

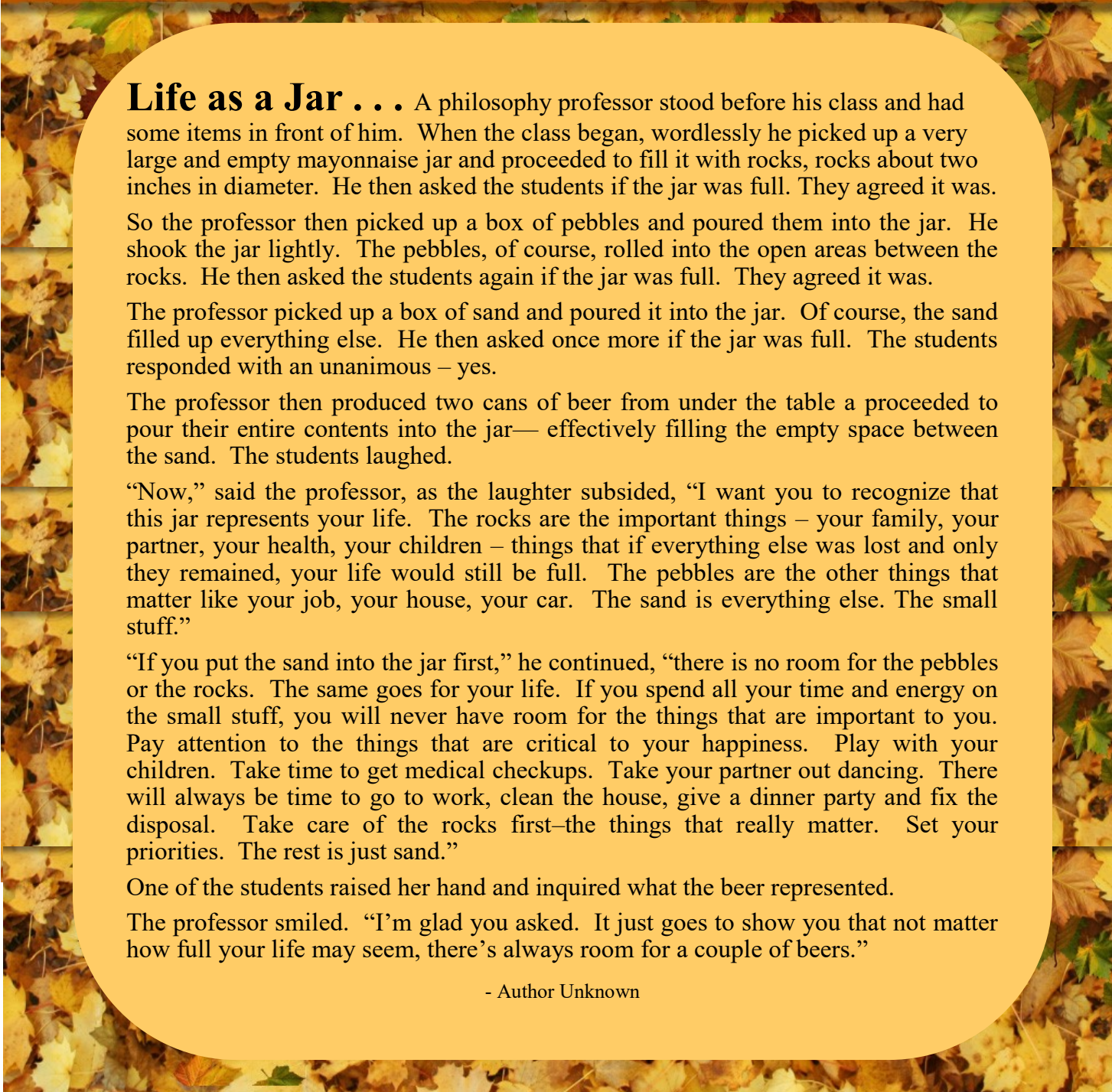


The SPARK

NOVEMBER 2020

Issue No. 218

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



Life as a Jar . . . A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, rocks about two inches in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He then asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with an unanimous – yes.

The professor then produced two cans of beer from under the table and proceeded to pour their entire contents into the jar— effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

“Now,” said the professor, as the laughter subsided, “I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The rocks are the important things – your family, your partner, your health, your children – things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else. The small stuff.”

“If you put the sand into the jar first,” he continued, “there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal. Take care of the rocks first—the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.”

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented.

The professor smiled. “I’m glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there’s always room for a couple of beers.”

- Author Unknown



November Worship Schedule

**Thank you for your patience
and flexibility during this time!**

Due to the increase in Covid-19 cases in our area, in-person worship for the month of November will be suspended until there is a downward trend in active cases. Please continue to join us for worship online. **Changes will be made subject to guidelines by the Mountain Sky Conference, State of Montana, and local officials.**

Nov 1 - All Saints Day - Revelation 7:9-17

Nov 8 - Matthew 25:1-13

Nov 15 - Matthew 25:14-30

Nov 22 - Christ the King Sunday - Matthew 25:31-46

Nov 29 - 1st Sunday of Advent



Sunday Parish Fellowship Hour 10:00 am—online via Zoom

This is simply a time to get online and see each other's faces and say hello. The Zoom link will be available in the weekly email with the worship links.

Wednesday Book/Bible Study 7:00 pm—online via Zoom Beginning November 4

SERMON *on* the MOUNT

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE to the KINGDOM of HEAVEN

We will be studying the "Sermon on the Mount" by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. (Read more about it below!) This is a 6-week study and will be held every Wednesday at 7pm. The participant e-book can be purchased and downloaded at this link:

<https://www.cokesbury.com/Sermon-on-the-Mount-1-3> or if you would like a paperback copy of the book, we have them available for \$12 at the church office.

To join the Book Study, **please register** at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/bnXyJWkqME9wiDSt7>

After your registration is completed, Pastor Julie will be in touch to email the Zoom link and more information.

The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus' most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings have meant to his disciples and to the others who first heard them? How do they enhance our reading of the rest of the Gospel of Matthew, and how do they speak across the centuries to listeners today? How, if we pay careful attention to his words, does Jesus provide us a road map to living as God would have us live?

In *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today.



Bible Readings for the Month

November 1—All Saints Sunday

Joshua 3:7-17
 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
 Matthew 23:1-12
 Revelation 7:9-17
 Psalm 34:1-10, 22
 1 John 3:1-3
 Matthew 5:1-12

November 8

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
 Psalm 78:1-7
 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 Matthew 25:1-13

November 15

Judges 4:1-7
 Psalm 123 or Psalm 76
 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
 Matthew 25:14-30

November 22

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
 Psalm 100
 Ephesians 1:15-23
 Matthew 25:31-46

November 29—Advent Begins

Isaiah 64:1-9
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Materials for your Spiritual Formation November / December

Available in the front entryway
 and the Upper Room rack
 at the top of the ramp

- Upper Room
 – regular & large print

*Give thanks
 with a
 grateful heart.*

Opportunities for Your Spiritual Growth

Skyline Lodge Bible Study

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

POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

due to a recent increase in positive Covid-19 cases in our area.

Everyone is welcome to join us at Skyline for CCC.



Coffee, Conversation, Communion

No CCC is scheduled in November.



"Connect"
Wednesdays, 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



Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays. In my family's tradition, it was one of the holidays throughout the year that *everyone* would come home to my Grandparent's house. All of us cousins would play from sunup until bedtime. Then we would get to have sleepovers throughout the weekend and stay up late watching movies. The adults would fill the house with the warm smell of delicious food cooking all day, laughter and stories, card games and marbles or dominoes. Thanksgiving dinner was, of course, one of the largest and most delicious meals that we would eat all year. The entire Thanksgiving weekend has always had such a magical feeling and is something that I hold so dear to my heart. But it was the moments just before dinner that have *always* meant the most.

When the busy house heard the ladies in the kitchen call out, "it's time to eat!" we would wash up and come together in one huge circle created by every person holding hands. Our family was large enough that the circle went throughout several rooms in the house and really was not a true circle, but that didn't matter – we were all joined together. And one at a time, we would take turns stating out loud the things that we are thankful for from the past year. I can still remember specific things that different family members said that they were thankful for over the years. And I can distinctly remember that every year, God was always given the thanks and glory for everything that each of us had been given.

Thanksgiving is going to look different this year. There will be no large family gathering. There will be no circle made by everyone holding hands. There will be less food on the table because there are less mouths to feed. But that amount of thanks that will be spoken remains. And God will continue to be praised and glorified with thanksgiving. This year, I am reminded that no matter what the circumstances, there is thanks to be given to God. God has been with us through it all and will continue to be. What are you thankful for this year? Write it down. Reflect. And share your story with others.

Thanks be to God.
Pastor Julie



How Is It With Your Soul?

When Methodists were asked this question in their small group, over two hundred years ago, they were encouraged not only to share how they felt but also how they were living. John Wesley developed the General Rules to help guide discussions, and still today this question can help us to stay connected with God, to each other, and to the world.

I would encourage everyone in our churches to pair up with another member of the church and, at least once a week, check in with one another and ask “how is it with your soul?” Pray for each other and lean on each other through friendship. It is so important to stay connected during a time that we are still unable to return to full in-person worship. My hope is that everyone in our church will have at least one person that they can connect with outside of the church.

If you need contact information for another person or would like help finding someone to pair up with, please contact the church office (466-2641 or umc@3rivers.net), and we would be glad to help you!

Advent begins Sunday, November 29

Advent is first of the seven Church seasons and the beginning of the church year. Advent begins on any day between November 27 and December 3; it always contains four Sundays and ends on Christmas Eve.



The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming”. The season proclaims the coming of the Christ child. The liturgical color for is purple or blue, representing both penitence and royalty. Choteau UMC uses blue as the liturgical Advent color. The primary symbols of Advent are the Advent Wreath and the Chrismon Tree.



Advent Worship Series

Choteau UMC - Brady UMC - Dutton UMC

Learn the meaning behind the names of Christ and the difference He makes in our lives this Christmas!

His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh. In *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, best-selling author Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth. This Advent season church families will come together to remember what's important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness. Now more than ever, we invite you to reflect upon the significance of the Christ child for our lives and world today!



Choteau UMC has an adopted family!

The 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 out 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.



Save these Festival dates!

December 2nd to 6th, 2020

This year's Intermountain Festival of Trees will be a combination of safe, socially distanced live events, and virtual events. We have all necessary safety precautions written into our Lewis & Clark County Health Department approved plans. Because our annual event is a Helena holiday/tradition, we are committed to devising options which will allow everyone of every age to participate at their level of comfort.

What you should know...

- 1.) The theme this year is "Do You Hear What I Hear?" (To us, it sounds like Hope!)
- 2.) Our silent auction, featuring locally designed tabletop trees and wreaths, will be fully accessible online for viewing and bidding.
- 3.) This year, locally designed full-sized silent-auction trees will be hosted for viewing and bidding in multiple Helena businesses

NOTE: Location information will be updated on intermountain.org/fot once locations are confirmed.

The trees hosted in these Helena businesses will also be featured online for viewing and bidding.

CHECK THIS OUT BEFORE YOU HOLIDAY SHOP

About AmazonSmile

We (**Choteau UMC**) are partnered with AmazonSmile as another opportunity for our church to raise funds through the AmazonSmile program.**check it out!**

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

How does AmazonSmile work?

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.

There is no cost to charitable organizations or to customers?

The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate to the charitable organizations selected by customers.



**Food
Pantry
Needs**

The Town Pump Charitable Foundation has notified the Teton County Food Pantry it is eligible for a matching grant of \$2,000 from the organization.

Donations received from September 1 through November 30, 2020 will be applied toward this grant.

Teton County Food Pantry has received this Town Pump Grant for several years, and the \$2,000 will be used to purchase food.

The Food Pantry in Choteau is serving many families on a monthly basis following income guidelines. The Food Pantry board thanks those who have contributed for the financial support.

Donations can be mailed to:
Teton County Food Pantry
PO Box 534, Choteau, MT 59422.



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

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1



Remember to set
your clocks
BACK one hour
before you retire to bed
on Saturday,
October 31!

United Methodist Student Day
Special offering
Sunday, November 29

Your generous gifts on United Methodist Student Day support United Methodist scholarships and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund, administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Your decision to give today *empowers* a passionate student to have a *future* of world-changing service and faithful service for Christ. Please prayerfully consider how our parish will generously water the dreams that God has planted.

SPECIAL THANKS

Connie Bradley for your assistance in corresponding to some of our church family that maybe isolated during this time of Covid-19 or may not have access to the technology to receive online worship and other communication.

Your efforts to this ministry is appreciated!

Steve Nylund and/or Perri Lindgren, Terry & Lila Dunn and Pastor Julie & Robert King for keeping up with the snow removal on the church and parsonage grounds. With the early onset of winter weather, this is looking like a long winter! We are very grateful for your assistance!



Tuesday, November 3
**DON'T FORGET
TO VOTE!**



Remembering our Saints

Those members and friends
who have died in the past year
(since November 2019)

We remember ~

Bonnie Crary—12/02/19
(Choteau)

Andrew “Gus” Jordan—12/07/19
(Choteau)

Joyce Halverson—01/17/20
(Pendroy/Choteau)

Kenneth Depner—01/27/20
(Choteau)

George Kramer—02/01/20
(Dutton)

William Van Setten—02/03/20
(Choteau)

Raymond Noyd—02/14/20
(Choteau)

Betty Styren—04/19/20
(Brady)

William Erickson—05/25/20
(Choteau)

Bernice Wilt—06/04/20
(Choteau)

Debra Davidson Armstrong—06/06/20
(Choteau/Babb)

Helen Rice—08/04/20
(Choteau)

**On All Saints Sunday, November 1,
we will remember and celebrate.**



Birthdays & Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

3		Kyndal Dye
5	♥	Harold & Darlene Yeager
7		Ellie Zwerneman
9		Brodie Gollehon
10		Collette Yeager
12	♥	Dave & Crystal Carlson Alexandria Kostelnik
15		Heather McCartney-Duty
16		Vera Goodmundson
18	♥	Darrel & Vera Goodmundson
21		Barb Coffman
22		Diane Bingham Chuck Gameon Norman Stordahl Greg Yeager
23		Steve Mellinger Bob Milewski
27		Jeanie Long
	♥	Greg & Kim Yeager
28		Scott Inbody Alois Kostelnik
30		Will Rasmussen



to the families and friends of

Ronald Beck

(brother of Marilyn Herman)

Death – October 7, 2020

Carolee Fifield

(mother of Lori McArthur)

Death – October 22, 2020

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 –October	\$ 91,646
Received through October 25	\$ 77,307

Thank you for your on-going support!

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.

A
Round
of
Applause



FALL DINNER

“No Dinner, Dinner” UPDATE

A very SPECIAL THANK YOU to all who donated to the “No Dinner, Dinner” fundraiser this season as the substitute for our traditional Choteau UMC Annual Fall Dinner. Due to your generous support of this “non-event” fundraiser, we consider it a successful event with proceeds netting \$1,498.



*Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments, trust God.*



*Happy
thanksgiving*

Give thanks to the Lord
for all that delicious food, the
love of family, the fellowship
of friends and every new day!

November 26

Here's What's Happening at Brady / Dutton Parish !

Christmas Giving Tree 2020



The Brady United Methodist Church, along with seven churches in Conrad, sponsors the Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving Tree. Local businesses also contribute to the project.

Due to COVID-19, we will not be able to provide as many gifts as in the past because church attendance is down and collection and distribution of gifts will be more difficult. We will continue to give each child two articles of clothing and a toy. Hopefully, instead of an actual gift, adults will be provided with Conrad Chamber Bucks. We will try to continue to provide actual gifts to residents at PMC Extended Care. All families with children will receive the traditional Christmas Dinner Food Basket.

Registration opened on Monday, October 26 and closes Friday, November 13.

Families or individuals in need of gifts may call 627-2465, 788-4880 or 627-2433 to register. No second party referrals are accepted, except for Pondera Medical Center, Horizon Lodge, and Mental Health. All recipients must live in the Conrad or Brady communities.

Tags describing the needed gifts will be distributed to participating churches and organizations by Saturday, November 21. Each participating church or organization is expected to have a representative who will be responsible for keeping track of who has checked out the gift tags, collect the wrapped gifts, and deliver them to the Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving Tree. In an effort to increase social distancing, we will be working out of the CENTROL Shop (owned by the Farkells) located on Front Street behind the Branding Iron instead of the Catholic Education Building.

All gifts MUST be delivered to the CENTROL Shop no later than Sunday morning, December 20. Gifts may be dropped off Wednesday, December 16 through Sunday morning December 20.

Recipients of the gifts from the Conrad/Brady Christmas Giving Tree will pick up their gifts at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 20.



The Brady United Methodist Church is feeling blessed with their recent repairs and updates to the church building. Last summer's hail storm broke windows and damaged the shingles. It has taken a year, but the repairs are nearly finished. Joe O'Brien Construction out of Great Falls replaced the shingles and repaired the windows.

A beautiful new entry door was donated by Norman Stordahl and Ross Depner. Gus Winterrowd donated the installation.

A much needed new furnace will soon be installed by Bain Plumbing and Heating of Conrad, thanks to a generous donation from Norma Denny.

We feel our church is prepared for whatever the winter weather brings, and we are very, very anxious to worship together in our little white church.

Choteau—Brady—Duttun
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/Choteau-UMC)

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

Leah Selvage—November 4

Sam Rovang—November 7

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.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING