

Montesano Presbyterian Church

201 McBryde Ave. East, Montesano, WA 98563

360.249.3845 ~ montepres.org

Sunday Morning Worship ~ 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

1883 - 2024

February 2024

From the roll top desk of Pastor Patrick

Romans 3:31 But by shifting our focus from what we do to what God does, don't we cancel out all our careful keeping of the rules and ways God commanded? Not at all. What happens, in fact, is that by putting that entire way of life in its proper place, we confirm it.

Why is it so hard to get my house in order? I try and try to do things that better the home. I paint in the summer, I replace rotted wood, I fix leaking faucets and I check for problems hoping to catch them before they turn to real trouble. But it still leaks. Wood gets old and paint fades and peels. I just want to have a happy home. Is that too much to ask?

When we are adopted into the Oikos family, when we open the door to Christ and He comes in and cleans up our house, the law closes one door and a new one is opened; so, one is under a new rule and a new covenant. MPC, you are God's children; it is your first duty to obey your heavenly Father and it is your responsibility to participate in the housework for the home in which you now live. You live in a new home! Clearly, it's not that easy or straight forward.

And that's ok. But your first duty is to love, then to serve, then to love some more. House rules!

Spurgeon says, "A servile spirit you have nothing to do with: You are not a slave but a child. And now, inasmuch as you are a beloved child, you are bound to obey your Father's faintest wish, the least intimation of His will. Does He bid you fulfill a sacred ordinance? It is at your peril that you neglect it, for you will be disobeying your Father."

How does God want you to love in this house? How does he want you to work his fields? Does He command you to seek the image of Jesus? Is it not your joy to do so? Does Jesus tell you, "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect"? Then not because the law commands, but because your Savior enjoins, you will labor to be perfect in holiness. Does He bid his saints to love one another? Do it, not because the law says, "Love your neighbor," but because Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

And this is the commandment that He has given to you, "that you love one another." Are you told to distribute to the poor? Do it, not because charity is a burden that you dare not shirk, but because Jesus teaches, "Give to him that asks of you." Does the Word say, "Love God with all your heart"? Look at the commandment and reply, "Ah, commandment, Christ has fulfilled you already. I have no need, therefore, to fulfill you for my salvation, but I rejoice to yield obedience to you because God is my Father now, and He has a claim upon me, which I would not dispute."

May the Holy Ghost make your heart obedient to the constraining power of Christ's love, that your prayer may be, "I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!" Grace is the mother and nurse of holiness, and not the apologist of sin. Only then will your house become a home and you will see the transformation as it takes place in each and every new day. Love this home, leaks, old wood, and all. For it loved you first.

In Christ <><

P. COBB

Christian Education

Lisa is looking for volunteers to help with Children's Church. If are interested, please contact Lisa at 360.580.6089.

Congregational Life

What is better than Super Bowl Sunday? The Monte Pres Chili Cook Off!!! Following worship on February 11, we will have our annual chili cook off. Chili experts

get ready to impress the judges. We also need others to contribute dessert, corn bread, chopped onions, sour cream, corn/tortilla chips, or whatever you like on your chili. We have plenty of cheese in the freezer. Look for the sign up sheet on Sunday January 21. This will be a nice start to your Super Bowl celebration.

WHO MADE THAT? Two church family members have asked for recipes for salads they enjoyed from the Harvest Dinner. What a compliment! So if you made the kale salad or the jello salad that had marshmallows in it and are willing to share the recipe, please let Pam know.

Remember to sign up to host Fellowship Hour. Team up with a buddy if you'd like. The food you provide does not have to be elaborate. You may provide whatever you like: cookies, vegetables, fruit, chips and dip, root beer floats, etc. If you don't bake, buy. The important part is the fellowship with your church family, not what is being served. Congregational Life provides the coffee, cream and sugar, and juice. If no one signs up, coffee and juice will still be provided.

In Sunday School on January 14, we studied Hannah Whitall Smith's Recovering the Joy of Service. "Certain things, which at the first may have been a joy and a delight, become after a while weary tasks, performed faithfully, perhaps, but with much secret disinclination, and many confessed or unconfessed wishes that they need not be done at all, or at least that they need not be done so often. The soul finds itself saying, instead of the 'May I?' of love, the 'Must I?' of duty...It is altogether the way we look at things whether we think they are crosses or not.

And I am ashamed to think that any Christian should ever put on a long face and shed tears over doing a thing for Christ which a worldly person would be only too glad to do for money...Now, from all these forms of bondage the soul that enters fully into the blessed life of faith is entirely delivered. In the first place, service of any sort becomes delightful to it,... What you need to do, then, dear Christian if you are in bondage in the matter of service, is to put your will completely into the hands of your Lord, surrendering Him the entire control of it... Many Christians...love God's will in the abstract, but carry great burdens in connection with it. From this there is also deliverance in the wonderful life of faith. For in this way of life no burdens are carried, no anxieties felt. The Lord is our burden carrier."

Pam ~ Congregational Life

Game Day

Come and join us for Game Day if you enjoy playing games! We laugh a lot, and eat snacks that we bring to share!

We meet at church on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, at 1:00 p.m. February game days are set for February 8 and 22.

If you have any questions, call or text Randi Toyra (360.580.7880) or Diana Hill (360.964.0024).

Mission / Outreach

Uganda

Again this past year this church has been able to help different ministries locally and

abroad. Because of diminished budget income the amounts we provide will decrease somewhat. This makes it all the more important to support fund-raisers like our Uganda Auction. Please look for the clipboard listing past business contributors to the Auction and, if you can, choose one or two to visit. It will help if you initial or put a check mark by them so no one duplicates your efforts. Thanks, Mission & Outreach Committee

Union Gospel Mission

As we began 2024, Randi stepped in for Jan on the main course. Shepherd Pie headed the menu. I can't say enough about how positive the fellowship is in the kitchen as we prepare the meal. If you are available the third Monday or Tuesday morning of each month, I encourage you to sign-up. Thanks to Lori, Peggy and Shari for a garden of vegetation. Coming up in February, Montesano Community Church will provide the meal and message. March 19 will be here before we know it. Randi, Tamra and Patty will make the main course. Patty will do double duty as the dessert provider. Get together with Tamra to ask how you can join the fellowship.

Praying Church

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 would like to be a prayer warrior, or are in need of prayer, contact either Peggy Gillespie (jpgil20@comcast.net) or Edie Johnson (ediejohnson77@gmail.com).

February Birthdays

Happy birthday to:

Rory Baier, Tamra Robins

Art Tanner ~ 15th, Carson Cobb ~ 17th

Emily Meier ~ 17th & Ben Carroll ~ 21st

February Events

Grief Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. here at the church. This group is led by Angela Carter.

February Birthday Lunch Each month we celebrate those having a birthday with a lunch held at Gepetto's Italian restaurant. This month, the lunch will be held on Monday, February 5, at 11:30 a.m. Come and help us celebrate!

Men's Breakfast Ministry is open to all men of the church. They meet for breakfast Thursday mornings at 7:00a.m.

The **Women's Ministry** is open to all women of the church. Bible study meets every Friday at 12 noon.

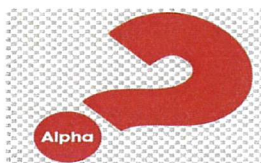
February 11 has been set for our **Annual Chili cook-off!** A sign-up sheet can be found on the back table in the sanctuary for those wishing to enter their chili masterpieces or to bring side dishes.

Lenten Soup and Devotions Begin Wednesday, February 21 through March 20. Join us for soup and devotion at 12:00 p.m. every Wednesday of Lent. A sign-up sheet for soup be available soon.

Pancake Day / Shrove Tuesday

The Montesano Ministerial Association will be hosting the annual Pancake Day from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 13 at St Marks. The Community is welcome. While there is no cost for the pancakes, a donation to the MMA is appreciated.

TRY ALPHA



Life presents big questions. Is there more to this life than just this? Why does the world feel out of balance? Am I out of balance? Why do I feel disconnected and lost? What is my purpose? Who is this Jesus? What does he really do? Can I change?

We think those questions deserve exploration. Not easy answers. Not dismissal. But true exploration. We have all been in a place of uncertainty and doubt. Alpha says, "That's ok." And "You're not alone."

Alpha is for everyone, whether or not you are connected to the Christian faith, or any faith at all, but it is especially designed for those who aren't or aren't sure if they are believers. Alpha is a series of talks, and each talk will look at a different question around faith and life. You'll have a chance to join a small group discussion. No question is off limits and you can choose whether to share your thoughts and questions or simply observe.

So, join the conversation. Ask. Wrestle.

Listen. Invite a friend who is exploring faith to attend with you. And let's discuss some of life's big questions in a safe and welcoming environment.

Start Date – February 28, 2024 at 6:00 PM.
Dinner Served at 6:05. Alpha starts at 6:30.
Alpha winds down at 7:30.

Is God calling you? Give Alpha a chance.

THANK YOU...

A Big Thank you goes to Cynthia for publishing the Monte Pres Newsletter for the past several years. We so appreciate Cynthia's dedication to this mission. Susan has agreed to publish the newsletter going forward.

If you have something you would like in the newsletter, please submit your information to Susan at susanmontepres@hotmail.com, by the 15th of the preceeding month.

Who's Doing What

Reader of God's Word

February 04 ~ Peggy Gillespie
February 11 ~ David Mandt
February 18 ~ Garrett Dalan
February 25 ~ Emily Meier
March 03 ~ Randi Toyra
March 10 ~ Tom Robins
March 17 ~ Melani Cobb
March 24 ~ Pam Hildreth
March 31 ~ Bob Morrill

Greeters

February 04 & 11 ~ Steve Foshaug and
Patty Winkler

February 18 & 25 ~ Ron & Lorna Claxton

March 03 & 10 ~ Diana Hill

March 17 & 24 ~ Peggy Gillespie &
Sue McCombs

The Readers and Greeter lists are assigned on a rotating basis. If you are unable to be the Reader of God's Word, or Greet the Sunday you are listed, please let Susan know as soon as possible so a replacement can be found. If you would like to be added to either list, please let Susan know that as well.

Union Gospel Mission Meal

February ~ Montesano Community Church

March ~ Main Course: Tamra Robins,

Randi Toyra, Patty Winkler

Dessert: Patty Winkler

Please contact Tamra 360.303.5389, if you would like to provide the salad



Session Meeting Schedule
Session Meets the 2nd Thursday of
each month at 6:00 p.m.

February 8
March 14
April 11
May 9
June 13
July TBD
August TBD
September 12
October 10
November 14
December 12

Deacons Meeting Schedule

The Board of Deacons meet at 6:00 p.m.,
on Tuesday the same week Session meets.

February 6
March 12
April 9
May 7
June TBD
July TBD
August TBD
September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10

March Coming Events

March 05 ~ Red Cross Blood Drive
Calvary Chapel
March 06 ~ Soup & Devotion continue
through March 20
March 10 ~ Daylight Savings time Begins
March 17 ~ Pi(e) Day observed at MPC :)
March 24 ~ Palm Sunday
March 29 ~ Good Friday Service
Calvary Chapel, 7p
March 31 ~ Resurrection Sunday
Community Sunrise Service
Fleet Park, 6:00a.m.
MPC worship, 10:00 a.m.

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	<div>February</div>			1 7a Men's Breakfast Ministry	2 12n Women's Lunch Ministry	3 Patrick JBLM
4 10a Worship Winston Urey Pulpit Fill Communion & Deacon Sunday	5 11:30a February Birthday Lunch @ Gepettos	6 6p Deacon's Mtg 6p Grief Group	7	8 7a Men's Breakfast Ministry 1p Game Day 6p Session Mtg	9 12n Women's Lunch Ministry	10
11 10a Worship Chili Cook-off following worship	12	13 10a Women's Bible Study 11a~6p Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast @ St Marks	14 6p Ash Wednesday Service	15 7a Men's Breakfast Ministry	16 12n Women's Lunch Ministry	17
18 10a Worship Uganda Benefit Auction Following Worship	19	20	21 12n Lenten Soup & Devotion	22 7a Men's Breakfast Ministry 1p Game Day	23 12n Women's Lunch Ministry	24
25	26	27 10a Women's Bible Study	28 12n Lenten Soup & Devotion 6p Alpha Begins	29 7a Men's Breakfast Ministry		