



THE SPARK

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

2026

Issue No. 279

Newsletter of the Choteau - Brady - Dutton UM Parish

Lent:
A SEASON OF
RENEWAL

worship
WITH US

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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



Office
Hours

Mon - Thurs 9AM --NOON



*Beneath soft gray skies,
the world grows still,
A hush upon the earth,
a gentle chill.*



*The season whispers secrets of the soul,
Inviting quiet hearts to seek their whole.*

*Candles flicker in the silent nave,
Reminders of the promise we all crave.*

*Steps measured,
thoughts turned inward, slow and deep,
Lent calls us to awaken from our sleep.*

*Each day a chance
to shed the weight we bear,
To offer up our sorrows and our care.
In fasting, prayer, and gentle, loving deeds,
We find the hope our weary spirit needs.*

*As spring's green promise
waits beyond the frost,
So too does grace,
for those who dare and trust.
Through forty days, we journey,
hearts intent—To rise anew,
transformed by sacred Lent.*



Bible Readings for the Month

March 1:

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121;
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 8:

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95;
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 15:

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 22: Palm/Passion Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66
or 27:11-54

Skyline Lodge Study

Join us for Bible Study
1st & 3rd Wednesdays
11:00 AM
on the 2nd floor open space at
Skyline Lodge

CONNECT

WEDNESDAYS
AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRE-K—6TH
DROP OFF—5:00 PM
PICK UP 6:00 PM
DINNER & DEVOTIONS—ALL AGES

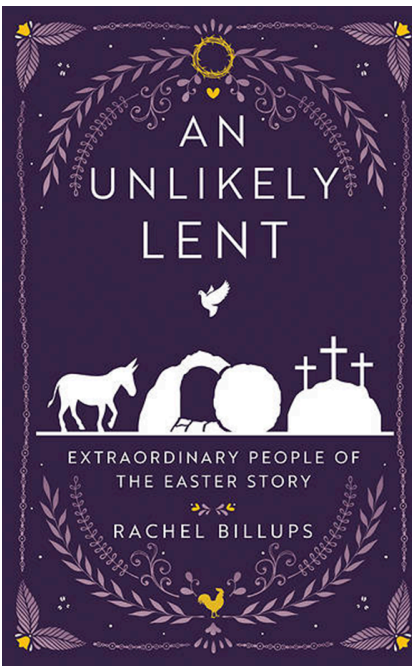


Lenten Study



Tuesdays - February 17 - March 31

2:00 pm – Choteau UMC - downstairs – Betty Phillips Room



Join us on the following Tuesdays at 2PM in the Betty Phillips room during Lent as we dive into “An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story” by Rachel Billups. Books can be purchased for \$15 at the church office.

February 17th / Unlikely Offering: Mary of Bethany

February 24th / Unlikely Opposition: The Servant Girl

March 3rd / NO LENTEN STUDY

March 10th / Unlikely Freedom: Barabbas

March 17th / Unlikely Companionship: Simon of Cyrene

March 24th / Unlikely Courage: The Women at the Cross

March 31st / Unlikely Allies: Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

Worship With Us



Palm/Passion Sunday ~ Sunday, March 29



**Last Supper Service
April 2 – 6:30 PM
at Dutton UMC**

*with soup & bread meal
and Holy Communion*



*Tenebrae Service
~ Extinguishing the Lights ~*

**Friday, April 3
6:30 PM
at Choteau UMC**



**Sunrise Easter Service
Priest Butte
Sunday, April 5**

**(Carpool to Priest Butte – meet at
Choteau UMC parking lot at 6:15 a.m.)**

followed by breakfast at the church.

Weather permitting, we will conduct Easter Sunrise Service at Priest Butte. We will carpool from the church parking lot promptly at 6:15 a.m. to Priest Butte. Sunrise on April 5 is estimated at 6:56 a.m.

If weather is inclement, we will conduct a brief Sunrise Service in the Choteau UMC sanctuary.



**Sunday, April 5
9:00 a.m. ~ Brady UMC
11:00 a.m. ~ Choteau UMC**

GOOD GRIEF LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Together, we find strength and comfort

2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 2PM
Choteau United Methodist Church
12 1st Ave NW

March 11 & 25

SUPPORT / SHARE

Loss includes death of a loved one or a pet, loss of independence, divorce, miscarriage, and so much more. If you are experiencing ANY kind of loss, you are welcome here.

Contact Rev. Kaitlin Elmore at
revkaitlin@gmail.com
for more information




**Brady
Methodist Church**

Ham Dinner

Salad bar, Dessert bar, and
Bazaar

Sunday, March 15, 2026
1:00 - 3:00

Brady Community Hall

Adults \$15 Children 6 and up \$8
Children under 6 FREE

To go orders available

Made with PosterMyWall.com



COFFEE AND conversations

Thursday, March 19
2:00 PM
Conrad Senior Center



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

**SATURDAY
MAY 9**



**TRASH & TREASURE
& BAKE SALE**

This has been a wonderful fundraising opportunity in the past to accomplish some spring cleaning and convert your trash into treasure by donating it to the church!

No clothing or large appliances please!



Our Deepest Sympathy
to the families and friends of

Anna Lee Erickson

Death –February 14, 2026

Memorial Service

**Friday, March 20 - 11:00 AM
at Choteau UMC**



Lent is a powerful season of renewal, inviting us to embrace reflection and growth in both spirit and life.

As we journey through these forty days, we are offered the chance to let go of old habits, rekindle our faith, and discover new strength within. Whether through prayer, acts of kindness, or personal sacrifice, Lent encourages us to open our hearts to transformation and hope, reminding us that every day holds the promise of a fresh start.



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

VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Duane Halverson, Dora Jermunson, Connie Bradley, and Joyce Lindgren for providing the delicious meal for the CONNECT ministry on February 11. You are appreciated!

The Last Supper for Their First Lord's Supper



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. Please consider making a financial contribution to Choteau UMC to support our life-transforming mission. To make a tax-deductible donation, you can send a check to our church office or contribute on Sunday during the offering. Financial statements are available upon request at the church office.

VITAL STATISTICS – Choteau UMC

2026 Budget for Choteau	\$ 128,500
Needed to meet budget – February	\$ 21,416
Received through February 22	\$ 16,342

Thank you for your on-going support!



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

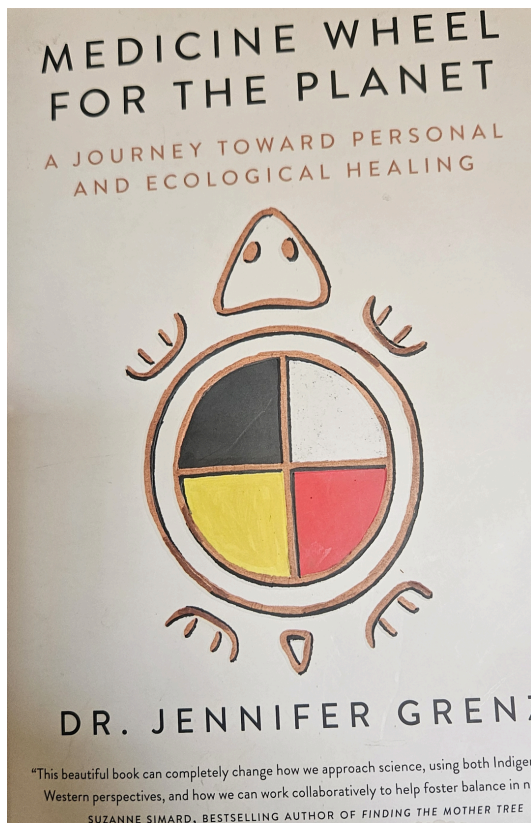
Like us on Facebook.com/Choteau UMC

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Choteau UMC Leadership Board
Tuesday, March 10 - 7:00 p.m.



Sunday, March 8
Set clocks forward one hour before bed on Saturday, March 7.



Parishioner’s Picks

As we look forward to spring, new life and warmth returning to our days, this read by Dr. Jennifer Grenz takes the reader on a journey of healing land and people through the lense of Indigenous wisdom. Trained in restoration ecology, she finds herself frustrated with the lack of results using long-standing scientific approaches. When looking more deeply into the wisdom of traditional knowledge keepers of the Pacific Northwest, she discovers a more holistic approach to land use and management that focuses on balance rather than pristine ideals. This offers both an encouraging and challenging perspective!

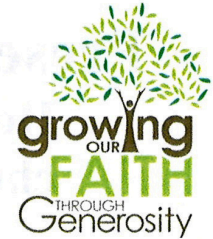


Choteau United Methodist Church

Estimate of Giving/Commitment Form – 2026

We thank you for your generous acceptance of stewardship and pray you may find the level of giving that is right for you as you progress in your journey of faith and commitment. Your pledges and contributions are a critical part of how we can make a difference in our church, our community, and our world.

Please complete this estimate of giving and return it in the offering plate or to the church office. You may change your commitment at any time during the year by notifying the church office. If you have questions regarding this card, call Rev. Kaitlin at 903-276-7857.



Electronic Funds Transfer

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is both a convenient and reliable way to fulfill your financial commitment to the church.

If you are currently using EFT, no reauthorization is necessary unless you wish to change the amount.

If you wish to become a new EFT participant, please set up with your personal bank. Contact the church office for necessary information to set up EFT.

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home/Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

How will I/we support Choteau United Methodist Church in the year 2026 WITH PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE AND WITNESS?

Financially, I commit to give in support of Choteau United Methodist Church (*select one option below*):

- \$ _____ weekly for 52 weeks
- \$ _____ semi-monthly for 24 periods
- \$ _____ monthly for 12 months
- \$ _____ as follows _____

I / We would like information on how to provide for Choteau United Methodist Church in my/our will.

I / We prefer to give to Choteau United Methodist Church via:

- Sunday's offering plate
- Check mailed into the church office, Choteau UMC PO Box 108 Choteau, MT 59422
- Electronic Funds Transfer

Worship: <input type="checkbox"/> Scripture Reader <input type="checkbox"/> Worship Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Musician <input type="checkbox"/> Special Music <input type="checkbox"/> Communion Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Usher <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Care <input type="checkbox"/> Technology	Hospitality: <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship after Worship <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral Receptions <input type="checkbox"/> Ecumenical Gatherings <input type="checkbox"/> Lenten Meals <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Sunrise Breakfast <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Brunch <input type="checkbox"/> Trash, Treasure, Bake Sale	Discipleship: <input type="checkbox"/> Skyline Studies <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Bible School <input type="checkbox"/> Young Family Support Group <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Leadership: <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Board <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Secretary <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Leadership	Visitation: <input type="checkbox"/> Shut-ins <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Bee Hive Homes <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Facilities
--	---	---	--	---

Signature _____ Date _____

Please complete this estimate of giving and please return it to the church office (PO Box 108) by Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Choteau UMC Parsonage
Parsonage downstairs bathroom.

For 136 years, since 1890, our church has been a cornerstone for worship and community life. Throughout this time, the congregation has consistently ensured that the church's facilities are well maintained and updated. Among the many completed projects are the addition of handicap-accessible features, installation of a new roof, restoration of the altar's wood floor, replacement of sanctuary carpeting, acquisition of a new organ, upgrades to the sound and projection system, an upstairs restroom accessible to those with disabilities, updated countertops in the downstairs kitchen, energy-efficient windows and lighting, a drop ceiling in the pastor's office, and fresh paint for various rooms both upstairs and down. **These efforts reflect our commitment to keeping the church in excellent condition.**

Between 2002 and 2007, we renovated the parsonage kitchen and modernized the upstairs bathroom. Continuing these updates from 2012 to 2014, we undertook a major remodel of the downstairs portion of the parsonage (excluding the bathroom). In 2016, the downstairs restrooms in the church building underwent a complete renovation. This upgrade made it possible for guests attending events such as funeral receptions, retreats, Fall Dinner, or children and youth activities to access a handicap restroom without needing to go upstairs.

It is essential at this time to renovate the parsonage's downstairs bathroom to better accommodate families. The projected cost for this remodel is \$13,636. While this represents a significant investment, distributing the expense among the approximately 50 regular attendees of Choteau United Methodist Church results in a contribution of \$273 per attendee, which can be broken down to \$22.75 per month or \$0.75 per day over one year.

We invite members and constituents to consider giving a designated gift to Choteau United Methodist Church for renovating the downstairs parsonage restroom. Please ensure this gift is **in addition to** your regular contributions to the church's general budget. **Indicate "parsonage capital improvement" on your check.**



2026 Mountain Sky
Five-Day Academy
for Spiritual Formation
Monday, May 18, 2026
to Saturday, May 23, 2026
Rocky Mountain College - Billings, MT

Theme:
"Beholding God
In the Landscape of Our Lives"

We find ourselves in the landscapes of our lives, longing for a closer connection to God. During this Academy, we seek to behold God through a rhythm of silence, community, learning, worship and fun. All are invited to this contemplative and transformational journey.

Beautiful Rocky Mountain College will serve as the setting for this Academy. As part of the Academy model, each participant will have an individual dorm room with a private bathroom. The Five-Day Academy begins on Monday afternoon, May 18th and ends on Saturday, May 23rd at noon. On the evening of the first day, there is a group dinner, a welcome and orientation, covenant group introduction, and a Eucharist celebration. Each day following includes curriculum sessions, times of silent reflection, discussions with the faculty, and Covenant Group meetings. There is also a nightly Eucharist Service, Morning Prayer and Night Prayer

Registration rate is \$890. Refunds (minus a \$50 cancellation fee) will be considered until April 10, 2026.

Registration Link:
<https://mtnsky-brtapp.com/5DayAcademyforSpiritualFormation2026>






Rev. Dr. Safiyah Fosua and Ray Buckley are the featured faculty, and both Ray and Safiyah have podcasts on the Academy website if you are interested in learning more about them.



2026



Choteau-Brady-Dutton United Methodist Parish
 Seeking and Empowering Disciples of Jesus Christ
 to Love, Witness and Serve

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	2	3 NO Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" @ Choteau UMC	4 NO Skyline Study 5-6 PM CONNECT	5	6 	7
8 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 	9	10 2:00 PM Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" @ Choteau UMC	11 2:00 PM Grief/Loss Support 5-6 PM CONNECT	12	13	14
15 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> Brady UMC Spring Festival & Ham Dinner 1-3 PM Brady Community Hall	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 2:00 PM Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" @ Choteau UMC	18 11:00 AM Skyline Study 5-6 PM CONNECT	19 Coffee & Conversation Fellowship Meeting 2:00 PM Conrad Sr. Center	20 Memorial Service Anna Lee Erickson 11:00 AM at Choteau UMC	21 
22 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>	23	24 2:00 PM Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" @ Choteau UMC	25 2:00 PM Grief/Loss Support 5-6 PM CONNECT	26	27	28
29 	30 Scholarship Application Deadline	31 2:00 PM Lenten Study "An Unlikely Lent" @ Choteau UMC			Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 9am - Noon (406) 466-2641 umc@3rivers.net www.umchoteau.net Facebook.com/Choteau UMC	





**Choteau-Brady-Dutton
United Methodist Parish
PO 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**

**Rev. Kaitlin Elmore, Pastor
Lila Dunn, Admin. Assist.**

Paper editions of the parish newsletter
are available at Choteau UMC in the
main and handicap entrances.

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



This month's newsletter is sponsored by:

Brooks & Linda Coffland

In honor of their 13th wedding anniversary on March 9.

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

What a nice recognition in honor or memory of someone, or as a gift!

Submit your sponsor information to the parish office.

