

The Spark

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

Newsletter of the Choteau-Brady-Dutton UM Parish

September 2026

Issue No. 284

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



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



MON.-THURS. – 9AM – NOON



September
Back- to-Church Month

Invite a friend to church!!

Choteau UMC Is Connecting with Our Community

At our spring district gathering, I was introduced to a brand-new initiative for rural churches in Montana called Connect Church, offered through the Mountain Sky Conference in partnership with Connect Church. I applied for Choteau UMC to participate, and I'm excited to share that **we were accepted!**



Connect Church is an opportunity for rural congregations to discover new ways to engage their communities and live out our mission beyond the walls of the church. Instead of simply asking, "How do we get more people into our church?" we are invited to ask, **"What does our community need, and how can our church's unique gifts help meet those needs?"**

Over the next year, a team of 6–10 church members will work with a Rural Center coach through six steps: **Form, Determine, Explore, Network, Discover, and Launch.** We will identify the gifts and resources within our congregation, learn more about our community, connect with other rural churches, and discern where our strengths and our community's needs intersect.

The program includes monthly coaching, networking with other participating churches, and learning from a Faith in Rural Communities team that has worked with more than 100 churches in North Carolina. Eligible churches may also receive **a grant of up to \$5,000** to launch a new or expanded community ministry project. I'm excited about what this could mean for Choteau UMC. We have so many gifts, skills, relationships, and a deep love for our community. **Connect Church gives us a chance to prayerfully discover how God is calling us to put those gifts to work.**

This is not about becoming a different church. It is about becoming even more intentional about **who God is calling us to be for Choteau.** Please pray with us as we begin this journey and discover where the Holy Spirit is leading!

A small group of us will be traveling to Belgrade for a gathering on **Saturday, September 12th** to meet our coach and cohort and to kick off this exciting journey! If you are interested in being on the Connect Church team, please contact Rev. Kaitlin! Every voice matters!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Kaitlin





Bible Readings for the Month

September 6:

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149 or 148
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 13:

Exodus 14:19-31; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

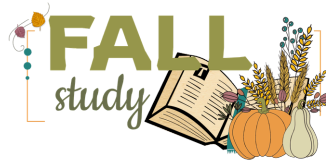
September 20:

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

September 27:

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16;
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Skyline Lodge Study



Beginning
Wednesday, September 2
11:00 AM

Join us for Bible Study
Every Wednesday
11:00 AM
on the 2nd floor open
space at Skyline Lodge



Thursday,
September 17
2:00 PM
Conrad Senior Center

Materials for your Spiritual Formation September / October

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



God is faithful in every season.



Blessings to Ayden DeBruycker and the
Duty family (Rod, Clair, Heather) as they
enter new cities, schools and chapters.



Back to School Blessings

May God go before you to prepare the way,
beside you as your companion,
behind you to encourage you,
and within you to give you courage and peace.

Everyone Welcome

COMMUNITY FALL DINNER

Sunday, September 27
12:00 - 3:00 PM

Choteau United Methodist Church
12 First Ave NW

Roast Beef & Pork
with All the Trimmings

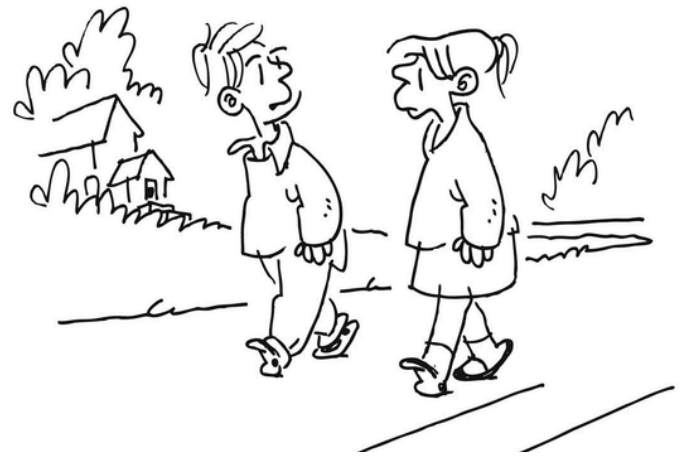
Dine In or Take Out

Adults - \$15

6-- 12 - \$8

Under 6 - Free

To Pre-order Take-out:
Call: 406-466-2641
Email: umc@3rivers.net



"We're going to the
Community Fall Dinner to pig out . . .
and also be thankful!"

Gather at the Harvest Table

Celebrating the season, our neighbors, and the
abundance we create together.

A community harvest dinner is more than a meal. It is
a chance to pause after a busy season, give thanks for
the hands and land that nourish us, and remember
that a strong community is built one conversation,
one shared dish, and one welcoming seat at a time.

Let's recycle and repurpose!



Save your plastic sacks (any color) for the
purpose of making mats. These sacks will
be repurposed to make mats for the
unhoused.

It may be an opportunity for our parish to
assist in this mission. More information
will be forthcoming, but for now, please
save your plastic sacks and bring them to
church.

GOOD GRIEF LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Together, we find strength and comfort

Choteau
United Methodist Church

12 1st Ave NW

Mondays - 2:00 PM
Beginning September 14

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



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 – August	\$ 85,667
Received through August 30	\$ 65,013
Thank you for your on-going support!	



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

CHOTEAU - BRADY - DUTTON

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BUSINESS HOURS

CHOTEAU OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Thurs 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.com/Choteau UMC

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Fall Dinner Planning

Monday, September 14 - 10:00 a.m.

Leadership Board Meetings

Tuesday, September 15

Brady UMC - 4:30 p.m.

Choteau UMC- 7:00 p.m.



In recent conversation with school staff member, Shellie Mellinger, she indicated the supplies are sufficient for the beginning of the school year but indicated the need for the following:

#7 Mechanical Pencils

#7 Lead for Mechanical Pencils

Please bring your items to church. A container will be provided in the main entrance foyer to submit your donated items. Rev. Kaitlin and Lila will see that these much-needed items get to the appropriate staff at the school. Your generous consideration to this local mission effort is appreciated.



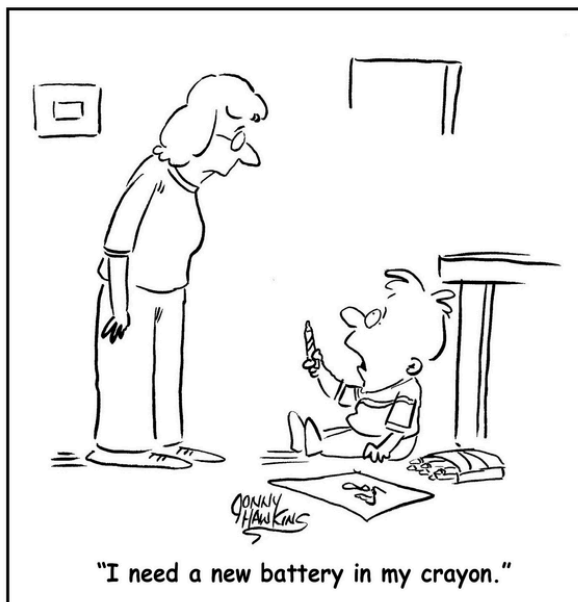
Where Summer Meets Autumn

Summer loosens its golden hold,
leaving warm light on the fields.

The last flowers lean toward the sun,
while a cooler breeze moves quietly in.

Green fades gently into amber,
evenings gather earlier at the door.

Between one season and the next,
the earth turns softly—and begins again.





Dear UMC Family,
Thank you for the loan of the tables for
our garage sale. Hopefully people found
treasures in the midst!
The Duty Family

GRANDPARENTS DAY
Sunday, September 13



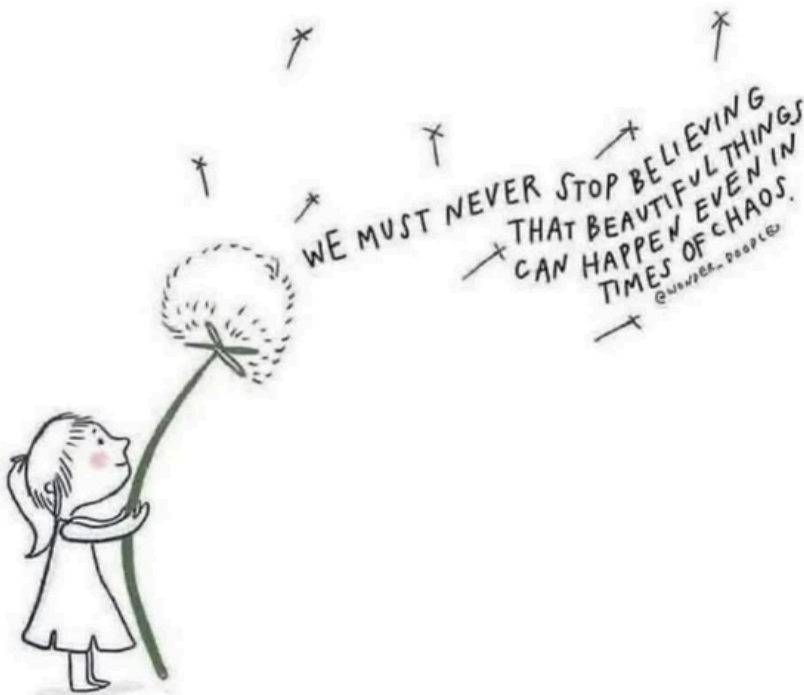
I just asked
my nine-year-old
grandson what
he learned
in school today.

He said,
"Apparently not
enough, because
I have to go
back tomorrow!"



~ SEPTEMBER ~

- 1 Lonnie Hart Allaire
- Stan Rasmussen
- 3 ♥ Zach & Mikel Bechtold
- 4 Diane Inbody
- 5 Casey Lindgren
- 9 ♥ Scot & Cathy Sessions
- 11 Carol Kelly
- John Van Setten
- 12 ♥ Gordon & Cheryl Schlepp
- 13 MacKenzie Carlson Milbrandt
- Nikki Ley
- 14 Kacey Gollehon
- Curt Rasmussen
- 17 Cheryl Marschner
- 21 Judy Dauwalder
- Harold Yeager
- 22 Elizabeth Graf
- Ronda Reiding
- ♥ Casey & Breanna Lindgren
- 24 Denny Blauer
- Susan Heuscher
- 27 Janice Farkell
- 29 Steve Nylund
- 30 Ellie Brown
- Jaime Stubblefield



Please remember
to contact Rev. Kaitlin

(office 406-466-2641;
cell 903-276-7857)

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

SEPTEMBER

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 am - Brady 1st & 3rd week 9:15 am - Dutton 2nd & 4th week 11:00 am - Choteau		1	2 11:00 AM Skyline Study	3	4	5
6 <i>Holy Communion</i>  Sermon Series: Lessons in Leadership ~ Conflict	7  LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	8	9 11:00 AM Skyline Study	10	11	12 CONNECT CHURCH TEAM GATHERING SEPTEMBER 12 @ BELGRADE, MT
13 <i>Grandparents Day</i> WORSHIP <i>with us</i> Sermon Series: Lessons in Leadership ~ Grace	14 FALL DINNER PLANNING- FOLLOW-UP MEETING 10:00 AM 2:00 PM Grief/Loss Support	15 UMC LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS: 4:30 PM-BRADY 7 PM-CHOTEAU	16 11:00 AM Skyline Study	17 Coffee & Conversation Fellowship Meeting 2:00 PM Conrad Sr. Center	18	19
20 	21 2:00 PM Grief/Loss Support	22 	23 11:00 AM Skyline Study	24	25	26
27  Roast Beef & Pork Dinner @ Choteau UMC 12:00 - 3:00 PM	28 2:00 PM Grief/Loss Support	29	30 11:00 AM Skyline Study	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 Brown, 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:

The Dunn Family

In loving memory of Rev. Terry Dunn

**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.

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