

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:

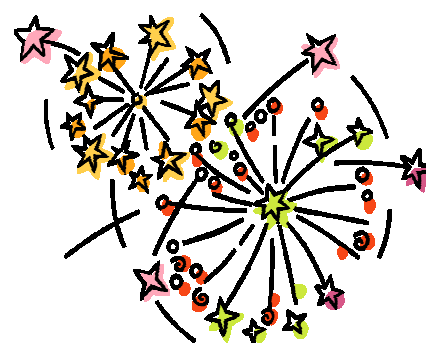
<http://www.mvfumc.org>



**NON - PROFIT ORG.**  
**U. S. Postage**  
**P A I D**

**Mount Vernon**  
**Permit No. 22**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

**~Albert Camus**

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



# The Methodist Greeter

JULY 2019

"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."

## Pastor's Corner

**Pastor Terry Hall**

### BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

Pastor Terry's sermons for the month are based on these scriptures. He encourages you to prepare each week for worship by reading and meditating on the Sunday's scripture prior to coming to church.

**July 7**

Galatians 6:1-16

**July 14**

Colossians 1:1-14

**July 21**

Colossians 1:15-27

**July 28**

Colossians 2:6-19



### Who are our neighbors?

There's a story in Luke 10:25-37, in which a scriptural scholar asked Jesus, "who is my neighbor?" Jesus shared a parable and the man ended up answering his own question in a way that left him more challenged than he wanted to be. It's an important bit of teaching, and it's gotten me pondering the question in a more concrete way – who lives up here on the hill where we congregate? We know there are lots of churches up here, so one might guess we are surrounded by Christians who have discovered places they can learn and grow in their faith, and there is probably some truth to that. But if this area is like the rest of Skagit County (and Washington State in general), most likely the majority, even the vast majority, of the folks who live within 20 blocks of us are not regular worship attenders, much less committed Christians. But who are they?

We've wanted more young families for quite some time now, and God has blessed us with a few. Do you think there are others who live in our neighborhood, ones we have not met but may have seen at Haggen's or the Easter Egg hunt? We know we have public schools within that 20-block area, so probably some families with kids are nearby, right? But how are we going find out? How can we meet some of these folks? Are we willing to make some effort to meet them, or will we just pray they find their own way here? When we had a Faith in Action Coordinator, she scouted out quite a few opportunities for at least a few of us to encounter other Mount Vernon residents, but sadly, that position has gone vacant for 6 months now.

During the first couple weeks of June, every weekday afternoon the same two boys rode their bikes and a skateboard around outside my office window for at least a couple of hours. Mine was the only car in our parking much of that time, and they stayed far from it, so there seemed to threat of damage to any of our property. I found myself wondering how we might engage them ... who among us might be a good emissary, to strike up a chat with them? I felt some nudges to lift the idea of doing some sort of outside, neighborly thing at least a couple times during July and August, then maybe finally have the celebration of our new building, our ministries and our building partners in September. Would we willing to use our back yard for whiffle ball games, croquet, bocce ball (with the light-weight balls for younger kids), a day or two weekly, maybe even throw in a simple BBQ or other kind of lunch each time?? Others joined my holy imagining and wondered aloud about projecting a movie onto the new building some night once or twice during summer .

(Continued next page)

(Pastor’s Corner continued)

The financial costs of such efforts would be pretty small. There’s always a chance someone will fall down if we play, but we manage that sort of challenge every week with Sunday School and far more so with VBS and the Easter Egg Hunt. The main obstacles we’d have to overcome are our fears: about intentionally and personally inviting people; that we’d put in hours of preparation and have very few people show; and that a whole bunch of people would come, and we’d have to deal with them! I’m pretty sure we can manage all that, but there is one more big piece we’d need – **leaders!** A group of people who trust that when two or more gather in Jesus’ name, powerful things can happen and are willing to test the claim; planners and game players; cookie bakers and good listeners; people who want *so much* to see more young families here that they are willing to be God’s instruments to allow the Spirit to use them to answer our prayers.

Pastor Terry

Financial Report for May 2019

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$20,776.51	\$19,972.13
Special Account	\$ 1,718.00	\$ 3,873.75
Memorials	\$ 100.00	\$ 275.57

As you can see we took in slightly more than we spent in May. We are all paid up on our bills and our conference apportionments. If you have any questions regarding the finances of the church, please contact a member of the Finance committee: Barbara del Bosque, Doreen Nystrom, Lori Flores or Pastor Terry.

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.

Greeters Needed!

Winnie Bradford was coordinating the Greeters for Sunday morning worship. Until she is able to resume doing this, please honor her by putting your name on one or two of the dates on the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. The rest of the June Sundays are covered. Let’s help Virginia Skaggs, who has graciously offered to step in, fill up the rest of the summer Sundays! Being a Greeter is such an important way to spread our church’s welcome!

Coffee Hour Hosts & Altar Flowers too!

We can also use help with sign-ups for Coffee Hour Hosts and Altar Flowers. The sign-up sheets are in the hallway. If you have any questions please contact the church office.



Congregational Care Team Library

There is a library on the book shelf next to the UMW book library in the hallway. These books deal mainly with spiritual and personal growth and how to be in a caring relationship with others. Please feel free to check out any of these books by filling out the form on the clipboard. You do not have to be a member of the Congregational Care Team. Also, if you have books that you feel would be a good fit for this subject matter and would like to donate them to this library, please give them to Mary Downing.

Books on UMW Library Shelves

It might say UMW Library... but these books are for everyone! Each year the United Methodist Women come up with a reading list and our unit purchases some of the books from the list. We encourage you all to take a trip down the hallway near the north entrance to Sprague Hall and check out a book from our library!

Gleaner’s Table

The Gleaner’s Table is open for business again! If you have extra produce from your garden that you would like to share, please bring your bounty to church on Sunday mornings. When you come in to church on Sunday mornings, please check out the Gleaner’s Table just outside the doors to the Sanctuary to see if there is some produce that you would like to take home! If you would like to make a donation for the produce that you take, please leave your money in the basket on the table. Proceeds from this table go into a fund to help people in need. In the past we have helped folks with food money or help with power bills, etc. Thank you and we are looking forward to the beautiful produce from your gardens!

Trustees’ Report

At press time the big news from the Trustee’s committee is that we are signing a contract to get the exterior of the church painted. We have found a paint contractor and he will start on the job as soon as he finishes the current job he is working on.

We continue to work on issues around the church. We recently finished all of the fixes to renew our Fire Certificate for another year.

The mowing team continues to keep our lawns looking great. Thank you!  
Thank you to Mary Downing, Larry & Donna Freiman, and Chris Flores for edging all of our sidewalk areas! We also could use some help keeping the flower beds around the church weeded. Chris Flores has a map of the flower beds and if you would like to sign up to take care of a spot... please see him! Thank you!



# Faith in Action

## Garage Sale for the Mawingu Project



On Saturday, June 22nd, the youth group sponsored a garage sale to benefit the Mawingu Project in Tanzania. Thank you so much for all of the donations that we received! We raised just over \$700.00 from the sale! Thank you so much to the following helpers that sorted all the goods: Donna Freiman, Mary Downing, Caron Monks, Sue Monty, Chris & Shauna Flores. Thanks to our super youth sales team for their work on Saturday: Isabel Neblett, Megan Perez, Hannah Perez and Shauna Flores. Thank you to Dennis Jones for help promoting the sale on Craigslist and for help with the sign. And a huge thank you to our clean-up crew: the youth, Lynn Rabenstein, Nema Satterlund, Chris Satterlund, Adam Fredlund, Randy Rabenstein, Dennis Jones, & Chris Flores (special thanks to Randy, Dennis & Chris F for the use of their trucks to haul off the leftovers!) Another great bit of news is that a gentleman came to the sale just before our closing time and asked if he could take all of the leftover clothes to the clothing bank at New Life at the Well so we helped him pack them all up and they are going to a wonderful mission project in our community. Again thanks so much for all of your support! ~ Lori Flores

## Welcome Home Community Co-op

Welcome Home Community Co-op is a homeless community centered group that meets every Friday from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Mount Vernon Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Church. It grew out of the response from the SDA to open an emergency winter shelter at its church (two winters ago) in partnership with Friendship House. Weekly conversations are facilitated by our “un-housed” community. The group consists of local churches, City of Mount Vernon, Skagit County, Mount Vernon Police Department, Friendship House, Community Action, Family Promise, Skagit College and others. Please look for an updated list posted in the narthex of needed items. If you have any questions, contact Ellen Anderson at: 702-595-4947 or email: [anderson.turner4@gmail.com](mailto:anderson.turner4@gmail.com)

## Additional Faith in Action Notes

**Volunteer Cleaning**—Thursdays, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31 from 9:30am to 12:00 pm. Mary Downing, Donna & Larry Freiman, and Clark Pierce have been dedicated volunteers and would love to have you join them in keeping this big building clean!

**Congregational Care Ministry**—If you know of someone in our congregation who would benefit from a visit from a member of the team, please let Mary Downing know.



## Vacation Bible School July 15th -19th 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Mount Vernon First UMC

We are again working with our friends from the MV Presbyterian Church to host a week of Vacation Bible School for children in our community. Registration forms are on the table in the Narthex. Please feel free to share them with family, friends and neighbors. We can always use volunteers too! If you have some time to share, we would love to have you join us! Please contact Lori Flores for more information. Can't help out on a daily basis but still want to support VBS? A snack sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex so that you can sign up to bring a snack item for the children. Thank you so much for your support!

## PNW 2019 Annual Conference Session #PNWAC19

I am Dennie Sherman. I was MVFUMC's Lay Member of Annual Conference, this year. This is my report.

Bishop Stanovsky offered this prayer of thanksgiving in the opening worship and we celebrated a Baptism.

We give thanks to you, Almighty God for creating us all in your image. We thank you for the gift of your son Jesus Christ who taught us to love with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our strengths, with all our minds; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Set us loose in our neighborhoods, O God, extending your love, your justice, your peace, your mercy, your compassion. And in doing so, we ourselves might be transformed even as we deepen our faith, seeing Christ in the other as they see Christ in us. Help us crossover to love now! This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

We reviewed: What did the General Conference 2019 do? handout and met in Table Talks using the respectful communication guidelines to respectfully listen to and understand one another. My Table Talk group was representative of all districts. Our group did not want to divide but wanted to stay together and continue working to find a way forward. It seemed to me each church was tired of fighting, was grieving the loss of church as it used to be, and fearful of the future.

I encourage everyone to read **A Statement by the Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team.**

“If found to be constitutional and put into practice, the restrictive, punitive provisions of the legislation passed at General Conference will cause continuing harm to many, especially LGBTQIA+ members of the body. We stand in opposition to this harm because “if one member suffers, all suffer together” (1 Corinthians 12:26) in the body of Christ. Even across theological divides, many faithful United Methodists understand that the legislation is contrary to our Wesley tradition of practicing God's extravagant love and grace. We strive to embody this love and grace and seek to do no more harm.”

For a summary of actions taken and messages preached, along with some photos, on the internet, visit the conference website – [pnwumc.org/news](http://pnwumc.org/news). The next conference newsletter will no doubt offer the same information.

I attended the multicultural ministries session with Zulma. Thank you for this opportunity. Dennie Sherman



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  
Ashleigh Jacobson
- 7/21 Donald Semrau  
Debbie Bloodgood
- 7/22 Terry B Hall
- 7/23 Susan Fisher  
Dylan Thomas
- 7/24 Brandon Thompson
- 7/26 Dan Gerhard
- 7/27 Joe Ambrose
- 7/31 Rebecca Ayers



JULY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10:00 am Sisters of the Heart	3 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	4 Happy 4 <sup>th</sup> of July 	5	6
7 Communion Sunday 9:30 am Hispanic Ministry 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee Hour 12:00 pm VBS Youth Helpers Lunch at Dairy Queen	8 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 1:30 pm Congregational Care Team	9 10:00 am Sisters of the Heart	10 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	11 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry	12	13 Hispanic Ministry Children's Party
14 9:30 am Hispanic Ministry 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee Hour 12:00 pm VBS Leaders' Meeting & Decorating	15 9:00 am VBS	16 9:00 am VBS 10:00 am Sisters of the Heart	17 9:00 am VBS 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	18 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:00 am VBS 2:30 pm Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm GS VWW Leaders	19 9:00 am VBS	20
21 9:30 am Hispanic Ministry 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee Hour	22 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band	23 10:00 am Sisters of the Heart	24 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	25 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry	26	27 5:00 pm Hispanic Ministry
28 9:30 am Hispanic Ministry 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee Hour	29 9:00 am Newsletter Mailing Day	30 10:00 am Sisters of the Heart	31 1:00 pm Staff Meeting			

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

