

**Montesano  
Presbyterian Church  
Newsletter  
201 E Mc Bryde Ave.  
Montesano, WA 98563  
Pastor Patrick Cobb  
360-249-3845**



Welcome Home  
Family Church  
OIKOS  
Worship Time  
10:00am—11:00am

**December 2023**

## **From the Roll Top – Patrick Cobb**

Listen to the words of Jesus from John 14: “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

Listen to the words of the angels as they address the men of Galilee in Acts Ch. 1: “Why do you stand there gazing up into heaven?”

By the way, these are words that need to be heralded from the rooftops to all the crystal-ball gazers of the world and to all the institutions that are still navel gazing at the losses of 2021 and COVID World. “Why do you stand there gazing up into heaven?” Why are you stuck, frozen in time, looking back and asking, “What happened?” I didn’t order this for dinner! Who did this to me?

It’s a legitimate feeling we all have faced. But it’s done! The implication is, “Don’t we have work to do? I mean, did the Lord Jesus say, “Stand and gaze up into heaven?—no, he didn’t. He said, “Go and make disciples of all nations.” Bad things are still going to happen (wars, famines, disease) but we are overcomers. We believe in what Jesus did on the cross. And if we’re making disciples of all nations, we don’t have time to stand around gazing into heaven. “Why do you stand there gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come again in the same way that you have seen him go.” This is our Advent message. This is the hope and the work we are called to do. The King of King’s and Lord of Lord’s is on his way.

Hebrews has been a blessed book to study this year. Turn to Hebrews 9:28, it says: He, Jesus, “will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.” This is an active waiting. Not a passive waiting. The New Testament literally moves with this great assurance, which is a vital part of the Christian gospel. It is as vital an aspect of the message of Christmas as is the cradle in Bethlehem. Do we realize

that? Because if Jesus Christ is not coming back again, then one in four verses in the New Testament is misrepresented; the angels were wrong, and Jesus was misguided in his statement in John 14. You see, the sneaking suspicion has got into the minds of many that he’s not coming back again, people have lost hope. The result is, therefore, humanity won’t have to face him. In the words of Harold “OH BOY! – That’s bad theology. But as surely as he came to Bethlehem, he will come back in glory. So, ask yourself:

Why did Jesus come? To make the Father known. Do you know the father? Yes, you do. So, live into it.

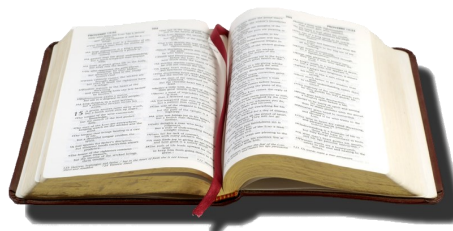
Why did Jesus come? To defeat Satan’s works. Are you living in the light of that victory? Do you seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with Jesus?

Why did Jesus come? To take away our sins. “Have you knelt at the cross? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Are you grateful?

I hope that these thoughts are helpful in bringing some to faith, renewing others in our love for Jesus, and giving us another little glimpse of the fact that when we sing the Christmas carols, we are touching upon the great realities of our Christian faith, and that we may worship him even better this year than we’ve ever done before. Advent is coming. Jesus is coming. Christmas is coming. Behold a child, a King!

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

P. COBB



## Mission & Outreach

### Live Nativity Scene

'We will again present our Live Nativity on Saturday, December 9 during the Montesano Festival of Lights. We hope you can participate and/or attend our snack time that night in the Fellowship Hall.' Jim Dameron

Mission meals were on the road again, Tuesday November 21. This months blessing to the diners at Union Gospel Mission is Meatballs in

A-1 gravy, buttery noodles, salad, and filled cupcakes. Danielle P, Tim L and Tamra did the whisking and stewing. Salad was provided by Linda T and Jan . Nobody stuffs a cupcake like Diana H. The message centered around being Thankful and grateful in all we do. Yup, That was stolen from Winstons sermon the previous Sunday.

December 19 meal will be centered around either Costco hot dogs or 15 pounds of ground beef. I wonder what Susan M, Pam H and Tamra R will come up with? Salad sign-ups are Pam H, Don B, and Lisa U. Lorna C. will be providing the dessert. Would anyone like to join me for the devotional? They keep asking if I'm going to sing? We could do a few Christmas Carols. Thank you to all that support this mission with food, fun and funds.

Tamra Robins



## Who's Doing What & When?

### Readers of God's Word:

|           |                           |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 3rd  | Pam Hildreth              |
| Dec. 10th | Bob Morrill               |
| Dec. 17th | Garrett Dalan             |
| Dec. 24th | <b>No Morning service</b> |
| Dec. 31st | Emily Meier               |
| Jan. 7th  | David Mandt               |
| Jan. 14th | Melani Cobb               |
| Jan. 28th | Bob Morrill               |

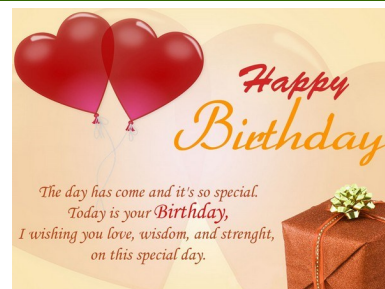


### Greeters:

|                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dec. 3rd & 10th  | Peggy Gillespie and Sue McCombs |
| Dec. 17th        | Pam Hildreth                    |
| Dec. 24th        | <b>No Morning Service</b>       |
| Dec. 31st        | Brian & Linda Taylor            |
| Jan 7th          | Brian & Linda Taylor            |
| Jan. 14th & 21st | Cynthia Crisp and Randi Toyra   |
| Jan. 21st        | Mel & Gale Broughton            |
| Feb. 4th         | Mel & Gale Broughton            |

### December Birthdays

Elliana Carroll, Theo Carroll, Steve Fischback, John Gillespie, Sue McCombs, Bob Morrill, Jennifer Neal, Randi Toyra



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

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.



**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

**Luke 2:10** "And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.'"

**Luke 2:20** "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."

**James 1:17** "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

**1 Peter 1:8-9** "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

# December 2023

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed | Thu  | Fri                                     | Sat  |
|--|--|--|-----|--|---|--|
|  |  |  |     |  | 1 Women's<br>Lunch Ministry<br>11:30am  | 2  |
| 3 1st Sunday<br>of Advent<br>Communion &<br>Deacon<br>Sunday | 4 December<br>Birthday<br>Lunch<br>11:30am<br>Gepettos | 5 Grief Group<br>6pm                                     | 6   | 7 Men's<br>Breakfast<br>Ministry, 7am  | 8 Women's<br>Lunch Ministry<br>11:30am  | 9 Festival of<br>Lights Live<br>Nativity 7-8pm<br><b>Patrick JBLM<br/>through Dec<br/>10th</b> |
| 10 2nd<br>Sunday of<br>Advent<br>Pulpit fill,<br>Pastor Urey | 11   | 12 Women's<br>Bible Study<br>10am<br>Deacon's Mtg<br>6pm | 13  | 14 Men's<br>Breakfast<br>Ministry, 7am<br>Game Day 1pm<br>Session Mtg<br>6pm | 15 Women's<br>Lunch Ministry<br>11:30am | 16 Showing<br>of "Shadow of<br>the King",<br>Q & A, 6pm  |
| 17 4th<br>Sunday of<br>Advent                                | 18   | 19   | 20  | 21 No Men's<br>Ministry  | 22 No<br>Women's<br>Ministry            | 23   |
| 24 <b>No<br/>Morning<br/>Service</b><br>Christmas<br>31      | 25   | 26 No<br>Women's<br>Bible Study                          | 27  | 28 No Men's<br>Ministry<br>No Game Day                                       | 29 No<br>Women's<br>Ministry            | 30   |

**Grief Group returns to meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm.**

**December 16th at 6pm a special presentation from Daniel Cole, Writer/Director/Producer of the film "Shadow of the King" followed by a time for questions and answers.**

## Coming Events in 2024

**January 2** Red Cross Blood Drive, Methodist Church

**January 7** Sausage Sunday

**February 11** Chili Cookoff

**February 18** Uganda Benefit Auction





## Congregational Life

### Caring Ways to Brighten the Holidays

The definition of compassion is a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another person who is hurting, in pain, or in a difficult situation. The feeling is usually accompanied by a strong desire to help ease their suffering or lighten their load.

Of course, Jesus Christ is our greatest example of someone with true compassion. Not only did He have compassion and heal people from physical suffering and affliction, but He also showed the greatest compassion for all mankind. He willingly died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins! Christmas gives us the opportunity to reach out with compassion and caring and to share the truth of the ultimate gift given through Jesus!

We know. It's not always easy to show compassion. So many of you share generously and are reaching into our communities and touching your neighbors' lives during this holiday season.

Without a doubt Christmas is the perfect time to share God's love physically and spiritually. As we reach out to individuals and families who are hurting, lonely, and in need, we follow Jesus' example and fulfill the true spirit of the season. We are, in fact, celebrating the REASON FOR THE SEASON!

Jesus sums it up clearly in Matthew 25. "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'... " [verses 37-40 NIV].

## Activities

### Come join us for Game Day!

We love to play games, laugh, and eat snacks!

We meet at the church on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 1:00 even in December this year!

If you have any questions, you can call or text Randi Toyra at (360) 580-7880 or Diana Hill at (360) 964-0024.

**Discovering Hope in the Psalms** – A Bible study that incorporates an in-depth study with opportunities to explore your creativity. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 10:00. Please note on the December calendar, though, we will not be meeting December 26th.

If you have any questions, you can call Diana Hill at (360) 964-0024.

## Giving Tree

Christmas is right around the corner, and we are preparing our hearts and our homes for the birth of Christ. We must also look to our neighbors in need, and this year, we are bringing back our longstanding tradition of the Giving Tree.

Please take a tag for one member of a family, if you're able. Feel free to coordinate with as many other people as you need to in order to purchase their gifts.

For all the gifts that we have in our lives, let's rise to the occasion this year and bring joy to our neighbors on Christmas Day.

Gifts are due back to the church no later than Sunday, December 10 in order to be distributed to the families by December 15.

Danielle Parker 360-581-0207

## 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 |
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| R | E | T | R | O | F | M | O | C | Y | A | T |
| P | G | H | T | U | R | T | E | H | T | M | I |

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### **“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