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The Methodist Greeter

NOVEMBER 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

November 3
All Saints Sunday
John 6:1-14, 22-34, 41-42,
48-58

November 10
Philippians 2:1-18

November 17
John 2:1-12

November 24
Christ the King Sunday
Ephesians 1:1-14

Christianity as an 'inside out' lifestyle

"Our lives are a result of what we have become in the depths of our being—what we call our spirit, will, or heart. From there we see our world and interpret reality. From there we make choices, break forth into action, and try to change our world. That is why the greatest need of collective humanity is the renovation of our heart."

Dallas Willard and Jan Johnson, **Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice: Experiments in Spiritual Formation**, p. 15

The Bible reveals that our Creator measures and values on a different scale than we do, paying attention to very different factors and criteria. In fact, it is safe to say that 'reversal' is God's most common way of interacting with us. Think "the last shall be first" and remember how Jesus persistently chooses to spend his time not with religious leaders but outcasts. Adam and Eve 'fall from grace' but are clothed and watched over as they move from the protective, limiting space of the Garden into the larger world. In both the Old and New Testaments, faithful couples late in life are blessed with children (Abraham and Sara, Zechariah and Elizabeth). When God sends Samuel to find a replacement for Saul, it is the runt of the family, David, who is chosen, just as God chose a murderer to free the chosen people from their captivity in Egypt, perhaps freeing Moses in the process from his guilt and embarrassment over first looking the other way for years as he lived in the luxury of Pharaoh's family while his own people were abused as slaves and then killing a slave-driver in a moment of hot indignation. Just as significantly, we can trace the course of slow movement over millennia of shaping those chosen to be the Divine Demonstration Project toward an ever-deepening understanding of Who God Really Is and what 'right relationship' means and requires.

For Abraham, it seems the only real requirement was the readiness to go where he was sent, until that fateful moment when he was used to transform the meaning of child sacrifice from killing the child to giving one's life to bring children into healthy maturity. Rather than ending life, Abraham and the descendants of the Promise were called into the struggles of long-term, committed relationships, with all the heartaches of watching their children battle for positions of preference, believing any love shown to a sibling meant a lessening of the love remaining for them. Through victory and captivity, the people tried to figure out how to please their God, coming back again and again to the rulebooks that seemed to suggest a transactional relationship with God through which rewards could be purchased by shallow obedience to the letter of an ever-growing list of 'thou shalls' and 'thou shall nots.'



(continued next page)

(Pastor’s Corner continued)

And then came Jesus, who not only turned all those rules upside down but also tried again and again to draw attention away from external appearances to focus on internal transformation of the heart, soul and will. As Richard Rohr describes it, the move takes us away from the ‘cleaning up’ model of right relationship, in which the primary goal is getting others to live more morally pure lives by instituting punishments in the here and now and threatening eternal, conscious punishment in the life to come, to lives of ‘waking up’ to the joy, beauty and freedom from fear that results from changed hearts. Of course, when we are transformed within, others will notice changes in our behavior as well. Less a single-minded dedication to perfect living, and more joy, peace and an outward focus that considers how others are faring in life.

We still struggle, even with all the potential advantages of accumulated wisdom, to truly believe we are forgiven. Our religion too often still teaches a simplistic message that focuses more on the dangers of failing our God than encouraging a more complex, deeper and far more Christlike, joyful response to our salvation. Rather than making more and more space within the depths of our being for Christ to transform us, we fall back on the failed strategy of coercing others to submit to an understanding of the Bible as God’s rulebook rather than a long, deep love letter meant to wake up the very best of who we are created to be.

God’s rule, as Jesus so clearly states and demonstrates, is a ‘rule’ of love. May we commit ourselves more and more to the simple but challenging process of allowing the Spirit to work in and through us to enliven the Christness we each carry.

Pastor Terry

The Final Financial Quarter

Your financial team has been so grateful for your support in 2019. What a joy it was at our Annual All-Church Conference to be able to stand up and say that all our bills are paid, including our apportionments! From our general budget to a variety of special causes, our church has remained alive and vibrant. We understand that many of you have truly stepped up your giving, recognizing that our costs have gone up while our number of giving units has gone down. Thank you! We remain committed to being good stewards of your dollars given to the church.

We started the year with a healthy bank balance, as several pledgers give once a year in December (for tax reasons). This is always helpful, as we have some large bills, such as our insurance, that come due fairly early in the year. However, as you may have noticed, over the last couple of months our expenditures have exceeded our income. This means our bank balance has been slowly dwindling. In the past, we have sometimes resorted to a “13th month” of giving or some other means to finish out the year in the black. However, December is when many of us are already dealing with extra holiday expenses. Therefore, we are asking all of you to check that you are current with your pledged giving, and if possible, to dig a little deeper so we can finish the year on a sound financial basis.

Remember, while your dollars may be given to the church, it is really your response to a loving God who gives us all of life's blessings!

- - - Your Finance Team (Barbara del Bosque, Pastor Terry Hall, Lori Flores, Doreen Nystrom)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$16,774.84	\$23,688.05
Special Account	\$ 4,090.00	\$21,542.25
Memorials	\$ 0	\$ 0

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. We spent more than we took in during the month of September due to paying the final payment on our annual insurance premium. If you have any questions, please see Lori Flores

EWU Chi Alpha Ministry Update: from Maggie Kreinen



This is our EWU Chi Alpha staff team. From the left: Cassidy, Taylor, Karen, Mike and myself

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for all of your prayers, support and your encouragement this past summer. I truly appreciate you all, and I am so honored to have you as a part of my support team. For those of you who don’t know, I have now moved to Cheney, WA and I am now a campus missionary at Eastern Washington University. There are 5 of us full-time missionaries on staff with Chi Alpha.

We are just entering the fifth week of the quarter, and our group is growing steadily! Please continue to pray for the students we are discipling. Pray that our community continues to grow in unity, commitment and devotion to Christ. Could you also please pray specifically for my women’s core group Bible study? I would love prayer that the Lord leads me to specific women that want to grow in their relationship with Jesus and will provide a location in a residence hall for us to meet in.

Thank you so much for your support, your prayers, and for taking the time to read this to hear about what the Lord is doing in the lives of EWU students. I look forward to keeping you all updated about what the Lord is doing through our ministry!
Maggie Krienen

Hats, Hats, and More Hats!

A special **THANK YOU** to those who donated yarn to the ladies of FMVUMC, Reform Church, Mountain Glen and those special others who have knitted, crocheted and loomed hats for those in need. We have shared these hats with Cancer Treatment – 43; Sedro Woolley Community Kitchen – 28; Welcome Home – 245 hats and 12 scarfs; UMC – 20; Mountain Glen – 13 and Friendship House - 35 so far this year. (yes, that’s 384 hats to keep heads warm) **THANK YOU!**

Poinsettias for Advent and Christmas!



Once again we will be ordering vibrant red poinsettias from Safeway to grace our church from Dec. 8th through the Christmas Eve service. After that you are welcome to take home the flower/s that you have purchased.. Order forms may be found in the church office, on the "sign-in table" on Sundays or included with the weekly e-mails on-line.



Poinsettias for Advent and Christmas!

To order, please fill in this order blank; and, **ALONG WITH YOUR PAYMENT**, drop it into the offering plate or mail/bring it to the church office. Checks should be made out to the Mount Vernon First United Methodist Church and marked "poinsettia order." Each poinsettia costs \$10.50 (including tax.)
LAST DAY TO ORDER; NOV. 17TH

ORDER FORM;
Attached is \$_____ in payment of my order for _____poinsettia/s for use in the Advent/Christmas services.

Your name_____ Phone number_____
The poinsettia/s will be listed in a brochure as follows (please print):
In memory of:_____
In honor of:_____

Presented to the Glory of God.



Check Out This Awesome Playground Team!

Special thanks to Chris Flores, Donna Freiman, Leo and Katrina Rivas, Ellen Anderson and Mary Downing for our cleaned up playground. Thank you!! Job well done!!

Join us for a Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner!
Thursday, Nov. 28th eating at 1:00 pm

The Flores family is hosting a Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings here at the church this year. Chris will be cooking the turkey(s) and we would like to invite those coming to the dinner to bring a dish to share. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for you to write your name, how many are coming and what dish you would like to bring to share. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

UMW October Speaker

Our United Methodist Women were pleased to donate \$100 to Community Action of Skagit County (CASC) at the monthly luncheon on the third Wednesday of October. Liz Jennings spoke as Engagement Manager of CASC about resources they offer through their work as well as their connection with 160 agencies and churches across Skagit County. She also provided a brief history of the Community Action programs across the country, which began with involvement with civil rights activities legislation in support of the work of Martin Luther King and churches united for economic opportunity. CASC offers a number of programs in response to the needs of our local area, all of which rely on volunteer and financial support from the community at large. The community needs she discussed are clear, significant and immediate. Pastor Terry commented on Liz’ enthusiasm and the basic values we, as people of faith, share with Community Action. UMW learned ways to engage local, state and Federal agencies to advocate for funding and other forms of support to respond to a variety of needs. The UMW will be looking at how they can work with or in support of CASC to accomplish shared goals and areas of ministry focus.

UMW Cookie Extravaganza!

Mark your calendars! The annual UMW Cookie Extravaganza will be on Saturday, Dec. 7th from 10:00 a.m. to noon (or whenever we run out of cookies!). Come and purchase a delicious assortment of Christmas cookies to serve to friends, give as gifts, or just to enjoy yourself! Be there at 10:00 a.m. for the best selection. Proceeds from this sale fund our United Methodist Women’s mission budget.

Calling All Bakers!!

In order to have plenty of cookies for our sale... we are asking for your help! If baking is something that you enjoy doing, we would love for you to share that gift with us. Cookies can be brought to the church on December 6th or early Dec. 7th (between 8 am & 9 am) for the sale.



Join the Chancel Choir for the Candlelight Christmas Service

You are invited to sign-up and sing! All are welcome.
Rehearsals: 7:00 pm and maybe a couple of Saturday morning rehearsals in December
Performance:
Sunday, December 22
Come to rehearsal or contact:
Jung, 206-437-4762, tenorjang@gmail.com

STEPPING FORWARD IN FAITH

By now most, if not all, of you should have received a letter from your finance team about the stewardship drive for 2020 (if you haven't, please contact the church office at 360-424-3628). Included with that letter is a form for you to fill out. **BUT WAIT!** Before you fill it out (or put it aside or throw it out), here are a few things to consider:

As I wrote in the September newsletter (what??? You didn't read it??? You don't remember it??? Well, you're in luck, because I'm going to repeat it!) “Our church is truly at a crossroad. We can dwell on the negative (dear elderly members dying, mainline churches struggling, a world rocked by violence, political struggles, etc.). Or we can move forward, recognizing that this could be an exciting moment, with several new opportunities arising. We have a dedicated staff, and a wonderful laity group of committed volunteers. Your Church Council has been working to address the question of what is our vision for the next 5 – 10 years, and where do we feel God calling us to be in ministry here in Skagit County?”

If you are wondering why you need to pledge instead of just giving on a regular basis, imagine how hard it would be in your personal life if you had NO idea what your income was going to be! Pledges allow your finance team to estimate what dollars we are going to have to work with for 2020. Remember that a pledge is not a binding legal document. It is simply your estimate of what you hope to give to the church in the coming year. Any additional giving or gifts are a pleasant surprise (& always welcome!) In this modern world, we even have the option of using your credit card & auto pay.

How can you give money if you have no idea where that money is going to go and what motivates those numbers? We recognize that it may feel more rewarding to give to a special cause, like flood relief or diapers for needy children. However, if we don't keep the church functioning, none of that is possible. That is why we encourage everyone to attend one of these short meetings where finance questions will be answered and a proposed 2020 budget will be available:

- Monday, October 28th at 7:00 pm
 - Wednesday, October 30th at 2:00 pm
 - Sunday, November 3rd following the 10:30 worship, with a free potato feed luncheon
- We have purposely selected an evening, an afternoon, and a post-worship time, in the hopes that one of these will be convenient for everyone.

Finally, the most important part of a stewardship campaign is **PRAYER!** Before you fill out that form, please spend a few minutes thinking about all the ways the Lord has blessed you. He gives us everything, and only asks for a tenth (tithe) in return! He is counting on us to do his work here in this place, at this time. Take time to pray and then fill out your pledge form, keeping the top portion for your records, and turning the bottom portion in, by either dropping it in the offering plate or bringing/mailling it in to the office. November 17th will be Stewardship Sunday when we will celebrate your responses.

Let's truly **STEP FORWARD IN FAITH!**

Your Finance Team

A Note From Your Trustees

Recently there was a news report about the importance of closing doors. During a fire, a closed door can slow down the spread of a fire, allowing firefighters more time to respond and decreasing the potential damage and cost. Closed doors also cut down on the risk of smoke inhalation and thus the risk to humans of injury or death.

This is a serious problem for our church! While we have previously requested that **ALL** users of the church close interior doors if they are the last to leave a room, we continue to walk the halls all hours of the week and discover most doors open. Not only is this dangerous but it sometimes increases our heating costs. So as we head into the colder fall/winter months, we again ask you to please CLOSE the DOORS! Don't assume someone else will do it - - it is the responsibility of everyone of us!

Age with Grace Workshop

Join us Sunday, November 10 from 11:30—2:30 pm (lunch provided) as we explore how to “Age with Grace” and learn about options and resources. Dana Brothers, the Outreach and Communication Manager at Hospice of the Northwest is the guest speaker. Advanced Care Planning will be explained. Additional topics such as Aging in Place, The Legal Paperwork, Hospice Care and Home Health, After Death planning, and Grief and Loss will be covered. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.

BIRTHDAYS

11/04 Chris Satterlund
Marion Larsen

11/06 Leo Rivas

11/07 Ben Dunlap
Emily Stewart

11/08 Diana Barber

11/09 Darnell Burress
Isabel Neblett

11/10 Bob Olsen

11/11 Wylie Keeler
Nancy Edwards

11/12 Chris Flores
Barb Granger

11/16 Shauna Flores

11/20 Colin Sands

11/26 Ruth Downes

11/27 Larry Freiman

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 2:00 pm Engage Thru Tech - Girl Scouts	2 Engage Thru Tech - Girl Scouts
3 8:30 am Early Worship 9:15 am Genesis Bible Study 9:30 am Hispanic Ministry 9:30 am Little Church and Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Finance Info Meeting and Potato Feed 1:30 pm Greek Italy Girl Scouts	4 1:30 pm Congregational Care Team 2:30 pm BodyMindSpirit 5:00 pm NAMI Family to Family 6:30 pm Universal Christ Book Study	5 9:30 am MOPS 10:00 am Sisters of the Heart 1:30 pm Genesis Bible Study 1:30 pm Mountain Glen Bible Study 6:00 pm Boy Scouts & Den Meetings	6 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 11:30 am Universal Christ Book Study 2:30 pm BodyMindSpirit 5:00 pm NAMI Family to Family 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 42259 7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	8	9 8 am Church Council Meeting
10 8:30 am Early Worship 9:15 am Genesis Bible Study 9:30 am Hispanic Ministry 9:30 am Little Church and Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Age with Grace Workshop & Lunch	11 Veteran's Day Office Closed 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 2:30 pm BodyMindSpirit 6:30 pm Universal Christ Book Study	12 10:00 am Sisters of the Heart 1:30 pm Genesis Bible Study 1:30 pm Mountain Glen Bible Study 6:00 pm Scouts and Cubs Committee Meeting	13 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	14 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 11:30 am Universal Christ Book Study 2:30 pm BodyMindSpirit 7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 Dedication Sunday 8:30 am Early Worship 9:15 am Genesis Bible Study 9:30 am Hispanic Ministry 9:30 am Little Church and Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour	18 10:00 am UMW Executive Board Meeting 2:30 pm BodyMindSpirit 6:30 pm Universal Christ Book Study	19 9:30 am MOPS 10:00 am Sisters of the Heart 1:30 pm Genesis Bible Study 1:30 pm Mountain Glen Bible Study 6:00 pm Scouts and Cub Dens	20 12:00 pm UMW Luncheon and meeting 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 11:30 am Universal Christ Book Study 2:30 pm BodyMindSpirit 2:30 pm Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 42259 6:00 pm GS WW Leaders 7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 8:30 am Early Worship 9:15 am Genesis Bible Study 9:30 am Hispanic Ministry 9:30 am Little Church and Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour 11:45 am Youth Group 3:00 pm MOPS Friendsgiving	25 9:00 am Newsletter Mailing Day 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 2:30 pm BodyMindSpirit 6:30 pm Universal Christ Book Study	26 10:00 am MOPS Steering Team 10:00 am Sisters of the Heart 1:30 pm Genesis Bible Study 1:30 pm Mountain Glen Bible Study 6:00 pm Scout Pack Meeting	27 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28 Happy Thanksgiving 2:00 pm Church Family Thanksgiving Potluck 	29	30

ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

11/9 David & Mary Beth Rubio

11/16 Roger and Kay Martin

11/23 Doug and Sue Rindal

11/25 Wayne and Diann Smith
Ben & Kelli Walker

11/27 Dusty and Diana Barber

