

MONTESANO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

201 McBryde Ave. East, Montesano, WA 98563

P.O. Box 110 ~ Mailing Address

360.249.3845

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. ~ Worship: 10:00 a.m.

1883 ~ 2025

December 2025

Isaiah 11: 1 – 6

“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf, the lion, and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.”

John 1: 14

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Approximately seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah prophesied his coming. He foretold, coming from the line of King David, a man filled with the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel and might, and knowledge. This man would delight in the fear (humble, reverent obedience, love, and awe) of the Lord. He will judge us with justice and slay the wicked. He will be righteous and faithful. He will be a peacemaker.

How can we not rejoice at the coming of such a man?

Between 50 and 70 years after Jesus died, John proclaimed Jesus to be a man who was the Son of God, filled with truth and grace. Those fortunate to have lived during the time of Jesus witnessed His glory.

How can we not rejoice at the living of such a man?

Christmas is the time to rejoice and thank our awesome God for the most precious gift ever given, his precious Son, Jesus the Christ. Jesus, the light who came into the sinful world of man almost two thousand years ago and shines in the hearts of all today who confess him as their Lord and Savior. He is our living Savior, who sits at the right hand of our Father God, and loves us as much today as he did when he walked with us all those years ago.

Let us remember to celebrate in our hearts Christmas as the love and grace of God made flesh in our Savior Jesus. Refrain from saying Happy Holidays and say MERRY CHRISTMAS,

Christ the Savior is born!



Christian Ed

There are a lot of opportunities to dive deeply into God's Word and fellowship with our church family by attending Sunday School and/or Men's and Women's Bible/Devotional Studies. These studies take place on Sunday morning or weekday mornings. If you would like to participate but cannot participate during the day due to work or other conflict, please talk to Peggy or Pam to discuss times that would work for you.

*Women's Friday Bible Study meets every Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the church library. Please join us as we continue our study in Ephesians.

*Women's Devotional meets every second and fourth Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. We are studying "A Diary of Private Prayer" by John Baillie

*Adult Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. In the large classroom at the end of the hall. We are currently studying "Gentle and Lowly" by Dane Ortlund.

*Mercedes Morrill leads a young adult Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. In the upstairs classroom.

Congregational Life

*The **Women's Christmas Party** will be December 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate our Lord's birth with songs, a devotional, and a game. Please bring a sweet or savory hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share. We ask everyone to bring a wrapped gift valued at no more than \$20.00 and cold weather items for the Blessing Bags - socks, stocking caps, gloves, scarves, ponchos, etc.

*Congregational Life is restarting the **Soup and Bread Fellowship Hour** on the months that have a 5th Sunday. We ask for a small donation during this Fellowship Hour. Session will decide the recipient of the donated money. The money

collected from the November 30th Soup and Bread was given to the Union Gospel Mission.

*Thank you to all who helped with Hanging the Greens to prepare our church for Advent.

*Please consider signing up to help with Fellowship Hour. There are opportunities remaining in December and a new sign-up list for 2026 will be available soon.

*Did you know it is better to donate money rather than food to a Food Bank? If you give the money you would spend on a food donation, the Food Bank is able to buy more food for the same amount of money from their food purchasing sources.

Deacons

Monte Pres Deacons collect an offering on the first Sunday of each month, known as Deacon Sunday. These offerings go towards the work of the Deacons throughout the year. The needs are great throughout the year, but especially during the Holidays.

Below are some of the Deacon projects for the month of December:

Christmas meal for five families

Friendship House ~ Christmas gifts for each resident. Last year we focused on warm clothing.

Olive Crest ~ Goods to help set up a living situation for children ageing out of the foster care program.

Please prayerfully consider giving to the Deacons during this Advent Season as well as throughout the year.



Live Nativity



It is not too late to sign up to participate in our annual Live Nativity that takes place after the Festival of Lights parade on Saturday,

December 14. Help is needed to set-up / tear-down as well as being a part of the Nativity itself. Monte Pres has provided this gift to the people of Montesano and Grays Harbor for decades. Please consider being a part of this wonderful event. The sign-up sheet can be found on the back table in the sanctuary.

Mission Outreach

Jim Dameron and I have been working to keep our friends in Uganda supported by sharing our congregation's collective donations and gifts in support of their evangelic efforts. The Set Free Uganda leadership, along with your stewardship, has done a great job in spreading the love of our Lord to those in need. The result, now decades long in duration, is a growing fellowship of churches and schools. I urge you to continue supporting this work.

Early next year, Uganda will be conducting elections which could influence the course of the nation's religious makeup. The current president, Yoweri Museveni, has been in office since 1986 and is up for reelection for his sixth term. He is now 81 years old. His presidency is nearing its end. Both he and his wife have been nominal supporters of Christianity, which has enabled mission efforts like ours to thrive. The outcome of the upcoming election could have a significant impact on our mission work. The election is in February. Keep in mind that the nation of Uganda is in a tough neighborhood. It is situated in Africa net to Sudan, Rwanda and Congo. All these neighbors are currently or have been recently, at war with each other or suffer civil chaos.

Jim and I would like to go to Uganda next year but will await the results of the election before making final plans. We do not want to

walk into a potentially dangerous political situation. Our current thinking is to schedule our trip in late April, assuming a peaceful post-election environment. Please be mindful of our Uganda partners as they face the upcoming election season.

Assuming a successful mission visit, I propose to ask our Presbytery to consider helping us in our Uganda missionary work. There is more need there than MPC by itself will ever be able to fill, despite our best efforts. I hope that we can convince some of our Presbytery member churches to join the Set Free ministry and power its growth into the future. Tom

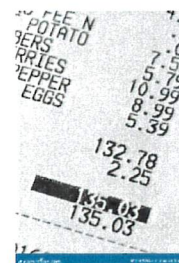


Giving Tree ~ Christmas is a time to prepare our hearts and our homes for the birth of Christ. For all the gifts that we have in our lives, let us rise to the occasion this year and bring joy to our neighbors on Christmas Day.

Please take a tag for one member of a family if you are able. Feel free to coordinate with as many other people as you need to in order to purchase their gifts.

*Wrapped gifts are due back to the church on **Sunday, December 14** to be distributed to the families.*

For those who shop at Thriftway, do not away those receipts! The receipts can be turned into the Food Bank who then receives credit to put towards needed items! Just put them into Diana Hill's box in the copy room and they will be delivered to the Food Bank on Fridays. Thank you!



Pastor Search

Committee

Praise God, we have three pastors who have applied to serve our church. We have completed first level interviews with all three pastors and are beginning second level interviews. Please continue to pray for the PSC, that through the Holy Spirit we will be able to discern God's will for the pastor He has chosen for our church.

Praying Church

Did you know that we are a praying church, and we want to pray for your families and friends who have needs? We have a Prayer Chain made up of people who will pray for you. If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain and commit to pray for concerns that are sent out, we can add you to this list. If you have a need you would like us to pray for, contact Peggy Gillespie and your request will be sent out to the Prayer Chain.

Worship

Morning Prayer...We meet for Prayer every Tuesday morning at 11:00 a.m., to pray for the needs of family, friends, and our Church body. It is our joy to pray together. If you would like to join us during this time of prayer, you are welcome to come and be a part of it.

1 Thessalonians 1:2 ~ We give thanks to God always for you, constantly mentioning you in prayer.

Advent Program: *The Manger and the Mystery*

Join us this Advent season for a four-week journey through Scripture, song, and reflection as we explore the mystery of Christ's coming—from prophecy to adoration. Each week features dramatic readings, congregational responses,

and music that draws us deeper into the story of Emmanuel, God with us.

Sundays in Advent Weekly Theme:

- Week 1: The Prophecy & The Arrival
- Week 2: The Witnesses
- Week 3: The Wise and the Wicked
- Week 4: The Temple Witnesses

Let us wait, watch, wonder, and worship—together.



Please mark your calendars for our Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 p.m. on December 24th.

Pastor Winston Urey will be leading the service and special music will be included. Plan to join us as we prepare for the birth of Jesus.



Steve Fischback
Sue McCombs
Bob Morrill

December Coming Events

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

***Grief Group:** meets the first Tuesday of each month. Angela Carter leads this group. This month's meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., December 2.

***Women's Bible Study:** is open to all women of the church. This study meets every Friday morning at **11:00 a.m.** They are currently studying Ephesians. *There will be no meeting on December 26th.*

***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. Game Day for December will be December 11.

Due to Christmas, there will be no game day on December 25. If you have any questions, contact either Diana Hill or Randi Toyra.

***Festival of Lights ~ Live Nativity,** Saturday, December 14 following the parade.

***Women's Christmas Party ~** 6:00 p.m. Monday, December 8. Additional information can be found under Congregational Life.

***Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ~** 6:00 p.m., December 24

Deacon Meeting

Tuesday, December 09, 6:00 p.m.

Session Meeting

Thursday, December 11, 6:00 p.m.

Who's Doing What

Elder on Call

Until Montesano Presbyterian Church has a new pastor, an Elder will be on call weekly for any needs of our church family.

The list for December is below:

Dec 07 ~ Bob Meier
Dec 14 ~ Tom Robins
Dec 21 ~ David Mandt
Dec 28 ~ Peggy Gillespie

Reader of God's Word

Below is a list of the Worship Readers along with the Pastors they will be assisting.

Dec 07 ~ Emily Meier / Larry Carlson
Dec 14 ~ Jan Morrill / Larry Carlson
Dec 21 ~ Peggy Gillespie / Ed Longabaugh
Dec 24 ~ Christmas Eve ~ Winston Urey
Dec 28 ~ David Mandt / Brian Morgan

Jan 04 ~ Ed Longabaugh / Pam Hildreth
Jan 11 ~ George Dakin / Tom Robins
Jan 18 ~ Ed Longabaugh / Emily Meier
Jan 25 ~ George Dakin / Jan Morrill

Greeters

December 07 & 14

Mel & Gale Broughton

December 21 & 28

Ron & Lorna Claxton

January 04 & 11

Ron Dalan & Tom Ryan

January 18 & 25

David & Susan Mandt





Christmas Schedule of Events

December 07 ~
Second Sunday of Advent
Worship, 10:00 a.m.

December 08 ~
Women's Christmas Party, 6:00 p.m.

December 13 ~
Live Nativity
following the Festival of Lights parade

December 14 ~
Third Sunday of Advent
Worship, 10:00 a.m.

December 21 ~
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Worship, 10:00 a.m.

December 24 ~
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service, 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Winston Urey

December 25 ~
CHRISTMAS DAY

December 28 ~
Worship, 10:00 a.m.

