

MONTESANO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

201 McBryde Ave. East, Montesano, WA 98563

Mailing Address ~ P.O. Box 110

360.249.3845

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

1883 ~ 2026

February 2026

The Journey to the Cross

Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood..." Romans 3: 24-25 (NLT)

It seems like we just took down our Christmas decorations, but somehow Lent begins February 18! Lent is the time encompassing the 40 days (excluding Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter. During this time Christians prepare their hearts and minds to celebrate Good Friday and Easter.

We remember through God the Father's freely given, costly, saving grace, He sacrificed God the Son on a cross to pay the wages for our sin. We can only be right with God if we truly believe in our hearts that Jesus sacrificed his life for us and freed us from the penalty for our sins. If we have this faith, we live our lives in humble gratitude for the amazing grace and love of God.

We Presbyterians normally do not fast or "give up" something for Lent. We could "take up" showing we are right with God by sharing His Good News, devoting more time to Bible reading and study, enhancing our prayer lives, being more grateful, being humble, practicing heart-felt forgiveness, encouraging our church family, or becoming more active in supporting our church with our time, talents, and monetary gifts.

During Lent we journey with Jesus through prayer, Bible reading, Lenten devotionals, and Sunday messages remembering his betrayal, arrest, denial by Peter, the desertion of his disciples, His unjust conviction, the beatings and scourging and humiliation at the hands of the Romans, separation from God when He took on the sins of the world, and torturous death on a cross, paying the debt of our sins.

We also celebrate His resurrection on Easter, His defeat of death caused by sin, the hope He gives that we too will experience the same resurrection through our faith in Him. This is the wonderful Good News that is the basis of our faith.

You are encouraged to participate in MPC's Lenten events and those provided in the community by the Montesano Ministerial Association. Look for these events in upcoming newsletters.



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 and is currently studying 1 Samuel. Please join us.

*The Second and Fourth Tuesdays Women's Devotional Study meets at 10:00 a.m. in the library. We are continuing our study of the prayers of John Baille. The study encourages us to think about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, man, and the content of our prayers.

*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 "The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis. It is a wonderful book and promotes spirited discussion. Please join us, we have extra books in the copy room.

*The Thursday Morning men's Bible study is currently studying 1 Corinthians and meets at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast and the study.

Congregational Life

What is the most important event occurring on Sunday, February 8th? If you said Worship, you are correct. If you said the Super Bowl, you get the red buzzer.

What is the second most important event occurring on Sunday, February 8th? If you said the Super Bowl, you get the red buzzer again! The second most important event occurring on



Sunday, February 8th, is the CHILI COOKOFF. The Super Bowl is a distant third to Worship and the Chili Cookoff.

Will Tom retain the coveted Chili Cookoff Apron? Will Debby make a comeback and reclaim the apron? Look for the signup sheet on the serving table in the Fellowship Hall. We need competitors to enter their chili and folks to bring corn bread, shredded cheese, sour cream, chopped onions, or dessert. We need tasters (everyone) to judge the chili. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the chili.

The Cook Off will follow Worship and conclude well before the start of the third rated Super Bowl.

The 2026 Fellowship Hour signup list is on the serving table in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up. If you have questions, ask Pam.

Mission Outreach

Uganda Auction Fundraiser



This year, we have scheduled the annual Uganda Auction for Saturday, February 28. Normally the auction has been scheduled on a Sunday following our regular worship service. We changed the date to Saturday in the hope that more folks from other area churches can attend, rather than going home after their congregation's worship and fellowship. In short, we are trying to avoid conflicting with everyone's Sunday worship.

Please help make this year's auction an enormous success! You can help by participating in the auction preparations, donations, set-up or the luncheon planning and service. You can also help by bringing new items to be auctioned off. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary. As in the past, please put your

donated item(s) in the Bible Study room before the auction.

Thank you so much for your participation. Our friends and colleagues in Uganda are always thankful for our generosity and ongoing support.
~Tom

Union Gospel Mission Meals

2026 brings some changes to the Mission Meal Program. Most notably, the cost of providing the main course, salad, and dessert for sixty people. Our previous target was \$2.00 per meal. Currently we are closer to \$2.50 per meal. The meal is funded by your generous donations of cash and food from your gardens. We will have a sign-up sheet, by month, to help prepare the food, as well as to donate funds to purchase the needed supplies. If you would like to donate funds, you can mark your donation "Mission Meal" and put it in the Joash Chest at the back of the sanctuary. A donation of \$25 would be appreciated, but anything you can give helps tremendously. Like last year, I would love to have you join me in preparing the meal on the 3rd Monday of the month. ~ Tamra

Pastor Search Committee

The PSC presented our new plan for filling our Teaching Elder position to the EPC Ministerial Committee on January 14th. We received encouraging feedback. We will present our plan in an Executive Session Meeting to the Elders. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us to the pastor God intends to shepherd 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, give Peggy Gillespie a call or email her, and your request will be sent to the Prayer Chain.

Shrove Tuesday



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day will be held on February 17, 2026, at the St Marks Episcopal Church /Church of God Kitchen. This is the major fundraiser for the Montesano Ministerial Association (MMA). If you are able to volunteer to help prepare the pancake dough, cook, serve, bus tables or clean up, please let Pam know the hours you can help and she will get a list of volunteers to the people in charge of the Pancake Day. If you cannot volunteer to help, please support them by eating pancakes and donating.

Properties

Sign of the Sign

The old signpost has been removed, and the old sign is in a temporary location in preparation for excavation of the new sign foundation. The new sign frame has been built and painted. The electronic components have been assembled, and we are learning the software that will run the sign.

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.

We are once again coming to the season of Lent, and it has been proposed to the other churches in Montesano that we do a round robin type Lenten Soup Lunch series.



We plan for the first Soup Lunch to be here at Monte Pres on Wednesday, February 25 at 12n. If you would like to help with this lunch, talk with Peggy or Pam.



Emily Meier
Mercedes Morrill
Tamra Robins
Art Tanner

February 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.

***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 1 Samuel.

***Morning Prayer:** Tuesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome!

***Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day:** February 17 at St. Mark's.

***Women's Devotional Study:** Second and Fourth Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the church Library, continuing the study of the prayers of John Baile.

***February Birthday Lunch:** 11:30 a.m., Monday, February 2 at Gepetto's, celebrating those having a February Birthday. For additional information or to be added to the list, contact Pat Willis.

***Chili Cookoff:** Following worship on Sunday, February 8. See additional information under Congregational Life.

***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 Days for February will be February 12 and 26.

If you have any questions, contact either Diana Hill or Randi Toyra.

***Uganda Benefit Auction:** Scheduled for Saturday, February 28. Doors open at 11:30 a.m./Silent Auction; Lunch by donation, 12:00 noon; Oral auction begins at 12:30 p.m.

Deacon Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 6:00 p.m.

Session Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 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 February is below:

February 01 ~ Tom Robins
February 08 ~ Pam Hildreth
February 15 ~ Peggy Gillespie
February 22 ~ Bob Meier

Reader of God's Word

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

Feb 01 ~ Cara Taylor / David Mandt
Feb 08 ~ Larry Carlson / Garrett Dalan
Feb 15 ~ Winston Urey / Peggy Gillespie
Feb 22 ~ George Dakin / Pam Hildreth
Mar 01 ~ Brian Morgan / Tom Robins
Mar 08 ~ Brian Morgan / Emily Meier
Mar 15 ~ Larry Carlson / Jan Morrill
Mar 22 ~ George Dakin / David Mandt
Mar 29 ~ George Dakin / Peggy Gillespie

Greeters

February 01 & 08
Diana Hill

February 15 & 22
Tom and Tamra Robins

March 01 & 08
Steve Foshaug & Patty Winkler

March 15 & 22
Debby Hammer & Randi Toyra

March 29 & April 05
Pam Hildreth

Coffee Hour

February 01 ~ Edie Johnson
February 08 ~ Chili Cookoff
February 15 ~ Randi Toyra
February 22 ~ OPEN

"FATHER GOD, THANK YOU FOR THIS BLESSED MONTH OF NEW LIFE EMERGING ON THE EARTH. WE ARE REMINDED OF THE RESURRECTION AND THE NEW LIFE WE HAVE IN CHRIST. IN JESUS' NAME, WE PRAY THAT YOU WILL BRING GOOD TIDINGS INTO OUR LIVES AS YOU IMPART YOUR GRACE. HELP US TO FIND FREEDOM IN THE PLACES WHERE WE FEEL STUCK, AND OPEN DOORS WE CANNOT OPEN ON OUR OWN. WE LOOK FORWARD TO EXPERIENCING YOUR GOODNESS AND MERCY AS YOU PURSUE US WITH THESE GIFTS. AMEN."

PRAY FOR EVERYTHING

