



OCTOBER 2020
Issue No. 217

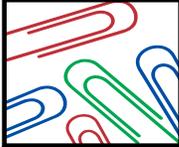
*Human beings
are capable of war
and sadness
and all sorts
of terrible stuff
but also cupcakes.*

-Kid President

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



**Worship schedule
for October
on page 2 & 6.**

	Office Hours
Mon—Thurs 9am—Noon	



The SPARK

Newsletter of the Choteau / Brady / Dutton UM Parish

Open Hearts, Open Minds, & Open Doors



When the green of summer changes
to an autumn glow
When the sun settles in the western skies
When the hours of sunlight
get less and less each day

When the flowers of the field
say their last goodbyes

We can hear the music of the autumn requiem,
Which reminds us that each year part of nature dies.

When the birds flock together and prepare to fly away
To seek food and warmth in a foreign land
When hedgehogs look for a place to hibernate
It's a sure sign that winter is close at hand
The music of the autumn requiem can be heard
It's a message which is easy for us to understand



When the apples on the trees are ripe for picking
And the grain harvest has been safely stored away
When the seed for next year's harvest has been sown
Farmers can relax in the calmness of an autumn day
As they listen to the music of the autumn requiem
That reminds them that seedtime and harvest will never pass away

This promise of God is one on which they can rely
Knowing that their success depends upon nature's co-operation
Knowing that hard work on their part is essential
If they are to provide for the needs of the nation
But as they listen to the autumn requiem
They are reminded that God is part of the equation.

--Ron Martin Bulwell



Live to shed joy to others.

—Henry Ward Beecher

Plan for Returning to In-Person Worship

Since June 1, 2020, we have followed the (Re)Launch guidelines and Phase 2 guidelines of Montana's reopening plan. We have continued to offer digital worship and have expanded our outreach and connection through "How is it with Your Soul?," "Coffee Talk," and making DVD copies of our worship series available to those who cannot easily access online worship. We have also been worshipping outdoors on the church lawns while practicing social distancing, wearing masks, and rotating the services by holding worship at one church per week.

As the weather begins to cool off and outdoor worship will not be an option much longer, the leadership teams of each church in our parish have been working diligently to finalize a plan that safely allows us to worship in-person together while we remain in Phase 2 and Yellow status. It has become clear that "normal" worship experiences (or the "Green" phase) will not be resuming soon as Phase 2 and Yellow status are predicted to remain in effect for several months, while the possibility of returning to Phase 1 or Red status linger due to continued increases in positive Covid-19 cases.

I believe that we can continue to be adaptive, creative, and safely worship in-person in each of our sanctuaries with a good plan that follows the guidelines that are detailed in the yellow phase. In order to minimize the possibility of spreading potential exposure, I believe it is best that we continue to worship in each location on a ROTATION. The worship gatherings are scheduled as follows through the foreseeable months:

Brady: 1st Sunday with Communion @ 9:00am
Dutton: 2nd Sunday with Communion @ 9:15am
Choteau: 3rd Sunday with Communion @ 11:00am
Choteau: 4th & 5th Sundays of each month @ 11:00am

This rotation gives each of our buildings time to be sanitized and for any remaining germs to die before returning to the building. In addition, it reduces the possibility of ME transferring the virus from one church to another each week. This significantly reduces our risk and liability as a parish while allowing us to gather safely and responsibly in each of our churches.

In addition to the rotation, there are several preventative measures that need to be strictly followed in order for us to safely worship inside. I have listed the main points below and ask that each of you please follow them as we move forward with in-person worship inside each of our churches.

- Masks are required to be worn by all people over the age of five. Exceptions are made for those with health concerns that prevent use of a mask.
- Doors to the sanctuary will remain open in order to reduce touching of handles.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at every door. Each person is asked to use hand sanitizer upon entering the building.
- Offering plates will *not* be passed during the service. Instead, a table will be available at the back of each sanctuary to place your offering in the plate.

continued—page 3

Plan for Returning to In-Person Worship

- Paper bulletins will be passed out by a gloved usher (or Pastor Julie) as people enter the sanctuary. Please do not share them with anyone else.
- Communion will be served using disposable, individual cups.
- All food and beverages typically served for fellowship time will NOT be prepared or served by the churches until we are in the “Green” phase. You ARE allowed to bring coffee (etc.) in your own thermos/cup from home.
- Hymnals, bibles, attendance sheets, etc. will not be used. Instead, all lyrics, scripture readings, prayers, etc. will be printed in the bulletin and available on the screen. Attendance will be recorded every week by an appointed individual to ensure that contact tracing is available should we need to utilize that record.
- Singing and liturgical responses are discouraged. We WILL have the hymns and music played during our services during the usual times.
- Social distancing will be practiced in each sanctuary. Only every other pew will be available and only immediately family members are able to sit in the same pew.
- Only the sanctuary and entrance routes of each church will be “open.” Please do not congregate or wonder around other parts of the building. Restrooms will be open, but we ask that you please try to limit using them unless it is necessary.
- Children will not come forward during children’s time. We will continue to have this time, they will simply stay in their seats.
- Passing of the Peace will be done through “no touch” practices (ie. air high five, wave, etc.)
- When the service concludes, Pastor Julie will exit the sanctuary first. She will be available from BEHIND a table for a quick “hello” and greeting; however, no handshakes or hugs will be allowed until we are back in the “Green” phase. The congregation will be dismissed by ushers one row at a time to ensure social distancing throughout dismissal.
- Funerals, weddings, etc. will be at the discretion of Pastor Julie if regulations can be followed.

I realize that this seems like a LOT of guidelines and “rules” to follow. But, I firmly believe that if we all do our part and be responsible by wearing our masks, social distancing, following these guidelines, and staying home if we are ill or have symptoms of illness, that we can have a somewhat “normal” experience with each of our worship services. We will be together. We will be praising and worshipping God. And we will all be doing our best to “do good.”

The complete detailed requirements that are laid out for the “Yellow” status are attached for your reading pleasure if you would like to review the guidelines in the entirety.

I do not want this to feel overwhelming. My hope is that we continue to support and love each other as we always have, continue to show grace to one another, and that we come out stronger through the times that seem hard. If ANY of you have questions or need clarification on “why” or “how” any of these guidelines are to be followed, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. My email is julieking23@hotmail.com and my cell phone is (785)443-0475.

In Christ’s Love, Pastor Julie King

and the Leadership Committee of the Choteau, Brady, and Dutton United Methodist Churches

October is our Stewardship Month

October is the time of year when we begin planning our church budgets for next year. This year, things look a little bit different. But, as I mentioned in the “Weird Worship: Tithing” sermon last month, the scriptures remind us that it is extremely important to give in the name of God. God uses our giving to be a blessing to others.

This month, as you receive your stewardship letters, I would invite you all to pray and reflect on the amount that you are able to pledge to give. We are called as United Methodists to “Gain all that you can. Save all that you can. And give all that you can.” This means that we work hard to earn the income that we need to gain in a way that is pleasing to God. We save all that we can and need by spending frugally and providing for ourselves and our families. And then we give all that we can in the name of God to bless others.

I would like to remind each of you that there is an option to fill out the ACH form to have your giving deducted electronically from your bank account each month. If you have utilized this in the past, you will need to fill out a new form for the upcoming year to renew ACH giving. This option might be a good method of giving for some, as we continue to navigate through the pandemic into the next year. Of course, we will still collect a regular offering at each of our in-person services. And tithes and gifts can always be mailed directly to our churches.

**Consecration Sunday
will be on October 25 at
11:00am in-person for Choteau UMC
and digitally for Brady UMC
and Dutton UMC.**

CHOTEAU, BRADY, DUTTON UMC PARISH

Sunday, November 8

2:30—4:30 pm

Via Zoom

at Choteau UMC

**CHURCH
CONFERENCE**



ALL parishioners (newer and long-time) are encouraged to attend our Annual All-Church Conference. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Jan Witman, will facilitate us as we celebrate this past year and look ahead to where God is calling us as a parish and conference in 2021! We will meet in the main sanctuary of Choteau UMC in order to provide better internet access and social distancing.

Care Packages

College Students & Military Personnel

The Care Packages to our college students and military personnel will go out in a few weeks. Two boxes will be available to fill with identical items/goodies. These boxes will be available for your donated items on Sunday, October 18 at in-person worship at Choteau UMC.

If this time is inconvenient for you, please contact the church office to make arrangements, (466-2641 or umc@3rivers.net).

We invite you to send a separate card and/or email message of support and encouragement to these students:

Garrett Depner
310 10th Street, Apt. B
Havre, MT 59501
Email: midnighttalker@yahoo.com

Calvin Maples
303 Welch Ave., Apt. 210
Ames, IA 50014
Email: cmaples@iastate.edu

If you did not donate items for the care packages this time, you will have another opportunity next semester. Thanks for your support of this ministry!

**If you have questions, please contact
Sharon Haug (466-5614) or
Diane Inbody (466-2345).**



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

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

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!”*

Opportunities for Your Spiritual Growth

Skyline Lodge Bible Study

Tuesday mornings - 10:30 a.m. Skyline Lodge, 2nd floor

Due to a recent positive Covid-19 case at Skyline Lodge in Choteau, all activities have been cancelled until further notice.

Everyone is welcome to join us at Skyline for CCC.

Coffee, Conversation, Communion

Due to a recent positive Covid-19 case at Skyline Lodge in Choteau, all activities have been cancelled until further notice.



**“Connect” will resume
Wednesday, October 7
4:30—5:30 pm
at Trinity Lutheran Church
(please note change in time)**

Choteau UMC is partnering with Trinity Lutheran again in providing a ministry for children in preschool through grade 8.

Below is the proposed protocol:

- Masks will be required. Attendance will be taken. Temperatures can be checked at the door with infrared thermometer, if needed.
- Pre-K: meets in Pre-K area of the church
- K-2nd: meets in basement
- 3rd-5th: meets in sanctuary
- 6th-8th: meets in the confirmation room
- No meals will be served. Instead, a “food pantry” will be collected and stored at Trinity Lutheran of prepackaged, easy-to-prepare foods and will be available for any family to take home.
- No music/worship at this time.
- No large group gatherings at this time.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Please notify Trinity Lutheran Church 466-2291 (Pastor Kim Peterson) or Choteau UMC 466-2641 (Pastor Julie King) if you would be willing to assist with this children's ministry and/or have questions/concerns.

**OCTOBER
SERMON SERIES**

Pressing On

OCTOBER SERMON SERIES
Choteau UMC - Brady UMC - Dutton UMC

Sermon videos available on the church website www.umchoteau.net

October Worship Schedule

Thank you for your patience and flexibility during this time!

We will begin inside, in-person worship for the month of October (see **reopening guidelines on pages 2-3 of this newsletter**). We will continue alternating church locations again (please see schedule below).

Changes will be made subject to guidelines by the Mountain Sky Conference, State of Montana, and local officials.

Sunday, October 4
Brady UMC—9:00 a.m.—w/ Communion

Sunday, October 11
Dutton UMC—9:15 a.m.—w/Communion

Sunday, October 18
Choteau UMC—11:00 a.m.—w/Communion

Sunday, October 25
Choteau UMC—11:00 a.m.

*Stay Positive
Test Negative*



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

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:

 **@choteauUMC
@bradyumcMT
@duttonumc**



Choteau UMC has an adopted family!

The adopted family, with children, resides in Teton County and has few wishes but some definite needs.

Thanks to the continued generosity of our congregation, we will be able to continue doing some important things for this family during the approaching holidays and the coming year. God bless each of you for contributing to this very worthwhile "at home" mission.

If you would like to contribute to this mission, please make your checks payable to Choteau UMC and make special notation that this is for the "Adopted Family" mission.

Kelly DeBruycker is our coordinator for this special mission and will give periodic updates to the congregation.



We celebrate the baptism of
Kyndal Marie Dye
 Sunday, October 11
 Parents: Robert Dye & Julie King
 Born: November 3, 2019

Baptism service will be recorded for viewing/participation as a part of the online, digital worship service.



- OCTOBER**
- 2 ♥ Rod & Heather McCartney Duty
 - 6 ♥ Bob & Joann Snodgrass
 - 8 Herb Bingham
Alexander King
 - 9 Chris Field
Stella Plachetka
Mary Pourroy
 - 10 Laurie Jordan
 - 11 Peggy Guthrie
Jean Harman
 - 12 ♥ Larry & Jean Harman
 - 14 ♥ Nick & Jaime Stubblefield
Dillon Field
 - 15 Slade Stubblefield
 - 16 Gerry Yeager
 - 18 Jonnie Conatser
 - 19 ♥ Norman & Sharon Haug
 - 21 Jaynie Gollehon
Elizabeth Graf
 - 22 ♥ Steve & Terrie Nylund
Jay Rice
 - 25 Shirley Hodgskiss
 - 27 Shirley Stordahl
 - 28 Steve Haynes
Arlene Woodahl
 - 29 Trig Zwerneman

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you, thank you, to ALL to so generously supported the Fall “No Dinner, Dinner” with your contributions to the Choteau UMC annual fundraiser. We look forward to serving you a delicious roast beef/pork dinner with all the trimmings in September 2021!

A special thank you to Sally & Cliff Heuscher for donating cabbages and onions from their garden harvest (*that normally are used in preparing coleslaw for the Fall Dinner*) to share with the congregation on Sunday, September 20. We also thank Lila Dunn, Sharon Haug, Sally Heuscher, Toni Christman, Marilyn Herman and Kelly DeBruycker for assisting in the collection of cabbage recipes and prep of the produce. The free-will offering for this produce was added to the Fall Dinner “No Dinner, Dinner” 2020 contributions.

😊 ALL who have so graciously provided such creative video productions of the scripture readings for online worship: Addi Christensen, Garrett Depner, Ryan Depner, Bella King, Xander King, Ethan King, Ayden DeBruycker, Slade Stubblefield, Steely Stubblefield, Austin Lindgren, Casey Lindgren. You lifted our spirits in a variety of ways!

😊 Roger Kelly for trimming up the ash tree near the parking lot of the church and for being our volunteer chimney sweep to clean the woodburning stove and repair the stove pipe at the parsonage. We are grateful for your time and expertise! Super job!

😊 Tom Tesch for maintaining the outside fountain all season. Your time and effort is so appreciated. This enhancement to beauty of our grounds has been enjoyed for many years.

October is Be-Kind-To Your-Pastor Month

some suggestions:

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

Vitality shows in not only the ability to persist but the ability to start over.

-F. Scott Fitzgerald



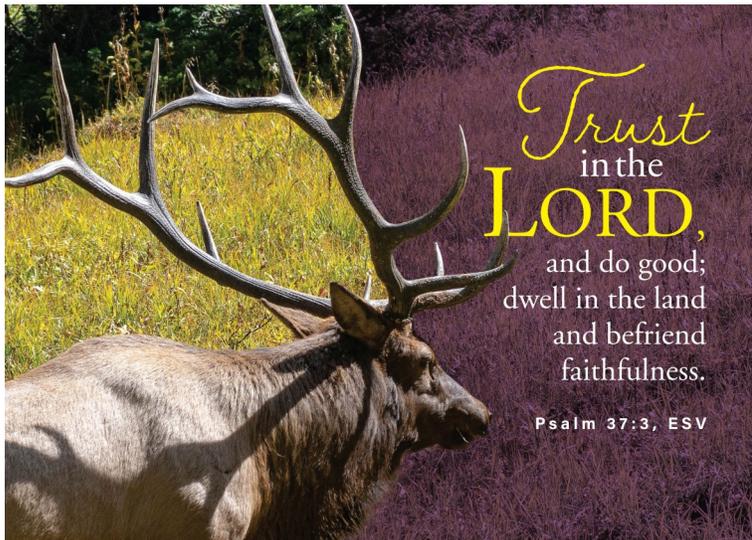
YOUR MONETARY GIFTS AT WORK

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

2020 Budget for Choteau	\$109,975
Needed to meet budget –September	\$ 82,481
Received through September 27	\$ 71,040

Thank you for your on-going support!



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. ****



**Ecumenical Church Youth Food Drive—Dutton
Wednesday, October 7 7:00 pm**



Please donate to the Teton County Food Pantry.

Dutton's Ecumenical Youth Group will be collecting items for the food pantry and delivering to Dutton UMC at 7:00pm on October 7.

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

Please review expiration dates on items.

Thank you for not donating expired or soon to expire items to the Food Pantry.





Choteau /Brady/Dutton
United Methodist Parish
P.O. 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)

Julie King, Pastor
Lila Dunn, Admin. Assist.

First Std
U.S. Postage

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

This month's newsletter is sponsored by:

Darlene Ferris

In honor of

Craig Smith—October 3

Kelsey Clarke—October 6

Lois Selby—October 15

Alexander Selvage & Ashton Selvage—October 24

Camden Rovang—October 31

Thank you for your sponsorship !

For \$40 you can sponsor an issue of The Spark.

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

Submit your sponsor information to the parish office.