

May 2026

Issue No. 281

worship WITH US

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

So let's learn,
let's press on

to know the Lord.
His appearance is as sure as the dawn;
and He will come to us like the rain,
*as the spring rain
waters the earth.*

Hosea 6:3 NSSB

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.



Office Hours

Mon - Thurs 9AM --NOON

THE SPARK

Parish Newsletter of Choteau - Brady - Dutton UM's

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

- Tupper

I woke up to another sunrise,
a God who loves me and
the people who share this life with me.

Grief is big but so is gratitude.
The world is broken, but it's also kind.

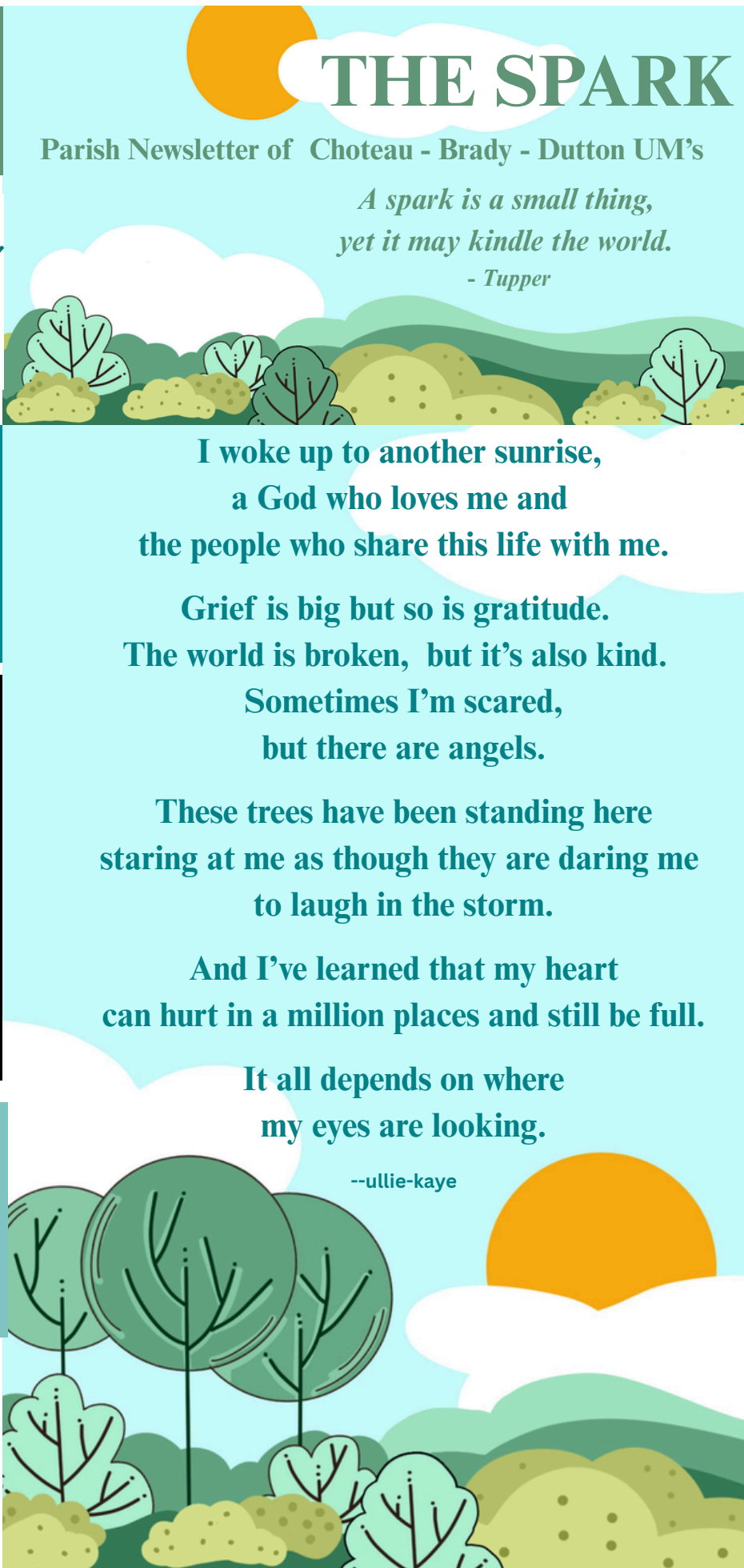
Sometimes I'm scared,
but there are angels.

These trees have been standing here
staring at me as though they are daring me
to laugh in the storm.

And I've learned that my heart
can hurt in a million places and still be full.

It all depends on where
my eyes are looking.

--ullie-kaye





Pastor's PAGE

In the month of May, as spring stretches into fullness, we take time to honor mothers and all who nurture life. The trees are budding, gardens are stirring awake, and the earth seems to hum with renewal. Creation itself reflects a kind of mothering grace—patient, generous, and quietly persistent.

Scripture often speaks of God in ways that echo these same qualities: comforting, sheltering, feeding, guiding, and making new life possible. We can glimpse that sacred love in the rhythms of the season: rain that softens the soil, sunlight that draws new growth, and blossoms that appear after long months of waiting.

Motherhood is also bigger than biology. It lives in anyone who offers care, wisdom, protection, encouragement, and presence. It is found in mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, aunts, chosen family, caregivers, mentors, and all who help others grow.

So in this beautiful month of May, we give thanks for those who have mothered us in countless ways. And as the world blooms around us, may we remember that we are always held by the God who continues to create, nurture, and renew all things.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Kaitlin





Bible Readings for the Month

May 3:

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 10:

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 17: ~ Ascension Sunday

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

May 24: ~ Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30;
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians
12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

May 31: ~ Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8;
2 Corinthians 13:11-13;
Matthew 28:16-20

Skyline Lodge Study

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



Thursday, May 21
2:00 PM
Conrad Senior Center

Sunday, May 24

*Wear something **RED** !*

We will celebrate the birthday of the church and welcome any others wishing to become members of our church family.



(Let Rev. Kaitlin know if you wish to join.)

“What’s this about?”

On Pentecost, we celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church – when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, and they began their lives spreading the message of God’s love through Jesus Christ and transformed our world. (See Acts 2.)

Materials for your Spiritual Formation May / June

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



To all the moms who said, “Don’t make me turn this car around!”
—thank you for the miles and the memories.
Here’s to the superheroes who can find anything (except their own phone) and who always know when we’re sneaking snacks.
May your coffee be strong, your laundry piles be small,
and your Wi-Fi signal never let you down. Happy Mother’s Day!

**CHOTEAU UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

**TRASH & TREASURE
RUMMAGE SALE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 9
8—11 AM**



BAKE SALE

**BAKED GOODS
HOMEMADE SPECIALITIES
AND MUCH MORE!**

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!

You may begin bringing your donated items on Tuesday, May 5 to the church basement.

RUMMAGE SALE
deliver items to the church by
Friday, May 8

BAKE SALE
deliver items to the church by
Friday, May 8 by 2:00 p.m.

Set up rummage sale
at the church
Friday, May 8 at 1:00 p.m.



Brady UMC Spring Dinner Update

The Brady UM Church planned its Spring Dinner and Bazaar fundraiser for March 15th this year. However, Mother Nature had her own ideas for that day, providing much needed moisture in the most unwelcome way. Blizzard conditions, snow accumulation of up to a foot and hazardous road conditions prompted the rescheduling of the Spring Dinner to April 19th.

We had a very good turn out, especially for implementing a change of date. We served 127 people ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, along with a huge variety of salads and many delicious dessert options to finish a wonderful meal.

The Bazaar was also well attended with displays of baked goods, canned goods, homemade dishcloths and towels, wooden items specially made and donated, decorated baskets, a beautiful homemade quilt and many more items to browse.

THANK YOU to all volunteers who helped make the Spring Dinner and Bazaar a success. From cleaning, setting up and decorating the Community Hall; organizing, cooking, baking and serving the dinner; working the bazaar, the clean up, donating time, money and materials; to everyone who came to support us; we THANK YOU ALL!

BEFORE

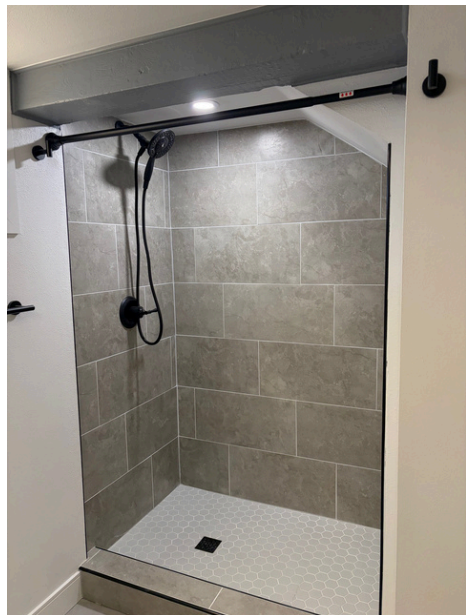


Parsonage Bathroom Renovation

UPDATE



AFTER



Project Completion

The renovation of the parsonage’s downstairs bathroom has been successfully completed. The updated space is now ready for use and stands as an improvement to our church property.

Financial Support & Funding

This project was made possible thanks to the generous financial support we received from our parish congregations and community. Paying for the completion required moving some funds from our church’s Foundation Fund.

Request for Reimbursement to the Foundation Fund

We kindly ask for your assistance in reimbursing our Foundation Fund. If you are able, please consider making an additional gift designated for this important project. When making your donation, be sure to note “parsonage capital improvement” so that your contribution is directed appropriately.

thank you



Easter Sunrise Service at Priest Butte



Special thank you to Rev. Kaitlin for conducting the Eastser Sunrise service on top of Priest Butte. Twenty-four people attended.

What a glorious morning!



A special thanks to Sharon & Norman Haug and Lila Dunn for providing the breakfast following the Sunrise Service.



may Birthdays & Anniversaries

- May 2 Bob Snodgrass, Jr.
Rose Mary Snodgrass
- May 3 Larry Harman
Marlene Howard
Dave Carlson
- May 4 Dusty Yeager
- May 5 Travis Field
- May 6 Jeff & Melody Martinsen
- May 6 Tate Ley
- May 7 Steely Stubblefield
- May 11 Don & Dora Jermunson
Aundra Passmore
- May 12 Wendy Clark
- May 12 Gene & Linda Sentz
- 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
- May 27 Ryan DeBruycker
- May 31 Claira Duty



Willis Heron
 Death ~ 12/07/2025
 Memorial Service
 Monday, May 4, 2026
 11:00 a.m. at Choteau UMC

Mary Pourroy
 Death ~ 03/21/2026
 A graveside memorial and reception
 are being planned for July.
 Details forthcoming.

thank you Hospitality Committee and Volunteers: Lila Dunn, Sharon Haug, Kelly DeBruycker, Joyce Lindgren, Diane Inbody, and Duane Halverson for your special efforts in coordinating and providing a lunch reception for the family and friends of Stella Plachetka following her memorial service on April 25th. A very special thank you to those who provided delicious salads and desserts, cookies, and bars. THANK YOU ALL!

Congratulations!

Congratulations graduates on reaching this incredible milestone! As you step into the next chapter of your life, remember that your journey is uniquely yours—filled with endless possibilities and opportunities to grow. Don't be afraid to dream big or take risks, because the courage to pursue your passions and overcome challenges will shape your future.

Always believe in yourself, embrace new experiences, and cherish the friendships and memories you've made. The world is waiting for your talents, your kindness, and your determination. Go forward with confidence, knowing you have the strength to create a life filled with purpose and happiness.

Ayden DeBruycker
 Graduating senior
 from Fairfield High School
 on Sunday, May 17
 2:00 p.m.

Ayden has been accepted
 to attend Montana State University
 with plans to pursue a degree
 in pre-veterinary medicine.

**2026 UM
 Camping Season**

The link below will provide you with more details and registration information for various camping opportunities.
<https://www.mtnskyumc.org/campingretreats>

Please check with your local UM Church for scholarship availability.



**Ecumenical Service
 at Dutton UMC
 6:30 p.m.**



**Fairfield High School
 Sunday, May 17 - 2:00 p.m.**

**Choteau High School
 Sunday, May 24 - 2:00 p.m.**

A lighthearted illustration for graduates . . .

Picture this: A group of graduates in caps and gowns are lined up, holding their diplomas. Instead of walking confidently, they're standing at the edge of a cliff labeled "Real World." One graduate turns to another and whispers, "Do you think there's a map for this place?" Meanwhile, a giant sign above reads, "Congratulations! You are now fully qualified to Google everything!"

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 – April	\$ 42,833
Received through April 26	\$ 33,731

Thank you for your on-going support!



Sustaining 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.com/Choteau UMC

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Choteau UMC Leadership Board
Tuesday, May 19 - 7:00 p.m.

GOOD GRIEF LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Together, we find strength and comfort

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

May 13 & 27

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



Annual Conference 2026

June 10-13, 2026

Billings Hotel and Convention Center
Billings, Montana!

All regular sessions and worship
will take place at the
Billings Convention Center.

For more information and to register:
<https://www.mtnumc.org/annual-conference-2026>

MAY

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>SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 am - Brady 1st & 3rd week 9:15 am - Dutton 2nd & 4th week 11:00 am - Choteau</p>		<p>Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-Noon (406) 466-2641 umc@3rivers.net www.umchoteau.net Facebook.com/Choteau UMC</p>		1	2	
3 	4 <p>Memorial Service Willis Heron 11:00 AM at Choteau UMC</p>	5 <p>Deliver Trash & Treasure items to church basement May 5 - 8</p>	6 <p>11:00 AM Skyline Study</p>	7	8 <p>1 PM Set up Trash & Treasure Bake Sale Items by 2 PM</p>	9
10 	11	12	13 <p>2:00 PM Grief/Loss Support</p>	14	15	16
17 <p>Ascension Sunday worship WITH US</p>	18	19 <p>Leadership Board Meeting 7:00 pm @ Choteau UMC</p>	20 <p>11:00 AM Skyline Study</p>	21 <p>Coffee & Conversation Fellowship Meeting 2:00 PM Conrad Sr. Center</p>	22	23
24 <p>Choteau HS Commencement - 2 PM</p>	25 <p>Office Closed Memorial Day</p>	26	27 <p>2:00 PM Grief/Loss Support</p>	28	29	30

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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](https://www.facebook.com/ChoteauUMC)

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:

Connie Bradley & Duane Halverson

In loving memory of

Anna Lee Erickson

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!*

