.com.

Next, click on the weekly email once it arrives. You will find a link to the newsletter in the weekly email for the first week of each month. If you take a peek at the first weekly email of the month, look for a box titled, "The Montrose Messenger" with a gray background. (See the photo above this article or at the top of the first page of the newsletter). Clicking **anywhere** on that box will automatically open



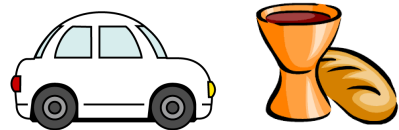
Advent Missions Offering

The season of Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. This year, Advent begins November 29, 2020. Christians use the four weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. It is a reminder to prepare for the birth of Jesus, the “coming” of Jesus into the world. For our Montrose United Methodist congregation, a large part of Advent is the giving of our gifts to support ministries helping those less fortunate around the world and locally. This

year, the Advent offering Recipients are:

1. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) - responds to natural disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community, making it difficult to recover on its own. Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States and around the globe.
2. Sharing Ministries – Faith based, non-denominational, non-profit food bank serving Montrose and surrounding counties. Their vision is to ensure all people in southwest Colorado have access to nourishing food provided in a manner that promotes compassion, self-sufficiency, self-respect and dignity of the individual.

The Advent offering is a way for members to see what they make possible through their gifts to our Church. On behalf of the Missions Committee, I invite you to give generously as we go through this Special Season as we worship God through sharing our gifts, tithes and offerings. May God bless each of you so you can be a blessing to others.



**Don't Miss Drive-Thru
Communion!**

Back by popular demand!

****First Wednesday of each
month**

1 p.m.—1:30 p.m. in the alley

A NOTE OF THANKS

I so appreciate my church family who has stood by me, prayed for me and with me, and supported me in so many ways as I've journeyed on my path of knee surgery. I still have a way to go; however I am so blessed to look back and see how very far I've come. Thank you so very much.

January Newsletter Deadline is **Friday, December 11**

Submit a Publicity Form (found in the front office, or emailed upon request) with details of any upcoming events, a contact person and contact information to: office@montroseumc.org or revlisap@gmail.com



PRAYER REQUESTS

We know that staying connected through prayer is so important, now more than ever. If you have prayer requests, please don't hesitate to call the church office at 970-249-3716 or email us a prayer: montroseumcprayers@gmail.com

If you want these prayers to be only for Pastor Lisa please add, #pastor so they will NOT be included on the prayer list. Please continue to pray for one another, our community and our world as we join together in staying safe and well for one another.

If you would like to receive the prayer list in email or mail, call or email the church office and let us know: 970-249-3716 — or — office@montroseumc.org

Excerpts from A Letter to the Laity and Clergy of the Mountain Sky

Conference from Bishop Karen Oliveto

Dear Laity and Clergy of the Mountain Sky Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2020 has proven to be a difficult year for so many reasons, the main one being COVID-19 and all the risks and harm it has brought. But there is hope! As I write this, news outlets have reported that Pfizer has been testing a vaccine that is proving to be 90% effective. This could be available as the new year dawns.

But we still must get from here to there. Currently, we are facing the harshest days yet of COVID-19. Rates of transmission are higher than ever, with many of the hospitals across the MSC nearing capacity. Epidemiologists warn us that the worst of COVID-19 has yet to hit.

As a result, I am strongly urging that all our churches cease indoor gatherings for worship and fellowship and continue to provide worship online or via other mediums and continue to creatively connect and deepen the bonds of fellowship, at least through the end of January 2021.

We have learned so much this year and have a great deal of wisdom, insight, and experience to bring to this moment: We have learned how to worship online or over the phone; we have done Bible Studies in parking lots; we have had church drive in/take out dinners. We have done so not just out of an “abundance of caution.” We have done so because we are followers of Jesus Christ, who hold that love of God and neighbor combine all the laws of faith and help us become a more faithful follower of Jesus.

The next couple of months are going to be particularly dangerous and difficult as COVID-19 cases surge across the Mountain Sky Conference. We must do all we can to prevent transmission pathways, while at the same time finding new ways to deepen our connections with one another. We are not shutting down worship; we are shutting down COVID-19 transmissions.

At Christmas, we remember the story of God's entry into a broken world that was full of yearning. The waiting was excruciating. May we live anew the Christmas story. May we journey through the wilderness of Advent together, awaiting the birth of God's own Son. May we wait with hope and expectation. Be well! Stay Safe! Wear a mask!

Thank you for supporting the Church Staff: 2020 Staff Bonus Collection

Each year around this time, Staff Parish Relations committee members usually attend each service and requests the congregation to give money for the staff as a thank you for all the hard work they have done that year. I would like to say that 2020 is no different, but as we all know, 2020 is very different, starting with us asking you from a newsletter and not from church. While some of you may think the staff may not be doing much, they have in fact been working hard behind the scenes to bring you the online services, keep the church clean, send out emails and letters and provide the music you hear during the service. If you are able to give, please send in your donations or drop them by church before December 11th. Please put “Staff Bonus” on the memo line.

Thank you all in advance for your support,



PECANS STILL FOR SALE

If you need/want pecans, they are still for sale! Stop by the church office M-Th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and pick up a bag! Bags are \$12 each. We

