

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

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

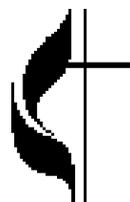


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The Methodist Greeter

NOVEMBER 2016



"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



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

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Terry Hall

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

November 6

Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

November 13

Isaiah 65:17-25
Isaiah 12 or Psalm 118
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

November 20

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Luke 1:68-79
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

November 27

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

What's it all about?

First, I really want to offer my thanks to God and several people for the amazing things I have witnessed in the past month around the church. It was such a delight to have the privilege of baptizing **Mack Yost Neidzweski** and receiving his parents, **Elizabeth Yost Neidzweski** and **Nicolas (Nick) John Neidzweski** as members! The joy of that service was further expanded by the presence of both sets of grandparents. Thanks go to all who participated in the service, especially Lori Flores, who, as our Children, Youth and Family Coordinator, assisted in the rite of baptism and membership, and to Barbara Hendrickson, of our Membership Team, for getting the cakes for Fellowship Time after the service. I also want to thank and congratulate Kay Martin and the amazing team who worked with her to plan the Ministry Fair and the many, many people who supported that effort by setting up and/or staffing tables that morning. Were you as surprised and delighted as I was by the wide array and extraordinary number of ministries being accomplished by the people of this congregation? Our worship alone depends on the dedication of not only several staff members, but volunteer ministers who schedule Liturgists (readers), provide and set up communion, make sure we have ushers, acolytes (candle lighters), and greeters, and folks who fill those positions!

I heard stories from so many people over the weeks of preparation about how they continually find themselves energized and lifted up through their volunteer activities. Those stories reminded me of how Dennie and I, while in our very first appointment to a two point charge (2 churches) in Iowa, would take communion out to homebound folks. Nearly always, it was hard to leave our home to start the circuit of visits, knowing we'd had a full morning and this task would take us well into the evening. But every single time we returned to the parsonage revitalized and refilled by the time we spent with folks talking around kitchen tables or in living rooms, hospital rooms, nursing homes – wherever the people were at that moment in their lives. That is just how it works – when God is at the center of our interactions, everyone involved benefits! Thanks be to God!

Pastor Terry



FINANCIAL REPORT
September, 2016

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$25,891.95	\$24,842.95
Special Account	\$28,909.64	\$ 6,037.83
Memorials	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,222.00

Thank you to all who have supported the ministries of our church. We were able to pay all of our bills and our Conference Apportionments this month.

You will soon be receiving a letter from Pastor Terry and the Finance committee along with a pledge card for 2017. We are asking each of you to consider how you can faithfully participate in the life of this church through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness. We are hoping to receive the pledge cards on November 20th, Dedication Sunday. Thank you again for your continued support of our church.

All Saints Day Celebration – October 30

We will celebrate All Saints day on the final Sunday of October, during both services. You are invited to bring a photo of anyone you would like to name that morning as a saint in your life who has passed on, especially (but not exclusively) in the past year. During the services, there will be an opportunity to come forward and name the person/people, and share one or two words that describe your relationship or that person's gift to you.

Methodism 101

Pastor Terry will be offering a 4-session class for newcomers and any who want to know more about the history of our denomination and Mt. Vernon First UMC, including how we are structured to accomplish our ministry together locally and globally. It will open with 2 sessions on the Wesley family, especially John, and their role in birthing this movement in the 1700's, followed by one gathering to explore the organization of the denomination, with some time to share about the ongoing movement to rethink and reorganize how we go about our shared ministry here. The final session will focus on some highlights from the history of this congregation, as seen through some of our historical documents and the direct experience of a few of our long-term members.

All-Church Potluck and Singspiration

This winter we are holding our All-Church potlucks on the first Sunday of the month. It will be this coming Sunday, November 6 at 5:00 p.m. The theme will be Giving Thanks to God through song and we will have a singspiration in the Fireside room after dinner. This is a great time of sharing food and fellowship with each other. Everyone is encouraged to join us.

Family Promise

Our next (7th) turn to host families who are working to establish homes in the valley is November 13 through November 20. Carolyn Gregg is again looking for volunteers to: prepare and serve dinner, interact with guests for 2 hours in the evening, sleep overnight, prepare weekend breakfast, or wash a big basket of laundry. You can contact her at (360) 424 7453, (360) 391 0288, or cgregg@valleyint.com. Together we can help these children and their parents secure a place of their own!

Join the Chancel Choir for the Candlelight Christmas Service

You are invited to sign-up and sing! All are welcome.

Rehearsals:

Sat, Nov 12, 1-4pm

Wednesday nights, starting Nov 16

Performance:

Sun, Dec 18, 4pm

Come to rehearsal or contact:

Diane, 206-271-5117, dfigaro@mvfumc.org



Candlelight Christmas Service
Sunday, Dec 18, 4pm
 Join us for this annual event!

Featuring:

Handbell Choir	Handbell Trio
Chancel Choir	Organ Music
Guest Musicians	Children's Choir
Christmas Story	Carols
Candlelight	"Silent Night"

Followed by church potluck

For several years, it has been our tradition to compile a booklet of Advent Devotionals that can be used by our church members (and their friends!) during the Advent season. Each page has a scripture reading for that day along with a short writing by one of our church friends. These writings can be a reflection of that particular scripture, or maybe a special memory goes along with that particular date, or maybe you just have a very special Christmas memory that you would like to share with your church family. There will be a large bulletin board display in the Narthex which will look something like a calendar. If you would like to write a devotional... 1) pick a date, 2) take the scripture reading for that day off of the bulletin board and 3) put a sticky note in that calendar square with your name on it (so Lori knows someone has taken that day). Lori would love to have all the writings turned in to her by Nov. 14th so that she can get the booklets put together before the Advent season begins. Thank you for taking part in this special project!

Sleeping Mat Project

Tuesday, November 8, 2016 @ 1pm	First United Methodist Church	Mount Vernon
Wednesday, November 9, 2016 @ 6:30pm	St. Charles Catholic Church	Burlington
Tuesday, November 22, 2016 @ 1pm	First United Methodist Church	Mount Vernon
Tuesday, December 13, 2016 @ 1pm	First United Methodist Church	Mount Vernon
Tuesday, December 27, 2016 @ 1pm	First United Methodist Church	Mount Vernon

Fabric Needed

Do you have extra cotton fabric that is taking up room in your closets? If so, the Quilters group at church could make it into some lovely quilts for Hospice patients. Donations are always welcome as well, as our supply of batting and backing fabric is running low. Fabric can be taken to the church office. Many thanks from the Quilters.

Calling All Bakers!!

The United Methodist Women's Annual Cookie Extravaganza is coming up on Saturday, Dec. 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to noon (or until we run out of cookies!). We are asking all of you folks that love to bake Christmas Cookies to consider making a few dozen cookies for our sale. This is our one big fundraiser for the year that funds our mission pledges.

If you don't like to bake at home alone... join us on Thursday, Dec. 1st at 1 p.m. (or whenever you can come) in the church kitchen when we do some major baking. This is always a fun time to get together and produce a lot of cookies for our sale. If you have any questions, please contact the church office

UMW Cookie Extravaganza!

Mark your calendars!! Dec. 3rd is the date for the annual UMW Cookie Extravaganza! Don't like to bake, but you would love a selection of delicious Christmas Cookies to serve to friends or give as gifts?? Come and purchase our wonderful cookies. Sale goes from 10 am to noon, but get here at 10 am for the best selection! Proceeds from this sale fund our United Methodist Women's mission budget.

Senior Ministries

The next meeting of our Senior Ministry will be Sunday, November 20th, following the 10:30 am worship service. Our topic will be "Seniors & Stress". Come learn about the causes of stress, how it manifests itself, and ways to cope with it. This should be a timely presentation, as the holiday season often can lead to additional stress for all of us. Grab a cup of coffee & a bite to eat from Sprague Hall following the 10:30 worship service, and then come on down to the Rees Room at the north end of the hall. Our meetings usually last about an hour. Your input is always welcome, and while the meetings are specifically oriented to appeal to seniors, everyone is welcome!

Fort Worden Weekend

Looking ahead to Fort Worden Weekend. Mark your calendars for a fun time - **November 10-13**. Regardless of the weather, we have a great time! We get the two large houses this year so there is space for everyone. It is over a holiday weekend so we will be able to stay 3 nights. Enjoy a ferry ride and spending time with your church family. Any questions - call Sharon Minor at 766-5202.

Annual Charge Conference Rescheduled to November 21

Our annual Charge Conference where we meet with our District Superintendent, Daniel Foster, will take place on **Monday, Nov 21** at 7 pm in the Rees Room. This is a meeting where we do the business of the church and celebrate the ministries that have gone on the prior year. We will also be taking some time to dream together about the future life of the church and its ministry. This meeting is open to all people and we hope that you will join us!

Skagit Valley United Methodist Youth Group

Our Skagit Valley UM Youth kicked off the fall season with a Video Scavenger Hunt in Anacortes along with youth and leaders from the Anacortes UMC. We had lots of fun and time for team building. Our next gathering was here at MVFUMC and we had the opportunity to talk about what types of activities, service projects and faith talks the youth would like in the upcoming year.

Our first service project will be working along with the Bayview church in hosting the Halloween Party at the Bayview Community Center. We will be decorating and setting up games on Oct. 30th from 5 pm to 7 pm and then the youth will have the opportunity to help out at the party on Oct. 31st.

This group is open to all youth in the 6th through the 12th grade. If you know someone that might like to be a part of this group, please contact Lori in the church office.



NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 11/04 Chris Satterlund
Marion Larsen
- 11/06 Laurie Anderson
- 11/07 Ben Dunlap
Emily Stewart
- 11/08 Diana Barber
Carole Reynolds
- 11/09 Darnell Burress
Isabel Neblett
- 11/10 Bob Olsen
- 11/11 Wylie Keeler
Nancy Edwards
Shelby Schlittler
- 11/12 Chris Flores
- 11/13 Skye Golliver
Peighton Walz
- 11/16 Shauna Flores
- 11/18 Beni Garcia
- 11/20 Colin Sands
- 11/22 Carleen Sheahan
- 11/23 Chuck Jerman
- 11/26 Ruth Downes
- 11/27 Larry Freiman

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal	2 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	3 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Bell Choir	4	5
6 COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Hispanic Ministry 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	7 10:00 am Methodism 101 6:30 pm Methodism 101	8 12:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 3:30 pm Girl Scouts Troop #44345 6:30 pm NAMI	9 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	10 Ft. Worden Weekend 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Girl Scouts Troop #44129	11 Ft. Worden Weekend	12 Ft. Worden Weekend
13 Family Promise Ft. Worden Weekend 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Hispanic Ministry 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour 5:00 pm SVUM Youth Group	14 Family Promise 10:00 am UMW Executive Meeting 10:00 am Methodism 101 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 6:30 pm Methodism 101	15 Family Promise 9:30 am MOPS 12:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal	16 Family Promise 10:00 am Crafters 12:00 pm UMW Lunch & Mtg 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Girl Scouts Troop 42444	17 Family Promise 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 1:00 pm Trustees Mtg 6:30 pm Bell Choir	18 Family Promise	19 Family Promise 8:30 am Church Council
20 Family Promise 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Hispanic Ministry 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	21 10:00 am Methodism 101 1:30 pm Wesleyan Circle 7 pm Church Charge Conference	22 10:00 am Worship Support Team 12:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 3:30 pm Girl Scouts Troop #44345	23 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	24 THANKSGIVING DAY	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Hispanic Ministry 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour 5:00 pm SVUM Youth Group	28 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 3:00 pm Open Door Community Kitchen	29 12:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal	30 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir			

ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 11/8 Gene & Jessie Wiggins
- 11/9 David & Mary Beth Rubio
- 11/16 Roger and Kay Martin
- 11/21 Jeff and Keri Drayer
- 11/23 Dean and Dianne Ramsey
Doug and Sue Rindal
- 11/25 Wayne and Diann Smith
Ben & Kelli Walker
- 11/27 Dusty and Diana Barber

