

Montesano Presbyterian Church

201 McBryde Ave. East, Montesano, WA 98563

360.249.3845 ~ montepres.org

Sunday Worship ~ 10:00 a.m.

1883 - 2024

March 2024

From the roll top desk of Pastor Patrick

Jonah 3:1-4 and Hebrews 12:1-6

Jonah, the story of a hero or maybe what is considered in today's standards an antihero. An anti-hero is a good guy who compared to Superman lacks traditional manners and character traits; he may have a potty mouth and a bad attitude. He will still save the day though.

However, Jonah is the one God chose to share the saving message for the people of Nineveh. God works through Jonah's ineptness and poor empathy skills. Indeed, we are no different. God uses us in the same form and fashion, under the same problems and struggles. God will work through us to accomplish his will for his kingdom for his people.

Another hero, whom I admire and feel a kindred spirit towards is Robin Hood. Robin Hood is a 13th century treasure trove of ballads, poems and stories of English descent. They are tales of Robin of Loxley, a yeoman of Nottinghamshire, who has strong ties to King Richard, who has left his kingdom to pursue the crusades. King Richard's brother has

ruled, reigned, and become a dictator and pagan worshiper. Robin is forced into Sherwood Forest as an outlaw and begins stealing from the rich to disrupt John's operations. He collects merry men who are loyal to him, and the adventures begin. His skills are archery, out thinking his adversary, yet he will be humbled when the Lord teaches him some hard life lessons.

Hebrews tell us to take off what slows us down. To get rid of the extra weight and burdens of life. Paul tells us to run the race to win. Jonah and every other disciple who is called by God knows what it is like to be pursued and hunted and how easy it is to weigh ourselves down with sin. Hunters, gatherers, and disciples alike, must travel light. Robin only carried a bow. Jonah had only his wits, and Paul carried only his books. His Word. Are you carrying a heavy load? Do you need to get rid of stuff that is preventing you from "fighting the good fight" and "winning the race?"

I started archery again this month. I can sling three arrows without shoulder pain. I think the 7 months of injury was a period of discipline and rest for my soul. I realized I too

need to run the race with endurance and rid myself of unneeded baggage. Every athlete needs discipline. Every athlete needs to trim some edges to grow. The Christian is no different. If God loves us enough to discipline us, we should welcome that discipline and open our hearts to the change that is potentially going to make our lives better and more fruitful. God's discipline is always for our good. "Remember the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for good and not for harm." (Jer. 29)

There is only one way to achieve the simplicity of faith in holy discipline, we must open our hearts and minds to God's Word and exercise our spiritual muscles. We must get into faith shape. Open God's word and do some Bible curls. What are your growing edges? Or, better put, what are those areas of your life you need to trim away in order to grow? Are you willing to trim or be pruned? What is your faith target? Who are you focused on as you run the race? Please join me in discovering faith in Christ through Alpha and our Lenten season.

In Christ <>
P. Cobb

Congregational Life

Congratulations to our 2024 Chili Cook Off Champion, Debby Hammer! Thank you to all who contributed to the cook off, participated in the judging (although some of you put a penny in every jar), and helped with the clean-up. It was a well-attended, fun event.

Yummy. Pi (Pie) Sunday Fellowship Hour will be March 17th. We will need our pie bakers to sign up to bring their best pies to share. We will also need whip cream and vanilla ice cream. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

The Fellowship Hour sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to host. This is a wonderful opportunity to share with your church family. If you have any questions, please see Pam.

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.

The March Games Days are March 14 & 28!

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

Mission / Outreach

Uganda

On February 18, following worship, we had our annual *Blessed To Be a Blessing* Uganda Auction. The auction started off with our traditional African Peanut Stew, followed by a silent and oral auction. As in the past, pies and cakes were some of the higher auctioned items. John's Stout Cake (baked by Tamra)

went for \$120.00, Gary Schurr's Blackberry pie went for \$110.00, as did Pam's magnificent looking Carrot Cake. Bob Meier's Garden Produce and Honey went for \$300.00 and a load of Crushed Rock went for \$250.00. If you would like to see a complete list of Oral Auction items a copy can be found on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Thanks to all who attended, we were able to raise over \$8000.00!

A Big Thank you to Diana Hill for taking over from Linda Taylor this year. Diana did a great job. The Auction a big undertaking, requiring lots of hands helping. Finally, Thank you to everyone who contributed items/services to auction off.

If you missed out on the auction this year, plan on attending next year!

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).

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy birthday to:

David Amundson ~ March 19

Gale Broughton ~ March 11

Addison Cobb ~ 11

Melani Cobb ~ 13

Sue Gurney ~ March 08

Pat Willis ~ March 19

Happy Anniversary to:

Mel & Gale Broughton ~ March 15

Coming March 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

March 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, March 4, 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 at Thursday mornings at 7:00a.m.

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

Lenten Soup and Devotion runs each Wednesday through March 27. Join us for soup and devotion at 12:00 noon.

We will be celebrating **Pi day** with a Pi(e) fellowship following worship on March 17. A sign-up sheet can be found in the fellowship hall.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 24

~ **Palm Sunday** ~

Worship, 10a

Wednesday, March 27

Lenten Soup and Devotion, 12n

Friday, March 29

~ **Good Friday** ~

Service at Calvary Chapel, 7p

Sunday, March 31

~ **Resurrection Sunday** ~

Sunrise Service at Fleet Park, 7a

Pancake breakfast following at United Methodist Church, until pancakes are gone or 9:30a, whichever comes first!

Worship, 10a



Who's Doing What?

Reader of God's Word

March 03 ~ Randi Toyra

March 10 ~ Tom Robins**

March 17 ~ Melani Cobb

March 24 ~ Pam Hildreth

March 31 ~ Bob Morrill

April 07 ~ Peggy Gillespie

April 14 ~ David Mandt**

April 21 ~ Garrett Dalan

April 28 ~ Emily Meier

**** - Pulpit Fill Sunday**

Greeters

March 03 & 10 ~ Diana Hill

March 17 & 24 ~ Peggy Gillespie &
Sue McCombs

March 31 & April 07 ~ Pam Hildreth

April 14 & 21 ~ Tom & Tami Robins

April 28 & May 05 ~ Debby Hammer &
Randi Toyra

Union Gospel Mission Meal

March ~ Main Course:

Peggy Gillespie

Pam Hildreth

Susan Mandt

Randi Toyra

Patty Winkler

Dessert: Patty Winkler

We will get creative with the giant Costco hotdogs. Maybe chili dog Mac and Cheese? Dogs and tots? Whatever we make, it is a warm and welcome blessing to those served by the Mission.