

Mount Vernon First  
United Methodist Church

1607 East Division Street  
Mount Vernon, WA 98274  
Phone: 360-424-3628  
Fax: 360-424-1057

[office@mvfumc.org](mailto:office@mvfumc.org)

Website:  
<http://www.mvfumc.org>



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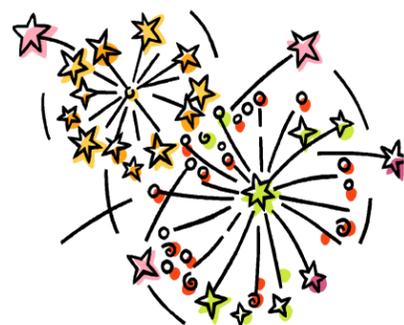


# The Methodist Greeter

JULY 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



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

**~Albert Camus**

## Pastor's Corner

**Pastor Terry Hall**

### BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

**July 2**

Matthew 3:1-12

**July 9**

Matthew 5:1-12

**July 16**

Matthew 6:24-34

**July 23**

Matthew 13:24-35

**July 30**

Matthew 13:44-46, 52

### The Journey Continues ... why?

Well, it's official: I have received the blessing of being appointed to Mount Vernon First UMC for another year! The Annual Conference (AC) just completed in Portland was a first in several ways: our first one under the leadership of Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, and the first joint meeting of the Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Conferences, along with several representatives from Alaska, which together make up the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area (meaning we are all served by one Bishop). It was a little chaotic at times, but was by far the most inspiring and reassuring AC I have participated in during my 17 years of ministry. Bishop Elaine brought a deep spirituality and refreshing honesty to all our activities, and although we closed several more churches, we also celebrated the reality that we have started more new churches and faith communities than we have ended over the past 2-3 years.

I am excited about our next year together, and find myself pondering a question Bishop Elaine raised in her first address to our gathering; hence, the question above. She acknowledged that we spend a great deal of time discussing together the "whats" of our work and the "hows", but often forget the first and foremost question – why. Why do we give up Sunday mornings week in and week out to gather to sing, pray, and talk about ancient writings? Why do we make it a priority in our lives to give a significant portion of our resources – money, time, energy, care – to causes and helping others, many of whom we will never know? Why, in a society that holds up self-sufficiency as one of the highest values, do we chose the path of obedience and following, especially when the One we obey and follow is intangible to all, invisible to many and inconceivable to some?

What we aspire to when we call ourselves 'Christians' is a life every bit as counter-cultural now as it was in Jesus' day. Without a solid, reliable and compelling 'why' for our choices, we are easily distracted from the 'what' and 'how' of our faith as the world around us, grounded as it is in competition (win-lose) rather than cooperation (win-win), siren-calls us to the perilous rocks of fear, lust of all sorts, and personal 'victory' at all costs. Much as our spiritual ancestors lost track of the 'why' of the Ten Commandments – living in right (respectful, love-based) relationship is both difficult and essential – we can detach ourselves from the 'why' of spending time together as a worshipping body when there are so many other places and ways we can experience God's goodness. The detachment process is often slow and steady, whittling a bit of commitment here and accepting a seemingly meaningless compromise there, so we do not even recognize when we released our grip on the life we were seeking.

*(Continued next page)*

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

(Pastor's Corner continued)

Please understand, this is not an admonition to never miss Sunday morning worship or a call to serve in additional ways. Those both are in the 'what' or 'how' category, while I am echoing our Bishop's invitation to reawaken to the events of our lives that drew us onto this path initially. Some of us came seeking meaning or out of a desire to become the very best versions of ourselves; others probably started out of pure curiosity, wanting to know what went on in the place called 'church.' Still others may have been driven in by feelings of desperation like fear, emptiness, loneliness or some other sense of frightening vulnerability, hoping to find strength and protection. However we arrived, it can be useful to wonder why we thought we'd find what we wanted and needed in this place, on this path with all its unusual teachings and hopes for us. If we came looking for strength, why did we stay when we learned that it comes from the admission of weakness even as it offers relief from that vulnerability? Why have we continued, even after discovering that the people we found on this path all have struggles and challenges of their own, and perhaps can offer us a hand in some situation, but will need ours in others?

I give thanks for the opportunities in front of us, and hope to be able to hear from you about the 'whys' of your faith journeys!

Blessings! *Pastor Terry*

### Financial Report for May 2017

|                 | Income      | Expense     |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Regular Account | \$19,277.73 | \$18,512.56 |
| Special Account | \$ 415.00   | \$ 5,278.26 |
| Memorials       | \$ 500.00   | \$ 2,841.73 |

As you can see, during the month of May we took in slightly more than we spent!

Summer is a time when giving is typically down because of people traveling, etc. Please remember your church pledge during the summer months as well. The Finance committee would like to thank this congregation for supporting the ministries of our church.



### Vacation Bible School – July 17-21, 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. “Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!”

We are once again joining forces with our friends from the Mount Vernon Presbyterian church to offer a week of Vacation Bible School to the children of our community. If you know of a young person that may like to attend, please pick up a registration form in the Narthex or download a copy at [www.mvfumc.org](http://www.mvfumc.org).

We are also looking for volunteers to help lead groups of children from station to station.

If you are interested, please contact Lori Flores at [lori@mvfumc.org](mailto:lori@mvfumc.org) or 424-3628. Thank you!

### VBS Family Fun Night – Friday, July 22<sup>nd</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 here at our church for some songs and our video slide show of the week's activities. We will then head off to Sprague Hall for a some dessert, fun and fellowship! Hope that you can join us!

### New Book on UMW Library Shelves

One of the new 2017 Reading Program books is “Faith Ed.: teaching about religion in an age of intolerance” by Linda K. Wertheimer. “From Texas to Tampa, Florida; Wichita, Kansas to California; there is controversy around teaching religion in public schools. This fascinating investigation into the debate and how to best teach children religious literacy and tolerance reveals a public education system struggling to find the right path forward while offering a promising road map for raising a generation of religiously literate Americans”.

I found this book to be both engaging and thought-provoking. The author spent a number of months traveling to “communities around the nation and listening to voices on all sides of the controversy, including those of clergy, teachers, children, and parents who are Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Sikh, or atheist.” [from UMW Catalog]

Naomi Foote

### Sleeping Mat Workshops

Reminder – The Sleeping Mat Ministry will not be meeting in July, we will continue to accept clean plastic grocery bags. We will resume workshops in August. Thank you for all your support.

### Family Promise

On July 30 we will again welcome homeless children and their parents for a week for Family Promise. If you can help by cooking a dinner, visiting with our guests, spending the night, or doing some laundry, contact Carolyn Gregg at 360 391 0288, 360 424 7453 or [cgregg@valleyint.com](mailto:cgregg@valleyint.com). In 2 years, we have helped Family Promise find permanent housing for 20 families.

### New Church T-shirts

We need a few more people to sign up for T-shirts before we can make the order. The minimum order is 25 and the T-shirts are \$15. XXL and XXXL sizes are \$17. If you would like to order a shirt, sign up in the narthex, contact Kay Martin at [kay@mvfumc.org](mailto:kay@mvfumc.org), or call the church office.

### REBUILD: Up from the Ashes

I am writing on behalf of the Missions and Social Justice Ministry Team of Central UMC, Sedro-Woolley, to invite your congregation to join us on a UMVIM Team that is going to Okanogan County the week of September 24 - 30, 2017, to help with the rebuilding of homes that were destroyed by the wild fires of 2014 and 2015. This will be our second mission trip to Okanogan County, and we are anticipating another wonderful experience as we give tangible witness to God's love in the world.

We won't know exactly what type of construction work we will be doing until the early part of September, but it is most likely to be more of finish interior work and painting. (Foundations and framing are usually started in the spring.)

Dan Gerhard  
UMVIM Coordinator  
Central UMC  
[revdanger@live.com](mailto:revdanger@live.com)  
H: 360-422-5739  
C: 360-421-0665

## Worship News

Since before I arrived last July, this newsletter has been printing a list of Scriptures for each Sunday of the upcoming month in every edition. They have been pulled from the **Revised Common Lectionary**, which lists 4 readings for each week – one each from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the Gospels and the letters of the New Testament, in a repeating three-year cycle. Many preachers follow that guide for their sermons, choosing one or more of the readings as their focus. However, I stopped following it a few years back, having completed the cycle four times. Since then, I generally design our worship around sermon series of 4-6 weeks, with an overarching theme that allows us to explore a topic in a bit more depth. I also hope this approach helps us become and remain mindful of the relationships between the 66 books that make up our Bible, remembering they intend to reveal the long and on-going relationship between God and humanity through a variety of writing styles and theological lenses.

We have continued to print the lectionary readings, even though they are unrelated to what we do on Sunday mornings, to continue something of value being done before my arrival. But with the arrival of our Music Director, Jung Jang, I will finally be able to pursue some additional worship planning I have hoped for since I arrived. So, starting with this edition, the newsletter will print the scriptures we will be using for each week's worship, offering you a chance to spend some time with them before we gather. I hope you will take advantage of this means of engaging our worship at a deeper level. While I will continue to use a variety of Bible translations and interpretations, I encourage you to use your favorite one, knowing that the reading you hear on Sunday morning may be somewhat different. Rather than allowing the differences to disconcert you, I hope you will open yourself to wondering about how the changed language impacted your understanding of the stories and even about how I came to the conclusions I offer if they differ from your reading of the same story. Conversations just might ensue!

## Upcoming series

During the month of July, I am going to focus on our understanding of what Jesus tells us about "the kingdom of God/heaven." As such, you see the readings all share some of the stories he told the crowds about what living under God's leadership looks like and does.

Those of you who completed the brief survey during our fellowship hour several months ago indicated that you want meaningful sermons that relate to your everyday life and deepen your understanding of the Bible, God and what it means to be a Christian. I try to offer just such messages each week, and would like to hear from you now about specific topics you'd like me to address in coming months. Some sermon series possibilities include: **challenging topics** (sexuality/gender issues, Christian economics, immigration, addressing poverty); **specific books or stories of the Bible**; **relationship challenges** (living with crippling illness/injury, mental health, divorce, grief/loss, outliving our spouses or children); and **understanding the Psalms**. You can probably think of others, and I hope you will.

***I'd really like to hear from you about both what topics you would like to hear about and something about your own experience, thoughts and feelings about those topics.*** I enjoy conversations but ask that you either send me an email, give me a call or arrange a time for us to talk other than Sunday morning so I can be fully present to your ideas and questions. I look forward to hearing from you!

*Pastor Terry*

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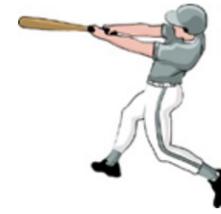
## Community Garden

The community garden, located just north of our parking lot is growing again. The 2 beds on the west end are lent to our neighbors at Alpine Ridge. You may help yourself to vegetables as they ripen in the other 4 beds. If you have time to water, weed or harvest for the Gleaner's Table on Sunday please notify the office or Carolyn Gregg at 360 391 0288, 360 424 7453 , or [cgregg@valleyint.com](mailto:cgregg@valleyint.com). So far the tomatoes, onions, squash and lettuce are looking hopeful. Something is chewing the beans!

## Singing & S'Mores

The Bay View United Methodist Church has invited us to join them for Singing & S'mores the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in July and August, 6:30 p.m. at the Picnic Area in Bay View State Park. Enjoy the beautiful weather and God's wonderful creation while singing worship songs and roasting marshmallows around the campfire? Song books and s'mores will be provided.

A special invite... on July 26th we will have a potluck at 5:00 p.m. prior to the Singing & S'mores. Hamburgers & Hotdogs will be provided, bring a side dish to share and join the fun! Questions? Contact Pastor Cody Natland at 360-499-6768 or [Pastor.BayViewUMC@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.BayViewUMC@gmail.com).




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## SAVE THE DATE: Mariner's Game August 11<sup>th</sup>

**Edgar Martinez Bobblehead Night!** Tickets will be \$13. Let's get a good group together and have a night of fun and fellowship and watch the Mariners beat the Los Angeles Angels. Chuck Jerman is working hard to get us access to meet and get autographs from a couple of the pitchers, possibly one of our group to throw out the first pitch. We are inviting some of the other local United Methodist churches. So gather up your friends, neighbors, children, grandchildren and enjoy a night of fun, hot dogs, and garlic fries! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

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## 5 Wishes Workshop

In May we held a modified 5 Wishes workshop. FIVE WISHES is program developed by the Aging with Dignity organization. The purpose of the workshop was to help people start to think about what they want at the end of their life. It assists you in starting conversations, making plans, and informing the people who most matter to you what your wishes are. Here are some of the topics covered:

- the person I want to make care decisions for me when I can't
- the kind of medical treatment I want or don't want
- how comfortable I want to be
- how I want people to treat me
- what I want my loved ones to know

If you wish to have a memorial service at our church, there is a form to fill out to let the church know some of your wishes regarding scripture, hymns, etc.

There are a few FIVE WISHES booklets left over to take home to enable you to continue making decisions and having the important (but sometimes difficult) conversations.

Emergency contact forms were also supplied to take home, fill out and return to the church office. We have only received back a few of these. If you have filled out the form in the past, it would still be good for you to review the one on file to be sure the information is still current.

As secretary here in the church office these past two years, I have observed quite a few families working through the details of memorial services. Having the deceased person's wishes written down in advance would have saved time and stress on the remaining family. Please fill out and return at least the emergency information sheet. Your information is kept in strict confidence.

If you did not get the FIVE WISHES booklet and the emergency contact sheet, contact the office and we will be happy to get them to you. We have six booklets left over which will be free to you. If there is more interest than that, they can be ordered for \$5 each.

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 7/1 Owen Smith
- 7/2 Emma Eliason
- 7/5 Wes LaRocque
- 7/7 Charlotte Ambrose  
Buffy Gullberg-Williams
- 7/8 David Edwards  
Erica Nystrom
- 7/9 Chloe Walker
- 7/10 Al Sward
- 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  
Ashleigh Jacobson
- 7/18 William Burress
- 7/21 Donald Semrau  
Debbie Bloodgood
- 7/22 Daniel Breznau
- 7/23 Susan Fisher  
Dylan Thomas
- 7/24 Brandon Thompson
- 7/25 Jeff Drayer
- 7/26 Dan Gerhard
- 7/27 Joe Ambrose
- 7/28 Chuck Diver
- 7/29 Michael Hennessey
- 7/31 Rebecca Ayers



# JULY



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|
|   |   |   |  |  |   | 1   |
| <b>2</b><br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:40 am Coffee Hour                 | <b>3</b><br>5:30 pm Overeaters<br>Anonymous   | <b>4</b><br> | <b>5</b><br>1:00 pm Staff Meeting<br>3:30pm Bell Trio Re-<br>hearsal   | <b>6</b><br>8:30 am Men's Morning<br>Ministry<br>10:30 am Janet Bartee<br>Memorial                   | <b>7</b><br>6:00 pm Women's AA<br>meeting   | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>9</b><br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:40 am Coffee Hour                 | <b>10</b><br>1:00 pm Congregational<br>Care Training -<br>Conf. Room<br>5:30 pm Overeaters<br>Anonymous                                       | <b>11</b><br>1:30 pm Bell Trio Re-<br>hearsal   | <b>12</b><br>1:00 pm Staff Meeting<br>6:30 pm Singing & S'mores<br>Bayview State Park  | <b>13</b><br>8:30 am Men's Morning<br>Ministry   | <b>14</b><br>6:00 pm Women's AA<br>meeting  | <b>15</b><br>8:30 am Church Council<br>10am - 4pm Children's<br>Art Festival at Hill-<br>crest Park |
| <b>16</b><br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:40 am Coffee Hour                | <b>17 Vacation Bible<br/>School</b><br>5:30 pm Overeaters<br>Anonymous  | <b>18 Vacation Bible<br/>School</b><br>1:30 pm Bell Trio Re-<br>hearsal                         | <b>19 Vacation Bible<br/>School</b><br>1:00 pm Staff Meeting   | <b>20 Vacation Bible<br/>School</b><br>8:30 am Men's Morning<br>Ministry<br>2:30 pm Trustees Meeting | <b>21 Vacation Bible<br/>School</b><br>6:00 pm Women's AA<br>meeting<br>6:30 pm VBS Family Fun<br>Night | <b>22</b>   |
| <b>23</b><br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:40 am Coffee Hour                | <b>24</b><br>9:00 am Newsletter Mail-<br>ing Day<br>1:00 pm Congregational<br>Care Training -<br>Conf Room<br>5:30 pm Overeaters<br>Anonymous | <b>25</b><br>1:30 pm Bell Trio Re-<br>hearsal<br>6:30 pm NAMI Support<br>Group                  | <b>26</b><br>1:00 pm Staff Meeting<br>5:00 pm Potluck at<br>Bayview State<br>Park<br>6:30 pm Singing & S'mores<br>Bayview State Park | <b>27</b><br>8:30 am Men's Morning<br>Ministry   | <b>28</b><br>6:00 pm Women's AA<br>meeting  | <b>29</b>   |
| <b>30 Family Promise</b><br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:40 am Coffee Hour | <b>31 Family Promise</b><br>5:30 pm Overeaters<br>Anonymous   |   |  |  |   |   |

**ANNIVERSARIES**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 7/19 Billy and Virginia Skaggs
- 7/24 Leonard and Jill Eliason
- 7/26 Dan and Lynnette Gerhard  
Colin and Alisa Sands
- 7/27 Wes and Lisa LaRocque
- 7/30 Dan and Marti Wall
- 7/31 Jim and Nancy Finkbeiner

