

Mount Vernon First
United Methodist Church

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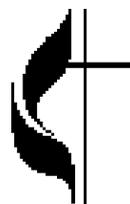


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The Methodist Greeter

MARCH 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



Once more to new creation Awake,
and death gainsay,
For death is swallowed up of life,
And Christ is risen today!

~George Newell Lovejoy

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

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Dan Breznau

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

March 6

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 13

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

March 20

Liturgy of the Palms
Luke 19:28-40
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:1-49

March 26

(Maundy Thursday)
Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 25

(Good Friday)
Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

March 27

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18

Greetings:

We are quickly coming up to the celebration of Easter – the last Sunday of March! There has been a lot of activity around the church, including the Ash Wednesday service, Lenten Studies, Diaper Drive, Sleeping Mat project, pot-lucks, special meals after church, birthday celebrations, and preparations for Holy Week. Amidst all of these activities, we have also been prayerfully searching for a music director to go forward with our music ministry. Lois Yale faithfully and joyfully served for years at the church as choir director, and with her retirement, Judy Pearson has done an incredible job of temporarily filling in. This has given us some time to reflect on what God might be calling us to do next. Part of this discernment process was asking all of you what music has been meaningful for you in church. After consideration, we decided to expand the responsibilities of what has been traditionally the Choir Director's role. The position of Director of Music Ministry will encapsulate the responsibilities of the former choir director, as well as be responsible for seeking to grow and develop our music program in new ways. I am delighted to announce that a candidate has been found; her name is Diane Figaro. A brief synopsis of her qualifications, which are numerous, as well as a photograph of her family and her can be found in this newsletter. She will begin in the new position after Easter; Ron Erickson has agreed to fill in as Choir Director in the meanwhile. A special thanks for the efforts of those on the Staff Parish Team for making this happen, particularly Lynette Gerhard, Kay Martin and Ron Erickson.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Dan



FINANCIAL REPORT January 2016

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$18,056.78	\$21,877.49
Special Account	\$16,171.55	\$19,517.48
Memorials	\$ 735.00	\$ -0-

We were able to pay all of our bills and our apportionments for the month of January.

We did spend more than we took in which eats up some of our reserves. Please continue to pray for the financial situation of our church and for our ministries. Thank you for your support!

CONVO Recap

The weekend of Feb. 19-21 found Owen Smith, Shauna and Lori Flores traveling down to Warm Beach Camp with Drew Frisbie, Abby Lindberg and Brittany Walkley from the Anacortes UMC for CONVO 2016. This is a gathering of youth and adults from all over our Pacific Northwest Conference. We spent the weekend attending awesome Rallies with lots of singing and a keynote speaker, small groups where we had the chance to play games, discuss what the speaker had shared with us and get to know youth our own age from all over the conference, ate lots of good food, and had local church time when we got to sing, share high points of the day and play games with our own group. Thanks for your support in sending us to CONVO, it was an AWE-SOME weekend!

Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt—March 26 at 10 a.m.

We are once again helping to host a Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt for the children of our community. Last year we hosted this event at our church and I appreciated all of the help that I received. This year we will be at the Presbyterian Church, but I can still use help! Here are the ways that you can help out with this special event...

1. Donate small wrapped candies that can be placed in the plastic eggs.
2. When the bags of plastic eggs are in the Narthex, you can take a bag home to fill.
3. Watch for dates and times of "Egg Stuffing Parties" and join us for all the fun.
4. Volunteer on the day of the Egg Hunt! We will need egg distributors (they aren't really hidden) at 8 am that morning. We will also need Easter Egg Guards (so no one starts hunting early), people to help with face painting, the "Tossing Game" room, and watching the "Bubbles & Chalk" station outside.

Volunteers on the day of the event will need to be there at 9 am for a volunteer meeting and prayer and will be on duty until about 11:30 am. Sign-up sheets will be on the bulletin board in the Narthex or you can talk with Lori Flores. Thank you for supporting this event. It is a wonderful way for our churches to show that can work together to share the joy of Easter.

AN UPDATE ON OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council held their third meeting on Saturday, February 6th. The Council is composed of Chris Satterlund, Doug Rindal, Wylie Keeler, Gary Isham, Blair Hoey, Lynnette Gerhard, Ron Erickson, Barbara del Bosque, and Pastor Dan Breznau. All were present except Doug Rindal.

We began with prayer and devotions based on the Biblical story of Peter attempting to walk on the water. It was a good reminder of the importance of keeping our focus on Jesus Christ.

As we were starting a new year with this new form of administration (single board governance), we felt it was important to meet with our District Superintendent, Daniel Foster. He helped us understand how our local church fits into the bigger picture of our district, conference, and even the world-wide body of the Methodist Church. We learned more about the upcoming General Conference, which meets once every four years, and will be in Portland, OR this summer. We appreciated Daniel Foster making himself available to answer many of our questions.

We next met with a couple who had applied for our new music director position. Nothing was decided at this point, but we did receive an update from the subcommittee that was doing the search. This group is composed of Lynnette Gerhard (from our Church Council, our Staff Parish Relations team, and a member of the choir), Ron Erickson (who has done staff searches as a school superintendent and has a music background), and Kay Martin (whose job experience has been in the Human Relations field). We expressed our appreciation to them for the excellent job they were doing. We again agreed to a three year commitment to this new music focus, recognizing that it will take time to fully develop the concept for this new position. During this time, the position will be funded from the Endowment Fund. The decision to move in this direction was prompted by the congregation's overwhelmingly positive response to the survey regarding the importance of music in their worship experience and in their personal spirituality.

Recognizing that there no longer is a Nominating Committee, it was decided that Blair Hoey, working with Barbara Jackson and Kay Martin, would begin to contact people to work on some of the many teams, such as Trustees, Finance, SPRC, etc. Some teams are short-term commitments, while others are for longer periods. A board has been set up in the Narthex showing some of the opportunities for people to join a team.

We discussed a possible future workshop with the author of the book on single board governance, now that we are far enough into the process to know what questions we need to be asking. We also talked about possible resources/workshops available to help us be more strategic and successful in evangelism and "marketing" our church.

We then worked on several issues presented from different teams: Trustees (the need for fire alarms to cover the entire church, and the need for a fire suppression system in the hood above the new kitchen stove), SPR (organist Sue Rindal will be retiring the end of May), and Finance (the proposed 2016 budget). We discussed the role of the laity in all things across the church. We stressed the importance of remembering and repeating our mission statement.

The Church Council will next meet on Saturday, February 27th.

New Church Directory

The new Church Directory is finished! If you want a copy, stop by the church to pick one up. They are on a table in the narthex. The church office is open 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Mon – Fri. Even though we checked and rechecked, there are some corrections which are listed below. Be sure to check your copy and note the changes. I'll try to keep you updated as changes in contact information are shared with the office.

Blessings,
Sue Erickson, secretary

Add - Bintliff, Jean; 227 S 30th Pl, Mount Vernon, WA 98274 phone: 360-424-9291

Gerhard, Rev. Dan & Lynnette – add Lynnette cell: 360-421-3355

Holmstrom, Mary – correct phone number: 360-708-0048

Johnson, Sterling – correct home phone: 360-629-6297, correct cell: 206-459-7954

Matson, David & Cindy – new emails and cell phone numbers, no home phone
davidandcindy25@aol.com for both David and Cindy
David cell: 425-971-0075
Cindy cell: 425-750-3482

Rabenstein, Randy and Lynn – no home phone, Lynn's email lynnrabenstein@hotmail.com,
add Lynn's cell: 360-770-8171

Curry, Elinor – new mailing address: Elinor Curry, La Conner Retirement Inn, PO Box 1087, La Conner, WA 98257. Her physical address is as written in the directory.

Hagan, Kevin - The correct spelling of his last name is "Hagan" not Hagen.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Our young people had a great time serving up cinnamon rolls between the services and raised \$313.00 for the Neighbors in Need Food Bank! This is a nation-wide event run by young people that this year involved 6083 groups that collected \$9,544,457.00 in cash and food donations for local charities. Thanks for your support!

Holy Week at MVFUMC

We hope that you have picked up some of the Lenten Devotional materials that were on the table in the Narthex and have been reading them throughout the Lenten season. It is particularly appropriate to devote extra time during Holy Week to reading of the scriptures, devotional materials and prayer. Here is a list of special events happening during Holy Week at MVFUMC.

Palm Sunday, March 20th

Join us as we have our traditional Palm Parade during both of our morning worship services.

Good Friday, March 25th

The Sanctuary will be open for prayer from 9:30 am to 3 pm and devotional materials will be available. We will have our traditional Good Friday service at noon led by Pastor Dan.

Easter Sunday Schedule, March 27th

He is Risen!

8:30 am – 9:30 am Breakfast served in Sprague Hall
9:15 am – Kids Gather with Gary (Sunday School Classroom)
9:30 am Sunday School
10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt for the Children & Youth
10:30 am Easter Celebration Worship

We will also have some **Family Promise families staying in the church from Palm Sunday evening through Easter Sunday morning. If you would like to help by staying overnight or making a meal, please contact Carolyn Gregg.

Scout Sunday

We will be celebrating Scout Sunday for both Boy & Girl Scouts on Sunday, Mar. 13th at the 10:30 am worship services. We will have some of the Girl Scout troops that meet in our church visiting that morning along with scouts from our own congregation. Be sure to warmly welcome these young people and their families. (There may even be Girl Scout cookies for sale at coffee hour time!)

We are looking for a reliable vehicle for transportation around town. If you have one, or know of one that is for sale, please contact Pastor Dan or Denise (509) 670-4694.

Baby Shower – March 6

You are invited to a shower for a baby boy, expected by Zenorina, one of the women in our Hispanic Ministry. We will gather Sunday March 6 at 2:00 PM in the Rees Room. Zenorina has two daughters, Ashley and Jessica, who are both school age and she disposed of all her baby things. She needs equipment and clothing for this little boy who will join the family in March. For more information, please contact Carolyn Gregg at 424-7453 or cgregg@valleyint.com or Zulma Tifre [206-418-9478](tel:206-418-9478) or zulmasauceda@hotmail.com.

Joint Baby Shower - Sunday, April 17 at Noon

For: Lisa (del Bosque) La Rocque **and** Jacinda (Matson) Herring

Salad potluck luncheon following the church service in Sprague Hall.

Lisa is expecting a boy. She and Wes are registered at [Target](#) and [Amazon.com](#).

Jacinda & Jonah won't know the status of baby until birth. They are registered at <http://babyli.st/jacinda-herring> or Google 'Baby List Baby Registry' and enter Jacinda Herring.

Open to all who would like to attend.

Faith in Action

The Diaper Drive for low-income families is going very well! As of Sunday, February 21st, we have collected 1,254 diapers in sizes for babies from three months to four years old. We still need your help in gathering them, though! If you would like to contribute, but are uncertain of what type or size to buy, or would simply rather not go to the store, you can write a check with 'Diaper Drive' on the memo line; the funds will be used to buy the best-quality diapers at lowest cost possible. Thank you for supporting these babies!

You may have noticed the article in the Skagit Valley Herald (on February 19th) about our Sleeping Mat project. After it was published, we received well over a dozen visits, calls, and emails from people interested in the project, from as far away as North Dakota and Michigan. We also received a lot of bags! If you would be willing to help sort and/or cut the bags for use in the project, please contact Linda Allen (360-416-6621; allen196811@frontier.com). If you did not get a chance to see the article but would like to, it is posted on the Faith in Action bulletin board in the narthex.

March Senior Ministry Meeting

We will meet on Sunday, March 20th, following the 10:30 am worship service. We have been very fortunate to line up a guest speaker from Life Care Center's Physical Therapy Department to come and talk to us about "Fall Prevention". This is a topic of great concern for seniors. The good news is that there are things we can do to prevent falls! Because we have a guest speaker, we are hoping for a good turnout for this presentation. So grab a cup of coffee and maybe a cookie, and come on down to the Rees Room for an hour gathering. See you March 20th!

P.S. On Sunday, February 21st, 10 of us went out for lunch together to the Royal Star Buffet. A great time was had by all. Our next lunch out will be in April.

Our New Director of Music Ministry—Diane Figaro

I am very excited to be your new Director of Music Ministry! I look forward to helping bring vitality to worship through inspiring, healing, and welcoming music. I have loved directing children's, youth, and adult church choirs, and I include a variety of styles, such as classical, contemporary, Gospel, and music in many languages. A resident of the Puget Sound Region for 22 years, I have advanced degrees in piano and ethnomusicology, and a PhD in musicology from the University of Illinois.

My husband Rodney, our daughter Sarah (9 years old), and I look forward to getting to know your church community. Rodney (a tenor) works as a Security Guard at the University of Washington as well as lots of sporting events. Sarah attends 3rd grade, and she is a budding actress, singer, and dancer. As a family, we enjoy participating in YMCA activities and singing in many groups.

We'll see you soon!



UMCOR Health Kits

The United Methodist Women are preparing to put together some Health Kits for UMCOR to distribute. Because of the ways that these kits are distributed around the world, they are very particular about the size and type of items that are placed in each kit. We would love for our church family to help us in this project by donating items for the kits. Here is a list of items needed:

Hand towels – 15"x25" to 17"x27" in size

Wash cloths

Combs – comb needs to be sturdy plastic and longer than 6 inches in size

Metal nail files or clippers – no emery boards please

Bath-size soap bars – 3 oz or larger sizes, no Ivory or Jergens due to moisture content, do not remove from original packaging.

Adhesive bandages – ¾" to 1" size, common Band-Aid size

If you would like to help put these kits together, contact Donna Perez or Sue Monty to find out date and time for packing party. Thank you for your support!

MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

- 3/1 Isaac Latulippe
- 3/2 Zulma Tifre
- 3/3 Donna Perez
- 3/5 Gary Thompson
Jean Bintliff
- 3/6 Linda Allen
Carol Turnbull
- 3/7 Shirley Mayer
- 3/9 Brandon Hansen
- 3/10 Cheyenne Golliver
- 3/12 Ezra Almvig
Sara Pirkle
- 3/13 Ron Fisher
Anna Hansen
Tim Miller
- 3/14 Susan Edwards
Maggie Krienen
- 3/15 Chris Minor
- 3/18 Erik Eliason
Adriana Flores
- 3/20 Deene Almvig
Jody Holmes
Andrew Wall
Vanita Peter
- 3/22 Rosie Gates-Malone
- 3/25 Harriet Lundquist
Shirley Yengich

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<p>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</p>		<p>1 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Bell Trio 6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>2 10 am Outreach Mtg. 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>3 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 1 pm Staff Mtg. 3 pm Disciple Class</p>		
<p>6 Holy Communion 2 pm Hispanic Ministries Baby Shower</p>	<p>7 1:30 pm Lenten Bible Study</p>	<p>8 1:30 pm Bell Trio 6:30 pm NAMI</p>	<p>9 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Finance Mtg.</p>	<p>10 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 1 pm Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 Scout Sunday 4 pm SVUM Youth</p>	<p>14 10 am UMW Exec. Brd. 1:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band</p>	<p>15 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Bell Trio 6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>16 10 am Crafters Group 12 pm UMW Lunch & Program 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg. 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 1 pm Staff Mtg.</p>	<p>18 10 am Hispanic Minis- tries Meeting</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 Palm Sunday 12 pm Senior Ministries Gathering 5:30 pm Family Promise Families ar- rive for the week</p>	<p>21 1:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 1:30 pm Wesleyan Cir- cle 3 pm Open Door Com- munity Kitchen (SW)</p>	<p>22 1:30 pm Bell Trio</p>	<p>23 10 am Outreach Mtg. 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24 Maundy Thursday 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 1 pm Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>25 Good Friday 9:30 am—3 pm Sanctu- ary open for prayer 12 pm Good Friday Worship Service</p>	<p>26 10 am Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt at MV Presbyterian Church— see article</p>
<p>27 Happy Easter 8:30 am Easter Breakfast 9:15 Kids Gather w/ Gary 9:30 am Sunday School 10 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 am Easter Celebration Worship</p>	<p>28 9 am Newsletter mailing 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band</p>	<p>29 1:30 pm Bell Trio</p>	<p>30 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>31 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 1 pm Staff Mtg.</p>		

ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 3/18 Steve and Jane Olson
- 3/21 Jess and Barbara del
Bosque
- 3/21 Myron and Becky Ayers
- 3/24 Geoff & Diane Almvig

