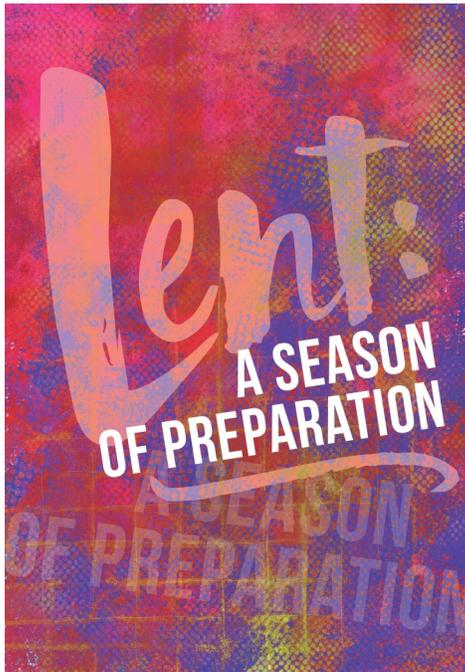


The SPARK

A spark is a small thing, yet it may kindle the world. —Tupper

Newsletter of the Choteau—Brady—Dutton UM Parish



MARCH 2023

Issue No. 245

John Wesley's Rule for Christian Living

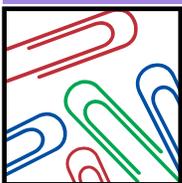
*"Do all the Good you can,
By all the Means you can,
In all the Ways you can,
In all the Places you can,
At all the Times you can,
To all the People you can,
As long as ever . . .
. . . You Can!"*



9:00 AM—Brady 1st & 3rd week

9:15 AM—Dutton 2nd & 4th week

11:00 AM—Choteau



Office Hours

Mon—Thurs 9am—Noon

*There once was a woman who
woke up one morning,
looked in the mirror, and noticed she had
only three strands of hair on her head.*

*"Well," she said, "I think I'll
braid my hair today."
So she did . . . And She Had A Wonderful Day!*

*The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror
and saw she had only two hairs on her head.*

*"H-M-M," she said, "I think I'll part my
hair down the middle today."
So she did . . . And She Had A Grand Day!*

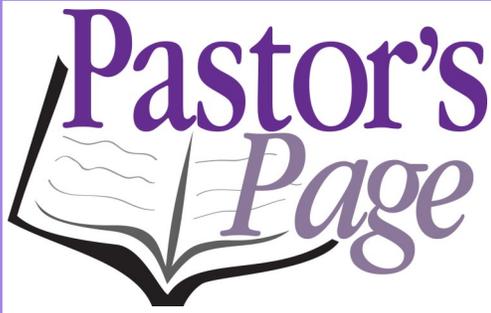
*The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror
and saw she had only one hair on her head.*

*"Well," she said, "today I'm going to wear
my hair in a pony tail."
So she did . . . And She Had a Fun, Fun Day!*

*The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and
noticed there was not a single hair on her head.*

*"YEA!" she exclaimed,
"I don't have to fix my hair today!"*

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING !!!



Are you *finding out* or *hiding out*?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan, and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

I wonder, though, what are your plans for this Lenten season? Are you planning on *finding out* who you are? Or are you going to use the time to *hide out* from the rest of the world? Maybe both???. Sometimes it takes removing ourselves from our normal routine and *hiding out* in the “wilderness” for a while so that we can truly *find* ourselves and listen to what the Spirit is saying to us during this chapter of our lives. I would encourage each of you to begin a Lenten journey this year. Repent. Fast. Carry nails in your pocket as a reminder of Christ’s sacrifice. Or maybe try out one of these:



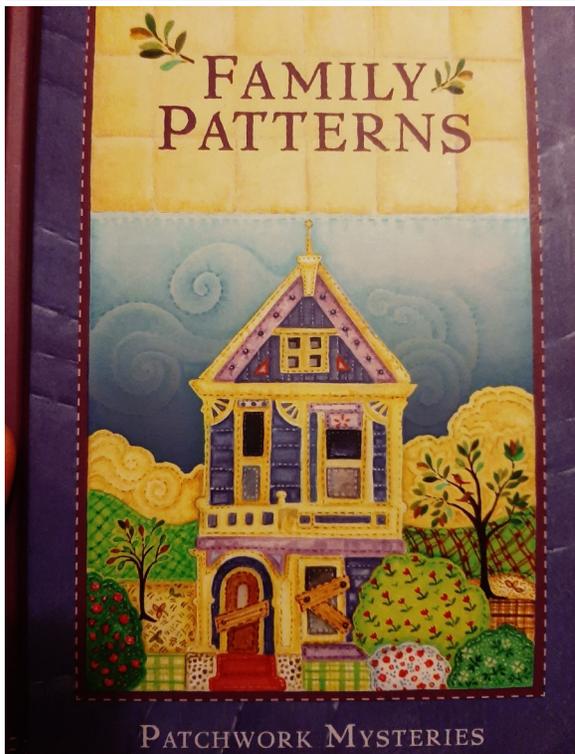
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/beyond-fasting-ten-tips-for-a-more-meaningful-lent>

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/unplugging-fasting-and-ancient-practices>

Whether you are finding out who you are, or hiding out from old habits to reach a “new you” during this Lenten season, I pray that you discover Christ in a new way this year. I pray that you hear the voice of God through the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Julie





Parishioners' Picks

Patchwork Mysteries series begins with this first installment of *Family Patterns*. Set in a quaint New England town, a historical disappearance mystery gets new traction while a present day one unfolds. Filled with special details quilters will enjoy and touched with Christian grace, this series is charming and will keep you turning the pages! Each volume is written by a different author and there are over 25 available!

(See the shelves nearest the library windows at CUMC).

**Find these and may other reads
in the Choteau UMC library,
right off the back of the sanctuary!**

*Don't be afraid of the space
between your dreams and reality.
If you dream it, you can make it so.*

~ Belva Davis

2023 Flathead Lake UM Camping Season



Work Weekend, May 5-7

Rising Leaders, June 24-28

Tween Camp, June 25-28 (grades 4-6)

Intergenerational Camp, June 29-July 5 (all ages)

Elementary Family Camp, July 6-9 (grades 1-3)

Middler Camp, July 16-21 (grades 7-9)

Senior High Camp, July 23-28 (grades 10-2023 grads)

The link below will provide you with more details and registration information for various camping opportunities.

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

first day of lent: 02/26/2023

Lent

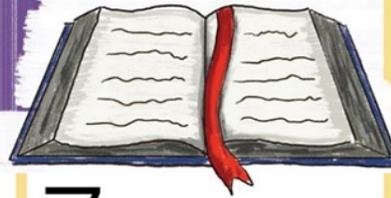
2023

Do something
NICE
for a teacher
or pastor.

Make a cross
with things you
find in
nature. *two*

Read a Bible
story or book. **3**

Play your
favorite game
with someone.



four

5

Give
someone
a hug.



NO
sweets
today!

six

7

Learn an
Easter song.



8

Make a
cottonball
lamb & think
about how Jesus is
the Lamb of God.



9

Give away something
to someone.

Help
someone
today.

ten

Draw or
decorate
colorful
Easter eggs. **11**



Surprise someone
with a **SPECIAL
NOTE.**

12



13

Draw a
picture
with chalk
outside.

14

Pray for
someone.



**GIVE
SOMEONE A
COMPLIMENT.**

15

16

Help with
yardwork or
pick up a piece of
litter.



twenty

seventeen
Share a meal
with someone.

Perform
a random
act of
KINDNESS.

18

Download
Easter
coloring
pages, print
and color.

19



Tell God what
you are
thankful for.

LIST

reasons why you love Easter.

twenty one



22

Draw or purchase an Easter Lily for a friend.

twenty three

Read John 13:1-17 and wash someone's feet.

Have a palm parade around your home.

twenty four

FORGIVE

someone for something they did to you.

twenty six

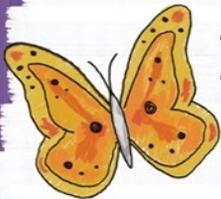
Talk to someone or think about why we celebrate Easter.

27

Read about Good Friday.

(John 19:16-37)

Go on a nature scavenger hunt & find things that remind you of Jesus.



25

Draw an Easter picture for your family.

29

thirty

Make something for someone.



31

Go on a walk or bike ride & pray for your neighbors.



28

Collect items in a basket that remind you of Easter.

32

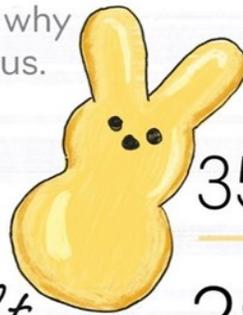


thirty three

Play a game in the dark with flashlights.

Tell someone why you love Jesus.

34



35

Play stack the Peeps.

(See who can stack the most Peeps in a minute.)

thirty six

GIVE UP

Something for the day.

Make an Easter card.

37

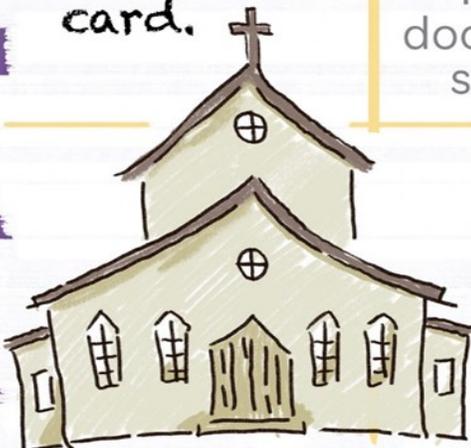
thirty eight

Hold the door open for someone.

39

Read about Jesus' resurrection.

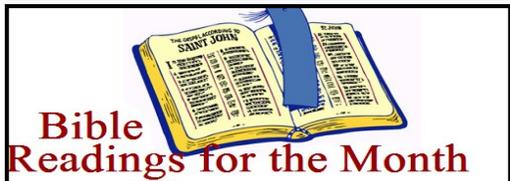
(Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20)



Attend an Easter service.

Easter Worship

Dutton UMC – 9:15 AM
Choteau UMC – 11:00 AM



Bible Readings for the Month

LECTIONARY

- Mar. 5:** Genesis 12:11-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17
- Mar. 12:** Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42
- Mar. 19:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41
- Mar. 26:** Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

**Materials for your Spiritual Formation
March / April**

Available in the front entryway and the Upper Room rack at the top of the ramp (with a slot for donations)

▶ Upper Room – regular & large print

Opportunities for Your Spiritual Growth

Skyline Lodge Bible Study



Weekly Bible Study

Skyline Lodge
Every Wednesday - 10:00 am

All are welcome to join us every Wednesday as we gather at Skyline Lodge for an ecumenical Bible Study.

C.C.C.

Coffee ~ Conversation ~ Communion

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Skyline Lodge

4th Thursday of each month @ 2pm



CONNECT
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

4:30-6:00
DINNER BEGINS
@ 5:30

EVERY WEDNESDAY
DURING THE
SCHOOL YEAR

@ TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRESCHOOL - 8TH GRADE

CHOTEAU UMC PARTNERS WITH TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH TO PROVIDE WEEKLY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY.
FOR MORE INFO:
PASTOR JULIE: 466-2641 OR PASTOR ANNELA: 466-2291



Lenten Series



February 26—The Call of the Fisherman —Luke 5:1-11

March 5—Walking with Jesus in the Storms—Matthew 14:22-34

March 12—Intermountain Children's Home

March 19—Bedrock or Stumbling Block—Matthew 16:13-19, 21-23

March 26—Flathead Lake UM Camp

April 2—I Will Not Deny You—Matthew 26:31-35

April 7—Good Friday Service

April 9—From Cowardice to Courage—Easter



😊 to everyone who assisted with the take-out Super Bowl Rib Dinner on February 12 at Dutton UMC. A special thanks to all who came out on a very cold, wintery day to generously support this fundraising event.

The coleslaw provided by Sharon Haug and Lila Dunn of Choteau UMC was wonderful. Your assistance was greatly appreciated!

By working together, we made \$1,900 for the general budget of Dutton UMC.

Love and prayers, Dutton UMC

😊 to Perri Lindgren for providing candy and Duane Halverson for providing special Valentine candy boxes to supplement the treat basket for “Young People’s Time” during worship.

😊 to all of our parish musicians for sharing your time and talents to enhance our worship experience throughout the year!



Did you know that there are traditional foods associated with the season of Lent? As early as 610 AD at a monastery somewhere in southern France or northern Italy, monks, while preparing bread for Lent used scraps of dough and formed them into strips to represent a child’s arms folded in prayer. The three empty holes represented the Christian Trinity. The monks then offered the warm, doughy treat to children who had memorized their Bible verses and prayers. The monks called the treat a *pretiola*, Latin for “little reward”. For there, the pretzel transformed into the Italian word, *brachiola*, which means “little arms”. Though pretzels are now a year around favorite, they are still a Lenten treat that serves as a reminder to pray.

Brady Methodist Church

invites you to a

Spring Dinner

Ham Dinner, Salad bar, and Dessert
Bake Sale and Bazaar

Sunday, March 26, 2023

1-3:30 PM

Brady Community Hall

Adults \$10 Children 6-12 \$5
Children under 6 FREE

TAKEOUT AVAILABLE

Made with PosterMyWall.com



for Olive Passmore
Friday, March 3
2:00 p.m.
@ Skyline Lodge



Please remember to call
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.



We would like to congratulate Lena on her recent wedding, a successful PhD defense, and her new job located in Madison, Wisconsin. We are proud of all you have accomplished!

~ Sally & Cliff Heuscher



Birthdays & Anniversaries

MARCH

1	Christy Clark
4	Kat Wilson
6	Georgia Buck
7	♥ Perri & Joyce Lindgren
7	Caden Meier
	Austin Sessions
8	Amanda Carratt
	Sally Heuscher
	Dan Yeager
9	♥ Brooks & Linda Coffland
12	Charles Crane
	Ron Hinman
13	Diane Gollehon
	Mary Sexton
16	Kyle Gollehon
18	Duane Halverson
20	BROTHER VAN
	Ross Depner
21	Aleeah Dye
	Judy Gollehon
25	Blake Haug
26	Bev Rose

Spark Newsletter Co-Sponsors

Brooks & Linda Coffland



In celebration of their
10th wedding anniversary on March 9th




Sunday, March 19
Special Offering
supports the ongoing work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

This special offering, received every year during the season of Lent, allows UMCOR to be anywhere at any time when disaster strikes, and to keep their promise to send 100% of designated gifts to specific causes.

Please give generously to this offering of Mission & Service.



Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to Ukraine Relief and/or the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Relief may contribute to Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine, Turkey and Syria as well as assistance to those fleeing to neighboring countries.

Gifts of supports can be made in the following ways:

- Submit a check to your local UMC church with "Advance #982450 —Ukraine or Turkey/Syria written on the memo line.
- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450>

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

2023 Budget for Choteau	\$126,234
Needed to meet budget –February	\$ 21,039
Received through February 26	\$ 13,921

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:



Hospitality Team Meeting

Tuesday, March 7

9:30 a.m.

@ Choteau UMC

Daylight-Saving Time Begins

REMEMBER?



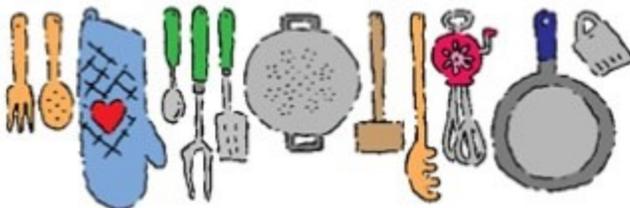
**Set Your
Clocks
Ahead!**



Sunday, March 12

**Set Clocks forward before
bed on Saturday, March 11**

FROM THE HOSPITALITY TEAM



We are so grateful over the past year for the overwhelming response of volunteers to provide food for a variety of events and functions. However, we have managed to accumulate several bowls and baking pans. These items will be displayed in the overflow sanctuary for your retrieval. Thank you!

Hilly Billy Wisdom

- "The best sermons are lived, not preached."
- "You cannot unsay a cruel word."
- "Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway."
- "Silence is sometimes the best answer."
- "Always drink upstream from the herd."
- "Good judgment comes from experience, and most of that comes from bad judgment."
- "Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God."

– via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
From the Joyful Noiseletter

Choteau—Brady—Dutton
United Methodist Parish



P.O. Box 108
12 First Ave NW
Choteau, MT 59422

Phone: 406-466-2641

Email: umc@3rivers.net

Web: www.umchoteau.net

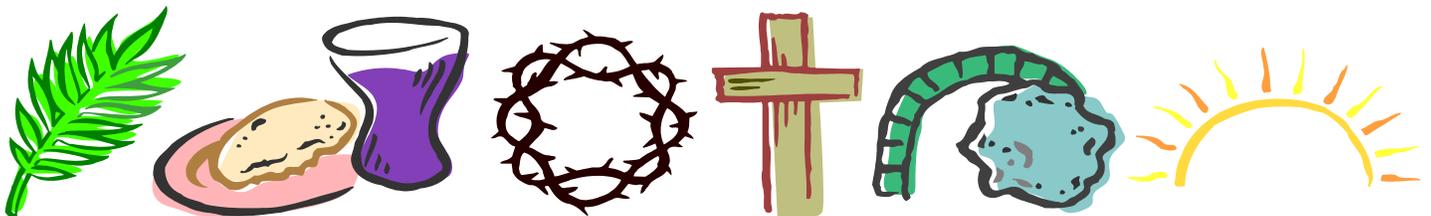
Facebook.com/Choteau UMC

Julie King-Dye, Pastor

Lila Dunn, Admin. Assist.

First Std

U.S. Postage



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

This month's newsletter is sponsored by:

Leah McDonald

*In loving memory of
Bonnie Crary—Birthday March 24
Eva McDonald, Mother—Birthday March 11*

*For \$40 you can sponsor an issue of The Spark.
What a nice recognition in honor or memory of someone, or as a gift!*

Submit your sponsor information to the parish office.

Thank you for your sponsorship !