

# Montesano Presbyterian Church Newsletter

**Welcome Home**

**Family Church**

**OIKOS**

**Worship Time**

**10:00am—11:00am**



**201 E McBryde Avenue**

**Montesano, WA 98563**

**Pastor Patrick Cobb**

**360-249-3845**

**September 2021**

## From the roll top desk of Pastor Patrick:

**“He leads me in paths of righteousness for His names sake.”**

I think I believed for a long time, that forgiveness was mercies way of doing what is good and right to someone who had done wrong to me. That just seemed like a natural progression of what Jesus asks us to do. But then I began to learn that people are always doing things that hurt each other and, myself included, need forgiveness and it never happens. Even if you ask for it sometimes. So, the natural progression now seems to be that forgiveness only benefits the person who does the forgiving. Well, that turned out to be a one-way street with a dead-end!

Forgiveness to heal your own wounds? OK, what about forgiveness to simply love your enemy? Nope, that's too hard, says the world. And honestly to forgive simply to heal your wounds and clear your own conscience, well, that's egotistical as well; it seems to me at least. So, what do we do? How do we truly forgive?

I think true forgiveness has to be a highway, an HOV lane, and both people must be in the car headed in the same direction with Jesus at the wheel. That's right! YOU don't get to drive this car, you and I are passengers only. Forgiveness takes reciprocity. Recipe what? Reciprocity – Mutual/ equivalency regarding correspondence over a past disagreement. It is the “practice” of exchanging and discussing differences without hostility or other motives other than recognition and the advancement of influence and a better state of being. OK, so that usually only pertains to two countries but why can it not take place between two people? Forgiveness has to be a both/and, it has to be objective in the sense that both sides are tired of the dirty water between them that only darkens their own souls and no one else's and is causing pain in both of the individuals lives. There is the key. Is the lack of forgiveness causing you pain? Is the pain from anger and hatred, even hatred one won't admit to, causing pain in your head, your heart, your joints, your lungs, your bones, your hands and or your feet.

Excuses: “I can't call them, my hands hurt too much.” I can't go and see them, my feet hurt too much.” I can't move towards them, there is just too much pain and anger associated with what they did or said and they don't deserve my forgiveness.”



## From the roll top desk of Pastor Patrick Continued:

Wow! Do people really say things like that? That is just pain and we all know it, we all do it. And Jesus knew it first. "Forgive them Father for they know not what they do." See, Jesus is driving the car. Forgiveness was taking our pain, the pain we should bare for our sin and removing it from us, allowing us to say. "Can we please forgive each other, I am sorry! I just want to love you again and be loved by you. Can we start there?"

When we forgive we become the people, the disciples Christ wants us to become. We rise above our humanity into a spiritual realm of love with Christ that defeats all wrongs and places love above everything else, and love is what wins in the end. When we forgive for "His name sake." Nothing else matters. Forgiveness does what is good for both passengers, yet the good work begins inside the individual who truly forgives and moves on.

P. Cobb <><

## Mission Meals

In October, we will have sign-up sheets for Mission Meals 2022, so you can start thinking about when you would like to help and what you would like to contribute. Each month there will be opportunities to provide a main dish, salad & dressing, dessert, or the delivery of the meal with a short devotion or time for praise songs.

In August, we went back to our old Mission Meal time of getting the meal to the mission in the evening. The main dish, salads, and desserts need to be at the church by 6:30 for delivery. I will be at the church about 5:45, so the kitchen door will be unlocked. Please let me know if there is any problem. My number is 360-249-5058 – please leave a message if I don't answer. Thank you! Diana Hill

**Deliver Meal and Devotion— Brian & Linda Taylor (360) 580-3908**

**Mission Schedule—September 21th**

**please have your part of the meal to the church by 6:30**

### **MAIN DISH**

T. J. Hill

(360) 964-0068

Marge Leggett

(360) 581-0244

Sheena Wilson

(253) 569-3997

### **SALAD & DRESSING**

Sue Gurney

(360) 240-1488

Linda Cole

(360) 580-5896

Linda Taylor

(360) 580-3908

### **DESSERT**

Lorna Claxton

(360) 249-6798

**Deliver Meal and Devotion— ????****Mission Schedule—October 19th****please have your part of the meal to the church by 6:30**

| <b>MAIN DISH</b>                | <b>SALAD &amp; DRESSING</b>     | <b>DESSERT</b>                      |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| T. J. Hill<br>(360) 964-0068    | Heather Vasquez<br>206-669-9953 | Carmin McCullough<br>(360) 249-2862 |
| Sandy Thomas<br>(360)589-2243   | Linda Cole<br>(360) 580-5896    |                                     |
| Kindra Schoch<br>(360) 249-8186 | Jan Morrill<br>(360) 581-2551   |                                     |

**Deliver Meal and Devotion— Jason Schallon (360) 249-8186****Mission Schedule—November 16th****please have your part of the meal to the church by 6:30**

| <b>MAIN DISH</b>              | <b>SALAD &amp; DRESSING</b>       | <b>DESSERT</b>               |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Joan Tanner<br>(360) 249-2074 | Susan Napiontek<br>(360) 581-2847 | Diana Hill<br>(360) 249-5058 |
| Karen Jarvis<br>(360)249-5502 | Bev Goble<br>(360) 589-2877       |                              |
| Randi Toyra<br>(360) 249-5888 | Patty Winkler<br>(360) 581-0604   |                              |

We are a praying church and we want to pray for your families and friends who are in need. Prayer chains tend to break down in the middle - our "chain" is actually a long list of prayer warriors who are notified by email when someone needs our prayers. If you'd like to be a prayer warrior, contact either Peggy Gillespie ([jpgil20@comcast.net](mailto:jpgil20@comcast.net)) or Edie Johnson ([ediejohnson77@gmail.com](mailto:ediejohnson77@gmail.com)). We will gladly add you to our lists. The outcome of our prayers is not up to us, but we can certainly let the Lord know that we care.

Genesis 32: 24-25 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

Sometimes the flood of life can be overwhelming. Have you heard the phrase, "When it rains it pours"? There have been moments and even days in my life where that certainly felt true. One stressful situation leads to another and it has seemed like I cannot get a break. The problems just stack one on top of the other until I can hardly bear the weight. Once the problems have passed, I can hardly remember them and it seems that going through these trials has made me a stronger person.

Jacob may have been feeling the same way. Although many good blessings have come his way, his twin brother, Esau, has come to his camp with 400 men. They left each other on unpleasant terms, with Jacob posing as Esau in order to win the blessing of their father, Isaac. This action left Esau with no birthright and without the blessing of his father, and he swore to kill Jacob. Jacob worried about meeting Esau, praying to God saying, "Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children." (Gen. 32:11)

An unnamed man comes into his camp and wrestles with him. They wrestled until the next day, neither of them victorious, and Jacob will not quit even though he has been hurt. The other man wants to stop since the day has broke, and Jacob will only quit if the man gives him a blessing. The man does, and it is then that Jacob realizes he was wrestling with God.

When times are tough, we can all feel that we are wrestling with God. Jacob, fearing for his life, problems stacking up, refuses to quit. Against all odds, tired, injured, he keeps persevering. It may seem like it pours when it rains, but when we make it out of the storm, the world will seem that much brighter.

Powerful and loving God, I thank you for aiding me with my struggles. Help me to view life's challenges as chances to prove my worthiness to you. Father, strengthen my will so that each trial and tribulation I go through will be easier to see the outcome that you have for me. I will not quit, as Jacob did not quit, as I fight my demons on my march to your Holy Kingdom. In your Holy name I pray. Amen

Cynthia Crisp

## Worship Committee

**WELCOME TEAM:** We understand that your schedules may interfere with folks ability to serve. If your scheduled time is a problem, please let me know. Peggy Gillespie

### Worship Leaders

Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> – Melani Cobb  
 Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> – Garrett Dalan  
 Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> – Pam Hildreth  
 Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> – John Gillespie  
 October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Peggy Gillespie  
 October 10<sup>th</sup> – Emily Meier  
 October 17<sup>th</sup> – Linda Taylor  
 October 24<sup>th</sup> – Melani Cobb  
 October 31<sup>st</sup> – Garrett Dalan

### Welcome Team (Greeters)

Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> & Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> – Melani Cobb & Family  
 Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> - Bryan & Linda Taylor  
 Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> – Cynthia Crisp & Jeanette Schur  
 Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> – Schallon Family  
 Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> & Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> - Mel & Gale Broughton

# September 2021

| Sun  | Mon | Tue                                    | Wed | Thu   | Fri  | Sat |
|--|-----|--|-----|---|--|-----|
|  |     |  | 1   | 2   | 3  | 4   |
| 5  | 6   | 7 Deacons<br>Mtg 6pm                   | 8   | 9 Session<br>Mtg 6pm  | 10   | 11  |
| 12 Pulpit Fill:<br>Winston Urey  | 13  | 14 Women's<br>Bible Study<br>9:30am    | 15  | 16 Men's<br>Breakfast<br>Ministry<br>resumes 7am<br><b>Game Day<br/>1pm</b> | 17 Women's<br>Lunch ministry<br>resumes<br>11:30am | 18  |
| 19   | 20  | 21 Union<br>Gospel<br>Mission Meal     | 22  | 23 Men's<br>Breakfast<br>Ministry 7am                                       | 24 Women's<br>Lunch Ministry<br>11:30am            | 25  |
| 26 <b>Following<br/>worship<br/>Uganda<br/>Mission<br/>Auction/Lunch</b> | 27  | 28<br>Women's<br>Bible Study<br>9:30am | 29  | 30 Men's<br>Breakfast<br>Ministry 7am                                       |  |     |

Our Annual "Blessed to be a Blessing" Uganda Benefit auction is set for **Sunday, September 26th** following worship. Please be thinking about items or services you can donate for both the oral and silent auction. Look forward to a presentation on Jim's late trip to Uganda and benefit auction.

Linda needs volunteers to gather, in an organized way, donations from businesses for the Silent Auction. The sooner the better. It will be hard to even ask these struggling businesses but we need to gather items. She has a list of the usual donors...would love to get some from people who know the business owners and possibly some new stuff.

If you have questions, please see Jim Dameron or Linda Taylor





## Congregational Life

Thank you to all who have and who will be providing the treats for Fellowship Hour. For those who would like to participate, the sign up list is in the back of the sanctuary. You only need to provide five dozen cookies, brownies, etc. and a fruit or vegetable alternative for those who don't eat sweets or who are gluten free. We have been having fun with alternatives to baked goods – root beer floats, sandwiches for example. You don't need to bake. Remember you are providing a small snack, not a meal. It is fun to partner up with another church family member, so you can share in the preparation of the treats. Congregational Life provides the coffee, juice and service items. Serving the church family is an excellent way to meet everyone. Please see Juanita or Pam if you have questions.

We are so grateful to our church family for loving each other and following the COVID restrictions to keep each other safe. We have had no outbreaks associated with our church. Church family members who have become infected, several of whom were fully vaccinated, were infected outside of church. A few reminders:

- Put on your mask before you enter the church. If you forgot your mask we will provide one.
- Your mask must cover your mouth and your nose.
- Use the hand sanitizer provided by the welcome team. If you are unable to use the sanitizer, please wash your hands in the restroom.
- If you touch your mask, your hands are contaminated and you must use hand sanitizer before touching any common items.
- Please keep your masks on in the Fellowship Hall when you are not eating.
- Use hand sanitizer before participating in Fellowship Hour and touching common items such as tongs or coffee service items.
- People serving food in the kitchen or Fellowship Hall must wash their hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds and remain masked while they are serving food.
- Please do not enter the kitchen to visit while food is being served.
- Most importantly if you do not feel well, even if it is just a scratchy throat, or have been in contact with someone who is ill, do not come to church or church programs.

If you have not been vaccinated, please consult with your health care provider and consider doing so. Vaccinations, masking, and social distancing are still the best ways we have of stopping the spread and preventing variants of the virus.

Excerpt from WebMD Health News Nick Tate 08/10/21:

Experts say the 90 million unvaccinated Americans are most at risk from COVID and have helped the new Delta variant gain a foothold and spread, posing a risk of "breakthrough" cases even in vaccinated people.

## Congregational Life—Continued

Delta is more contagious and causes more severe disease than other known variants of the virus, according to the CDC. It is also more contagious than the viruses that cause MERS, SARS, Ebola, the common cold, flu, and smallpox, the federal agency said.

"Each infection is an opportunity for the virus to evolve into a stronger version in itself," said Akcali, who felt such a sense of relief when she received her vaccination that she teared up. "Each hospitalization is an unnecessary burden to healthcare workers and the system. Each death brings heartbreak to someone in their circle."

Shon Neyland, senior pastor at the Highland Christian Center church in Portland, Oregon, said vaccine tensions have divided his congregation, with about half refusing the shot by his estimation. But he said it's important to understand why some are making that choice, rather than rage at them and hammer home the benefits of the shot.

Many vaccine holdouts don't trust the government or medical establishment or have bought into political arguments against the shot, he said. Some conservative evangelicals are also swayed by spiritual beliefs that COVID-19 is a sign of "biblical end-times prophecies" and the vaccine is "the mark of the beast," he said.

But he has tried to counter those beliefs and biases, arguing they are false and unfounded, urging members of his church to get the vaccine, and partnering with local health officials to run clinics to deliver it.

"I gently try to show them that the vaccine is for our own good and, in fact, is a blessing from God, and it's up to us to accept the blessing [so] we can get back to somewhat of normalcy," said Neyland, author of *The Courage to Stand: A New America*.

"I also believe that to get a vaccine this quick, this was nothing short of a miracle to turn the tide so quickly. Now, for us to resist, it would cause us to continue to suffer and lose lives. And you can't turn away from the lives that have already been lost."

We are continuing our fund drive for some needed cleaning and repair of our Sanctuary roof. We have some funds remaining in our Building Fund, but we will need probably several thousand dollars more to do the job. If you are able to donate or pledge any help toward this project, please designate it in our offering basket, or talk to John Gillespie or Jim Dameron. Thanks, Properties Committee.

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