

Mount Vernon First
United Methodist Church

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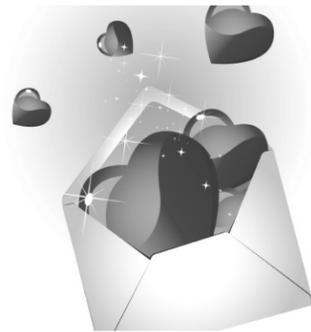
The Methodist Greeter

FEBRUARY 2016



"Our mission as a congregation is to strengthen our personal and group relationship with Christ and to reach out to other people."

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



YOU ARE
SPECIAL
TO ME!

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Dan Breznau

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

February 7

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36

February 14

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13

February 21

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

February 28

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

Greetings:

Today, I find that I am exhausted. Several individuals came in for assistance in addition to the scheduled activities, like getting ready for tonight's Disciple Class. It amazes me how diverse each day can be. One moment I receive a call for prayer concerning a health condition - a pastoral concern - and the next, the toilet needs plunging. My days are rarely boring. In the midst of these events I have been particularly thankful for the Samaritan fund. It is a discretionary fund distributed by the pastor so that when someone comes in with a financial need, I have some way to respond, beyond praying for them. In regards to this, a low estimate for last year would be two people coming in each week. The range of need can vary greatly from food to a stolen rent check (and need for rent money), to very specific requests such as seven dollars so that they can get enough gas to get to work and back that day (the assumption being that they would get paid). I would not be able to do this on my own, but through your generosity the fund is regularly refreshed, as it was through an offering at the Christmas service.

Often when I provide help for persons that come through the door, I think of those that have contributed to this fund and those that continue to pray for the church. With your assistance, we are able to be the hands and feet of Christ to those that need our help. So the next time you feel that you have not done something to help that day, remember that through your efforts, someone is helped each week.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

If you would like to contribute to the Samaritan fund, you can give online through our website - <http://www.mvfumc.org>



You can find this edition of our newsletter on-line at www.mvfumc.org

**FINANCIAL REPORT
December 2015**

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$24,490.68	\$21,681.61
Special Account	\$11,173.05	\$ 7,835.56
Memorials	\$ 2,040.00	\$ 200.00

We were able to pay all of our bills and our Conference Apportionments for the month of December. Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of our church.

We are now able to provide On-Line Giving for those that are interested. You can go to our web-site, www.mvfumc.org, and click on the "Online Giving" button. If you currently give money using a credit or debit card, you can create a profile to make any changes or additional gifts that you want to give as well. Any questions, please contact Lori Flores in the church office. Thank You!

Lenten Devotional Materials

Be sure to check the table in the Narthex on Sunday, Feb. 7th for some devotional materials to use during the season of Lent. Often we hear of people giving up something during the Lenten season... how about adding something to your life? Add some extra time each day in prayer, Bible and devotional reading this year during Lent!

Join a Lenten Bible Study Group

This year we will offer a Lenten Bible study featuring the DVD/book study, Revival, Faith as Wesley Lived It by Adam Hamilton. Barbara del Bosque will be leading this study at two different times during the week. One class will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am beginning on Feb. 7th. The other class will meet on Monday afternoons at 1:30 pm beginning on Feb. 8th. Both classes will meet in the Bride's Room across the hall from the nursery. If you are interested in joining a class and would like to get a book or have any questions, please contact Lori Flores in the church office.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Are you ready for a FUN evening? Do you love to eat pancakes? Gather with us at the church on Tuesday, Feb. 9th at 6 pm for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. We will be serving pancakes and sausage and all we ask is for a donation to a couple of good causes... you can either bring diapers or wipes for our Diaper Drive or cash donations that will be split between the Diaper Drive and the "Youth to CONVO" fund. Our Skagit Valley UM Youth will be cooking and serving up the pancakes. Also... back by POPULAR demand... Hugo's Accordion Band will be sharing their musical gifts with us. (Yes, I have requested the Chicken Dance!) Hope to see you there!!



EASTER BEGONIAS

Once again, our congregation has the opportunity to purchase Rieger begonias to be placed in the sanctuary and narthex for Easter. If you purchase one or more of the flowers, they may be taken home after the Easter Sunday service. The cost of each plant is \$9.50 including tax.

To order, please fill in the order blank below and with your check made out to First United Methodist Church and marked "Easter begonia/s" place it in the offering plate, mail to or bring to the church office.

Orders MUST be into the church office no later than SUNDAY, MARCH 13th.

Enclosed is \$_____ in payment of my order for _____ Rieger begonia plant(s) for use in the Easter service at First United Methodist Church.

Your name _____

The begonia(s) should be listed in the bulletin insert as follows:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

or presented to the glory of God _____.



Habitat for Humanity Orientation

Skagit Valley Habitat for Humanity is in the process of selecting a new Partner Family to work with and to build an affordable home for. A mandatory orientation is being held from 11:15am to 1:00pm on February 6th at the Burlington Library Conference Room for potential families to determine their eligibility for the program. If you would be interested in this opportunity or would like to know more about the Habitat program, please attend. For more information, please contact Maria Breznau at Maria@mvfumc.org or at 360-424-3628.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

The Music Scholarship Committee is pleased to offer music scholarships to those in our congregation who are taking private instrumental, vocal and dance lessons. These scholarships may be used for music instruction and music camps. There are three levels of scholarships, with the music instructor determining the skill level. They are: beginning student, up to \$250/year; intermediate student, up to \$500/year; advanced student, up to \$750/year. Additional scholarship funds may be available if there is a financial need. Consideration will be given in consultation with the pastor. The criteria for applicants are as follows:

1. Regular attendance at worship services is expected.
2. Periodic sharing of your musical talent in our worship services is encouraged but not mandatory.
3. Communication between you, the music scholarship coordinator, and your music teacher to monitor your progress.

Please note that those who received a music scholarship last year are encouraged to apply again. This scholarship fund is available due to generous memorial gifts in memory of Jane Brazas, Bill Collins, Ruth Mischke, and Harold Fisher. This is an ongoing project of the Music Scholarship Committee, and donations to the Music Scholarship Fund/Memorials would be most welcome at any time. Scholarship applications are available in the church office. For more information, please contact Maria Breznau, Music Scholarship Coordinator.

Faith in Action

In January, a group of congregation members began making sleeping mats for homeless persons out of recycled plastic shopping bags. We held two workdays – the first, teaching how to cut the bags into loops and fashion them into a type of yarn, and the second, teaching how to crochet a mat from the ‘plastic yarn’. The final product, thirty inches wide and six feet long, makes a fairly thick, waterproof cushion. The mats are also warm, and, when finished, will be donated to the Shelter from the Cold for distribution. This will be an ongoing project throughout the year, as the mats take some time to make. Crocheting a mat of this size also takes a lot of yarn, so there is particular need for people to cut the bags and create the plastic yarn. Please help us finish a few mats before the weather warms up! For further information, contact Linda Allen at 360-416-6621 or Maria Breznau at 360-424-3628.

In addition, long-term recovery efforts are still continuing in many parts of Washington State after the massive amount of property damage done by fires last summer. An opportunity for a late spring or early summer weeklong mission trip to help rebuild homes damaged in the Carlton Complex Fire in Methow Valley has been presented to several United Methodist churches in our area. Dan Gerhard is coordinating the United Methodists Volunteers in Missions (UMVIM) trip, and needs to know, for planning purposes, the number of people who would be interested in participating in this building project. If you have the desire to help with this project, please contact Maria Breznau as soon as possible. Thank you!

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Worship

We hope that you will join us on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10th at 6 pm for a simple soup supper and worship service. This is always a meaningful way to begin the season of Lent leading up to Easter Sunday. This service will also include the imposition of ashes and special music.

Dinners for Eight

Here is an opportunity to get better acquainted with members of the congregation. The host family provides the main dish. Guests bring salad, vegetable or dessert. You do not need to be a host to participate. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the Narthex. The deadline for signing up to participate is Feb. 7th. We would like to get our dinner groups formed by mid-February so that they can start meeting. Call Barbara del Bosque at 360-424-6494, if you have any questions or requests.

Sunday Lunch with Church Friends

At our January meeting, the Senior Ministry group decided to try something new. We would like to gather a group of church friends and have lunch out together. Our first opportunity to do this will be Sunday, February 21st, following the 10:30 am worship service. We will meet in the narthex and then go over to the Royal Star Buffet in Mount Vernon. You don't need to sign up ahead of time, just show up & we will go! If you need help with transportation home afterwards, or have questions, please call Barbara del Bosque at 424-6494.

P.S. If you are 90 years or older, you get in free if you have a paying customer with you!

Skagit Valley UM Youth

The combined Skagit Valley UM Youth group continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. We have members that come from Bayview UMC, Anacortes UMC as well as our own church. We usually start each meeting with a group game or team building activity followed by prayer and a meal together. After dinner we have another activity centered on a topic, sometimes another game, and closing time. One of the closings that we have shared together is “Pow, Wow and How”. This is a time when each youth is encouraged to share a “pow”, a not so good thing that has happened; a “wow”, a really good thing that has happened; and a “how”, how they have seen God working in their lives. As leaders, our hope is that the youth, by sharing with each other, become more aware of how God is working in and through them all the time.

Our Skagit Valley Youth are looking forward to the annual Bishop's Convocation of Youth. This is a gathering of youth from all over our Pacific Northwest Conference. This year it will be held the weekend of Feb. 19th to the 21st (because General Conference is happening in May when we usually gather). And because we have a different date, we will also have a different location. This year we are meeting at Warm Beach camp just south of Stanwood! You can look forward to hearing more about our awesome experiences from CONVO!

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- 2/2 Eugenia Hennessey
Kathy Lawliss
Kevin Turnbull
- 2/3 Mitchell Grant
Sue Kelder
- 2/4 Bailey Hodges
- 2/6 Clay Cook
Lynn Rabenstein
Kasey Thomas
- 2/8 Marti Wall
- 2/9 Tim Newall
- 2/10 Logan Eastman
- 2/14 Bettyjean Seabury
- 2/15 Carol Bratz
Margaret Semrau
- 2/18 Gene Wiggins
- 2/21 Dennis Cooley
Lois Haley
- 2/23 Doreen Nystrom
Jordan Romanelli
- 2/24 Blair Hoey

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Worship 9:15 Kids Gather w/ Gary 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	1	2 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Bell Trio 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm Disciple Bible Study	3 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	4 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 1 pm Staff Mtg 3 pm Disciple Bible Study	5	6 8:30 am Church Council Meeting
7 Communion Sunday See Sunday Schedule above 9:30 am Lenten Bible Study begins (Bride's Room) 2 pm Hispanic Ministries	8 1:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band	9 Shrove Tuesday 1:30 pm Bell Trio 6 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:30 pm NAMI	10 Ash Wednesday 6 pm Ash Wednesday Soup Supper & Worship 7 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	11 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 1 pm Staff Mtg 3 pm Disciple Bible Study 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	12	13
14 Happy Valentine's Day See Sunday Schedule above 9:30 am Lenten Bible Study (Bride's Room) NO Youth Group today	15 10 am UMW Executive Board Mtg 1:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 1:30 pm Wesleyan Circle	16 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Bell Trio 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm Disciple Bible Study	17 10 am Crafters Group 12 pm UMW 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	18 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 1 pm Staff Mtg 3 pm Disciple Bible Study	19 Youth at CONVO	20 Youth at CONVO
21 See Sunday Schedule above 9:30 am Lenten Bible Study (Bride's Room) 12 pm Senior Ministries Lunch 2 pm Hispanic Ministries 5 pm All Church Potluck	22 Newsletter Deadline—articles to Bridget Perez 1:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 3 pm Open Door Community Kitchen (SW)	23 10 am Worship Mtg. 1:30 pm Bell Trio	24 10 am Outreach Mtg. 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	25 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 1 pm Staff Mtg 3 pm Disciple Bible Study 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	26	27
28 See Sunday Schedule above 9:30 am Lenten Bible Study (Bride's Room) 4 pm Skagit Valley UM Youth	29 Newsletter Mailing Day 1:30 pm Lenten Bible Study					

ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 2/7 Bob and Lois Yale
- 2/9 Jeff and Roxy Romanelli
- 2/12 Wylie and Kerry Keeler
- 2/21 Jason and Brandy Bloodgood
- 2/29 Emily and James Stewart

