



The people of The United Methodist Church\*

**SEPTEMBER 2021**  
**Issue No. 228**

*For every problem  
Under the sun  
There is a solution  
Or there is none.*

*If there's a solution  
Go and find it.*

*If there isn't  
Never mind it.*

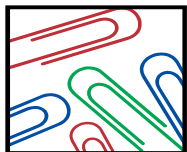
-Anonymous



**9:00 AM—Brady 1st & 3rd week**

**9:15 AM—Dutton 2nd & 4th week**

**11:00 AM—Choteau**



**Office  
Hours**

**Mon—Thurs 9am—Noon**

# The SPARK

Newsletter of the Choteau - Brady-Dutton UM Parish  
**Open Hearts, Open Minds, & Open Doors**

**September is Open House Month  
in the United Methodist Church !!**

## A Prayer for the Open Church Door



*O God, make the door of this house  
wide enough to receive all  
who need human love and fellowship,  
narrow enough to shut out  
all envy, pride, and strife.*

*Make its threshold smooth enough  
to be no stumbling block to children,  
nor to straying feet,  
but rugged and strong enough  
to turn back the tempter's power,*

*God, make the door of this house  
the gateway to thine eternal kingdom.*

—Inscribed on the door of St. Stephen's in London



## “Fact Checkers”

If you have a social media account, you have probably heard of “Fact Checkers.” Essentially, fact checkers verify the post that is shared and flag it with an alert if there is inaccurate or potentially misleading information. Something I became aware of lately is that there is not a fact checker for posts related to scripture (*at least not one that I know of*). Instead, often times people will share scripture (*usually a sentence or two*) to try and make a valid argument. While I think it is absolutely a wonderful thing to know scripture and tell others about it, scripture is not intended to be taken out of context or used as a tool to make a statement about someone’s personal opinions.

Why does this matter to me so much? Because I think it is extremely important for each of us to do a little “fact checking” ourselves. If you read or hear a sentence or two of scripture and think, “Hmm... I didn’t realize the Bible said that,” then I would encourage you to open your Bible to the particular scripture and read the chapter(s) around that scripture. What is the setting of the story? What is the context? What was happening in the culture and life of the author at that time? What other background information do you know about the author or characters in the story? The Bible is not all “black and white” (*and red if you have a King James translation*). We should read the entire message to fully understand what the scripture is saying, not one or two sentences.

This month, I challenge you to devote time each day to reading your Bible. If you would like help finding a devotional reading plan or would like to ask questions about anything you have read, I am available! Give me a call or text, and we will get time scheduled.

In Christ’s Love,  
Pastor Julie

## 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!”*

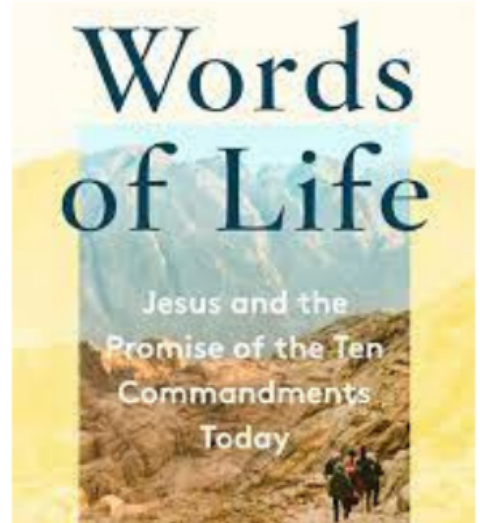
# September Worship

Sept 5: "The Ten Commandments"

Sept 12: Guest Preacher  
Seth O'Kegley-Gibson

Sept 19: "Commandments 1 & 2"

Sept 26: "Commandments 3 & 4"



Join Pastor Julie for this new sermon series that explores the Ten Commandments!

Based on Rev. Adam Hamilton's newly released book, "Words of Life"!



**Sermon videos available on the church website [www.umchoteau.net](http://www.umchoteau.net)**

**Worship services will continue in person  
at the Choteau-Brady-Dutton Parish at respective times.**

However, with Covid-19 cases increasing in our community and State, we encourage everyone entering these churches to use their discretion, to evaluate their situation, and continue to be safe around others. Social distancing, hand sanitizing, wearing masks along with other safety measures are still **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**. Masks are available.





## Bible Readings for the Month

### September 5

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23  
Psalm 125 or 124  
James 2:1-10, 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

### September 12

Proverbs 1:20-33  
Psalm 19  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

### September 19

Proverbs 31:10-31  
Psalm 1  
James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

### September 26

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22  
Psalm 124  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50



## BEGINNING IN OCTOBER

Choteau UMC is partnering with Trinity Lutheran in providing a children's ministry for children in preschool through grade 5.

"Connect" at Trinity Lutheran



Parents/Guardians of our youth will soon be receiving a letter from Pastor Julie regarding the upcoming schedule and curriculum for confirmation beginning in October.

## Opportunities for Your Spiritual Growth



Due to the increasing cases of Covid-19, all of the scheduled events are subject to change and/or cancellation.

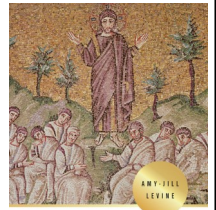
## Skyline Lodge Bible Study

Wednesday (weekly) - 10:30 am

—beginning September 8

Skyline Lodge, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Bible Study – *Sermon on the Mount*



SERMON on the MOUNT  
A BIBLEMAN'S GUIDE TO THE MOUNTAIN OF BIBLE

CCC—Coffee, Conversation & Communion



Thursday, September 23—2:00 pm

Social Room of Skyline Lodge



All are invited to join us for  
"Wine & the Word" and "Bar+Church"  
each month!

This is an informal, fun time to get together, discuss current events and scripture with our church family, and support our local businesses.



All are invited to join Pastor Julie for

*Wine & The Word*

**Copper Creek**

2nd Wednesday of every month @ 7:00pm

# SAVE THE DATE

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

### Community Fall Dinner @ Choteau UMC

At the publishing of this newsletter, due to the increasing cases of Covid-19, it has not been determined if there will be a traditional Fall Dinner as scheduled or have other options. We will be closely monitoring the situation and will confirm a decision by mid-September.



### In Loving Memory of Carol Ekegren

Dec. 31, 1935 - Aug. 18, 2021

With sincere love and gratitude, the family of Carol Ekegren would like to invite you to a celebration of her life on

**September 11  
10:00 am  
at Trinity Lutheran Church**

### INTERMOUNTAIN *Moments*

#### Little lessons in empathy

*"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets."* -Jesus (Matt. 7:12)

Our interactions with others are based on the internal narrative we believe about ourselves, our place in the world, and how others are going to treat us. Children who—through trauma, a mental health struggle, or some other relational and emotional challenge—believe themselves to be "less than" others regularly have difficulty in relationships. Reciprocation, grace, and the empathy needed to form trusting bonds with loved ones must be modeled for these children to challenge their inner narrative of not being good enough.

Chaplain Sami Pack-Toner has spent many hours in the cottages on our Helena campus, seeking to build relationships with the children she is serving in ministry. She regularly finds herself one-on-one with a child that the staff have suggested might need a little extra attention. One such child is Alissa. A favorite activity of young Alissa, Sami related, is to play chess and other games where there is a clear winner and loser.

"I am not particularly good at chess," Sami explains, "maybe that's why Alissa chooses to play with me?" Sami proceeds to chuckle as she tells the story. "But, an interesting thing has happened as we play more and more. At first, I could see her satisfaction in beating me in a game of chess... self-validation that was just about her success. Now, whenever she wins, she makes sure to encourage me and tells me not to give up. She has learned empathy and shows it in these little ways, which is such a beautiful and lovely way to see that she is healing and trusting that she (and others!) are worthwhile, even when they don't win." This modeled behavior from her staff and family is starting to be internalized, helping Alissa trust that she deserves loving, healthy relationships.



Intermountain's transformative approach of meets children where they are—developmentally and relationally—and builds empathy and trust in hurting children. Thank you for supporting our mission and ministry!

For more information or to support this life-changing work, call or text Chris at 465-9693 or email [chrish@intermountain.org](mailto:chrish@intermountain.org)

### New Interim Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church (our ecumenical partner)



Please take the opportunity to welcome Annela Rova, her husband, Reese Hunter, and their daughter, Ilmari, to our community. They came to Trinity most recently from Sierra Vista, Arizona and are happy to be here during this season of transition.



## Farm Harvest Hidden Picture

Find 10 mice hidden in the Garden Harvest picture. Then color it!



©Sheri Amsel • [www.exploringnature.org](http://www.exploringnature.org)



## Our Deepest Sympathy

to the families and friends of

**Rev. Lyle Hamilton**

(father of Rev. Kama Hamilton Morton)

Death – August 25, 2021

Memorial Service

Thursday, September 30, 2021

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

505 Logan, Helena, Montana

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Intermountain Children's Home, 500 S Lamborn, Helena, MT 59601; St. Paul's UMC, 512 Logan, Helena, MT 59601 or a charity of your choice.

Dear UMC Congregation,

I received such a nice thank you from Lila Dunn for the donation of Memorial Day flowers to be used by the church. This is a tradition that my Mother, Joyce Robinson, started many years ago (to donation the memorial fresh floral planters from the cemetery). She loved our little home town of Choteau, as I do. I will continue to celebrate this with the delivery of flowers each spring. We also have some delivered to Skyline Lodge for Lila's Garden. Lila was my aunt and a cherished member of our family.

Choteau is a treasure! I am delighted you and the people of Choteau enjoy this gift of beauty!

Best wishes, Judy Brown

## SPECIAL THANKS

**Roger Kelly** for your assistance and expertise in repairing/covering the fascia near the front entrance of the church with new metal. A thank you to a couple of Roger's friends, Dave Zion and Troy Shelmerdine for the added assistance with material and tools for this project. Well done!

**JP Flood** for your keen observance and repair of some raised areas of our front cement walkway. Hopefully this maintenance will help to avoid stumbling or an accidental fall on our walkway. Greatly appreciated!



## Grandparent's Day Sunday, September 12

Grandparents play a vital role in the work of the Church, passing on the faith in many and various ways to future generations.

What do you know about your grandparents and/or family? Visit with them about their lives and experiences. Better yet, get them to write or record their family history.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### ~ 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         |
|    | Nikki Ley                 |
| 14 | Kacey Gollehon            |
|    | Curt Rasmussen            |
| 17 | Cheryl Marschner          |
| 21 | Judy Dauwalder            |
|    | ♥ Jack & Lenore Rogers    |
|    | Harold Yeager             |
| 22 | Elizabeth Graf            |
|    | Ronda Reiding             |
| 24 | Denny Blauer              |
|    | Susan Heuscher            |
| 27 | Janice Farkell            |
|    | Marilyn Herman            |
| 29 | Steve Nylund              |
| 30 | Jaime Stubblefield        |



## 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

2021 Budget for Choteau	\$111,025
Needed to meet budget –August	\$ 74,017
Received through August 29	\$ 63,978

**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:



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Choteau UMC Leadership Team

**Monday, September 13**  
**6:30 pm**  
**at Choteau UMC**



## College Students:

Please remember to update the church office with new mailing and email addresses for Fall semester! Thanks!



### **Special Needs:** **Cake & Brownie Mixes**

Please remember that food items are to be nonperishable and commercially wrapped.

*Please review expiration dates on items.  
The Pantry can accept any food items  
except those two years past the "best buy" dates  
and cannot accept home-canned products.*

**Your food donations are appreciated.**



Neighbors Helping Neighbors has now been in existence since 2004, and we continue to be able to help families with a 'hand up'. Our community has been

impacted by Covid-19, the Gunther Apartment fire, and families struggling to meet financial obligations for a variety of reasons.

Because this continues to be a volunteer group, for assistance please call our Neighbors Helping Neighbors message phone at 466-3646, and leave your name and contact information for a volunteer contact. You can also contact any of our board members: Jaim McPherson-Birkeland, Dawn Baker, Lee Barhaugh, Kristen Boroff, Zanita Hirst, Cynthia Rice, Linda Sentz, and Neal Wedum. Donations are welcomed to NHN, PO Box 303, Choteau MT 59422.



 Choteau  
United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 108  
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[Facebook.com/Choteau UMC](https://www.facebook.com/ChoteauUMC)

Julie King, Pastor  
Lila Dunn, Admin. Assist.

First Std  
U.S. Postage



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



**Please continue to consider sponsoring  
an issue of *The Spark Parish Newsletter*  
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.**

*Live to shed joy to others.*

—Henry Ward Beecher

*Practice random acts of kindness . . .  
today . . . this week . . . always !*