

May 2023

What's in a name?

I love to hear stories of how folks were named, and how names are both unique and traditional. In my own family, we have our share of “name” stories and many other families do too. Names are passed down, names are uniquely chosen, names are combinations of other names – so many possibilities!

It reminds me that in the season of Easter, we are in the midst of a name change. The disciple <-> apostle name change, that is. The names disciple and apostle are often used interchangeably, though they are *not always* the same thing. Here's a bit of a breakdown on how we think about the similarities and differences.

Disciples are followers of Jesus. Oftentimes, we use it to give special name to the 12 disciples who were Jesus' inner circle of people. But it can also be used more broadly to be a name for any who followed Jesus in his teachings and behavior. This can be a literal following (those who were present with him in his lifetime) or it can refer to how we as modern Christians follow the teachings of Christ. Even while this follows the definition of disciple, the primary way we see disciple used is when we refer to people who followed and knew Jesus while he was alive.

Apostles are people who teach others about Jesus. These are not necessarily people who met Jesus in person, though what we think of as the original Apostles are the eleven disciples after Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension. Paul, who was not a disciple in Jesus' lifetime, meets the risen Christ and is considered one of the primary apostles to Christian faith. Other apostles are named in scripture, including Junia of Rome, who was the only named female apostle. Jesus did send out his disciples as apostles – people who would go out away from him – to teach others about Jesus. While this happened during Jesus' lifetime, the word apostle is most often used to describe those who come after Jesus' death.

Here's the summary:

Disciples – followers of Jesus, in scripture usually referring to when Jesus is alive, but can also be used in modern context

Apostles – teachers and church planters, typically referring to the post-ascension time but with exceptions

Disciples can also be apostles. To be an apostle, you must be a disciple. Not all disciples are apostles.

This brings forth the question: what name do we give ourselves as individuals and as a faith community?

Are we disciples or apostles?

Are we followers of Jesus? If you've read this far, the answer is probably a resounding YES! We are disciples!

Are we teachers and sharers about Jesus? Perhaps. I believe this category can use some discernment.

Writer Tommi Waters says, “While disciples followed Jesus and learned from him, the apostles were in charge of continuing Jesus' ministry, spreading the gospel, and creating worship communities.”

Apostles continue Jesus' ministry, spread the gospel, and create worshipping communities. We do this! But

May 2023

it is also an ongoing process. It is something that we can, and should, continue to strive for in Christian faith.

At the end of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus' great commission gives direction to his disciples: *"Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him – but some of them doubted. Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Here it is – be disciples! Be disciples who become teachers (apostles) who then make more disciples!

We may not be converting new Christians – but we can still fulfill God's call to teach, preach, baptize, and be faithful to the Word of God as found in Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Jessica



Our Environmental Initiative Programs from 2022 continue their activities in 2023.

Pill bottles are still being collected in bins in the hallway on the sanctuary level underneath the coat rack. Place your bottles into the bin for them to be processed. We will wash, bleach, and remove any labels from the bottles before sending them to a program that reuses pill bottles in the United States and abroad.

The aluminum can recycling continues to be a success. Our bin is full usually every 3 weeks or so and then Eric Chigbrow takes them to recycling. Money earned from can recycling is being used to pay for shipping of pill bottles for their reuse program.

The Crayon Initiative Collection last year was a big hit and a lot of fun. We will repeat that this year with crayon collection May 25-June 5 and crayon sorting in Fellowship Hall on June 11 during fellowship time. Crayons will be sorted then shipped so they can be re-melted and made into new crayons for distribution at hospitals across the country. To date, 709,000 boxes of crayons have been distributed and 53 million crayons have been kept out of landfills.

The product exchange will take place in May. Bring items you don't use such as shampoos, conditioners, lotions, colognes, etc. that are more than half-full and in their original containers. Leave them on the table for someone else to take home! See something on the table you like? Take it home! The exchange is entirely free and any leftover products will be distributed to a local organization caring for unsheltered peoples.

May 2023

SHARING OUR SUNRISE JOYS AND CONCERNS

Here it is. One full month since spring officially has begun and nearly two weeks after Easter. The scene greeting me this April morning was nearly a foot of heavy, wet snow. While struggling to be thankful and joyous for the moisture this spring storm would bring to the crops and the prospect of the lawns smiling in their new green coat, I couldn't help but be a little dismayed. Though from an early age as a farmer's daughter I was taught to always be grateful for moisture, my reaction was one of disbelief and surprise at the amount of snow and the day looking more like January than April.

How different this day was compared to three days earlier. Spring in its finest. Nearly 70 degrees with the sounds of spring birds coming from the trees poised to bud and the occasional crocus or tulip doing it's best to push through the cold, dark dirt on a quest to soak up the warmth and glow of the sun.

And it struck me. Just as we are always a little surprised by the unexpected spring weather in Montana, so too were the friends and followers of Jesus in disbelief over the events of Holy Week and the surprise awaiting them after their Lord was crucified. How could they have imagined what would greet the weeping women as they arrived at the tomb only to find the stone rolled back? Luke 24:5 says "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but RISEN." Only three days before – just as our weather – the world was dark and seemingly without hope. Then the unexpected --- the sun had risen anew and along with it a Living Christ!

Just as the disciples grappled with the surprise at the tomb of which the women spoke, we too pray for the faith to accept the unexpected in our lives, knowing the Risen Lord is beside us through it all.

Filled with joy for a life well-lived, we remembered along with Pastor Tim the life of his dear wife, Gigi Lanham, in a memorial at the camp. Through her struggles and triumphs she always had that signature smile on her face that we remember. The scripture read from John 12:24 says in part. "...Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." This metaphor seems especially meaningful during this time of Easter. A life lived in Christ produces much bounty and promises hope both in life and death. And for Tim and family and friends left to continue on we hear the words from another scripture used at her service. "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning." (Psalm 30:5)

Continued prayers for those sick or hurting. We especially remember this month Joyce Newman and her son Darrell. Darrell has been placed under hospice care after a stroke earlier this year. May God's grace be with them. And we continue to pray daily for Rod and Dixy Paronto as Rod struggles with many health issues. For those not mentioned but held in our hearts may the promises of Easter sustain you.

Joys abound in our lives. We give thanks for the moisture this spring has brought. How blessed we are to hear the voices of several young children in worship these days. They bring laughter and joy to our lives, keep Pastor Jessica on her feet with some of their responses to her questions and give hope for the future. With Benna McGeorge and Karen Sanders we give thanks for the gift of a new child, a great-grandson for Benna and grandson for Karen.

Holy week is always special at Sunrise and began this year with a Palm Sunday brunch, continued with morning matins and Maundy Thursday service and concluded with a joyful Easter service and an Easter Egg hunt for the delight of kids and parents alike. Our sanctuary was graced with two new flower arrangements courtesy of Ember Woods and Beth Hoseck and the music provided by Kim Peachy and Margaret Nitschke was glorious. We are blessed.

In the midst of unexpected happenings in our lives, we greet them with the hope of the empty tomb. That tiny insignificant purple crocus struggling to reach the sunlight before the snow fell is still there as the snow melts away as the springtime of God's promises await.

See you in the sunshine, Tana



May 2023



FISH Food Bank



Mar 2023 Year to Date 2023

Families (non-Single)	42	120
Singles	49	127
Adults	127	347
Children	24	107
Meals	2,265	6,810
Pounds of Food	5,500	15,447

Food Suggestions for May

- Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Mustard
- Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
- Salad Dressing
- Any Type of Soup; Tomato, Chicken noodle, Cream of Mushroom

Our Loves & Fishes Dinner was a great success, due to the combined efforts of so many wonderful people! In total, \$3,350 was donated that evening! A special thank you to Mary Kraft and Shirley Roehm for the items they donated to the silent auction and raffle, and Jacinte McCullough for helping at the dessert table.



Thank you to Eric Chigbrow, Janette Forsyth, and Tana Harp for volunteering during our FISH week in April. The next week to volunteer at FISH will be June 12th-16th.

Our monthly donations from Sunrise were: \$174.01.

Many thanks to all who contribute your time, money, and food to FISH.

-With gratitude, Maribeth Doan

The Crayon Initiative

Donate used and broken crayons at the end of the school year to be recycled and given to children in hospitals across the United States.

Crayon Collection Boxes available at your school from May 23-June 3.



Crayons don't biodegrade. Give your old crayons new life by donating them to The Crayon Initiative. Crayons will be melted and remanufactured into new crayons for kids at hospitals across the country.



240 HOSPITAL PARTNERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

IMPACT TO DATE:

630,400	47,522,300
PATIENTS HAVE RECEIVED CRAYONS	CRAYONS KEPT FROM LANDFILLS

Sorting during Fellowship June 11
Crayon drop-off May 25-June 10



May 2023

May Calendar of Events:		
May 2	5:30 pm	Stewardship Meeting
May 7	9:30 am	Worship/ <i>Terry Chaney w Intermountain rescheduled to June 4</i>
	10:45 am	Fellowship / Children’s Sunday School
	11:00 am	Deacons’ Meeting
May 8	6:00 pm	Faith & Life Meeting
May 11	10:00 am	Video/Book Study
May 14	9:30 am	Worship / Childrens’ Bibles Distributed During Worship
	10:45 am	Fellowship / No Sunday School “Muffins for Mom” during fellowship time hosted by Faith & Life
May 17	6:00 pm	Mission & Memorials Committee Meeting
May 18	10:30 am	Coffee Klatch
May 21	9:30 am	Worship /Honor High School Graduates
	10:45 am	Fellowship / Children’s Sunday School
May 23	5:30 pm	Session Meeting
May 25	10:00 am	Video/Book Study
May 28	9:30 am	Worship/ Pentecost
	10:45 am	Fellowship / No Sunday School
May 29		Memorial Day (Office Closed)
Deacons on call for May: Beth Hoseck and Ember Woods		

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for fellowship refreshments.

Our list is full through mid-June!

Holy week thank you

The Faith and Life committee would like to send a special thank you to the folks that volunteered to make the casseroles and muffins that we all enjoyed after church on Palm Sunday morning. As usual the food was so good that most of us had to just sit around talking until, we were able to wander off to enjoy the rest of the day.

The Matins messages were very meaningful and the breakfasts afterward were amazing. You all did a fantastic job of making Holy week a special event.

Thank you,

Eric Chigbrow, Faith and Life committee moderator.

May 2023

May Scripture Reading List	
<i>Calm</i>	
1	1 Thessalonians 5:18
2	John 4:13-14
3	Ecclesiastes 3:1
4	1 Corinthians 4:5-6
5	Luke 1:78-79
6	Isaiah 61:1-2
<i>Sad</i>	
7	Matthew 11:28
8	Colossians 3:23-24
9	Romans 3:23-24
10	Matthew 5:14-16
11	Isaiah 41:10
12	Psalms 34:17-18
<i>Strong</i>	
13	Titus 2:7
14	Romans 8:28
15	Ephesians 2:10
16	2 Timothy 4:7
17	Galatians 3:26
18	Psalms 104:31-34
<i>Afraid</i>	
19	Matthew 5:5
20	John 15:18-21
21	Romans 8:26-27
22	Philippians 4:6-9
23	1 Corinthians 14:3
<i>Happy</i>	
24	Exodus 35:30-35
25	Proverbs 17:22
26	John 16:13
27	Matthew 6:33
28	Romans 8:24-25
29	Psalms 150
30	Acts 2:46-47
31	Psalms 89:1-2 (+5-7)



Check out this reading list I discovered based upon a scripture mood chart. Feel free to pick and choose depending on your needs for the day .

Jessica

Online giving is available through our website. Visit our church website at www.sunrisegreatfalls.net. From there, you will see a *donate* button on the top left side of the home page. This donation button will take you to the Presbyterian Foundation platform allowing you to set up a single-time giving or recurring giving. You can pay through your bank account or by debit or credit card.

Mission Giving: Select "Local Mission" online to donate to OGHS

Donations

If you've already created a profile, please "Log In" on the right, otherwise continue.

Sunrise Presbyterian Church of Great Falls
General Fund

Local Mission

Total:

Donation Frequency ? ▼

Donation Start Date 📅

Log In

Forgot your Email Address or Password?

Liturgists Needed:

If you are comfortable reading in public and willing to sign up, please let the office know you are willing to serve as liturgist.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Total:

\$ 758.88 Thank you!

May 2023

Happening in Worship This Month

Easter Season Sermon Series:

In this time of the Easter Season – between Easter Sunday and Pentecost – we will be engaging with short videos each Sunday as part of the sermon. In a series entitled “Called to Community” we will listen as well-known and well-respected theologians and Christian authors grapple with the topic of church and community.

From The Work of the People:

In the midst of these radical shifts in our society and within Christianity itself, it is clearly time to revisit the question “What is the role of the Church?” What is the Church’s role in the lives of individuals and families who no longer turn to it as the center of their social and family structure? What is the Church’s role in a world that increasingly sees it as irrelevant or even antithetical to human progress?

What is the Church’s role in the lives of the people who continue to return to it as a source of strength, inspiration, solace and connection with God? What

is the Church’s role in the lives of the people who have never walked through one of our doors and those who have sworn they never will again?

Our generation’s answer to these questions will have a reverberating impact on the course of human history. Will the Church “die”? What about resurrection? Is there a clear line between the two or are they both happening simultaneously before our eyes?

It is the time between Easter and Pentecost where the church truly begins to form, leading up to the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descends upon the apostles. It is an ideal time to consider how we, as a 21st century church, continue to form and re-form in the image of the risen Christ.

Are you watching from home?

We can send you a private video stream link so you can access it and view the Work of the People video at home each week. Email Pastor Jessica or the office for the link/s.

Schedule change:

Terry Chaney from Intermountain will join us in worship on Sunday, June 4th (not May 7th).



DO YOU HAVE ITEMS YOU DON'T USE HANGING AROUND YOUR HOUSE? DON'T KEEP IT UNTIL IT GOES BAD, BRING IT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO ENJOY!

IN THE MONTH OF MAY: BRING THEM TO CHURCH AND PUT THEM ON THE EXCHANGE TABLE. SEE SOMETHING YOU LIKE? TAKE IT HOME!

Products must be:

- >In the original containers
- >Half or more remaining
- >No products intended for use on eyes or lips

Items may include:

shampoos, conditioners, bar soaps (unused), gel soaps, lotions, after shave products, perfume/cologne, nail polish, hair products, household cleaners, etc.

May 2023

2023 Session Elders

Class of 2023: Eric Chigbrow, Erica Rusinski, vacant

Class of 2024: Travis Harp, Lee Hickey, Lianna Gaskins

Class of 2025: Norman Anderson, Scott Shull, vacant



Sunrise
Presbyterian
Church

Family

Board of Deacons: Chair - Ember Woods, Secretary/Treasurer - Janette Forsyth

Beth Hoseck, Dixy Paronto, Ruth Hickey, Bill McCullough, Sandy Lambert, Marilyn Andrews, Pam Chigbrow

«City», «State» «Zip»

«Address»

«First Names» «Last Name»

Sunrise Presbyterian Church
PO Box 6568
Great Falls, MT 59406