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# The Methodist Greeter

AUGUST 2017

"Our mission as a congregation is to strengthen our personal and group relationship with Christ and to reach out to all people through faith in action."

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Pastor's Corner

Pastor Terry Hall

### BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

**August 6  
 Romans 9:1-5**

**August 13  
 Romans 10:5-15**

**August 20  
 Matthew 15:21-28**

**August 27  
 Matthew 16:13-20**

### Reading the Bible – dangerous, difficult, demanding, & supremely rewarding

You may have heard me say I believe the Bible is one of the most dangerous books (or compilations of books) ever published. I remember a conversation I had with someone years ago, in which I made a similar statement, which seemed to surprise and maybe even offend my conversation partner. Prompted by his curious expression, I mentioned the many apparent contradictions and he wondered aloud what I meant. "Well," I responded, "let's start with the first two chapters of the first book, Genesis." When I pointed out that in the first story, humankind comes into existence with the capacity to reproduce – "man and woman, He Created them," both in the image of their Creator, Who gives plant life of all kinds not only to humankind but "to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it (NIV)," while the very next chapter has the first man created without any partner and placed in the Garden of Eden "to work it and take care of it." (NIV) Knowing the other person to be a Christian who had encouraged me to a faithful life over the years, I was surprised and disappointed when he dismissed these differences in one of our foundational stories as irrelevant, especially because I had witnessed in him and his family the impact of disregarding the first telling of creation in favor of the second, which has been used over the millennia to support a patriarchal interpretation of life from as "God-given" and "biblically based," and humankind's relationship with the rest of Creation as more "overlord" rather than "steward."

This is the point of this conversation at which folks are prone to close their minds and hearts by labeling, perhaps quite automatically and unconsciously, my concerns as "PC" or politically correct, a code term for "humanist" or "modern" and therefore at best unworthy of serious consideration and at worst demonic in origin and intent. Please know I say that not as an accusation against those who think differently but as an honest statement of what I have been told and witnessed in action. I'm going to be bold, trust that won't happen here, and continue.

I have always loved reading, something I received by both nature and nurture from my Dad. I tend to gravitate to fiction, having begun to appreciate the way imagery and metaphor inspired and opened my mind long before I was even aware of their impact. Eventually I realized my hunger was less for black & white "facts" and more for knowledge, wisdom and depth of understanding. As a therapist, it was clear that metaphors were a useful tool as we struggle to understand how and why things happen the way they do and what those things mean to and about us. Some people, among them some of the most widely known Christian speakers and authors, imply or even come right out and claim that a metaphor is less trustworthy than a plainly-stated 'truth;' my experience is quite the opposite. While a 'clean fact'

(Continued on next page)

There shall be eternal summer in  
 the grateful heart.  
 -Celia Thaxter



You can find this edition of our newsletter and recordings of the Sunday sermon on-line at [www.mvfumc.org](http://www.mvfumc.org)

(Pastor's Corner continued)

like those that can be found in math are useful and even reassuring – I rejoiced back in elementary school when I first learned that addition, subtraction, multiplication and division were sort of alternate paths along the same terrain, varied ways of expressing overlapping numerical relationships – metaphors and imagery expand and deepen the conversation precisely because of their “fuzzy logic.”

As we heard in some recent scripture readings, Jesus did much of his teaching through parables, analogies and similes – three ways to share truths that call on listeners/readers to interact with those truths in personal ways. My sense is that Jesus could have used other methods to teach, but chose these intentionally, which strikes me as remarkable evidence that our Creator believes metaphors not only are a *viable* means of sharing truth, but a preferred one! So I don't believe God is surprised, disappointed or upset when we encounter the Bible stories and come away with as many different understandings of them as there are people in the gathering. On the other hand, I do suspect God always hopes we will find the different images and meanings we discover interesting, intriguing and worth exploring together. If Christianity was meant to be a means of controlling the behaviors of others by rating their adherence to specific rules, doesn't it seem Jesus would have spent more time delivering punishments and less healing, restoring and reconciling people without regard to their lifestyle? Since we claim Jesus as the lens through which we try to understand God, ourselves and the world around us, my sense is that we are well-served by following his lead. In his “Sermon on the Mount,” he addressed several of the best known, most clearly-stated rules in our scriptures and restored their deeper intentions by addressing the points in our relationships when our repentance/turning is best inserted. For example, In Matthew 5:21-26, Jesus reeled “You shall not murder” back to the tipping points of getting angry with another person, or reducing them to less-than-human status by applying detrimental words or names to them. Rather than using courts to settle disputes, he urged settlements between individuals, allowing a far greater chance for restoring relationships rather than merely “winning,” opening the door to a mutual victory instead of requiring someone to lose.

My hope and prayer is that we will neither give up on wrestling with our biblical stories because the challenge is so great, nor accept a vastly simplified, deflated understanding to avoid exposing differences between us. Our best approach seems to be going beyond reading the Bible to studying it together, granting grace to one another as we begin and building trust along the way by listening to both how we read these stories and why, as a good friend was recently pondering, some of our understandings evoke powerful emotions.

Thanks for listening! I'd love to hear your thoughts, questions and concerns as well!

*Pastor Terry*

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
June, 2017**

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>
Regular Account	\$18,371.24	\$24,066.93
Special Account	\$ 575.07	\$ 2,910.12
Memorial Account	\$ -0-	\$ 2,141.00

As you can see, we spent more than we took into our Regular Account in June, but we were able to pay all of our bills and our Conference Apportionments. We will soon be sending out Giving Statements for the first 6 months of the year. Please look over your statement to make sure that your figures agree with ours. As we are out enjoying the summer sun, remember that we continue to have bills to pay at the church. Thank you for your continued financial support of our church's ministries.

**Project Homeless Connect**



The mission to Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is to provide a single location where Health and Social Service Providers collaborate to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness or that are at-risk of becoming homelessness with comprehensive, holistic, and immediate services. PHC is open to all families and individuals looking to overcome their barriers to stable housing. In past years popular services have included: haircuts, photo ID's, dental care, veterinary care, housing services, clothing, and wonderful lunch.

This year's PHC will be held at Skagit Valley College on Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This year MVFUMC will have a booth with sleeping mats and warm knitted or crocheted hats available to those who need them. **We could use a couple more volunteers who would be able to spend a couple of hours each manning the booth.** Please contact Kay Martin ([kay@mvmfmc.org](mailto:kay@mvmfmc.org) or 360-424-3628) if you would be interested in helping.

**Mark Your Calendars for Lazy Daze 2017!**

*Sponsored by the Pacific Coast Northwest Conference*

Join with a great group of fellow retirement-aged Methodists and friends for a refreshing retreat! The discussions are going to center on generational topics: The Silent (Greatest) Generation, Baby Boomers, Generation X, and the Millennials. What makes us all tick; and do we really want to listen to each other and why should we? How has each generation put its stamp on the way we live? Do we see God and church in the same way?

These questions and more will be the focus of Lazy Daze, the Annual Retreat for Older Adults (approximately retirement age, but no one is excluded), that is held at the Lazy F Retreat Center near Ellensburg, WA. The 2017 dates are Tuesday—Thursday, September 12—14.

In addition to our lively discussions, we will be 'raising the musical roof with music from across the generations and taking a look at the trends that have shaped our lives. Anyone want to wear their Bobby-sox? Chemise? Grunge? Bell-bottoms? Hoodies? Preppy? Narrow ties vs wide ties debate: Flower power: Rock and roll?

The registration form can be found here <http://www.pnwumc.org/news/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Lazy-Daze-2017-Registration-Form.pdf>.

Rosalee Mohoney, dean for the Lazy Daze 2017 retreat

**Annual Bereavement Summit**

You are invited to attend the Annual Bereavement Summit, August 25th, 2017 from 9:00—4:00 featuring Patti Anewalt, PhD, LPC, FT held at the Northwest Career & Technical Academy, 2205 W Campus Place, Mount Vernon, WA. Cost of \$30,00 includes lunch.

The topic is Understanding Cumulative Grief and Traumatic Loss. The workshop objectives are recognizing and responding to cumulative grief, supporting individuals impacted by traumatic loss, and developing strategies to enhance compassion wellness. Space is limited so please RSVP by August 14th. [dhart@hospicenw.org](mailto:dhart@hospicenw.org) or 360-814-5550

**CONGRATULATIONS To Owen Smith—Our Newest Music Scholarship Awardee!**

The Music Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that a \$750 music scholarship has been awarded to Owen Smith, son of Miriam Smith and grandson of Floyd and Carolyn Gregg. Owen is continuing his percussion studies this summer, and he has accompanied the Chancel Choir on numerous occasions. Memorials to the Music Scholarship Fund are encouraged to help those in our congregation who want to continue their music education. For more information, contact the church office. Congratulations, Owen!

## Coming on Labor Day -- Our annual Choir Potluck Picnic

All Chancel and Bell Choir members and their families are invited to the annual choir potluck picnic on Monday, September 4th. If you are considering joining the choir and would like to get acquainted, please come with your family. If you are a past member thinking of returning, join us! We will gather at the Gerhard's home beginning at 12:30. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Come prepared for an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. Please RSVP to Lynnette at 360-422-5739 or by email [lynnetteg6244@gmail.com](mailto:lynnetteg6244@gmail.com)

Chancel Choir's first rehearsal will be **September 6th**. Anyone who likes to raise their voice in praise is welcome! Contact Jung Jang, [tenorjang@gmail.com](mailto:tenorjang@gmail.com) or 206-437-4762.

## Children's Choir Returns!

Calling all children in grades K through 6! The Choir will meet at 9:00 a.m. during Sunday School beginning September 10th. There will be a second rehearsal time on Wednesdays and children can come to either or both times. Registration is open throughout the school year with no auditions or fees.

The purpose of the choir is to encourage musical abilities and reinforce Gospel truths using voices and instruments to "make His praise glorious". The students will learn fundamentals of choral singing and prepare a variety of songs, some of which will be shared in Sunday 10:30 a.m. worship. To register or for more info, contact the church office 360-424-3628, or Music Director, Jung Jang 206-437-4762 or [tenorjang@gmail.com](mailto:tenorjang@gmail.com).

## Sleeping Mat Team

Sleeping Mats for the Homeless Team will be meeting the Second and Fourth Tuesday at 1pm in the Conference room to sort and cut bags and crochet sleeping mats. Mark your calendars now for Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. Family Promise and Friendship House are requesting 30" by 6' sleeping mats. Contact, Mary Downing, [mt.downing@comcast.net](mailto:mt.downing@comcast.net), 360-428-8942

## Did You Know...?

We are part of the "**Community Kitchen**", but you may not be aware of this ministry. It isn't physically visible here in our church. It happens in the Central UMC in Sedro Woolley during the last full work week of each month. There are many who face the challenge of "too much month at the end of the money"! Community Kitchen provides the evening meal for anyone with that challenge (perhaps including you), beginning at 5:00 p.m. in Central's fellowship hall. Meals are also taken from the kitchen to shut-ins, currently about 45 deliveries, before dinner is served in the dining room.

There is a different chef in charge each evening. On Monday our church provides two volunteer teams to assist the chef, a preparation team and a serving and clean-up team. It is my responsibility to enlist four persons for each team for the Monday of that final week. The teams are dedicated volunteers and they are also busy people, so substitutes are often needed, both at 3:00 and at 5:00. If you are interested in being on my call list of substitutes, both men and women, please speak to me at church or call me for more information (424-0603). Thank you for your prayers that strengthen our "kitchen community" and our FUMC ministry of caring. — Barbara Jackson

## Will You Help?

Our church building needs a little Tender Loving Care. You can help by washing windows or vacuuming floors or mopping floors or wiping down tables and chairs or dusting or swiping our church on a weekly or monthly or quarterly or annual basis. While we do have a custodian on staff, there are simply not enough hours in a day for one person to keep this large building clean.. Please contact Mary Downing, [mt.downing@comcast.net](mailto:mt.downing@comcast.net), 360-428-8942

## Singing and S'mores

You have 2 more opportunities to join us for fun, fellowship, singing and s'mores! We will be gathering on Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the beach at Bayview State Park. We had such a good turnout for our last gathering which was a potluck that we have decided to add food to our next gatherings. We will meet for a potluck meal at 5:00 pm and then follow up with the singing and s'mores. If you have any questions, please see Lori Flores.

## Back to School Blessings

We hope that all young people and teachers that will be heading back to school this fall will join us on August 27<sup>th</sup> for the 9:30 a.m. worship service. We will have a blessing for you that day (as well as a small gift) Hope that you can join us!

## Skagit Valley UMYouth "Staycation" Mission Trip August 2-4, all around Skagit County!

As you read this newsletter we are once again doing a "stay at home" mission trip where we will be serving all over the Skagit Valley. This "trip" is open to all youth from 6<sup>th</sup> grade up through High School. We plan on serving at Helping Hands Food Bank, for Habitat for Humanity store, gleaning a field for Community Action, along with other projects. Of course there will be some fun events as well as an overnight at MVFUMC as the Family Promise Hosts. Please keep us in your prayers as we serve in our community!



## Hero Central THANK YOU!

Thanks so much to all of the volunteers that supported VBS! It takes a real dedicated crew to put on this program for 80+ kids! We once again worked with our friends from Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church to reach out to the young people of our community. Thank you to all who prayed for us and all who provided snacks. A special

"Thank You" to these volunteers from our church!!

Pastor Terry Hall, Dennie Sherman, Kay Martin, Sharon Minor, Chris Flores, Winnie Bradford, Shauna Flores, Isabel Neblett, Megan Perez, Hannah Perez, Donna Freiman, Mary Downing, Ashleigh

Jacobson, Linda Jones, Susan Edwards, Sue Monty, Gary Thompson, Sterling Johnson & Sue Erickson!

## Fall/Winter Schedule will begin September 10th

We will go back to holding an 8:30 a.m. service with weekly Communion, Children's Choir/Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and a 10:30 a.m. service with Communion on the first Sunday of the month on September 10th.

# AUGUST

## BIRTHDAYS

8/2 Bonnie Spitler  
 8/4 Jon Turnbull  
 Sue Erickson  
 8/6 Dale Rutan  
 8/8 Phil Smoots  
 8/11 Faye Martin  
 Tyler Berg  
 8/12 Chris Neblett  
 8/13 Roger Mandery  
 Andrew Latulippe  
 8/14 Susan Edwards  
 8/16 Elinor Curry  
 8/17 Alex Perez  
 8/18 Gracie Ermi  
 8/20 Janice Lisherness  
 Myron Ayers  
 8/21 Amanda Grant  
 8/23 Donna Thompson  
 8/24 Jim Collins  
 8/25 Max Barber  
 8/26 Roger Martin  
 8/27 Becky Stout  
 8/31 Jess del Bosque  
 Annaleigh Newall  
 Erica Turnbull

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1 Family Promise</b> 2:00 pm Voices of Recovery 6:00 pm NAMI Board Meeting	<b>2 Family Promise</b> Youth Stay at Home Mission Trip 1:45 pm Staff Meeting	<b>3 Family Promise</b> Youth Stay at Home Mission Trip & Overnight 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry	<b>4 Family Promise</b> Youth Stay at Home Mission Trip 6:00 pm Women's AA meeting	<b>5 Family Promise</b>
<b>6</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Coffee Hour	<b>7</b> 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>8</b> 1:00 pm Sleeping Mat Team	<b>9</b> 1:45 pm Staff Meeting 5:00 pm Potluck at Bayview State Park 6:30 pm Singing & S'mores	<b>10</b> 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry	<b>11 Mariner's Game</b> 6:00 pm Women's AA meeting	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Coffee Hour	<b>14</b> 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 1:45 pm Staff Meeting	<b>17</b> 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2:30 pm Trustees Meeting	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm Women's AA meeting	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Coffee Hour	<b>21</b> 10:00 am UMW Executive Board Meeting 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>22</b> 1:00 pm Sleeping Mat Team 7:00 pm NAMI Support Group	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Worship Support Meeting 1:45 pm Staff Meeting 5:00 pm Potluck at Bayview State Park 6:30 pm Singing & S'mores	<b>24</b> 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry	<b>25</b> 9am-3 pm Project Homeless Connect 6:00 pm Women's AA meeting	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Back to School Blessings 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Coffee Hour	<b>28</b> 9:00 am Newsletter Mailing Day 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 1:45 pm Staff Meeting	<b>31</b> 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry		

## ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

8/4 Brandon & Donna Thompson  
 8/5 Harlan & Shirley Mayer  
 8/10 Bruce & Janielle Coghill  
 Blair & Karen Hoey  
 8/11 Donald & Margaret Semrau  
 Terry Hall & Dennie Sherman  
 8/20 Dan & Denise Breznau  
 8/21 Craig & Debbie Bloodgood  
 8/23 Bob & Bettyjean Seabury  
 8/26 Brent & Betsey Thompson  
 8/28 Bob & Eula Olsen  
 Ron & Sue Erickson  
 8/31 Eric & Debbie Grant

