

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

Susan will be out of the office March 19 & 21

1883 - 2025

March 2025

Matthew 5:41 – 45: If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

From the Gospel of Matthew, there is a passage that pursues me as I struggle with being a pastor far from home, a stranger in a strange land, and a friend trying to empathetically care under difficult circumstances. I want to offer guidance on how we can better support those around us, especially those facing despair, judgement, and isolation.

Matthew 5:41 says, “If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.”

As a soldier I am called to go “above and beyond” my call of duty. I am asked to give my life for others. Will this ever come to fruition? No, probably not. Nevertheless, I believe it holds a much deeper significance, particularly in the context of sharing the

burdens of those truly shackled to the walls of the prison of despair; those who may never be released.

We have been watching *The Chosen* as a Tuesday lunch devotional. The directors of the show are exceptionally insightful and share human ideas that bring the gospel story to an individual personal level. I commend them for their creativity and foresight. In Season 4, Episode 6 Jesus and the disciples are ordered to carry the equipment of a squad of the Roman guard. Rome required that, when asked by soldiers, the people were obligated to carry the burden one mile. Jesus, against the favor of the disciples says He will carry the burden an extra mile.

When Jesus speaks these words, He is teaching us to go beyond the expectations of world by embracing an opportunity for selfless service. He is then opening for compassion. The “mile” symbolizes the minimum that might be required of us, while going “two miles” reflects our willingness to go further; offering what is needed.

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” is better translated as “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in need.” And what I need is for Jesus to inspire me to do his will

and not mine.

Congregational Life

We all face challenges in our lives, and sometimes those challenges feel insurmountable. I am no stranger to pain and suffering. I could shock you with stories of tragedy, hatred, anger, violence, betrayal, and my own stupidity that has led to regret and suffering of myself and others. I am no stranger to human depravity. I don't ignore it. So, why do you? Why does the world turn a blind eye to the needs of others when their burdens are too heavy to carry?

When we are willing to walk that extra mile for someone else, we offer them not just relief, but hope. We remind them that they are not alone in their struggles, and that there are others who care enough to step into their pain and walk alongside them, even amidst the ugliest grievances.

I wonder, did Jesus forgive those soldiers months before they tortured Him, beat Him, humiliated Him, and then murdered Him on that road where He carried their "burdens"? Or did He just do it at the cross?

In moments when we encounter someone in despair, it is easy to think that simply offering a kind word or a brief gesture will do. But Jesus challenges us to go deeper—to walk alongside even if it requires a sacrifice of our own beyond the façade of what we think is empathy, and share the weight of their cross, of their sin, not just out of obligation, but out of love and a genuine desire to do what Jesus did for you and me.

Jesus suffered more than we will ever know. But we can never know unless we accept the idea of suffering for others as He took my sin upon that cross and set me free.

From the (virtual) Roll Top
P. Cobb

We had the best Chili Cookoff ever! There were 10 entries, all very different. Tom Robins was the winner of the Chili Cookoff apron. Thank you to all who entered the contest, those who brought the chili fixings, cornbread, and dessert, and those who participated in judging and cleanup.

March 30, 2025 will be Pi (Pie Sunday). Pie bakers get ready to bake your favorite pie. There will be a sign-up sheet on the first Sunday of March. If you are not a baker, please sign up to bring ice cream or whipped cream. This will be a delicious Fellowship Hour, please plan to attend.

Hospitals are seeing an increasing number of influenza patients. The outbreak is the worst in 15 years. Washington is one of the states with a high number of people contracting the flu; common symptoms are fever, cough, and body aches. Many of our church family have been sicken. Although we are nearing the end of flu season, you may still get a flu shot. Please do not attend worship or other church activities if you are ill. Remember to cover your coughs and sneezes and sanitize your hands before you touch common items during Fellowship Hour. Always use tongs to pick up food items.

Kitchen Reminder: A reminder for any individual or group using the kitchen.. PLEASE clean-up after you are done. Wipe up spills, rinse out the sink, wash & put the dishes you use away, if something explodes in the microwave, clean it up.... AND please be sure the oven and stove top are turned off and water is not dripping in the sinks. This helps keep the kitchen clean for the next person/group to use it.

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 March is below:

Elder on call for the week of:

March 02 ~ Bob Meier

March 09 ~ David Mandt

March 16 ~ Susan Mandt

March 23 ~ Pam Hildreth

March 30 ~ Tom Robins

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.

Uganda Auction

On February 23, following worship, we had our annual Blessed To Be a Blessing Benefit Auction for our Uganda Mission field. We would like to thank everyone who helped with this year's auction. With the oral and silent auction, along with outside donations, we were able to raise over \$9,500!



Gale Broughton

Addison Cobb

Melani Cobb

Sue Gurney

Pat Willis

Happy
Anniversary

Mel & Gale Broughton

Announcements

***Daylight Savings Time begins** Sunday, March 9. Don't forget to 'spring' ahead when you head to bed Saturday night!

***Susan** will be out of the office March 18 & 19.

Coming March Events

***Sunday School** Join us for Adult and Youth every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

***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 Thursday of the month, at 1:00 p.m.

Games Days for the month of March will be March 13 & 27

If you have any questions, or would like for information, please contact with Diana Hill or Randi Toyra.

***March Birthday Lunch** Each month we celebrate those having a birthday with a lunch held at Gepettos Italian restaurant. This month the lunch will be held on Monday, March 3, at 11:30 a.m. Come and help us celebrate!

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

***Women's Bible Study...** is open to all women of the church. Bible study meets every Friday 11:30 a.m. The Group is studying Romans.

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

***Youth Group...** Will meet on Thursday, March 27, 7:00 p.m - 8:30 p.m. All youth 6th - 12th grade are invited!

Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 6:00 p.m.

Session Meeting

Thursday, March 13, 6:00 p.m.

***AARP Class**Pat Anderson, an AARP certified driving instructor, will be teaching an AARP 50+ Driving class here at MPC. Below is a schedule of days in which the class will be taught. Please *TEXT* Pat at 206.854.8961, with your name, phone number and date you would like to sign up for. Cost for the class is \$20 for AARP Members / \$25 for Non Members.

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m

March 12 & 13

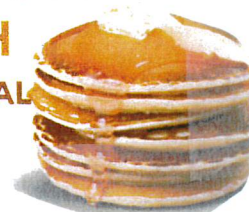


LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS begin March 5 at 5:30 PM.

A Soup and Bread Supper will be followed by the Ash Wednesday service. Lenten Soup Suppers will continue through Lent, followed by a time of study

A sign-up sheet will be available if you wish to provide soup and bread for one of the seven suppers throughout Lent.

115TH ANNUAL
Shrove Tuesday
ALL DAY
PANCAKES
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
MARCH 4TH
ST MARK'S EPISCOPAL
124 N SYLVIA ST



Who's Doing What...

Reader of God's Word / Pulpit Fill

Mar 02 ~ Tom Robins / Winston Urey
Mar 09 ~ Peggy Gillespie / Winston Urey
Mar 16 ~ Emily Meier / Mike McMillan
Mar 23 ~ Melani Cobb / Cara Taylor
Mar 30 ~ Jan Morrill / George Dakin
April 06 ~ David Mandt
April 13 ~ Pam Hildreth
April 20 ~ Garrett Dalan
April 27 ~ Randi Toyra

Greeters

March 02 & 09 ~

Ron & Lorna Claxton

March 16 & 23 ~

David & Susan Mandt

March 30 & April 6 ~

Ron Dalan

April 13 & 20 ~

Tom & Tamra Robins

April 27 & May 4 ~

Diana Hill

Coffee Hour

March 02 ~ Morrill

March 09 ~ Robins

March 16 ~ Mandt

March 23 ~ Spearin

March 30 ~ Pi (Pie) Sunday

April 06 ~ Toyra

April 13 ~ Deacons

April 20 ~ Easter Sunday

April 27 ~ OPEN

Union Gospel Mission

There are many ways to help with this monthly mission. Helping to cook and bake are just a couple of ways you can participate. If you can't help with preparing the meal, donations are gladly accepted to help with the cost of the meal. A sign-up sheet for the coming year is available in the fellowship hall

Thanksgiving Prayer For Lent

Father Lord in heaven

I want to thank you through this period

Every day I wake, please prompt me to
thank you

I am grateful for the life you have given me
and even though I am a sinner

I am grateful that you loved me anyway

I thank you that you sent your son to die to
save me

I am forever grateful for this sacrifice

Thank you for saving my soul from hell

Thank you for the gift of eternal life

I thank you for the gifts and blessings you
bestow upon me every day

Let my soul and spirit rejoice each day
because I am in you

Amen

THE GRACEFUL CHAPTER