

# Montesano Presbyterian Church

201 McBryde Ave. East, Montesano, WA 98563

P.O. Box 110 ~ Mailing Address

360.249.3845 ~ montepres.org

Sunday Worship ~ 10:00 a.m.

**\*Pastor Winston Urey ~ Tuesdays 11:00 a.m. ~ 2:00 p.m.\***

Office Admin. Hours ~ Wednesday & Friday, 10:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m

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## The Church in Europe

Time flies. And not always as you're having fun. But yes, especially while you are on vacation, it's amazing how one can lose track of days and hours. Next thing you know its time to return home. Melani and I had a great time touring the German countryside and then our short visit into Scotland. The whole two weeks felt like the Amazing Race, where you wake and run to selected destinations; eating next to nothing and sleeping because you are exhausted. However, my race isn't over yet. I still have two and a half months to go. So, I have set my mind to learn more about the historical church of Europe and what it means for the church communities of America.

I have always made it a point to teach the important truth of the Reformation. Why we worship the way we do, what it means to be a Presbyterian Church, dates like October 31, 1517, and January 2, 1555 and Zwingli and Sausage Sunday. All these events stemmed from Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses on the door of the Church Castle at Wittenburg. Which changed the world and the church forever, making Europe the center of Christianity for the next 300 years, up until the 18th century and the age of world wars. From Napoleon to Hitler the church of Europe

has declined and at the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, churches of Europe are either museums, charities, dance clubs, private residences, or one was a commercial business marketing home lighting and décor. Many are abandoned with sealed windows and doors. Even though these churches are no longer places of worship, proclaiming the risen Lord and the sacrifice he made for all, they are works of art, beautiful in all their ruin and change and for the believer, the Holy Spirit is felt, without doubt.

So, what happened? Here is a brief perspective from my travels and research. After the great wars the German population which was highly religious and content with how it was structured lost its faith. Lost its faith in God and lost its faith in man. Half of all church going communities stopped worshipping and the trend continued to decline. What happened? The sense of community that the church once held was forgotten and a secular reliance to survive any way possible took hold. Sunday became a day of pleasure and leisure rather than a day of worship. Where did this mind set come from? I would have to say, liberal theology, neo reformed ideas and a lack of gospel preaching messages and ministers. If pastors are not preaching the gospel; discipleship of

humanity, sacrifice of self for the sake of the whole, sin and its reality, repentance and the forgiveness of sin, redemption by grace alone, through faith alone, from the Bible alone, to the glory of God alone; Christ crucified, risen and coming again, then one does not have a church. John 8:31-32 resounds eternally as a praise and a warning, “If you abide in my Word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

The Church in Europe became man (people) centered rather than Christ centered. Instead of God and a Kingdom focused church that did all things for the glory of God, it became a church that tried to fix its populace with a, “If you can’t beat ’em; join ’em” mentality. And like the magnificent chapel of Bad Krausnick on the hill, it is empty. And only seen from a distance.

The Church of America is headed in the same direction. Systematic theology is lacking, doctrine is a bad word; an adjective describing an antiquated way of thought and not a noun that instills a sense of obligation and duty. Denomination is another word no one likes to hear or use. While, visiting patients one day, I was asked “What religion are you?” I vehemently shared, “I don’t have religion. I am of the Christian faith. My theology is Reformed, and my ordaining body is the Presbyterian Church. My Lord is Jesus Christ the King. My heroes have always been cowboys, and they still are it seems, and John Knox and John Calvin are among them.” Thankfully, the patient was a Texan and understood my point of view. I had to share the history of the First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio, TX and how Rev. McCullough was a genuine cowboy of 1880.

So, what is the way forward? Where do we go from here? I say we preach only the five solas: Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide, Solus

Christus, Sola Gratia and Soli Deo Gloria.

Sola Scriptura – Scripture alone is for faith and the instrument of authority. It measures itself.

Sola Fide – Faith Alone is the instrument of the Holy Spirit which justifies and proclaims Jesus is the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through his faith.

Solus Christus – Salvation comes from Jesus and the Cross. (refer to previous three Solas).

Sola Gratia – We are saved by grace, and this is not our doing. Oh, wretched man that I am, who will save me? Only Jesus and his grace and mercy, not by works. (Review Rosslyn Chapel and Sir William Sinclair).

Soli Deo Gloria – God is good all the time and all the time, God is good. To God be the glory through Jesus his son. Who gives us the victory, great things he has done.

Happy New Year, Pastor Patrick

From my 12X12 Cell in Landstuhl Germany,  
Dec 29, 2024

## **Mailing Information for Patrick**

Patrick would love to get cards, snack/cookies from the congregation. To send items to Patrick the address must be ‘exactly’ as it is below in order for it to reach him.

Cobb, Patrick E .  
CMR, 402 Box 1331  
APO, E 09180  
Landstuhl, Germany



## Christian Education

Beginning January 5, the Adult Sunday School class will be studying Alistair Begg's, "Brave by Faith, God-Sized Confidence in a Post Christian World. This is a study of the first seven chapters of the book of Daniel. This book is available from many online sellers at various prices. Please consider joining us for Sunday School in 2025.

## Congregational Life

A Happy and Blessed New Year church family! Let us resolve this year to spend our days in awe of the God who loves us eternally, to be obedient to his ways, to seek his will, and to build up the kingdom that endures forever. Resolve to pray daily, read the Bible, join a Bible study, go to Sunday school, or see how you can serve our church. Let the light of Jesus shine in you in 2025.

A new 2025 Fellowship Hour sign up list is available in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider hosting Fellowship Hour. If you have any questions please talk with Pam.

On Sunday, January 5th we will take down the Christmas decorations and celebrate Sausage Sunday. Look for a sign-up sheet to contribute to Sausage Sunday. We will need sausages, sauerkraut, applesauce, rolls/bread, and desserts.

What is the history of Sausage Sunday? From an article by Russell P. Johnson (March 8, 2022) "The Affair of the Sausages and Religious Freedom"

Five hundred years ago today, some Swiss people ate sausages. This was a major event in the history of Christianity.

On March 9, 1522, several people gathered for dinner in the home of Christoph

Froschauer, a printer who lived in Zurich. Although it was during the liturgical season of Lent and the eating of meat was forbidden, Froschauer and his wife Elise served sausages instead of fish to the visitors. Their reasoning was that Lenten fasts were not prescribed in the Bible and thus not obligatory for Christians. Though Froschauer was not in principle opposed to fasting, the biblical texts he was printing did not necessitate abstention from meat for this forty-day period. And so—as a celebration of Christian freedom, as an act of political theater, and out of a genuine desire for a high-protein meal—he feasted on dry meats with his wife, his employees, and two local priests.

Word of their transgression quickly got out, and the people who partook of the sausages were jailed for breaking canon law. Swiss reformer Huldrych Zwingli, who was present but did not inhale, quickly took to the pulpit to defend them. In his sermon—subsequently printed by Froschauer after his release—Zwingli interprets the New Testament passages that pertain to fasting, keeping traditions, and abstaining from certain foods. He argues that fasting serves a valuable purpose, especially for disciplining the desires of idle people, but that there is no biblical basis for making fasting or abstaining from meat legally obligatory for all Christians. He writes, "abstinence from meat and drink is an old custom, which however later by the wickedness of some of the clergy came to be viewed as a command." He summarizes his case by saying, "if you will fast, do so; if you do not wish to eat meat, eat it not; but leave Christians a free choice in the matter."

*Also, a reminder for any individual or group using the church kitchen. Please be sure when you use the facility to clean up afterward.*

## Contact Information

If you are in need of counseling, Pastor Urey is in the office every Tuesday, 11 a.m. ~ 2:00 p.m. Feel free to stop by and say hi!

If you have a need that cannot wait until Tuesday when Pastor Urey is in, there will be an Elder on call for you to reach out to. The schedule for January is below:

### **Elder on call for the week of:**

January 05 ~ Bob Meier

January 12 ~ Pam Hildreth

January 19 ~ Tom Robins

January 26 ~ Bob Morrill

## 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 are in need of prayer, contact either Peggy Gillespie or Edie Johnson

## Missions ~ Outreach

### **Festival of Lights**

Thank you to all who helped with this year's Live Nativity following the Festival of Lights parade. Monte Pres has been providing this gift to the people of Montesano and our visitors for decades. Without your help this event could not happen.

We were able to collect \$177.00 for our local foodbank as well as a box of food.

## **Uganda ~ Auction**

Believe it or not, as we enter early January we will be planning our next Uganda Auction, which will take place on February 23. We will put out donation sheets in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Please be thinking of products or services you can offer, or a local business that may donate. Our Brothers and Sisters in Uganda continue to have needs of food, medical, education, etc.

Thanks, Mission and Outreach Committee

## **Union Gospel Mission**

Monte Pres has provided the meal and devotion to the Union Gospel Mission in Aberdeen for many years. We feed 60 people per month with a budget of \$2.00/meal, consisting of the main course, salad and dessert. This is made possible by the financial contributions from the congregation. If you would like to help with the mission this year, there are two ways in which you can do so. Tamra will be looking for volunteers to sign up for Mission meals and or donating money. This is an important outreach and very much appreciated. A hot meal and an uplifting message can greatly impact someone who is struggling in life. Thank you for your continued support.







**\*Sunday School** for Adults and Youth has resumed. Join us every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

**New Member Class...**if you are interested in joining the church, a New Member Class is set for January 26 at 9:00 a.m. during the Sunday School hour.

**\*Men's Breakfast Bible Study** is open to all men of the church. They meet for breakfast Thursday morning at 7:00 a.m.

**Deacons Meeting**

Tuesday, January 07, 6:00 p.m.

**Session Meeting**

Thursday, January 09, 6:00 p.m.

## **Who's Doing What...**

**Reader of God's Word / Pulpit Fill**

Jan 05 ~ Melani Cobb / Winston Urey

Jan 12 ~ Emily Meier / Mike McMillan

Jan 19 ~ Jan Morrill / Brian Morgan

Jan 26 ~ Peggy Gillespie / Larry Carlson

**Greeters**

**January 05 & 12**

Pam Hildreth

**January 19 & 26**

Edie Johnson & Pat Willis

**Coffee Hour**

January 05 ~ Sausage Sunday

January 12 ~ Open

January 19 ~ Open

January 26 ~ Open

## **NEW YEAR PRAYER:**



Thank You Lord for giving me

The brand new year ahead.

Help me live the way I should

As each new day I tread.

Give me gentle wisdom

That I might help a friend,

Give me strength and courage

So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty,

Help me fill it with good things

Each new day filled with joy

And happiness it brings.

Amen.