



OCTOBER 2024
Issue No. 263



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



Mon—Thurs 9am—Noon

The SPARK

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

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I’ve heard it in the chillest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

Emily Dickinson



knightsydes

Pastor's*Page*

I don't know about you, but Fall sure has come around quickly this year! It's a time of change. It's a time of shifting priorities. During our times of worship, we will be shifting towards the Advent season and finishing up with the Pentecost season.

During the month of October, we will be looking at the Psalms. We don't have time to look at each of them, but the Revised Common Lectionary provides us with some of them to look at during October.

Psalms were written by different people for different purposes. Many of them have the title "Of David", which means that they were possibly written by King David or attributed to King David. These titles were added by later editors, so we don't know for sure which ones are truly written by King David, if any at all

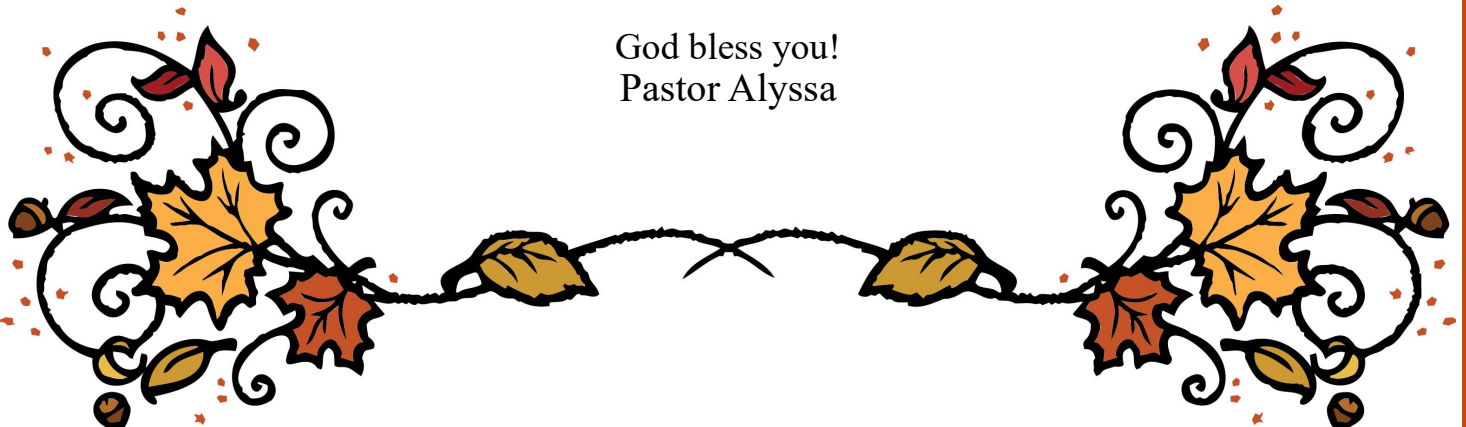
I think people like Psalms because there is such a variety of them to look at. There are psalms of praise, psalms that describe truths from the Torah and other wisdom, psalms of lament, psalms that describe that uncomfortable in between time, thanksgiving psalms, and psalms that describe God's enthronement. Many different human emotions are described in the Psalms.

For several years, I was active in the Presbyterian Church USA denomination. At the first Presbyterian church I attended, a Psalm was sung by a choir. Psalms were an integral part of the early worship of the Christian church. In the United Methodist hymnbooks, as well as other mainline denominational hymnbooks, there are Psalms there that can be read or sung by the congregation.

If you are interested in adding a responsive Psalm reading for Sunday morning worship, please let me know. I would be happy to add a Psalm as a responsive reading. I won't make you sing it, and I won't be singing it either!

This is my first time doing a sermon series on Psalms, and I am reading a book called *Journey Through the Psalms* by Denise Dombkowski Hopkins. She was one of my professors at Wesley Theological Seminary, and I look forward to sharing with you some of the insights I have learned. I'm happy to be on this Saunter through the Psalms sermon series with you!

God bless you!
Pastor Alyssa





Bible Readings for the Month

October 6 ~ World Communion

Job 1:1; 2:1-10
 Psalm 26 or Psalm 25
 Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
 Mark 10:2-16

October 13

Job 23:1-9, 16-17
 Psalm 22:1-15
 Hebrews 4:12-16
 Mark 10:17-31

October 20 ~ Children's Sabbath

Job 38:1-7
 Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c
 Hebrews 5:1-10
 Mark 10:35-45

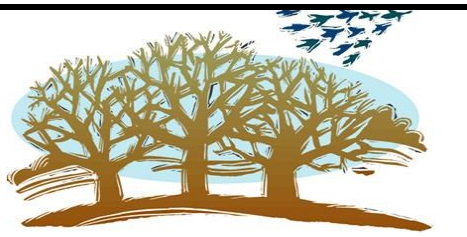
October 27 ~ Reformation Sunday

Job 42:1-6, 10-17
 Psalm 34:1-8
 Hebrews 7:23-28
 Mark 10:46-52

**Materials for your Spiritual Formation
 September / October**

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

- ▶ Upper Room
 – regular & large print



**All Saints' Sunday
 November 3**

If a loved one has passed away
 this year and you would like us to
 recognize them, please submit
 their name and information to the
 church office by October 25.

Phone: 406-466-2641
 Email: umc@3rivers.net

Opportunities for Your Spiritual Growth

Skyline Lodge Bible Study



**Join us for a Bible study
 on the Book of Daniel!**

**Wednesdays— 11:00 AM
 on the 2nd floor open space a**



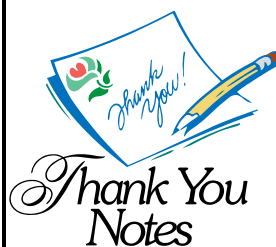
**October is
 Be-Kind-To-Your-Pastor Month**

some suggestions:

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



Dear Pastor Alyssa,



I just wanted to thank you for the
 service honoring the First Responders.
 I enjoyed it very much. Wished more
 would attend.

Thanks so much,
 Cindy Lowry

10 Things Preachers Absolutely HATE to Admit Publicly

by Matt Boswell from churchleaders.com, with additions and edits by Pastor Alyssa

1. We take it personally when you leave the church.

It's just a straight-up fact. We pastors eat, drink and sleep the local church 24/7 and with that, have a deep desire to see it thrive. Therefore, when you leave to another church because...

You're bothered by a recent decision, but didn't ask about it...

The new church has a bigger and better kids wing, youth group, worship team, building space, (fill in your blank)...

Your friends started going there...

...it hits us personally.

For us it feels disloyal, shallow or consumer driven. People affirm that church is a family, thus when you up and leave because the church down the road has Slurpee dispensers, a fog machine or it's just cooler, well, it hurts us pretty deeply.

2. We feel pressure to perform week after week.

The average TV show has a multimillion-dollar budget, a staff of writers and only airs 22 weeks out of the year; that's what we feel we're up against. From this, a sense of urgency is created in our mind to establish the same level of quality, option and excellence to meet the consumerist desires of culture. Pastors are workaholics.

3. We struggle with getting our worth from ministry.

When the numbers are up, the compliments are flowing and the people are lively, we feel great.

When everything is level, it feels like it's in decline.

When things are actually in decline, it's a full-tilt tailspin in our soul.

When families ask the pastor for someone else to conduct a worship service for loved ones, we take it personally, and feel we are not worthy enough to do what we've been trained to do. We almost can't help but equate the growth of the church with our ability/inability to produce growth. Therefore, if there is any appearance of waning, we feel defeated and wonder how long before the church board wises up and trades us to another team.

4. We regularly think about quitting.

While there are some really great things about full-time ministry, there are also less enjoyable realities such as: pastors' families are noticed (i.e. judged) routinely, pastors' purchases are observed (i.e. judged) overtly and pastors' words are weighed (i.e. judged) consistently.

Female clergy also deal with congregations who will not offer time off or grace when it comes to pregnancy, birth, maternity leave, or family emergencies. Female clergy often receive comments from their congregations that would not be directed at their male clergy colleagues, such as the way they dress, the look of their shoes, their single or marriage status, the number of children they do and do not have, their sexuality, and even their weight.

5. We say we are transparent-it's actually opaque.

Today, pastors are generally more open about their struggles than previous generations, but we still believe that there is a threshold that is not to be crossed. We create boundaries to keep us healthy and whole, but this can be seen as being aloof or even unfriendly. More often than not, pastors have been cruelly betrayed by those they love: those who are attending the church and those in church leadership.

Generally, churches want just enough so they feel safe with you, but not so much that it spoils the expectations they have of you. Unfortunately, the threshold is a blurry line by which pastors never know how much is too much until it's too late. After a couple of infractions, we learn that opaque is safe, even though we know it's isolating.

When pastors and pastors' spouses are polled on how it feels to be a part of ministry, the #1 answer is one word: lonely. They are around a lot of people every week, but never feel they can let their guard down because they know people have opinions on how a pastor or a pastor's spouse should be.

6. We measure ourselves by the numbers.

Numbers don't matter. Right.

The problem is that it goes back to #1-3. The absence of growth in our churches can cascade into an internal turmoil by which we begin to scrounge for "The Next Big Thing" that will bring "Radical Growth," "Guaranteed". Then we meet at meetings in which the first question we ask one another is, "So, how big is your church?" Yep, we measure ourselves by the numbers.

7. We spend more time discouraged than encouraged.

Occasionally, people say to me, "Must be awesome to get paid to study the Bible all day." Every time they do, I think to myself, "Must be awesome to be able to give someone the finger without people saying, 'The pastor of that church flipped me off today during rush-hour.'"

Rightly or wrongly, I infer they are saying, "Must be nice to have such a cushy job as a paid quiet-time." In all honesty, it is pretty awesome to be paid to study the Bible, but it's a major downer when people:

Tell you-after two minutes of uninvestigated reflection-that your 30+ hours of study and two collegiate degrees were wrong.

Tell you that they just couldn't stay awake today during your sermon, but no offense.

Tell you how you should have also said...

Tell you how Pastor So-N-So says...

Lead pastors particularly suffer from this since much of their job is to focus on seeing things get better, which often translates into focusing on the broken, lacking, or unfilled parts of the church more than enjoying what is right and working. Many of the most faithful and fruitful pastors in history have suffered deeply with anxiety and depression for the same reasons.

8. We worry about what you think.

We're human and we want to be liked. Therefore, when we know we're going to do or say something people won't like, we worry about it. Most pastors choose to deliver the mail regardless of the popularity of its message. Yet, we still worry about how you may take it. Not saying anything doesn't equate your approval of us. We are not mind readers. On the other hand, speaking to us only when you disagree with us is not helpful either.

9. We struggle with competition and jealousy.

As soon as one pastor asks another, "How big is your church?" the game is on. We begin to assess one another's style, focus, message, sophistication and marketing. We gauge to see if it's a "Goldilocks Church"-not too deep, not too shallow, but just right (like us).

Yes, we know it's not right. We know that it's ego driven, but we still fall victim to it. We believe our church is the best church ever, and we can't understand why everyone doesn't see it.

10. We feel like we failed you more than we helped you.

Most pastors will never be famous. Most churches will never break the 100 mark. Yet we all entered ministry to change the world and reach the masses.

With this, we know it is the expectation of churches that we accomplish this very thing. Every job posting reinforces the idea with the sentence, "We are looking for a pastor that will take our church to the next level." Then when the next level isn't hit in the way anticipated or within the timeline envisioned-we feel like we failed you.

This is especially true in light of the reality that we are our own biggest critics. We came in with expectations higher than anyone in the church. You look to us for direction, and when we feel like we failed to produce, we feel like we failed you.

CONNECT

WEDNESDAYS
AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

STARTING OCTOBER 2ND, 2024

PRE-K - 5TH
DROP OFF 5:00 P.M.
PICK UP 6:00 P.M.

DINNER & DEVOTIONS
5:30 P.M. ALL AGES

CONFIRMATION 6TH - 8TH
5:30 - 6:30 P.M.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
7:00 - 8:00 P.M.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 466-2291 CHOTEAUTLC@YAHOO.COM
WWW.CHOTEAUTLC.COM

CHOTEAU, BRADY, DUTTON UMC PARISH

Thursday, November 21
4:00 pm
at Choteau UMC
or Via Zoom



CHARGE CONFERENCE

ALL parishioners (newer and long-time) are encouraged to attend our Annual All-Church Charge Conference. Rev. Dawn Skerritt, will facilitate us as we celebrate this past year and look ahead to where God is calling us as a parish and conference in 2025! We will meet in the main sanctuary of Choteau UMC in order to provide better internet access. A separate zoom link will also be provided.



OCTOBER 6

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. ****

Ways you can SERVE

MEALS FOR CONNECT

Choteau UMC has agreed to help furnish meals for the ecumenical "CONNECT" ministry that is held at Trinity Lutheran Church on Wednesdays. We have been scheduled to provide **two meals during the curriculum season—October 30 and March 26.**

Simple meals are suggested for approximately 20-40 children consisting of a nutritious main course and dessert (one-pot meals, casseroles, fruit, veggies, etc.) that would appeal to ages preschool—5th grades. You may consider preparing these meals as a team. More details to follow after "CONNECT" commences on October 2.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact the church office if you would be willing to assist with this ministry.

(406-466-2641 or umc@3rivers.net)



Sharon & Norman Haug, Dora Jermunson, Duane Halverson and Georgia Buck for their special efforts in serving the strawberry shortcake for the hospitality on Sunday, September 8, in honor of the First Responders.

Thank you to our church family and friends for your thoughts, prayers and support with cards, emails, texts and visits during Terry's recent medical emergency and recovery. We are very grateful for Pastor Alyssa's support and visit to Missoula during our crisis period.

We are blessed. Terry & Lila Dunn

A special “THANKS” to ALL the people who assisted with the Fall Dinner 2024. 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 Heuscher, Heather McCartney-Duty, Duane Halverson, Pastor Alyssa Nantt.

Meat Cooking & Processing: Lyle Weist, cook; Steve Mellinger, Norman Haug, Ryan DeBruycker, Nolan DeBruycker, Perri Lindgren.

Potato Peelers: Connie Bradley, Ronda Reiding, Dora Jermunson, Leah McDonald, Duane Halverson, Joyce Lindgren.

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

Kitchen Helpers & Servers: Judy Gollehon, Shirley Hodgskiss, Kelly & Ryan DeBruycker, Lila Dunn, Alois & Juli Kostelnik, Roger Kelly, Lorrann & Ross Depner, Pastor Alyssa Nantt.

Take-out Station: Sharon Haug, Nancy Moorhouse, Sharla Hinman, Linda Deering.

Dessert Bars & Helpers: Duane Halverson, Heather McCartney-Duty, Diane Inbody, Sharon Haug, Kelly DeBruycker, Lila Dunn, Connie Rogers, Lorrann Depner, Tootie Rasmussen, Joyce Lindgren.

Dining Room: Russ Moorhouse, Clairra Duty, Heather McCartney-Duty, Ayden DeBruycker, Perri Lindgren, Lila Dunn.

Cashiers/Greeter: Brooks & Linda Coffland, Dennis Nantt

Setup & Decorations: Lila Dunn, Georgia Buck, Diane Inbody, Jacquy Cooney, Heather & Rod Duty, Duane Halverson.

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!



Thanks, Dennis, for being our official greeter!



WE ARE READY TO SERVE!





Quality Control?
Aha! Caught you sampling!
YUMMY!



What's next?



Thanks, Cooks!



Take-out Station



Yum, Yum! Roast beef and pork.



Good Food! Good Fellowship!



Dish-pan hands!

YOUR MONETARY GIFTS AT WORK

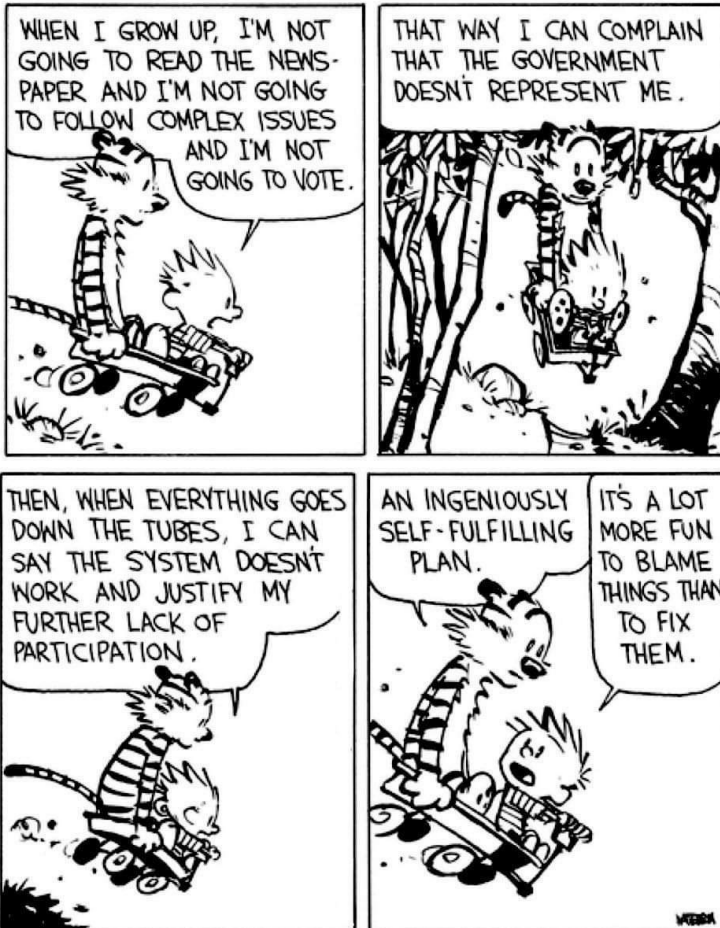
The ministries of Choteau United Methodist Church are made possible by your on-going financial contributions. Our congregation is 100% self-funded; we receive no outside funding.

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

2024 Budget for Choteau	\$124,685
Needed to meet budget – August	\$ 93,514
Received through September 23	\$ 48,697

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

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Choteau Leadership Meeting
Tuesday, October 29
7:00 p.m.
Choteau UMC

UMCOR
 United Methodist Committee On Relief

Many people have been affected by the most recent hurricane named Helene. Many people have damaged homes from Florida and up the East Coast.

Remember that all of your donation goes to help those in need. **None of your donation goes to travel or other administrative costs.** Giving money directly to UMCOR helps the local economy of the disaster area as well, as the disaster relief crews will buy their supplies at or near the disaster area. When you give, you can also give credit to your local church.

If you would like to give to UMCOR, you may make your check payable to Choteau UMC with **UMCOR Advance #901670** on the memo line. You may also go online to donate:

<https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670/>

Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

Pastor Alyssa



to the families and friends of

Donna Dunn

Death – September 29, 2024

(Brady UMC)

CELEBRATION
OF
LIFE

Richard “Dick” Brownell

*Sunday, October 6
3—5 pm
at Pendroy Fire Hall*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

OCTOBER

- 2 ♥ Rod & Heather McCartney Duty
- 6 ♥ Bob & Joann Snodgrass
- 8 Herb Bingham
- 9 Chris Field
- Stella Plachetka
- Mary Pourroy
- 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
- 22 ♥ Steve & Terrie Nylund
- 25 Shirley Hodgskiss
- 27 Shirley Stordahl
- 28 Steve Haynes
- Arlene Woodahl
- 29 Trig Zwerneman

Care Packages

College Students & Military Personnel

The Care Packages to our college students and military personnel will go out in a few weeks. One box will be available to fill with goodies. This box will be available for your donated items on Sunday, October 13 at Choteau UMC. The package will be mailed Monday, November 6. 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 this student:

Austin Lindgren
c/o Ryan Joy
1213 6th Street
Havre, MT 59501

Thanks for your support of this ministry!

If you have questions, please contact
Sharon Haug (466-5614) or Diane Inbody (466-2104)



CHRISTIANS
Caring for each other

Please contact

Pastor Alyssa Nantt

Office = 466-2641

Cell = 410-443-1115

**Email =
ajnantt@email.com**

when one of our UMC family members needs a card or visit because of loneliness, illness or other crisis in their lives.



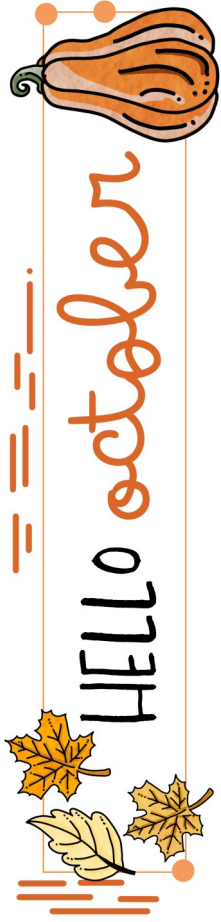
Rawlin Dylan Milbrandt

Born: September 27, 2024

7 lbs. 12 oz.

Parents:
Crystal (Carlson) & Dylan Milbrandt

Grandparents:
Dave & Crystal Carlson—Choteau
Bruce & Lori Milbrandt—Cut Bank



HELLO october

Choteau-Brady-Dutton United Methodist Parish
 Seeking and Empowering Disciples of Jesus Christ
 to Love, Witness and Serve

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 NO Skyline Study "Connect" Children's Ministry 5 - 6 pm	3 	4 	5 	6 	7
8 SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 am - Brady 1st & 3rd week 9:15 am - Dutton 2nd & 4th week 11:00 am - Choteau	9 11:00am Skyline Study "Connect" Children's Ministry 5 - 6 pm	10 	11 	12 	13 	14
15 	16 11:00am Skyline Study "Connect" Children's Ministry 5 - 6 pm	17 	18 	19 	20 	21
22 	23 11:00am Skyline Study "Connect" Children's Ministry 5 - 6 pm	24 	25 	26 	27 	28
29 Leadership Team Meeting @ Choteau UMC 7:00 pm	30 11:00am Skyline Study "Connect" Children's Ministry 5 - 6 pm Meal @ Choteau UMC	31 	Office Hours : Mon - Thurs 9am - Noon (406) 466-2641 umc@3rivers.net www.umchoteau.net Facebook.com/Choteau UMC	2:30 pm - CCC @ Skyline Lodge 		
20 Children's Sabbath 	21 	22 	23 	24 	25 	26
27 Reformation Sunday Lutefisk Dinner @ Trinity Lutheran Church 12:30 - 3:00 pm	28 	29 	30 	31 		



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)

Alyssa Nantt, 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* 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