



# The Spark

Newsletter of the Choteau-Brady-Dutton UMC Parish  
*Seeking and Empowering Disciples of Jesus Christ  
to Love, Witness and Serve*

**OCTOBER 2026**  
**Issue No. 285**



## Song for Autumn

Don't you imagine the leaves dream now  
how comfortable it will be to touch the earth  
instead of the nothingness of the air  
and the endless freshets of wind?

And don't you think the trees,  
especially those with mossy hollows,  
are beginning to look for the birds that will come -  
six, a dozen - to sleep inside their bodies?

And don't you hear the goldenrod  
whispering goodbye, the everlasting  
being crowned with the first tuffets of snow?  
The pond stiffens and the white field  
over which the fox runs so quickly  
brings out its long blue shadows.

The wind wags its many tails.  
And in the evening the piled firewood  
shifts a little longing to be on its way.



9:00 AM—Brady 1st & 3rd week

9:15 AM—Dutton 2nd & 4th week

11:00 AM—Choteau



**Office  
Hours**

**MON.-THURS. – 9AM – NOON**



## Bible Readings for the Month

### October 4

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
 Psalm 19  
 Philippians 3:4b-14  
 Matthew 21:33-46

### October 11

Exodus 32:1-14  
 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
 Philippians 4:1-9  
 Matthew 22:1-14

### October 18

Exodus 33:12-23  
 Psalm 99  
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
 Matthew 22:15-22

### October 25

Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
 Matthew 22:34-46

## Skyline Lodge Bible Study



Join us for Bible Study  
**Wednesdays**  
**11:00 AM**  
 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor open  
 space at Skyline Lodge

## CONNECT

WEDNESDAYS  
 AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Resumes - Wednesday, October 7**

**PRE-K—6TH**

**DROP OFF—4:15 PM**

**PICK UP 6:00 PM**

**DINNER & DEVOTIONS—ALL AGES**

**Meal on October 28 will be at Choteau UMC**

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

**OCTOBER 4**

In 1940 the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America established World-wide Communion Sunday as a global, interdenominational event. United Methodist congregations celebrate church-wide Special Sundays with offerings. Your support is critical to the survival of important ministries and for sharing God's gifts around the world.

**\*\* This offering is considered second-mile giving:  
 in addition to your regular tithes and  
 gifts to the local church. \*\***



# Holy Hookers

## Turning Bags Into Blessings

Join us on Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7PM  
**Choteau United Methodist Church**  
 Learn to make blessing mats for the unhoused

Bring your plastic grocery bags, scissors, and  
 an attitude of blessing.



**Join the craft. Share the blessing.**

**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.

This is an opportunity for our parish to assist in this mission. Everyone is welcome to join us for a Tutorial Workshop on Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Choteau UMC.



## GOOD GRIEF LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Together, we find strength and comfort

Choteau  
 United Methodist Church  
 12 1st Ave NW

**Mondays - 2:00 PM**

### 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 Brown  
 at [revkaitlin@gmail.com](mailto:revkaitlin@gmail.com)  
 for more information



## Join us for the Trinity Lutheran Church **Lutefisk Dinner**



**Sunday, Nov. 1 • 12:30 to 3 p.m.**

Trinity Lutheran Church • 38 1st Ave. S.W. • Choteau

*Lutefisk, Lefse, Swedish Meatballs, Rutabagas  
 and all the Trimmings served family style.*

Preschool: Free • Grades 1-6: \$8 • Adults: \$20

**Take Out Meals Available – Will Deliver in Choteau.**

Call Praire at (406) 570-8559 or  
 Sally at (406) 590-2688, for take-out orders.

Handicap and wheelchair accessible seating  
 provided on the main level. Call the church office  
 at (406) 466-2291 for more information.





*to the families and friends of*

**Gwen Goodell**

***Death – September 1, 2026***

***Memorial Service***

***Saturday, October 24***

***11:00 a.m. at Dutton UMC***

~~~~~

**John Wisse**

***Death – September 17, 2026***

***Graveside Service***

***Saturday, October 17***

***2:00 p.m. at Choteau Cemetery***

***Reception at Stage Stop Inn***

***2:30 p.m. following graveside service.***

I wish the world  
was kinder.  
A little softer  
on those who  
are healing,  
grieving, waiting  
or just starting  
to understand  
how lonely the  
road can be.

May we greet  
one another with  
the same kind  
of light that  
we ourselves are  
searching for.

Just because we  
look strong doesn't  
mean we feel strong.  
We just carry the  
heavy things well.

ullie-kaye



- |    |   |                              |
|----|---|------------------------------|
| 2  | ♥ | Rod & Heather McCartney Duty |
| 6  | ♥ | Bob & Joann Snodgrass        |
| 8  |   | Herb Bingham                 |
| 9  |   | Chris Field                  |
| 11 |   | Peggy Guthrie                |
|    |   | Jean Harman                  |
| 12 | ♥ | Larry & Jean Harman          |
|    | ♥ | Nick & Jaime Stubblefield    |
| 14 |   | Dillon Field                 |
| 15 |   | Slade Stubblefield           |
| 16 | ♥ | Ryan Edwards & Sarah Sentz   |
|    |   | Gerry Yeager                 |
| 18 |   | Jonnie Conatser              |
| 19 | ♥ | Norman & Sharon Haug         |
| 21 |   | Jaynie Gollehon              |
|    |   | Elizabeth Graf               |
| 25 |   | Shirley Hodgskiss            |
| 27 |   | Shirley Stordahl             |
| 28 |   | Arlene Woodahl               |
| 29 |   | Trig Zwerneman               |

**TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN,  
YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE  
SO—ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS!**

### October is Pastor Appreciation Month

some suggestions:

- \* Thank your pastor.
- \* Pray for your pastor.
- \* Encourage your pastor.
- \* Invite your pastor to dinner  
flavored with good humor.
- \* Tithe



A special "THANKS" to ALL the people who assisted with the Fall Dinner 2026. It takes many volunteers to make this event happen. We are grateful for all your effort, time and support of this fundraiser!

**Organizing Team:** Lila Dunn, Sharon Haug, Kelly DeBruycker, Diane Inbody, Connie Bradley, Nancy Moorhouse, Sally & Cliff Heuscher, Jeremy & Rev. Kaitlin Elmore Brown, Duane Halverson.

**Meat Cooking & Processing:** Lyle Weist, cook; Steve Mellinger, Ryan DeBruycker, Nolan DeBruycker.

**Potato Peelers:** Connie Bradley, Dora Jermunson, Jane Lawther, Duane Halverson, Vickie Maurer, Joyce Lindgren, Judy Dauwalder.

**Salad (coleslaw):** Cliff & Sally Heuscher (donated cabbages & onions), Sharon Haug, Kelly DeBruycker, Lila Dunn.

**Kitchen Helpers & Servers:** Kelly, Ryan & Nolan DeBruycker, Jeremy & Rev. Kaitlin Elmore Brown, Lila Dunn, Tom & Connie Rogers, Roger Kelly, Lorrان & Ross Depner, Juli & Alois Kostelnik

**Take-out Station:** Sharon Haug, Nancy Moorhouse, Sharla Hinman, JP Flood.

**Dessert & Helpers:** Duane Halverson, Diane Inbody, Kelly DeBruycker, Lila Dunn, Connie Rogers, Carol Kelly, Joyce Lindgren, Sara Coccoli, Nancy Moorhouse, Linda Coffland, Steve & Sara Howard.

**Dining Room:** Joyce & Perri Lindgren, Russ Moorhouse, Jane Lawther, Alois & Juli Kostelnik, Lila Dunn.

**Cashiers/Greeter:** Brooks & Linda Coffland

**Setup & Decorations:** Lila Dunn, Georgia Buck, Diane Inbody, Jacquy Cooney, Duane Halverson, Cliff & Sally Heuscher, Steve & Sara Howard, Lyle Weist, Clayton & Kathy Ketcham, Kelly DeBruycker.

**Thanks to ALL who helped in the clean-up effort (inside and outside) following the Fall Dinner. We are grateful!**

**Results of the Fall Dinner will be in the November newsletter. We are grateful and appreciative of the generosity and support of our church family and community!**



**WE ARE  
READY  
TO SERVE**



**GOOD FOOD  
GOOD  
FELLOWSHIP**



**DINE IN  
OR  
TAKE OUT**

## 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–September \$ 96,375

Received through September 27 \$ 72,357

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](http://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](mailto:umc@3rivers.net)

Like us on Facebook.com/Choteau UMC

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Connect Church Team

Monday, October 12

9-11 a.m. - Choteau UMC

### Leadership Board Meeting

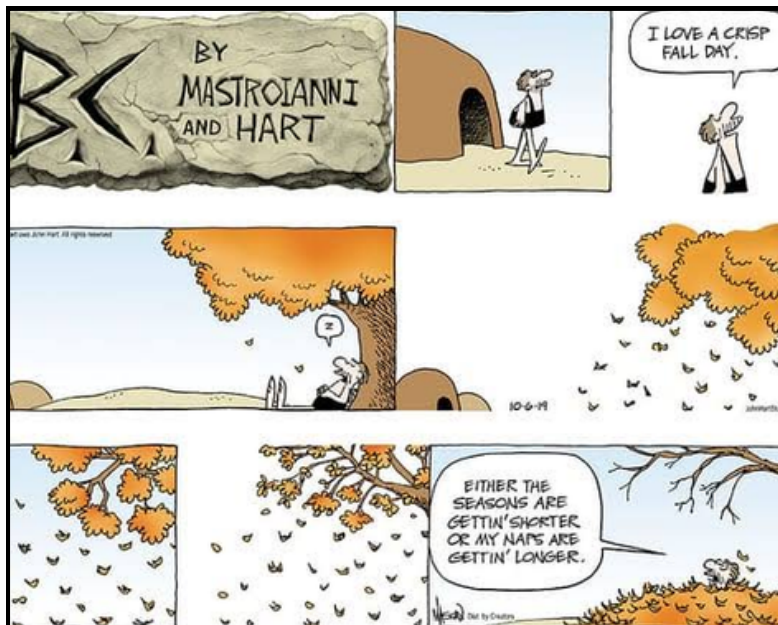
Tuesday, October 27

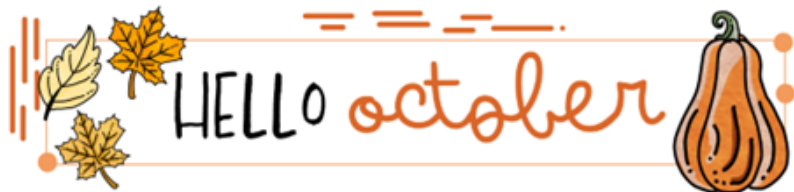
7:00 p.m. - Choteau UMC



## Connect Church Team Meeting Monday, October 12 9-11 a.m. - Choteau UMC

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.





# 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                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b><br/>9:00 am - Brady 1st &amp; 3rd week<br/>9:15 am - Dutton 2nd &amp; 4th week<br/>11:00 am - Choteau</p>                                                     |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                |                                                                                     | 1         | 2         | 3                                                                                                                             |
| <p>4</p>  <p><i>Holy Communion</i></p>  <p><b>WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY</b><br/>~ special offering ~</p> | <p>5</p> <p>2:00 PM Grief/Loss Support</p>                                                                            | <p>6</p>                                                                       | <p>7</p> <p>11:00 AM Skyline Study</p> <p>4:15-6:00 PM - CONNECT Kids Ministry</p>  | <p>8</p>  | <p>9</p>  | <p>10</p>                                  |
| <p>11</p> <p><b>WORSHIP</b><br/><i>with us</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>12</p> <p><b>Connect Church Team Meeting</b><br/>9 - 11 AM<br/>@ Choteau UMC</p> <p>2:00 PM Grief/Loss Support</p> | <p>13</p> <p><b>Holy Hooker Mat Workshop</b><br/>7:00 pm<br/>Choteau UMC</p>   | <p>14</p> <p>11:00 AM Skyline Study</p> <p>4:15-6:00 PM - CONNECT Kids Ministry</p> | <p>15</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> <p>John Wisse<br/>Graveside Service<br/>2:00 PM<br/>@ Choteau Cemetery</p>                                          |
| <p>18</p>  <p><b>Invite a Friend</b></p>                                                                                                                                             | <p>19</p> <p>2:00 PM Grief/Loss Support</p>                                                                           | <p>20</p>                                                                      | <p>21</p> <p>11:00 AM Skyline Study</p> <p>4:15-6:00 PM - CONNECT Kids Ministry</p> | <p>22</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> <p>Gwen Goodell<br/>Memorial Service<br/>11:00 AM<br/>@ Dutton UMC</p>                                              |
| <p>25</p> <p><b>Reformation Sunday</b></p>  <p><b>Come Worship with us</b></p>                                                                                                        | <p>26</p> <p>2:00 PM Grief/Loss Support</p>                                                                           | <p>27</p> <p><b>Leadership Board Meeting</b><br/>7:00 pm<br/>@ Choteau UMC</p> | <p>28</p> <p>11:00 AM Skyline Study</p> <p>4:15-6:00 PM - CONNECT Kids Ministry</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> <p><b>Reformation Day</b></p>  |



**Choteau-Brady-Dutton  
United Methodist Parish  
PO Box 108  
12 First Ave NW  
Choteau, MT 59422**

**Phone: 406-466-2641  
Email: [umc@3rivers.net](mailto:umc@3rivers.net)  
Web: [www.umchoteau.net](http://www.umchoteau.net)  
Facebook.com/Choteau UMC**

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

First Std  
U.S. Postage

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 Marsha Hinch  
In loving memory of Kara Jeanne Hinch**

**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.**

