

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.

1883 - 2025

April 2025

FROM THE IPHONE OF PASTOR PATRICK...

Exodus 32:1-12:

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord." So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They

have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

"I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. "Lord," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people.

Matthew 10:16-19:

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and

be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say.

My exile is almost over. I was sent as a stranger to a strange land, as a sheep amidst wolves. I wandered in a desert. Without dessert! No, that's not true I ate, by myself at times, plenty of apple strudel, with fresh cream. I felt alone a lot of the time and being alone, I succumbed to stress, pressure and temptation, where I found out just how weak I am. I learned when we are faced with a crisis, for the sake of the gospel, God helps us to stay moored to our faith, even when the worship is not as we want it to be. So, I began to ask questions about worship because the Chaplain Corps approaches worship much like Aaron did as he waited for Moses.

What can a small church offer a community that doesn't see the church as the location where Jesus waits for them to come to Him? Rather they see a place where they can feel better about who they are with a motto that claims, "You be You!" Are people looking for good news or are they looking for good advice?

I guess the balance between good news and good advice often depends on the context of people's lives. Some may be seeking uplifting stories or "good news" to counteract the often heavy or negative narrative surrounding them: "You're not good enough. You're not smart enough. You need to be more like me." Others may be more inclined toward practical wisdom or guidance/good advice on how to navigate challenges, make decisions, or find purpose. In essence, people need both, though their immediate desires may tilt one way or the other.

For a church, even if it's not seen as the primary place where Jesus waits for people, it can still offer a profound presence and impact. This is the chapel approach. The chapel can become a community hub that embodies the values of care, compassion, and support. It doesn't force people into a particular religious experience, but rather a space for relationships, service, and love, showing that the church cares about the person spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

Sadly, the Army doesn't view the chapel as a Christian spiritual destination, the military chapel acts as a resource for advice and practical help, such as individual counseling, stress relief, at times family counseling, or simply a safe space to talk.

Churches can also be proactive in reaching out and serving; the church as an example of kindness, support, and hope. That's well and good, but is it the gospel? Does it bring people to worship Jesus or a golden calf?

Is it about meeting people where they are, showing them that the values of love and grace are relevant to their lives right now, not just an abstract idea or something that happens "when they're ready" to walk through the doors? Or are we to go and be sent like sheep amidst wolves and guide them up the mountain instead of letting them keep their distance in fear and ignorance?

P. Cobb
7451 MORU & MPC

Christian Ed

Did you know Melani Cobb and Teresa Snow have a Youth Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning? They and the youth have painted the upstairs classroom and have added comfortable furniture. The Sunday School has been focused on introducing the Bible. The young people have watched videos from the Bible Project that discuss the significance and authority of the Bible and are now going through each chapter of the Bible, reviewing the highlights and major stories. Mercedes Morrill taught a class on Judges. The Youth Sunday School is welcoming ages 13 and up. We are so grateful to Melani and Teresa for starting this Sunday School.

The Adult Sunday School meets in the large classroom at the end of hall on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. We are currently studying Alistair Begg's *Brave by Faith*. This is a wonderful study in how to be a Christian, faithful and confident in Jesus, in a post-Christian world by looking at the life of Daniel who remained faithful to God while living as an exile in Babylon. Everyone is welcome.

Congregational Life

There will be no Fellowship Hour on Easter Sunday.

Thank you to all who contributed to Pie Sunday. It was a delicious Fellowship Hour!

Please consider signing up to host Fellowship Hour. Remember the food you provide does not need to be elaborate. The goal is to provide a light snack to encourage our church family to remain after the worship service to

fellowship with one another. If you have never hosted before, please see Pam.

We are a welcoming church family. If you see someone you have not met before during the worship service, introduce yourself and invite them to Fellowship Hour.

We will be celebrating Pastor Patrick's homecoming and return to the pulpit on Sunday April 13th, Palm Sunday, following worship with a Sunday Brunch. If you would like to contribute by making a dessert or a punch, talk to Pam or Tami. Please plan to attend and welcome Patrick home.

Mission Outreach

Successful Uganda Auction!



On February 23rd, we held our annual Uganda auction. I'm sure everyone is interested in hearing the results. We collected just over \$10,200 for our Uganda mission fund. The total includes all receipts from the live and silent auction sales along with the raffle. Most of the event expenses were covered by donations, except for printing and credit card expenses.

More importantly, the spirit of giving reigned among the participants. The generosity of the volunteers matched that of the bidders. Special thanks to the cooks who provided the meal and those who helped serve and clean up, especially the youth group for their willingness to help. We also thank those who

helped organize the silent auction items, tracked the bid tickets, organized the live auction, and kept track of the funds.

We also recognize our neighbor and friend Gary Mawhorter, who again volunteered to act as the auctioneer. He managed to keep the bidding going in an engaging manner while also injecting some fun into the proceedings. Gary has participated in this role for many years, and we are blessed to have him as a next-door neighbor to the church.

Following the event, the organizers met to review the auction procedure. We collected ideas for improvements as well as identified our successes. The plan is to work to improve the auction format next year and help to boost participation.

We look forward to our next Uganda Mission event: the annual rummage sale later in the year. Please consider donating when the event is announced.

Union Gospel Mission

The March Mission Meal was pork enchiladas, rice, salad, and bread pudding. Randi, Pam and Tamra fellowshiped and prepared the main course. I encourage you, if you are available on the third Monday of the month at 9 a.m., to sign up to help prepare the meal. Salad donations are even easier. The Union Gospel Mission prefers whole heads of lettuce, plus whatever else you want in the salad. Desserts may be store bought or baked at home. You should provide a sufficient amount of salad or dessert for 60 people. Any food donation needs to be to the church by 2:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.

If you would prefer you may donate money to cover the costs of the main meal or instead of preparing salad or dessert. Make sure you indicate on your check or cash envelope that

the money is for the Mission Meal. The signup sheet for the Mission Meals is on the serving table at the front of the Fellowship Hall. The Bible tells us to feed the hungry. Your food and money donations are greatly appreciated.

Stewardship

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Sometimes we need a SIGN to know it is time to do something. Our SIGN, was the SIGN, as people started avoiding parking under the SIGN. Session directed that a group be formed to develop a new SIGN, a SIGN for these times. Digital SIGNS are the SIGNS of our time. A digital SIGN allows much greater Christian outreach to the community and information on worship and mission activities.

The sign committee agreed on a design with two 24.3 inch high by 50.2 inch wide LED programmable display screens facing the east and west traffic on McBryde Avenue. The screens will sit on top of an 8 foot tall base 50.2 inch wide set in the pavement directly below the current sign.

Session has authorized starting a SIGN fund for contributions to offset the costs. Estimated cost is \$20,000 although we hope to reduce that with volunteer labor and donated materials. This is a substantial savings from similar ready-made signs priced at twice that amount.

The process you will observe will involve utility markings on the pavement, digging a 24 inch trench from the church to the sign location and a substantial footing hole, electrical installation, erection of two support poles and cross support bars for the screens, side panels and graphic design wrap on the lower portion of the sign. The SIGN must

meet city standards and requires building and electrical permits and must be set back 10 feet from any property line.

The SIGN committee is also looking for donations or low cost steel or aluminum posts, I-beams, square tubes or channel 2 ½ inch - 6 inch, 12 feet or more in length strong enough to support a sign against high winds or 6-8 pieces of 2x2 inch to 3x3 angle steel or aluminum 52+ inch long.

If you have questions talk to Bob Meier. If you would like to contribute to the SIGN fund, please indicate this on your check or cash envelope.

Worship

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS...5:30pm ARE YOU MISSING OUT??

This is a wonderful time of delicious SOUP, then a study with Jeff Snow and Worship and Fellowship. These suppers will continue through April 2nd and 9th. Then on April 17th, come and take part in the Maundy Thursday Service.

Easter Flower Cross

The Easter Flower Cross will once more be outside the Church to greet us on Easter morning. You are welcome to bring flowers to add to the cross and help us continue to enjoy this tradition. Donation slips for Easter Lilies will be in the weekly bulletin starting April 6.

Holy Week

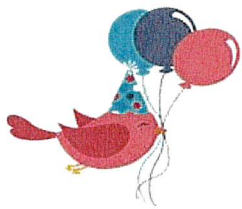
- April 02 ~ Lenten Soup & Bread, 5:30 pm
- April 09 ~ Lenten Soup & Bread, 5:30 pm
- April 13 ~ Palm Sunday Worship, 10:00 am
- April 17 ~ Maundy Thursday Service,
Soup & Bread, 5:30 pm.
- April 18 ~ Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm
Methodist Church
- April 20 ~ Resurrection Sunrise Service,
7:00am , Fleet Park
- April 20 ~ Resurrection Sunday Worship,
10:00 am

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.

We gather for group prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome to join us to pray for concerns and blessings for answered prayer.





April Birthdays!

Mel Broughton

Butch Jobst



Art & Joan Tanner!

Coming April 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 April 10 will be April 10 & 24

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

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

***April 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, April 7, at 11:30 a.m. Come and help us celebrate!

***Women's Bible Study...** is open to all women of the church. Bible study meets every Friday 11:30 a.m. They are studying the book of Jude.

***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, April 24, 7:00 p.m - 8:30 p.m. All youth 6th - 12th grade are invited!

Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 6:00 p.m.

Session Meeting

Thursday, April 10, 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

April 29 & 30

May 13 & 14

Who's Doing What...

Reader of God's Word / Pulpit Fill

April 06 ~ David Mandt / Urey

April 13 ~ Randi Toyra

April 20 ~ Garrett Dalan

April 27 ~ Tom Robins

May 04 ~ Melani Cobb

May 11 ~ Emily Meier

May 18 ~ Jan Morrill

May 25 ~ Peggy Gillespie

Greeters

April 6 ~

Ron Dalan

April 13 & 20 ~

Tom & Tamra Robins

April 27 & May 4 ~

Diana Hill

May 11 & May 18

Debby Hammer & Randi Toyra

May 25 & June 01

Edie Johnson & Pat Willis

Coffee Hour

April 06 ~ Toyra

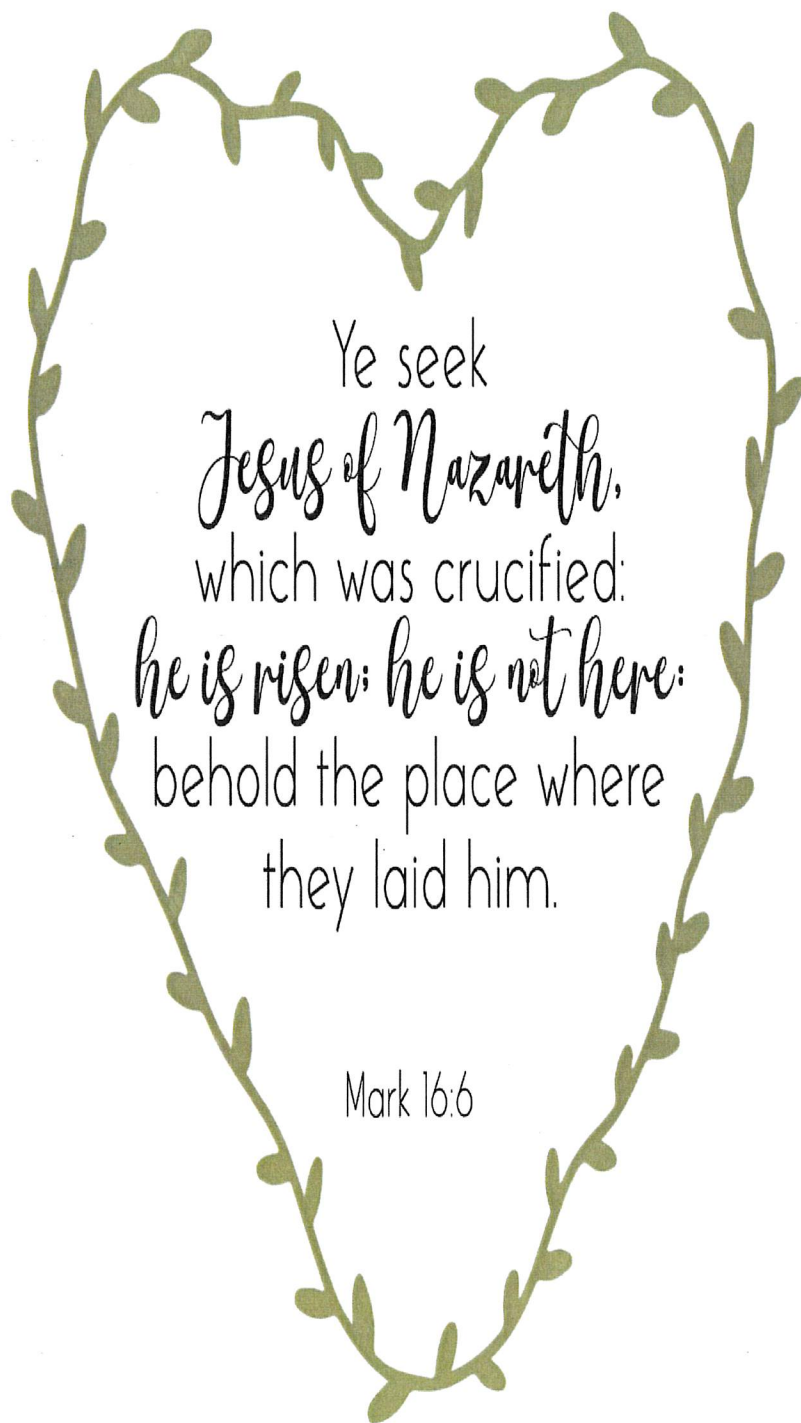
April 13 ~ Welcome Home Brunch for
Patrick!

April 20 ~ Easter Sunday no
fellowship

April 27 ~ OPEN

May 04 ~ OPEN

May 11 ~ Mother's Day Cheesecake
Fellowship



Mark 16:6