

# 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

January 2026



"If you love me, keep my commands." – John 14:15

"Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." – James 1:22

"In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome." – 1 John 5:3

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." – Matthew 7:21

The start of the new year is the traditional time for making those resolutions such as eating better, losing weight, exercising more, saving money, and spending more time with family and friends. Forty-three percent of people do not make resolutions at all. Most of the resolutions made fail at about four months. Forty-three percent of people expect to fail in their resolutions by February!

My thought for this year is to resolve to consciously walk with Jesus; to do our best to show our love for Jesus by being obedient to his

commands. To show the world the best way to live; not the easiest way to live, but the best.

It is sometime difficult to love God more than earthly things such as money, or power, or prestige. Many times, it is hard to love our neighbors as ourselves. Just think of the slow driver in the fast lane, the person who blocks the aisle with their cart in the grocery store while they talk on their phone, screaming children in a restaurant, the person who always has to show you they know more than you, or dealing with customer service.

In his book, *The Christian Manifesto*, Alistair Begg notes, "The call to enjoy the blessing of life in Jesus' kingdom, is then a call to be different." "...a challenge to be different from how I naturally am and how the world around me operates. The best thing we have to offer those around us is the kingdom of Jesus and the way to earn the right to speak to them about that kingdom is to show them that kingdom."

Can we try our best to demonstrate the Holy Spirit lives in us by being loving, joyful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, self-controlled and a peace maker? Can we truly forgive our debtors in our hearts, as we are forgiven? This is a living kingdom.

Let us pause before we yell at the bad driver, spread gossip, or say something rude, and resolve to love others as Jesus would love them by being patient, kind, and self-controlled. Let us show grace to others as God shows grace to us.

**Joyous 2026 New Year!**

## 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 have started discussing "The Great Divorce," a book by C.S. Lewis.

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

## Congregational Life

Annual Sausage Sunday is Coming! January 4<sup>th</sup> following worship. Please look for the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall. We need sausages, of course, bread or buns, applesauce, sauerkraut, potato salad, and dessert.

We will delay taking down the greens until January 18<sup>th</sup>, so everyone can enjoy Sausage Sunday and participate in the Congregational Meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

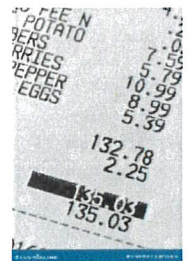
We are in the cold, flu, COVID, and RSV season. A gentle reminder to not attend worship

or other church activities if you are ill. PLEASE cover your coughs and sneezes with your forearm or a tissue. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before using common items in the Fellowship Hall or assisting with food preparation or service.

The new Fellowship Hour sign up list is available at the end of serving table in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider supporting after worship fellowship by providing snacks. Nothing elaborate needs to be prepared. Congregational Life provides coffee, condiments, and juice. To reduce waste, we are using our mugs, glasses, bowls, flatware, and plates. These can be put in the dishwasher. If you have any questions, please talk to Pam.

## Mission Outreach

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!



**Live Nativity...** Thank you to all who helped to, once again, bring this gift to the community. We were able to collect over \$177.00 for the Montesano Food Bank.





## Pastor Search

### Committee

The PSC has completed second-level interviews with all the candidates. One candidate accepted another call, and second candidate is unable to live in our community. The third candidate after review by the Ministerial Committee of the EPC Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest was determined not to be able to be ordained in the EPC. The PSC was instructed to refresh our Church Information Form and keep searching. Please continue to pray the Holy Spirit leads us to the pastor God intends for us to call.

## 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

The 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.

## 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.

Once again, we are so thankful to each pastor who has come multiple Sundays, to bring God's word to us. We are blessed to have had this feeding and encouragement. As we look forward to the pastor that God has planned for us, we know that we will continue to be blessed and are excited to see the growth God has in store for us.

What a blessing our Advent candle lighting was this Christmas season, our thanks to all who took part, from the author, to each one who participated.



David Mandt  
Susan Mandt

# January

## Coming Events

If you have been wanting to be more involved with Monte Pres, January is the perfect time to join Bible Studies, Game Days, etc!!

**\*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., January 5.

**\*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.

**\*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 January will January 08 and January 22.

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

### **\*CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** has been scheduled for January 11 following worship. During the congregational meeting, our new Elders and Deacons are elected, the prior year's financial report reviewed, the budget for the coming year is presented and reports from all committees given.

**\*Removal of the Greens** has been set for Sunday, January 18, following worship. The more hands the easier the work. Please plan to stay to lend a hand!

### Deacon Meeting

Tuesday, January 06, 6:00 p.m.

### Session Meeting

Thursday, January 08, 6:00

## 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 January is below:

January 04 ~ Pam Hildreth

January 11 ~ Bob Morrill

January 18 ~ Bob Meier

January 25 ~ David Mandt

### Reader of God's Word

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

Jan 04 ~ Ed Longabaugh / Pam Hildreth

Jan 11 ~ George Dakin / Tom Robins

Jan 18 ~ Ed Longabaugh / Peggy Gillespie

Jan 25 ~ George Dakin / Jan Morrill

Feb 01 ~ Cara Taylor / David Mandt

Feb 08 ~ Larry Carlson / Garrett Dalan

Feb 15 ~ Open / Peggy Gillespie

Feb 22 ~ George Dakin / Pam Hildreth

### Greeters

January 04 & 11

Ron Dalan & Tom Ryan

January 18 & 25

David & Susan Mandt

February 01 & 08

Diana Hill

February 15 & 22

Tom and Tamra Robins