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United Methodist Church

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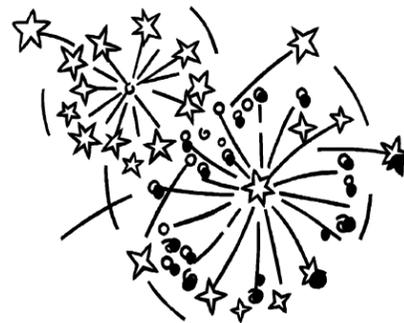
# The Methodist Greeter

JULY 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



**Freedom is nothing but a chance  
to be better.**

**~Albert Camus**

## Pastor's Corner

**Pastor Dan Breznau**

### BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

#### July 5

2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10  
Psalm 123  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-13

#### July 12

2 Samuel 6:1-5,12-19  
Psalm 85:8-13  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 6:14-29

#### July 19

2 Samuel 7:1-14  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-34,53-56

#### July 26

2 Samuel 11:1-15  
Psalm 145:10-18  
Ephesians 3:14-21  
John 6:1-21

Greetings:

"Reaping the whirlwind," I have often found this phrase to be intriguing, as well as a little disconcerting. It is a reference to Hosea chapter 8. As a prophet, Hosea was instructed to marry a prostitute to symbolize God's relationship with Israel. Hosea called for reform and for the people of Israel to return to fidelity in their relationship with God. They had gone astray. How did they get there? Was it gradual? Or quickly, as the enticements of the culture drew the people of Israel into an adulterous relationship? It strikes me a lot like the analogy of the boiling frog. If a frog is put in a pot of cold water it will stay in it even while heat is applied; however, if it is dropped into hot water it will jump out. Similarly, we can gradually get used to the cultural climate of our day and miss the warning signs. If you miss the signs and fail to act, you risk reaping the whirlwind. It is not God's longing to have a whirlwind unleashed but it is the result of decisions that the community has made. The idea that there is no God is the refrain placed on the lips of the rich found in the Bible. Because of their belief that there is no God, behaviors go unchecked.

This continues to today. Responsibilities in regards to worship (centering of life), lack of care for the poor, widows, orphans, and strangers, and the use of power to further enhance the station of the powerful is characteristic of those that go astray. Truth is increasingly open to the highest bidder, or the one that controls the news. Moral decisions about healthcare and what is appropriate is loosened.

I find this disconcerting. Ever more, in the affluent regions of the world there is, according to statistics, a growing sensibility that there is no God. Ironically, in the poorer regions of the globe there continues to be a growing vitality in religious belief and practices. For instance, the United Methodist Church in Africa is growing at such a rate that the number of people in one of their Conferences is larger than all of those in America put together.

If one believes in God, one's actions should follow in accordance with that. However, there is always the caveat that we like to make God in our own image – hence the need for the prophet to come on the scene and point us in a different direction. For those that are open to it, there should be a prayerful realigning of our lives with the Spirit's direction. This will lead to the need for personal and corporate prayer, as well as the participation in actions of holiness such as fasting, Holy Communion, confession of sins, Bible study, and the sharing of stories of faith in our fellowship. These are gifts God has given us to bring life and infuse our world with a gentle wind of the Spirit rather than the destructive force of the whirlwind.

May You be at peace in your Journey with God,  
Pastor Dan

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

## FINANCIAL REPORT May, 2015

	Income	Expense
<b>Regular Account</b>	\$22,826.24	\$21,502.74
<b>Special Account</b>	\$ 2,039.17	\$ 2,456.04
<b>Memorial Account</b>	\$ 70.00	\$ 77.94

As you can see, we took in a bit more than we spent in May. Let us remember to keep on giving during the summer months to support all of the ministries going on here at the church. Statements will be coming out soon for the first 6 months of giving. Please contact Lori Flores if you have any questions.

### Up-Coming Special Music

Thanks to all who have provided special music so far this summer! Here's what is coming up...

July 5<sup>th</sup> – Maria Breznau

July 12<sup>th</sup> – Sue Erickson & Lynnette Gerhard

July 19<sup>th</sup> – Bell Trio

July 26<sup>th</sup> and August 2<sup>nd</sup> are still open... if you would like to share your musical gifts with our church family, please contact Lois Yale at 766-8713 or [lobo1987@frontier.com](mailto:lobo1987@frontier.com).

### Mariners WIN!!

And we are sure that it is because of our extra special rooting section! We had a great time at the Mariner's game on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Along with being "Faith and Family Night" it was also "Star Wars Night" (yes, lots of people in fun costumes!) and there were fireworks as well. A huge THANK YOU to Chuck Jerman and JoAnn Garcia for all their work in organizing this event... it was lots of fun!



### Join us for Vacation Bible School...

Come and join the fun at "G-Force: God's Love in Action". We will host VBS at our church this year the week of July 20-24 from 9 am to noon each day. There are classes for children ages Preschool through entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration cost is \$10 per child and includes a T-shirt as well as defraying cost of supplies. If cost is a problem, please contact the church office for scholarship info. Registration forms can be downloaded from our website or picked up in the Narthex at the church.

We can still use help... if you have some free time that week and want to impact a child's life... see Lori in the church office.

# Singing & S'Mores *Come Join Us!*

2nd & 4th Wednesdays in July and August

7:00pm - Picnic Area @ Bay View State Park

July 8th  
July 22nd  
August 12th  
August 26th



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Enjoy the beautiful weather & God's wonderful creation while singing worship songs and roasting marshmallows around the campfire! Song books and s'mores will be provided.

Hosted by Bay View  
United Methodist Church

Questions? Contact Pastor Cody Natland at (360)499-6768  
or [Pastor.BayViewUMC@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.BayViewUMC@gmail.com)

## Layette Report By Lynne Almvig

Today, I was able to distribute The Layette Project's items to the Skagit Friendship House. After delivering the items, the lady at the main desk asked if she could take a picture, and if I would share a story about the items donated by the First United Methodist Church, to the neighbors in need at the Skagit Friendship House.

I shared that these donations to the Layette Project included over sixteen beautiful baby quilts, and handmade teddy bears. The contributions of the handmade infant quilts were made by Anne Lundquist. What is the Layette Project? Over the past thirty years, the Layette Project has been accepting donations for infants. These gifts are assembled into Layette Baskets, or collected and distributed as a group of items, to community action groups that deal with the care of infants. We are working to connect our resources throughout the county to help people in need. Through teamwork, cooperating and a commitment to others, we will see a difference. Outreach programs are a beneficial way to see the good in life, in others and in us. By working in harmony, we are able to overcome differences for the shared common goal. "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you." James 4:10



## Family Fun Night – Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

Our whole church family is invited to join us for our final gathering of VBS. We will meet in the Sanctuary for some songs and our video slide show of the week's activities. We will then head off to Sprague Hall for ice cream sundaes, fun and fellowship! Hope that you can join us!

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## Summer Youth Activities –

Our Skagit Valley UM Youth Group will be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of July and August. We will meet at Bayview State Park at 5:30 pm for dinner and games prior to the "Singing and S'mores" events. We are opening this up to all families with children (your kids don't need to be youth group age). The BBQ's will be going (as long as the burn ban doesn't ban us from doing that) so bring your meat to grill and a side dish to share. Beverages will be provided.

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## Swinging Saturday - July 18, 2015 - 4-8p.m. at the Eagle Haven Winery.

Music from the Great American Songbook will be presented by

- The Trish Hatley Quintet
- The Gail Pettis Group
- The Hans Brehmer Quartet
- The Songbirds – Trish Hatley & Gail Pettis

There will be live music, great food, beer & wine and a silent auction. The no host food and beverages are provided by Eagle Haven Winery, Belly's Café, and North Sound Brewery Company. Local artisans will be donating 20% of their proceeds to the Skagit Adult Day Program. Tickets are \$20 for pre-sales online at [skagitadultdayprogram.org](http://skagitadultdayprogram.org) or \$25 at the door. This event is to benefit The Bradford House and Gentry House which are dedicated to serving loved ones suffering from Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

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## Blessing of the Animals and Outdoor Worship! Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>

Join us as we worship outside on the lawn with special music from "Sinners on the Lamb: A New Song". This Sunday we will also be blessing our animals, so please feel free to bring your pets for a special blessing from Pastor Dan (don't have a live pet? Bring your stuffed animal for a special blessing!)

# JULY

## BIRTHDAYS

- 7/2 Emma Eliason
- 7/3 Shannon Golliver
- 7/4 Marde Holt
- 7/7 Charlotte Ambrose  
Buffy Gullberg-Williams
- 7/8 David Edwards  
Erica Nystrom
- 7/10 Aretta Jonkheer
- 7/11 Barbara del Bosque  
Amelia Pirkle
- 7/12 Janeie Belisle  
Asher Latulippe
- 7/13 Janielle Coghill  
Hannah Ermi  
Barbara Jackson  
Robert Seabury
- 7/15 Vicki Cooley  
Shirley Nickerson
- 7/17 Alisa Garcia
- 7/18 William Burress
- 7/20 Betty McGee
- 7/21 Donald Semrau
- 7/22 Daniel Breznau  
Kelsey Fleischmann
- 7/23 Susan Fisher
- 7/24 Brandon Thompson
- 7/25 Jeff Drayer
- 7/27 Joe Ambrose
- 7/29 Michael Hennessey
- 7/31 Rebecca Ayers

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sunday Schedule</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Coffee Hour			1  5:30 pm Family Promise	2 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff 5:30 pm Family Promise	3  5:30 pm Family Promise	4 <b>Happy 4th of July!</b>  5:30 pm Family Promise
5 Communion Sunday See Sunday Schedule	6 10:30 am Bell Trio	7	8 5:30 pm Skagit Valley UM Youth @ Bayview State Park 7 pm Singing and S'mores @ Bayview State Park	9 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff	10	11
12 See Sunday Schedule 2 pm Hispanic Ministries	13 8 am Hearing Loop Installation 10:30 am Bell Trio 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band	14 8 am Hearing Loop Installation	15 8 am Hearing Loop Installation 6:30 pm Trustees	16 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff	17	18
19 See Sunday Schedule  5 pm All Church Monthly Potluck	<b>20 VBS</b> 10:30 am Bell Trio	<b>21 VBS</b>	<b>22 VBS</b> 5:30 pm Skagit Valley UM Youth @ Bayview State Park 7 pm Singing and S'mores @ Bayview State Park	<b>23 VBS</b> 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff	<b>24 VBS</b>	25
26 Youth Mission Trip 7-26 through 7-31 See Sunday Schedule 2 pm Hispanic Ministries	27 10:30 am Bell Trio 10:30 am Bell Trio 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 4 pm Open Door Community Kitchen	28	29	30 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff	31	

## ANNIVERSARIES

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 7/24 Leonard and Jill Eliason
- 7/26 Dan and Lynnette Gerhard  
Colin and Alisa Sands
- 7/30 Dan and Marti Wall
- 7/31 Jim and Nancy Finkbeiner

