

July 2023

Sunday Worship
10AM

The Messenger

Montrose First Church
of the Nazarene
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Montrose, CO 81401
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mncfirst@gmail.com



Visit our website! www.montrosenazarenechurch.org

Pastoral Staff



Pastor Buddy
& Kim Cook

Upcoming Events

- July 4: Independence Day
- Aug. 11-13: Gunnison Valley Men's Retreat
- Sept. 15-17: Radiant Women's Retreat



June Attendance:
Avg. 49

June Tithes: \$7,729.99
Offerings: \$14,154.21
Total: \$21,884.20

NOTHING VENTURED NOTHING GAINED

By Pastor Buddy Cook

On July 4th we celebrated the 247th anniversary of our independence from England. On that fateful day in July of 1776, 56 men met in Philadelphia PA and signed the declaration of Independence. On that day in a hot room in what is now known as Philadelphia's Independence Hall they did more than sign a document or take a vote. They committed all they had to the task of securing independence and establishing this new fledgling nation.

Success was far from guaranteed, and the possibility of failure loomed as they took on the world's superpower of the day. The last sentence of the Declaration of Independence gives us insight into the commitment level of these patriots as they set forth to accomplish what they believed God had called them to do. "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor." In contemporary terms - they were all in!

Almost two centuries before this declaration, on a hillside in Galilee, Jesus spoke of his upcoming death on a cruel Roman cross in Jerusalem. As he does, he looks into the eyes of a rag tag group of followers, mostly poor working-class people, and makes this bold statement: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" (Mark 8:34-37) This group of committed disciples would become the foundation the church of Jesus Christ. Their lives and their testimonies would become the launching pad for our faith in Jesus and would alter the course of human history. Many would pay the price for this commitment with their lives just as Jesus had done.

So, what about you and me? The times we live in are no less critical and the issues of the day no less important than when the founders of our country placed their signatures on the Declaration of Independence or when the disciples responded to Jesus' call by laying down their lives to tell other people about the good news of Jesus. Our world is in desperate need of people who are willing to set aside their own personal "pursuit of happiness" for the sake of the greater good of people in the communities where we live. James writes "You have faith, but I have deeds." Show me your faith without doing anything, and I will show you my faith by what I do." (James 2:18 NCV) The signers of the Declaration of Independence remind us of the adage "Nothing ventured nothing gained." So, what have you ventured and what could you gain by stepping out in faith to serve Jesus in this age in which we live?

Weekly Opportunities

Worship:

Sunday, 10 AM

Sunday Bible Study:

11:15 AM

Women's Book Study:

Mondays, 12:15 PM

Prayer Bootcamp:

Wednesdays, 7 PM

Next Step Ministries

Pray for God's guidance as we look towards expanding ministry to support participants of Calvary Ranch Colorado as they transition to the next step in their lives after graduation.



Find Us Online!



YouTube:

MNCFirst Nazarene

Facebook: mncfirst

Updated Website:

www.MontroseNazareneChurch.org

General Assembly

Check out past services at:

www.youtube.com/@NazareneOfficial

Congratulations to the newly elected General Superintendents of the Church of the Nazarene, Christian Sarmiento and T. Scott Daniels!



Come to the Mountain:



Gunnison Valley Men's Retreat

Aug. 11-13

Dry camping on location on the Uncompahgre Plateau

Cost: \$125; More details on the bulletin board.

To register email: mensretreat2023@gvcministries.com

Questions: 970-640-9998

Radiant Women's Retreat



**"Even Though" with
Dr. Carla D. Sunberg
September 15-17 at
Golden Bell**

Register at www.conazarene.org

Early bird pricing ends July 31

Registration closes Sept. 1