

Mount Vernon First
United Methodist Church

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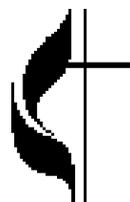


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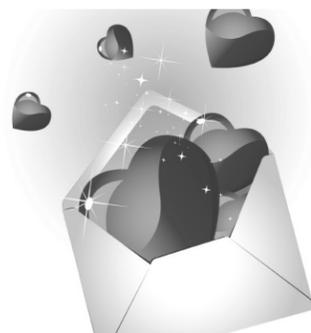
The Methodist Greeter

FEBRUARY, 2015



"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



And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 13:13

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Dan Breznau

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

February 1

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

February 8

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 15

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 18

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 22

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Greetings,

We will shortly be entering the season of Lent. It begins on Wednesday, February 18th. Lent can be an opportunity to make more space in your life for the awareness of God's presence. A term sometimes used in reference to Lent is kenosis. Kenosis is the concept of self-emptying of one's own will and becoming receptive to God. We are told that Jesus emptied himself taking on the form of a servant. Similarly, we are invited particularly in Lent to let go and let God. How does one do that? Each person is different, so you have to see what works for you; it might mean taking time from watching television, or reading the paper, possibly fasting from food.

Lent is as well a time to get ready for the Resurrection, the focal point of the church. Through the Resurrection, God's power and love are released into the world for us all. We have special opportunities to gather as a community to get ready. Starting with Shrove Tuesday also called Fat Tuesday, because on that day (in past years) a thrifty cook would use up the fat stored for cooking. Lent was a time of fasting, so they would not be using the fat during Lent. Since pancakes were a standard way of using up fat, the day is also called Pancake Tuesday. In addition, there is an image found in the Bible, associating sin with leaven. So along with getting the fat out of the house, we can use up the leaven (and not waste it) by making pancakes. It can be a time of fun and fellowship, along with experiencing some talents that will be shared that night (some serious and some not) as well as beginning the Lenten journey.

The next night, Ash Wednesday, is a time to acknowledge our individual and corporate brokenness before God, accept God's forgiveness, and move into a season letting go of some of our loads.

I would like to encourage you that if you do a 'fast' of some sort; prior to your endeavor, make a list of loved ones you are concerned about i.e. family, friends, nation. Then during the time that you are fasting, pray for them. May you come to know all the more of the sweetness of God's love for you through this period of Lent and Easter.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

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

FINANCIAL REPORT December, 2014

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$ 36,224.89	\$ 21,163.11
Special Accounts	\$ 2,883.38	\$ 1,638.38
Memorials	\$ 155.00	\$ 100.00

As you can see we had a good month in December which caused us to finish the year having paid all of our bills and apportionments with enough in our account to pay our substantial insurance bill which comes in February! This good month also helped us to make up for the last 2 months where we had to dip into our reserves to cover bills. Thanks so much for your support of the ministries of this church!



Souper Bowl of Caring

Once again we will be joining with churches around the United States to raise some funds and collect some food items to help the hungry in our community. We hope that you will stay after worship on Sunday, Feb. 1st for some food and fellowship. Our Confirmation class will be serving baked goods after the 8:30 am worship and a soup luncheon following the 10:30 worship. We will collect the food items and money and report our totals on-line. The nationwide figure should be announced sometime towards the end of the Superbowl on TV.

PS: I heard that once again that the Pacific Northwest Conference is challenging our opponent's conference (this year the New England Conference) to see which group of United Methodist fans can gather the most food. We will report our totals to this group too... let's bring in the food!

Lenten Materials

Be sure to check the table in the Narthex on Sunday, Feb. 15th 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!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Please join us for our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner! We will gather at 6 pm in Sprague Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 17th for some dinner and entertainment. Once again Hugo's Accordion Band will be there to entertain us with some wonderful music (and we will probably even have the chance to dance "The Chicken Dance!") Our Youth Group will be helping to serve up the dinner that night and the proceeds will go to the "Imagine No Malaria" campaign. Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors! Hope that you will join us!

Outreach News... By JoAnn Garcia



The Diaper Drive has kicked off

We have already collected several boxes of diapers and our goal is to **fill** Pastor Dan's office with diapers by the end of the month. They will then be donated to Community Action of Skagit County. Although, if the ceiling happens to leak in Pastor Dan's office, there shouldn't be any water damage with all those absorbent diapers lying around! If you would like to help in this way, but purchasing diapers is a difficulty for you, just put a check in the offering (FUMC - diaper drive). We will happily purchase them for you.

Family Promise

The board of **Family Promise** is hoping to begin the program in April. They will be having a meeting next week when we will find out more details on what our responsibilities will be as a host church. We will be hosting local families who are working to improve the lives of their children! Please keep this program in your prayers.

Cold Weather Ministry

Our donations of blankets, tooth paste, tooth brushes and shaving supplies have been delivered to the Severe Cold Weather Shelter. Thanks to your generosity, we've helped rebuild inventory enabling this ministry to continue providing shelter from the cold, to those in need.

Baby Shower

We will be hosting a baby shower on Sunday, Feb. 8th from 2 pm to 4 pm for Carmen Perez. Carmen is one of the ladies that is involved in our Hispanic Ministries and her baby girl is due in mid-February. This is a young mom who is greatly in need. They have no baby furniture or any of the **many** items required for a baby. This will be a wonderful way to reach out to help this family welcome their baby girl. Questions, see JoAnn Garcia.



A Note from the Quilters

THANK YOU!!! The Quilters are grateful for your support through the potholder fundraiser in December. Because of your generosity, batting and backing fabrics can be purchased for our continuing ministry of making quilts for Hospice patients. Three new members have been welcomed into our fellowship: Mary Lou Eames, Claire Moore, and Kay Martin.



Chancel Choir

HELP! The Chancel Choir needs extra singers. Is there anyone in the congregation who would like to sing even part time? You would be welcome in our musical ministry! Contact Lois Yale.



A Note from the Trustees

We are pleased to let you know the contract we have had for two years with Skagit Valley Hospital has been renewed for 2015.

This contract defines shared weekday use of our main parking lot with hospital employees, and has proven mutually beneficial for hospital staff, the hospital community, and our church. Hopefully we all regard this as another way in which our church is meeting a local need.



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. Call Lester Bradford at (360) 424-1411 if you have any questions or requests.



Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Worship

On Wednesday, Feb. 18th at 6 pm we will have our annual Soup Supper and Ash Wednesday service in Sprague Hall. We hope that you will join us for this simple supper as we prepare ourselves for the season of Lent.



Lenten Bible Study

Watch the bulletin and weekly e-mail for the dates for our Lenten Bible Study. This year we will be studying the DVD/Book study titled "The Way, Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus" by Adam Hamilton. This is a 7 week study that will go from the first week of Lent until just after Easter. We are still finalizing the day and time for the weekly study, and if we have enough interest, we may have more than one study! If you would like to take part, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or see Lori Flores.



Roots & Wings

Puget Sound District Training Event is Saturday, February 7 at Anacortes UMC from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Cost is \$20 and includes a hot spaghetti lunch (gluten-free and vegetarian options available). We're providing the opportunity to attend two workshops this year and a chance for youth to get in on the training! If you would like more information on this event, please talk with Lori Flores in the church office. This is a great time to gather with other United Methodists from around our district to find out what they are doing in their churches and to share what we are doing here in Mount Vernon! Hope that you will consider joining us for the day!



Family Promise of Skagit Valley

Family Promise of Skagit Valley is seeking a professional program director for a nonprofit groundbreaking new program. Individual must be self-motivated with strong organizational skills. Director to provide case management to multicultural homeless families and coordinate program components in a faith-based collaborative setting. This includes working with church congregations, volunteers, referral and supporting agencies, day center, and transportation for effective provision of services to clients. Salary based on experience.

Education & Experience: BA or BS Degree, MSW preferred; 3 years experience in social services environment; experience in volunteer management; and willingness to become CPR certified.

To apply send resume and cover to: Family Promise of Skagit Valley, PO Box 335, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-0335 or email to familypromiseskagit@gmail.com. www.familypromiseskagit.weebly.com



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
- 2/8 Marti Wall
- 2/9 Tim Newall
- 2/10 Logan Eastman
- 2/11 Tom Griillot
- 2/14 Bettyjean Seabury
- 2/15 Carol Bratz
Molly Drayer
Margaret Semrau
- 2/21 Dennis Cooley
Lois Haley
- 2/23 Doreen Nystrom
Jordan Romanelli
- 2/24 Richard Skeers

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Communion Sunday Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Worship 9:15 am Kids gather w/Gary 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Souper Bowl of Caring Soup Lunch</p>	<p>2 10:30 am Bell Trio</p>	<p>3 9:30 am MOPS 7:00 pm Disciple Bible Study</p>	<p>4 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 10 am Women's Bible Study 2 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 9 am—3 pm Roots & Wings—Puget Sound District Training Event at Anacortes UMC</p>
<p>8 See Sunday Schedule above</p> <p>2 pm Hispanic Ministries 4 pm Skagit Valley UM Youth</p>	<p>9 10:30 am Bell Trio 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band</p>	<p>10 1 pm Education Meeting 7:00 pm Disciple Bible Study</p>	<p>11 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>12 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 10 am Women's Bible Study 2 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i></p> 
<p>15 See Sunday Schedule above</p>	<p>16 President's Day 10 am UMW Exec. Board 10:30 am Bell Trio 1:30 pm Wesleyan Circle</p>	<p>17 9:30 am MOPS</p> <p>6 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner</p>	<p>18 Ash Wednesday 10 am Crafter's Group 12 pm UMW Lunch & program 6pm Ash Wednesday Soup Supper & Worship</p>	<p>19 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 10 am Women's Bible Study 2 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>20 1 pm Memorial Service for Peggy Perry</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 See Sunday Schedule above</p> <p>2 pm Hispanic Ministries 4 pm Skagit Valley UM Youth</p>	<p>23 10:30 am Bell Trio 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band</p>	<p>24 10 am Worship Meeting</p>	<p>25 10 am Outreach meeting 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>26 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 10 am Women's Bible Study 2 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>27 1 pm Care & Hospitality meeting</p>	<p>28</p>

ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 2/3 John and Sue Kelder
- 2/7 Bob and Lois Yale
- 2/9 Jeff and Roxy Romanelli
- 2/12 Wylie and Kerry Keeler
- 2/21 Jason and Brandy Bloodgood

