

Mount Vernon First
United Methodist Church

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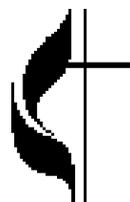


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The Methodist Greeter

MARCH 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



Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

-1 Corinthians 13:7

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Dan Breznau

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

March 1

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
March 8:31-38

March 8

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 15

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 22

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalms 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 29

Palm Sunday
Liturgy of the Palms
Mark 11:1-11
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4-9
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 15:1-39

March 30

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

Greetings:

Are you ready to make a journey? Some may not be ready, but for those that are, get your bags packed – it's time. What do you need to take with you? Where are you going? How long? Are you willing to miss some events while you are gone? Like any trip, some are better than others: however, preparation is often a key element. The journey I am speaking of is into the presence of God; or if you will, a walk with Jesus. The length will be forty days, the cost is your time and some labor, but the destination is priceless. You don't have to do it alone either, for Lent is the churches' way to take an annual pilgrimage or journey for all of us.

I have to warn you that as important as the destination is, the journey changes you too! It can be as startling as discovering that the world is not flat - when everyone else is convinced it is. So how do we begin? You have to intentionally make space in your life for the awareness of God's presence. 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; alternately, it might mean possibly fasting from food (so you get hungry for God) or putting up your mobile device for a time.

Now here is the "doing" part: intentionally enter into *acts of mercy and acts of spirituality*. An act of mercy is simply an expression of care for those around you. As you do these acts, remind yourself that you are not only serving others, but are being given the opportunity to serve Christ and experience God's grace in serving others. The compassion with which we offer our service is a reflection of God's love for us! Think about that for forty days! You won't be the same by the end.

In regard to acts of spirituality, I have five acts particularly in mind that stem from our Methodist roots. The first is prayer. Perhaps you pray a lot, or not at all. Now is the time to ask God help you to grow in it. For those that don't pray much perhaps a simple "thank you," at meals would be a great start. For those that are accustomed to praying. We have some great devotional material available at the church. Secondly, find a passage of scripture that seems to speak to you. Wake up each morning and spend time with it, and ask God to enlighten you through it. Don't pick a passage that is too long or seems to be confusing to you. Thirdly, be here for Communion Sunday, entering into the mystery of God's presence through this sacrament can be transformative. Fourth, you are already doing - taking time. Fifth, and finally, if something uplifts your spirit through this process, tell somebody about it.

Happy Trails,

Pastor Dan

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

FINANCIAL REPORT
January, 2015

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$14,836.53	\$21,869.70
Special Account	\$ 426.80	\$ 1,916.00
Memorial Account	\$ 515.00	\$ 150.00

As you can see, we spent more than we took in during the month of January. We were still able to pay all of our bills and our Conference apportionments for this month. If you have any questions regarding any financial matters, please feel free to contact any of the members of our Finance committee: Lori Flores, Wylie Keeler, Doreen Nystrom, Barbara del Bosque or Pastor Dan Breznau. Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of the church.

Game Night

Please join us for Game Night on Friday, March 6th at 6:30 pm. We will gather in Sprague Hall for a snack food potluck (feel free to bring your favorite snack with you!) and games. We have some games already, but if you have a favorite board game... please feel free to bring it along with you! This event is for ALL ages! Hope to see you there!

Scout Sunday, March 8th

We will be celebrating both Boy & Girl Scouts on this Sunday during the 10:30 am worship service. If you are a former scout and have a special pin, medal, etc. that you would like to wear that morning... please do! We will also recognize other groups that support our youth... 4-H, Camp Fire, etc.

Girl's Fellowship

Our next event will be on Sunday, March 15th following the 10:30 am worship service. We will be traveling to the Fidalgo Pool in Anacortes for some swimming fun! Bring your sack lunch to church and we will leave after we have eaten. This event is open to girls from 1st grade through 5th grade. Please RSVP to Lori in the office so that we have enough room in our carpools.

March Madness Potluck!

A group of folks here at the church have decided that we would like to sponsor a potluck each month to help us all know each other a little bit better. Our first all church potluck will be on Sunday, March 15th at 5 pm. Please bring a potluck dish to share, a hot dish and/or salad... dessert will be provided. The "theme" of the evening is a surprise... so you will have to pay close attention to the announcements during worship for clues! If you would like a ride to this event, please contact the church office and we will find a ride for you! Hope to see you ALL there!

Skagit Valley United Methodist Youth Group
Lori Flores

We continue to meet with this newly formed group of young people from several Skagit Valley UM churches. Our regular meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month and we meet at various locations. There are regularly 6 or 7 youth from our church and often another 5 to 8 youth from other area UM churches. My thanks to Pastor Cody Natland and Jill Bailey of Bayview UMC and Kathleen Cox & Amy Gainza of Anacortes UMC that have helped me to plan and implement the meetings and activities that we have been able to do in recent months. We are looking forward to taking part in CONVO over the Memorial Day weekend and perhaps doing a mission trip this summer. Thanks so much for all of your support of our youth and their activities!

PS: Check out the article on our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on-line at <http://inm.greaternw.org/> "Shrove Tuesday in Skagit Valley"

EASTER BEGONIAS

Easter is April 5th so it's time to order Rieger begonias to place in our sanctuary and narthex. If you purchase one or more of the flowers, they may be taken home after the Easter Sunday service. The cost of each plant is \$9.50 including tax. Please fill in the order blank below and with your check made out to First United Methodist Church and marked "Easter begonia/s" place it in the offering plate, mail to or bring to the church office.

Orders MUST be into the church office no later than SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd.

Enclosed is \$_____ in payment of my order for _____ Rieger begonia plant(s) for use in the Easter service at First United Methodist Church.

Your name _____

The begonia(s) should be listed in the bulletin insert as follows:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

or presented to the glory of God _____.



UMW NEWS Calling All Women!

All members of the congregation are invited to join us for our March program with our guest presenter, Stacy Miller!

Our next luncheon will be on **Wednesday, March 18** at Noon in Sprague Hall. **Stacy Miller**, Executive Director for Skagit Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services will be the guest presenter at our meeting. She will share about the mission of the organization and talk about the work that they do in our community. The program will begin at **1 p.m.** following lunch.



Living our Faith, Reflecting God's Love through Service

Every month we will highlight a special volunteer from our Church. **Irene Williams:** Irene volunteers at Skagit Valley Hospital each week, greeting patients in the Day Surgery area. With her gracious greeting and friendly smile, she helps relieve the anxiety of patients checking in for surgery. For many years Irene picked up eggs every week from Dynes Farm in Burlington and delivered them to Friendship House, helping to feed the hungry. She has been an active member of our church for 65 years, and an active member of Out Reach and United Methodist Women.

There are many ways for everyone to get involved in meaningful activities each week, both inside and outside the church. Our members support a wide variety of ministries, both locally and globally. If you are interested in volunteering or would like help finding your special spot, to share your talents, please contact the Church office, and we will help you get connected.



A Note from the Worship Committee

The Worship Committee would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt "Thank You" to Betty Jean Currington, Sue Kelder, and Lois Yale for contributing their personal, family heirloom, and special friends quilts to be displayed in Sprague Hall for the past four months.

Replacement quilts now on display are family heirloom and personal handmade quilts generously contributed by Linda and Rich Allen. They will remain to beautify Sprague Hall walls for the next three months.

Should you have quilts or textiles that you would like to contribute to this project for a future three month display please contact Tamil Cass at 336-3672.



Looking Ahead to Easter!

Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt- Saturday, April 4th at 10 am – HERE!

Last year we joined together with the MV Presbyterian Church, Trinity Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church to sponsor a Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt... it was great fun and this year the event will be at our church! We are looking for donations of candy (or money to purchase candy) as we will be filling approximately 2000 eggs. We will also be looking for volunteers to help us put out eggs that morning, Easter Egg guards (so that no one hunts early), and folks to help at the different activities that will take place inside the church. Last year this was a wonderful event and a wonderful way for the churches to work together! Contact Lori if you can help or have any questions. Thank You!



A Story from the Quilters

Periodically, the Quilters receive a special story about the quilts that they make for Hospice patients. They tug at our heart strings. Here's the latest:

"Dear Bonnie and quilters, I wanted to personally share a story of love and gratitude involving your quilts. We recently had a young mother pass away with 3 small children, a very poor family. On the day she died, we brought 3 of your quilts, one for each child. I suggested we wrap her in them, so the children could cuddle with the smell of her on those blankets. Her mother placed each blanket on her, one by one, and we agreed that her love would pass into them. She died peacefully that same day. Her husband stated that he would make sure that the children would always remember the story of the quilts that day. Blessings to you all, Danah, Gordon, Ann, Jenny and Betty, North Hospice Team"



LET'S TRY AGAIN!

Our Senior Ministry January meeting was a "comedy of errors." Our guest speaker got the date wrong, and I usually call the Friday before to confirm with a scheduled speaker, and I forgot. We both feel terrible, but agreed we would try again in March! So on Sunday, March 15th, Astrid Aamot will speak to us about information folks need and discussions that should take place before you make any decisions about changes in your housing. This information should also be helpful to family & friends of someone considering moving into senior housing, assisted living or other options. Please join us down in the Rees Room after the 10:30 worship service. We will have special St. Patrick's Day goodies, too!



A Thank You Note from Sharon Minor

We are having a wonderful year babysitting for MOPS children each 1st and 3rd Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11:30am. I want to thank **ALL** of our babysitters - some have been babysitting, each week, for several years. Sue Fisher and daughter, Carrie, Janice Lisherness and daughter, Carleen, Judy Jerman, Linda and Dennis Jones, Karen Hoey, Anne Thompson, Rich Allen, Marjorie Mandery, Linda Steiner, Sue Erickson, and myself. If you have a desire to come cuddle a baby or toddler a couple of times a month--come join us!! Thanks to all of our volunteers!

MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

- 3/1 Isaac Latulippe
- 3/3 Donna Perez
- 3/5 Fred Reed
Gary Thompson
- 3/6 Linda Allen
Carol Turnbull
- 3/9 Brandon Hansen
- 3/10 Cheyenne Golliver
Chelsy Pederson
- 3/12 Ezra Almvig
Sara Pirkle
- 3/13 Ron Fisher
Anna Hansen
Tim Miller
- 3/14 Maggie Krienen
- 3/15 Chris Minor
- 3/16 Elizabeth Linderman
- 3/18 Erik Eliason
Adriana Flores
- 3/20 Deene Almvig
Jody Holmes
Kristin LeGro
Andrew Wall
- 3/22 Rosie Gates-Malone
- 3/25 Harriet Lundquist

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Worship 9:15 am Kids Gather w/Gary & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	2 10:30 am Bell Trio	3 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm Disciple Study	4 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	5 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 10 am Women's Bible Study 2 pm Staff Meeting	6 6:30 pm Game Night (Sprague Hall)	7 9 am to 3 pm UMW District Leadership Development Mtg (Sprague Hall, Sanctuary & Classrooms)
8 Scout Sunday See Sunday Schedule 9:15 Lenten Study 2 pm Hispanic Ministries 4 pm SVUM Youth Group	9 10:30 am Bell Trio 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band (Rees Room)	10 1:30 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm Disciple Study	11 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	12 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 10 am Women's Bible Study 2 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Girl Scouts	13	14
15 See Sunday Schedule 9:15 Lenten Study 12 pm Senior Ministries (Rees Room) 12 pm Girl's Fellowship Swim Trip 5 pm March Madness Potluck Dinner!	16 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 am UMW Exec Mtg. (Conf Room) 10:30 am Bell Trio 1:30 pm Wesleyan Circle	17 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Lenten Study	18 10 am Crafters 12 pm UMW Lunch & program 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	19 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 10 am Women's Bible Study 2 pm Staff Meeting	20	21
22 See Sunday Schedule 9:15 Lenten Study 2 pm Hispanic Ministries 4 pm SVUM Youth Group	23 10:30 am Bell Trio 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band (Rees Room) 3 pm Open Door Community Kitchen (Central UMC)	24 10 am Worship (Conf Rm) 1:30 pm Lenten Study	25 10 am Outreach (Conf Rm) 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	26 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 10 am Women's Bible Study 2 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Girl Scouts	27 1 pm Care & Hospitality Meeting	28
29 Palm Sunday See Sunday Schedule 9:15 Lenten Study	30 10:30 am Bell Trio	31 1:30 pm Lenten Study				

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

