

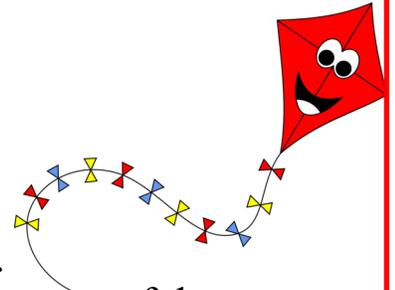
Knowledge
is the
fertilizer for
the seeds of
Wisdom

The SPARK

Newsletter of the Choteau-Brady-Dutton UM Parish

'I see children as kites'

You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground. You run with them until you're both breathless... they crash...you add a longer tail... they hit the rooftop... you pluck them out of the spout. You patch and comfort, adjust and teach. You watch them lifted by the wind and assure them that someday they'll fly.



Finally, they are airborne, but they need more string and you keep letting it out. With each twist of the ball of twine, there is a sadness that goes with the joy because the kite becomes more distant, and somehow you know that it won't be long before that beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that bound you together and soar as it was meant to soar... free and alone.

"Only then do you know that you did your job."

--- Erma Bombeck



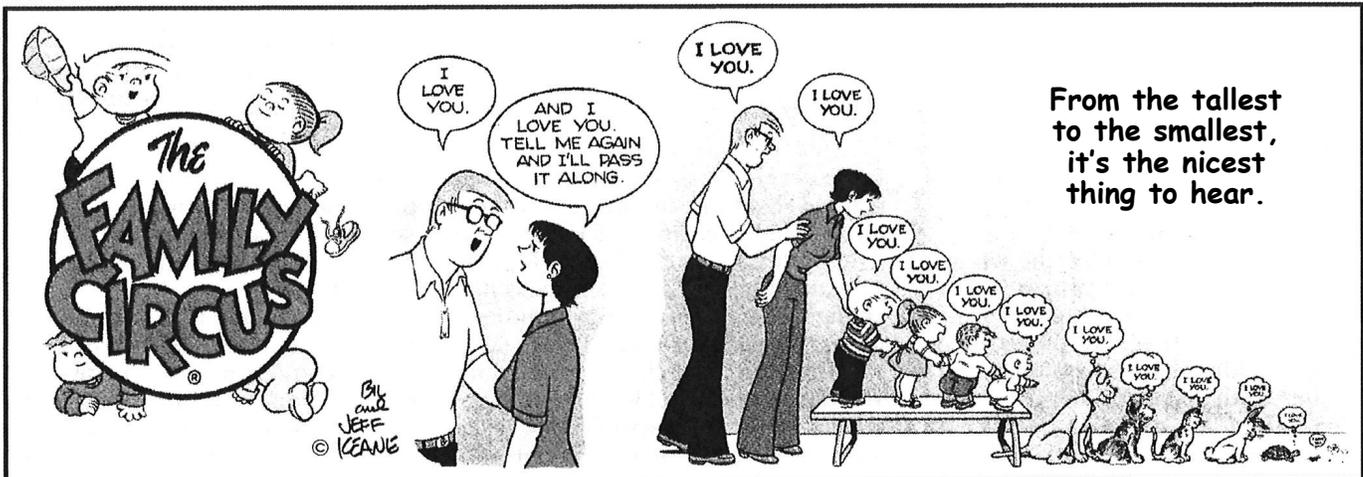
9:00 AM—Brady 1st & 3rd week
9:15 AM—Dutton 2nd & 4th week
11:00 AM—Choteau



Mon—Thurs 9am—Noon

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil and Jeff Keane



Pastor's Page

I am so grateful for the diverse group of clergy and lay speakers who have taken time out of their busy schedules to fill the pulpit while I am on maternity leave with baby Aleeah. We are blessed to have retired clergy, former Choteau clergy, our District Superintendent, seminarians serving as Licensed Local Pastors, as well as local and area lay speakers (both UMC and another denomination) bringing us wonderful messages throughout these eight weeks. Each message has filled my heart with joy, and I am confident it has brought you all joy to hear their messages and be in fellowship with them.

I admit that several months ago when I realized our due date was near Holy Week and Easter, I panicked. I worried about the ways my need to be a mother would be challenged by my need to be in the pulpit during that time. I worried about how I would fulfill the churches' needs. But as time went on and God began paving the way, I realized it was not only going to be alright, but it was also going to teach us a beautiful message. Easter is all about the resurrection. It is a time we celebrate new life and new ways that God is raising us up. Welcoming a new baby is one of the most beautiful and joyful times in life. But I never expected that new life in my family would also bring a new experience to our churches during Easter.

Welcoming diverse groups of people into our church is what we are called to do all the time! Listening to different ways that God is working in the lives of others and letting those messages speak to our hearts is something we should be doing in every conversation. Being open to different ways or practices than we might be used to help us to experience what was once unknown to ourselves and our churches. May the joyful messages and welcomed fellowship with the guest preachers and lay speakers we have had the pleasure of experiencing this year be a reminder to all of us that we should always have open doors, open hearts, and open minds.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Julie



**“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”**

– John Wesley



Trash, Treasure & Bake Sale

Saturday, May 7 8 - 11 a.m.

What a wonderful opportunity to accomplish some spring cleaning and convert your trash into treasure by donating it to the church!

Please bring your trash and treasure items to the church no later than Thursday, May 5.

Items may be accumulated at the designated area in the church basement.

NO CLOTHING OR LARGE APPLIANCES PLEASE!

Please bring baked goods for the sale by 2 p.m. on Friday, May 6.



Food & Fellowship

Sunday, May 15
12 Noon—following worship
at Choteau UMC

Main entrée, dessert and beverages will be furnished.
Please bring a side-dish or salad to share!

Please join us for a time of food and fellowship and the opportunity to become better acquainted with Pastor Julie and her family. Due to Covid restrictions the past couple of years, we did not have an official welcome reception for Pastor Julie and family. If you have a baby gift for their newest arrival, Aleeah, you are welcome to bring the gift.



Bible Readings for the Month

LECTIONARY

May 1: Acts 9:1-6; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 8: Mother's Day
Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 15: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 22:
Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

May 29: Ascension Sunday
Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelations 22:12-14, 16-17,20-21; John 17:20-26
Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

Materials for your Spiritual Formation May / June

Available in the front entrance and the Upper Room rack at the top of the ramp

► Upper Room – regular & large print



Special Offering Sunday, May 1

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of six United Methodist special offerings collected throughout the year, this helps a variety of ministries in our Mountain Sky Conference, and around the country.

Your gift encourages aspiring leaders within the Native American Community, educates seminarians and empowers outreach within the Native American culture.

Opportunities for Your Spiritual Growth

Skyline Lodge

Wednesday (weekly) - 10:30 am
Skyline Lodge, 2nd floor

Continued Study ~ "The Last Supper on the Moon" by Levi Lusko

CCC—Coffee, Conversation & Communion



Thursday, May 26—2:00 pm
Social Room , 2nd floor



PULPIT FILLS DURING PASTOR JULIE'S PARENT LEAVE

- May 1—Rev. Terry Dunn—Brady & Choteau
- May 8—Barbara Arensmeyer—Choteau
Brooks Coffland—Dutton
- May 15—Brooks Coffland—Choteau & Brady
- May 22—Rusty & Pat Harper—Dutton & Choteau

2022 Mountain Sky Conference Camping Opportunities

2022 Mountain Sky Conference camping opportunities are now online. To help cut back on costs of printing, paper and postage, all publications are available on the MTN Sky Camping website:

<https://www.mtnskyumc.org/campingretreats>

Please check with the church office and individual camps for possible scholarships for youth to attend church camps.

Flathead Lake Camps:

- Work Weekend, April 29-May 1
- Middler Camp, June 19-24
- Tween Camp, June 26-29
- Rising Leaders, June 26-29
- Intergenerational Camp, June 30-July 5





to the families and friends of

Robert Gregory

Dutton

Death – March 20, 2022



CHRISTIANS
Caring for each other

Please contact

Pastor Julie
(office 466-2641;
cell 785-443-0475)

when one of our
UMC family members
needs a card or visit
because of loneliness,
illness or other crisis
in their lives.

*“Our lives
begin to end
the day we become
silent about
things that matter.”*

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

~ May ~

- May 2 Bob Snodgrass, Jr.
Rose Mary Snodgrass
- May 3 Larry Harman
Virginia Hart
Marlene Howard
Dave Carlson
- May 4 Donna Alzheimer
Rachel Christensen
Terry Dunn
Dusty Yeager
- May 5 Travis Field
- May 6 ♥ Jeff & Melody Martinsen
Tate Ley
- May 7 Steely Stubblefield
- May 9 ♥ Robert Dye & Julie King
Charlseyy Rixford
- May 11 ♥ Don & Olive Passmore
Aundra Passmore
- May 12 Wendy Clark
- ♥ Gene & Linda Sentz
- May 14 ♥ Terry & Lila Dunn
- May 16 AJ McArthur
- May 18 Crystal Carlson
- May 20 Kylee Peebles Coccoli
- May 21 Kendra Halverson Miller
Lena Heuscher
Wendy Martin
- May 22 Calvin Maples
- May 23 Janie Zwerneman
- May 24 ♥ Luke & Kylee Coccoli
- May 25 ♥ Brodie & Diane Gollehon
Dusty Rixford
- May 27 Ryan DeBruycker
- May 31 Clairra Duty

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

☺ Steve Nylund & Perri Lindgren for their diligence in removing the snow/ice from our church parking lot this winter. We are very grateful for your gift of time and equipment!

☺ Scot Sessions for the periodic assistance in removing snow/ice from our church sidewalks. A special to Terry Dunn, Norman Haug and Ethan Haug for removing the snow from the walks on Easter Sunday morning in my absence. Your efforts are greatly appreciated! - Lila

☺ Thank you for the many congratulations, cards, and gifts that we have received as we have welcomed Aleeah into our family! We appreciate them very much!

Pastor Julie, Robert, and Family

Sunday, May 8



Happy
Mother's
Day!

For many women, Mother's Day is a celebration of a huge blessing. But for others, it's a painful reminder of past trauma like abuse, miscarriage, loss of a child, or infertility. Being a mom is certainly something to celebrate. Motherhood takes many forms.

These women are everywhere. Maybe they are your favorite teacher, your sister, your aunt, your grandmother, your stepmother, foster moms, adopted moms, your neighbor, or a friend. We all have "mothered" someone and have shown them love and support in their time of need. So, let's thank and celebrate those

women in our lives, too. These women are not only our mothers, they are women who have given unwavering love and support.

So again, on Mother's Day celebrate not just mothers of the world, but the women that helped you become the strong and beautiful woman that you are. Who are the women that helped you become the woman you are?

YOUR MONETARY GIFTS AT WORK

The ministries of Choteau United Methodist Church are made possible by your on-going financial contributions. Our congregation is 100% self-funded; we receive no outside funding. Your gifts enable us to provide weekly worship, pastoral care, educational opportunities, youth group, Sunday school for children and adults, mission opportunities, the opportunity for us to provide responsible charitable contributions to help those in need, etc. I hope you will consider making a financial contribution to Choteau UMC to support our life-transforming mission. To make a tax-deductible donation you can send in a check to our church office, or contribute on Sundays during the offering. Financial statements are available upon request at the church office.

VITAL STATISTICS – Choteau

2022 Budget for Choteau	\$120,327
Needed to meet budget –April	\$ 40,109
Received through April 24	\$ 31,139

Thank you for your on-going support!



Seeking and Empowering Disciples of Jesus Christ to Love, Witness and Serve

CHOTEAU - BRADY - DUTTON

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BUSINESS HOURS

CHOTEAU OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Thur 9am- 12pm

Website address: www.umchoteau.net

Bookmark the address above to your own computer (add it to your "favorites" list) so you can quickly click on it and stay connected! Use the website to check what's going on and what's coming up in the life of our parish.

Check out the new additions to the website:

- Sermons—video

And don't forget our email address:

umc@3rivers.net

Like us on Facebook:



The Three Omigas or better known as the Brady UMC Musicians!

from left to right: Lorrان Depner, Patti Winterrowd, Cheryl Schlepp

These three ladies have been musicians for this small community church for decades.

We celebrate and thank you for sharing your talent and devotion to this ministry for our churches.

Lorrان also is a musician at Choteau UMC and the choral & band teacher/director at Choteau High School.

Patti also shares her talent with Dutton UMC. Cheryl is a retired educator who keeps on giving!

Sidenote—Cheryl gave piano lessons to both Lorrان and Patti as young students.

How fun for them to play as a trio!

The Twisted History of Mother's Day

What's not to love about Mother's Day? We get breakfast in bed, finger-painted cards, vases of spring flowers - it's a day when we don't have to feel guilty for putting our feet up. But this modern holiday has a surprising twist in its history.

Motherhood has long been celebrated. The ancient Greeks and Romans held festivals in honor of their goddesses of motherhood. Early Christians organized a Mothering Sunday each Lent to encourage followers to return to their hometown church for a day.

The modern Mother's Day was originally a work day for women's clubs in West Virginia. Ann Reeves Jarvis organized these work days, beginning in the 1850s, with the overarching goal of lowering infant mortality. Women, under the guidance of Ann's brother, a doctor, spent the day educating other women about sanitation. They taught them how to clean, why to boil water, how to reduce milk contamination, and ways to prevent food spoilage.

During the U.S. Civil War, Mother's Day groups also began tending to wounded soldiers. It was important to Jarvis not to take sides during the Civil War. So the Mother's Day groups served both the North and the South.

After the war, the work days evolved into Mother's Friendship Day picnics. The goal was to promote peace and unity among Union and Confederate loyalists.

Ann died in 1905. Two years later, her daughter Anna Jarvis held a memorial service for her mother. The next year, Anna resurrected Mother's Day - this time, as a single day in May and not as a work day but as an observance. This was perhaps in response to a prayer she overheard her mother say when Anna was younger. Anna organized Mother's Day events for May 10, 1908, in her hometown of Grafton, West Virginia, as well as other cities and states where she had previously resided.

In the following years, she continued to promote Mother's Day annually, and the idea gradually spread across the nation.

In 1914, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson officially declared that the second Sunday of May each year to be Mother's Day. It quickly became commercialized by floral, candy, and greeting card businesses.

Anna didn't take this so well. To her, Mother's Day was supposed to be an intimate affair between children and their mother. She wanted Mother's Day to be a day when each person would honor his or her own mother privately. It was not to celebrate motherhood as a whole and certainly not for profitable gain.

To this end, Anna founded the Mother's Day International Association. Through this, she organized boycotts and threatened lawsuits for what she saw to be corruption of the holiday. She harshly criticized First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and others for fundraising for charities on Mother's Day. She went so far as to be arrested at least once for disturbing the peace.

Anna continued her campaign to wipe Mother's Day off the calendar well into the 1940s to no avail. She died at age 84 in 1948. Penniless, she had spent all her money on trying to control how mothers are honored on Mother's Day. She lived her final years with dementia and died alone. Anna never married or had children herself. She was also very bitter in her last few years. Anna reportedly said that she wished she had never organized Mother's Day.

It doesn't appear that Anna made much an impression on the trajectory of Mother's Day. The holiday generates even more consumerism with each passing year. And the holiday continues to be not only a day when we honor our own mother privately but also all mothers and motherhood.

Anna may have been a zealot about exactly how she thought Mother's Day should be. But the fact remains that we have her to thank for being the "mother" of Mother's Day. The idea has since spread around the world. Not all countries celebrate it the same way or on the same day, but the common thread is a recognition of the value of motherhood.

If Anna was here today, I wonder if she would hold the same opinion of how her Mother's Day turned out. If we look past the consumerism of the holiday, Mother's Day continues to be a day to honor mothering. The true reason for Mother's Day shines out from behind the cards and flowers and chocolates.



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Julie King, Pastor
Lila Dunn, Admin. Assist.



Seeking and Empowering Disciples of Jesus Christ to Love, Witness and Serve

This month's newsletter is sponsored:

by Anna Lee Erickson

In loving memory of
Husband, Robert Francis Erickson
Daughter, Pamela Erickson Donovan

Please continue to consider sponsoring an issue of
The Spark for \$40, and your sponsorship
will be noted in the newsletter.

Submit your sponsor
information to the parish office.

