

Mount Vernon First
United Methodist Church

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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

The Methodist Greeter

MARCH 2017



"Our mission as a congregation is to strengthen
our personal and group relationship with Christ
and to reach out to other people."

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.

EASTER BEGONIAS

Once again, our congregation has the opportunity to purchase Rieger begonias to be placed in the sanctuary and narthex for Easter. 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.

To order, 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, April 2nd.

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 _____.

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](http://Target.com) 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.

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](tel:509-670-4694).

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

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

