

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

December 2021

From the roll top desk of Pastor Patrick:

The Litany of Advent begins the first Sunday after Thanksgiving. This year it will begin November 28th and it will end December 19^h. Advent means “Coming” and is a foreshadowing of the Messiah as the Kingly roll of Jesus. The rolls of the Messiah are Prophet, Priest and King.

We celebrate Advent with the four Sundays leading to Christmas with the themes of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. Because of the themes and the tradition of lighting the Advent wreath and hearing Scripture verses read by families and friends, Advent holds special meaning for many people. Some simply see it as the start of Christmas, though others take it as a time to prepare their hearts, reflect on their relationship with Christ and the anticipation for Christmas and the coming of the child King. Others take it as an eschatological event. Eschatological means last days and there are churches that focus on the second coming of Christ and the idea of judgment. Mark 13: 24-31 illustrates this clearly *“the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.”* Interestingly enough, I began reading Dietrich Bonhoeffer last Fall and he combines these ideas and creates a better perspective. He says, *“The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.”* (A Christmas Sermon) Bonhoeffer died in Flossenburg a Nazi concentration camp in 1945. I believe he knew poverty of the soul and looked for Christ in all he did, even his own death. For most Christians, especially today, this may be an unnerving idea. There may be confusion surrounding the roll we play in church leadership, as disciples called to “go” and “share” Jesus. But we are called to be the same courageous and confident Christians. Maybe more so in these times more than ever.

Most of us have known since childhood that Advent has expectations. The anticipation of the child King; fond memories of food, snow, greenery, silver and gold, Santa and reindeer, family, and friends. There is nothing wrong with any of it and we should rejoice in it all and I hope we do. And I PRAY we can. But we MUST know and believe what Advent stands for as believers, I read this from Bonhoeffer as well, *“Only he who believes is obedient and only he who is obedient believes.”*

The word Advent is derived from the Greek word “Parousia” and is actually a baptismal word from the 4th century. Its main point is concentrating on Christ and his return and our preparation. John the Baptist also uses this language as he says, “repent and be baptized”. Advent also accompanies epiphany which we will talk about in a few more weeks. But for now I want you to think about the four words we will focus on as we make our way to the everlasting star of the king that will lead us to the manger where our Lord will rest quietly as a child, born with a purpose. Hope is in Jesus and the resurrection He offers us in his death and resurrection. Peace among men, ALL PEOPLE (warts and all), Joy that comes with believing we are heirs in Christ and we take Jesus and his teaching seriously, and lastly Love. The love that is unconditional, nonnegotiable and never failing.



From the roll top desk of Pastor Patrick Continued:

We must remember that Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church, we are no different today than 2022 years ago. Can you believe that? Acts 2:17 and Hebrews 1:2 talk about the dire situation of the church then and it is not far from that point today. Still, God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory and we too long for better ways to live as faithful believers. Our church today, Israel then, remarkably similar in some ways, wants to be a godly people. So, we sing: *O come, o come Emmanuel. And ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the son of God appears. Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, o Israel.*

As a result, whether we shop, bake, decorate, carol, or stay put this season. This will be a vastly different Christmas than ever before. I am asking as I did last year that we take this time to be a season of fasting, much like Lent. In the sense that we hold back and take a long hard look at our lives, our relationships with those we love, whether or not we are a Christian people who live lives of discipleship or do we need to make changes? I do! So, we all must look forward to the coming of Christ. We need to see the grace that leads to the true gift of life in Jesus through the Holy Spirit. We must offer our lives, so that he may increase and we may decrease. When we do that, we will see Jesus coming on the clouds in everything we do. We will experience the "already and the not yet," we will be transformed into a Kingdom people and hope, peace, joy and love will abound. Amen Patrick Cobb <>

Mission Meals

Thank you so much to those who have signed up to be a part of our Mission Meal ministry here at Monte Pres. We have been able to fill in 64 of the 96 spots! That leaves 32 still to be filled. We have had several folks this year who moved away or moved on or retired, so we have decided to ask another church to partner with us in this ministry. I am planning to send out the new schedule and recipe books for our new folks before the end of the year. Thank you, again!!! For questions please call me (Diana Hill) at 360-249-5058.

Deliver Meal and Devotion— Jim Dameron (360) 590-1285

Mission Schedule—December 21st

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

MAIN DISH	SALAD & DRESSING	DESSERT
Pam Hildreth (360) 482-3514	Lisa Bullington (360) 580-3715	Lorna Claxton (360) 249-6798
Renee Dalan (360) 460-9845	Pam Stein (360) 249-5723	
Diana Hill (360) 249-5058	Lisa Ulakovich (360) 580-6089	

Deliver Meal and Devotion— Tamara Robins (360) 820-4075

Mission Schedule—January 18

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

MAIN DISH	SALAD & DRESSING	DESSERT
Melani Cobb (210) 867-8088	Susan Mandt (360) 249-1971	Tamara Robins (360) 820-4075
Jody Wills (360) 593-0558	Edie Johnson (360) 249-3957	
TJ Hill_(360) 964-0068	Sue McCombs (360) 249-3338	

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

Mission Schedule—February 15

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

MAIN DISH	SALAD & DRESSING	DESSERT
??	Shari Jobst (360) 580-0845	Cynthia Crisp (360) 591-9115
??	Melani Cobb (210) 867-8088	
??	Linda Taylor (360) 580-3908	

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) or Edie Johnson (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.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

“The Lord works in mysterious ways.” We have all probably heard this phrase before. I have always thought it was nonsensical as I have seen first hand what He is capable of doing. Twice I should not have been here, however, God did His work. I tell my stories to people and ask how much more evidence and scripture must there be for us to have a clear understanding of how God works? I realize there are things we do not have much understanding about. With me, there is no doubt that God will move mountains for us if we believe and trust in Him. There is a mountain of evidence and scholars that have spent their entire lives writing about the Lord’s “ways”. Mysterious is not the word that I would use, and it is not the word that Paul would use in his letter to Timothy. In fact, Paul lists exactly what the Lord claimed He would do and did! God lived amongst men as Christ, justified by the Holy Spirit, seen by angels at the time of his birth, preached during his lifetime to all that would hear him, believed by those that would hear him including by us, and then died and went to heaven. Where is the mystery? I feel there is no disputing that Christ’s life was truly extraordinary. Praise His name and glory today and every day, for in Him was the word and the truth resolved, made manifest in his flesh.

Blessed are those that come in the name of the Lord! May we forever sing Your praises. There is no mystery surrounding Your goodness. I thank You with every breath, every fiber of my being, every ounce of my love. I thank You for saving my life not once but twice. I love you Lord as you have loved me. Amen

Cynthia Crisp

Worship Committee

WELCOME TEAM: To our faithful Welcome Teams, you no longer need to check people in. Just continue to be the welcome faces you are & offer hand sanitizer & a bulletin to each person. If you see an unfamiliar face, please acknowledge that person & offer a Monte Pres. Mug to welcome them, if it is someone new. Peggy Gillespie

Worship Partners

Dec. 5th – Linda Taylor
 Dec. 12th –Melani Cobb
 Dec. 19th Garrett Dalan
 Dec. 26th – Pam Hildreth
 Jan. 2nd – John Gillespie
 Jan. 9th – Peggy Gillespie
 Jan. 16th – Emily Meier
 Jan. 23rd – Linda Taylor
 Jan. 30th – Melani Cobb

Welcome Team (Greeters)

Nov. 28th & Dec. 5th – Pam Hildreth & Diana Hill
 Dec. 12th & 19th - Sue McCombs & Peggy Gillespie
 Dec. 26th & Jan. 2nd- Bryan & Linda Taylor
 Jan. 9th & 16th – Mel & Gale Broughton
 Jan. 23rd & 30th- Melani Cobb & Family

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Men's Breakfast Ministry 7am	3 Women's Lunch Ministry 11:30am	4 Patrick JBLM
5 2nd Sunday of Advent Pulpit fill Pastor Urey Patrick JBLM	6	7 Deacon Mtg 6pm	8	9 Men's Breakfast Ministry 7am Session Mtg 6pm	10 Women's Lunch Ministry 11:30am	11 Live Nativity following parade 7-8pm
12 3rd Sunday of Advent	13	14 Womens Book Study 10am	15	16 Men's Breakfast Ministry 7am NO Game Day 1pm	17 Women's Lunch Ministry 11:30am	18
19 4th Sunday of Advent	20	21 Union Gospel Mission Meals	22	23 Men's Breakfast Ministry 7am	24 NO Women's Lunch Ministry 11:30am Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6pm	25
26	27	28 NO Womens Book Study 10am	29	30 Men's Breakfast Ministry 7am	31 Women's Lunch Ministry 11:30am	

Congregational Life

Again thank you all for your adherence to hand hygiene and mask wearing while attending worship and Fellowship Hour. We are entering the winter months and medical experts expect a rise in COVID infections. We will keep following current guidance.

Adults 18 years and older are all now eligible for a COVID booster. Remember we are also at the start of flu season so remember to get your flu vaccination.

We are now having Fellowship Hour following worship. If you would like to participate in supplying treats for Fellowship Hour, please sign up on the list in the back of the sanctuary.

Congregational Life is partnering with Missions to support the Living Nativity in December. Congregational Life will be arranging for the treats to support likely very cold Mary and Joseph, Shepherds, and Wise Men. If you would like to contribute cider, hot chocolate, chips and dip, cookies, popcorn etc. look for the sign up list on the first Sunday in December.

Mission and Outreach

"Once again we will be offering our 'Live Nativity' at the church on December 11, probably between 7 and 8 o'clock. Be sure to drive by and see the 'reason for the season' and come in for hot chocolate in the Fellowship Hall." Volunteers are needed to make this wonderful event happen. Please contact Jim Dameron (360-590-1285) if you are able to help.



Christian Education

It's time for Operation Christmas Child and this year if you would like to pack a shoebox, I have included info on how to do this online. We will not be collecting them at the church. Their website is www.samaritanspurse.org Click on What We Do, then Operation Christmas Child. Click on Pack a shoebox, then choose Build a shoebox online. The cost for this is \$25.00, which includes all the goodies and shipping. You choose from a selection of toys and fun items to include. You can also add a letter and photo if you wish. **The deadline for online boxes is different. You can actually pack a shoebox all year long online, but to be included in this year's count, it needs to be done by December 31st.** This is a wonderful ministry and I hope you have fun packing your shoebox.

We are also looking for Sunday school teachers. If this is on your heart, please contact Lori Minzey at minzey4@hotmail.com or 360-580-5740 for more info.

Blessing Bags

We need the following items for the blessing bags, crackers or cup of soup or both, gloves, flash lights small ones, small waters, tooth brushes, combs, tooth paste, hand soap. We have plenty of shampoo, conditioner and hand lotion and now socks thanks to Garret Dalan. If you find it in your heart to donate items or money or help to put the bags together, please let me know.

Cynthia Crisp

Monte Pres Book Club

We will meet on the first Monday of every other month at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall beginning on Monday, January 3rd. You are invited to join us and to share a recent book you have read; Christian or not. Feel free to invite friends for this time of fellowship. Books from the church library will be available for loan for those interested. Danielle Parker

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.

Something Fun - John 14

E G N I A G A E M O C O
 V G X S P O F V E H A Q
 I U H G L C W E C R M A
 E M O N A V O I N L G E
 C I L I C C R L E J W K
 E H Y H E F K E H D H O
 R W G T F F S B O K E I
 A O H L O I L G G C R S
 P N O L R N N E Z P E J
 E K S A Y I N G S H I I
 R E T R O F M O C Y A T
 P G H T U R T E H T M I

“I Am the Way”

A PLACE FOR YOU
 ALL THINGS
 ARISE
 ASK
 BELIEVE
 COME AGAIN

COMFORTER
 GO HENCE
 HOLY GHOST
 IN GOD
 KNOW HIM
 MYSELF

PREPARE
 RECEIVE
 SAYINGS
 THE TRUTH
 WHERE I AM
 WORKS

