

Mount Vernon First
United Methodist Church

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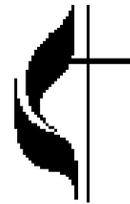


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The Methodist Greeter

OCTOBER 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



*I'm so glad to live in a world
where there are Octobers.*

-L.M. Montgomery

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

October 4

Job 1:1, 2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

October 11

Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

October 18

Job 38:1-7
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

October 25

Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34:1-8
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

Greetings,

I wish I was a vegetarian. Why? I recently viewed a program documenting resources needed to produce just one hamburger, and if the statistics are even close to being true, the amount of water and grain needed as well as the volume of greenhouse gases produced are staggering. Not only that, but other studies seem to indicate a relationship between meat intake and a variety of fatal diseases. However, I grew up eating meat and prefer the taste of it over salad or beans almost any day. It reminds me of what Paul said to the Romans,

¹⁷⁻²⁰ But I need something more! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time. (The Message Chapter 7)

I appreciate Paul's honesty. We all face internal struggles; yours might not be around meat but a variety of other temptations. In the process of this struggle we have the opportunity to learn about humility. We find that we need something beyond ourselves (the Spirit of God) to overcome the daily pulls and pushes. In addition, we find that we sometimes fail. It is in those moments that we can experience grace and forgiveness. The challenge is to not give up, to not become despairing or to no longer dream. God has a higher calling for all of us, and that call will take us beyond what we can accomplish on our own.

May God give you the strength to succeed in your calling,

Pastor Dan



FINANCIAL REPORT August, 2015

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$19,239.87	\$19,794.92
Special Account	\$ 1,348.23	\$ 1,673.19
Memorials	\$ 930.00	\$ 850.00

As you can see, we took in just slightly less than what we spent during the month of August. Below you will see a copy of the report that the Finance committee has shared in the weekly bulletin the last few weeks.

The Finance Committee met this recently and felt that there are some important pieces of information that we wanted to communicate with our church family.

-First of all, thank you for your continued support! We have been able to pay our monthly bills, staff wages and Conference Apportionments to date. When we challenged you last year to give a little extra on your pledge to help us to pay for a secretary... you did! Thank you!!

-Second, we have been able to use some of the interest money from our Endowment Fund to support some new and existing ministries. That money has been recently used in part to install the new T-Coil Hearing system in the Sanctuary, to pay the salary for our Faith in Action Coordinator, and to provide a Faith in Action Budget so that we can fund some new projects.

That being said, we are finding ourselves with a lower and lower amount of reserves at the end of each month, which causes us to worry about being able to continue paying all of our bills each month. Did you know that it takes approximately \$5075.00 per week to run our church and its ministries? We are encouraging our church family to prayerfully consider if you could give an additional 10% on your pledge. We feel that this would help us to be able to meet all of our obligations. If you have any questions regarding the Finances of the church, please talk with Wylie Keeler, Lori Flores, Barbara del Bosque, Doreen Nystrom or Pastor Dan. And again, thank you so much for your faithful support of our church.

Chancel Choir Starts Up

This note comes from our interim choir director, Judith Pearson:

The first rehearsal will be September 30, 7:30-9:00. We will sing for the 10:30 a.m. worship service October 4th. I'm looking forward to being with you through the remainder of this year. We will be singing music that I'm sure you will enjoy and I know the congregation will also.

If you know of someone who would like to minister in the choir, please invite them. I've invited my husband Ray, and he will be coming. Does anyone play flute? There are a couple of anthems that use a flute obbligato.

It seems like a long way away, but the Christmas Candlelight Service will be December 20 at 4:00 p.m. Please be thinking of people you want to invite. We will have posters to place around the community, and also postcard size invitations to give or mail to friends and relatives.

A Mountain Called Hope

You are cordially invited to the First Annual Celebrate Hope Gathering
October 6th from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
10441 Bayview-Edison Rd, Bayview, WA

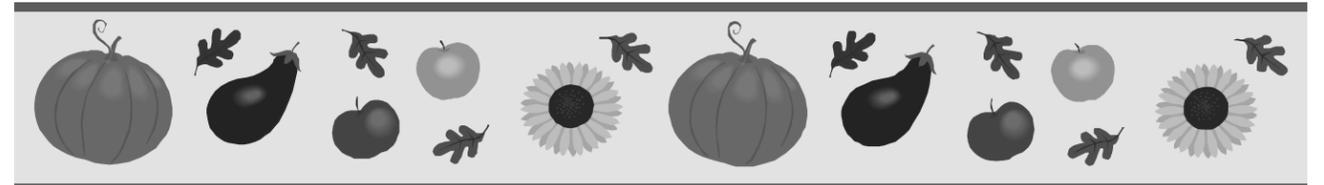
This is an evening to thank you, celebrate Mountain of Hope Endowment's 5th Anniversary, meet members of the Community Action Staff, hear stories of the mountain's positive impact on lives in our community, and look ahead to our sixth year. Questions, please contact Pastor Rand at 840-1234.

Music Scholarships Available

The Memorials Committee is excited to offer music scholarships to those in our congregation who are taking private instrumental, vocal and dance lessons. There are three levels of scholarships, with the music instructor determining the skill level. They are: beginning student, up to \$250/year; intermediate student, up to \$500/year; advanced student, up to \$750/year. There are certain guidelines that scholarship recipients would be expected to follow. Please note that those who received a music scholarship last year are encouraged to apply again. This scholarship fund is available due to generous memorial gifts in memory of Jane Brazas, Bill Collins, and Ruth Mischke. This is an ongoing project of the Memorials Committee, and donations to the Music Scholarship Fund/Memorials would be most welcome at any time. Scholarship applications are available in the church office. For more information, please contact the church office.

Fort Worden Weekend Retreat

Please join a fun group of folks for our annual Fort Worden Retreat. We will be staying in the NCO houses on historic Fort Worden in Port Townsend. This weekend always happens on a weekend near Veteran's Day and this year we will be there from Nov. 6th – 8th. This is a very relaxing weekend where we walk the beach, explore the fort, play games, eat, visit, and generally have a wonderful time. If you have any questions or would like more information about the weekend, please see Sharon Minor or Lori Flores.





Faith in Action

During the past week, congregation members have embodied faith in action as they worked to provide a welcoming home for Family Promise participants. The families have been very grateful, and the children have had some fun experiences, such as getting to play in the rice box, watching African animals in a movie, or having the tooth fairy visit for the first time. Thank you so much to all those who helped make this week a success! If you would like to continue contributing to Family Promise, donations of twin-size blankets and flat sheets would be put to good use at our church during the next rotation. Also, as five families have completed the program and have moved into their own homes, donations of cleaning tools (mop, broom, dust pan, etc.) and cleaning supplies (dish soap, pine sol, laundry soap, etc.) would be greatly appreciated. Larger items (dressers, bunk beds, trash bins, etc.) have been requested as well; for more information, contact Carolyn Gregg (360-4247453) or Maria Breznau (509-881-4426). Thank you!

Updated Address and Phonebook Coming Soon!

The church desperately needs an updated address and phone number book so Rita Newton has been diligently getting us to fill out a form updating our addresses, phone numbers, birthdays, and anniversaries. If you have already filled out a form, thanks so much. If you have not and wish to be included in the new address book, please contact the church office and we will send you one. We will need your response, even if your information has not changed, back in **two weeks** so the book can be printed this fall.

Sunday School

Sunday School is off to a great start! We have 2 classes, one for the Elementary aged children and one for the 6th grade – 12th grade youth. Currently we have Sharon Minor and Sue Fisher teaching the younger children and Kay Martin and Lori Flores teaching the older group. We also have our special “Little Church” time each week with Gary Thompson where we share our joys and concerns, hear a Bible story, have a people prayer and sing a song or two. We would love to have a couple of substitute teachers on a list, just in case we need some help on a Sunday morning. If you are interested in helping out in Sunday School, please contact Sharon Minor or Lori Flores. Thank you!

Skagit Valley United Methodist Youth Update

First of all, a huge thank you to all of the youth and adults that made our “Stay-at-home” Mission trip work! Thanks to Maria Breznau for setting up some work opportunities for us with Habitat for Humanity and to Pastor Cody Natland for sharing the chaperone/chauffeur duties with me!

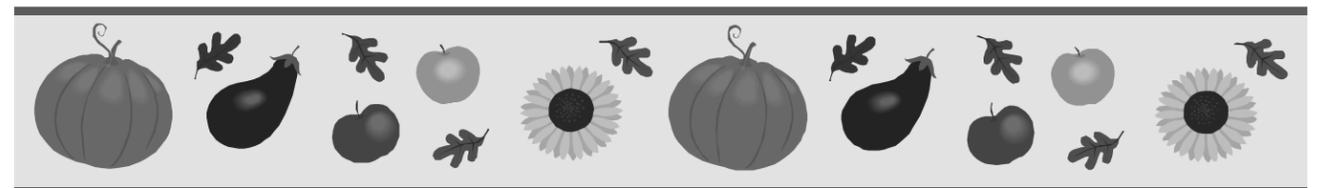
A total of 8 youth participated for all or part of the “trip” and we served at the following locations: Habitat for Humanity store, LaConner Food Bank, Habitat Helpers program, Open Door Community Kitchen in Sedro-Woolley, Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, and the farm of a Bayview UMC member. The youth worked so hard and everyone we worked for were so thankful for their extra hands. We did throw some fun in there as well... going bowling on Tuesday evening and then spending the night here at the church.

Our Fall kick-off event was a “Pizza and Games” night here at MVFUMC. We had youth from Mount Vernon First, Bayview UMC and Central UMC in Sedro-Woolley.

Looking ahead...

- October 11th – meeting from 4 pm to 6 pm at Bayview UMC. We will be learning a bit more about Holy Communion. Come and share a special meal together.
-
- October 25th – Youth Costume Halloween Party at Mount Vernon First UMC. Wear a non-violent costume and be ready for some fun! Feel free to invite a friend!
-
- we will be assisting the Bayview UMC with running the Bayview community Halloween Party on October 31st at the Bayview Community center, so if you would like to be involved with this project, put it on your calendar!
-

This group is open to youth in 6th through 12th grades and their friends. If you know someone who might like to join us, please contact Lori in the church office.



OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 10/1 Robert Yale
- 10/3 Dawson Noblet
Steve Olson
Jacquie Petersen
- 10/4 Erin Malone Shaffer
- 10/5 Karen Bishop
Diane Graff
Dianne Ramsey
- 10/7 Jaimie Nunez
- 10/12 Nancy Finkbeiner
- 10/14 Mike Golliver
- 10/16 Wynette Golliver
- 10/17 Kerry Keeler
Bill Lundquist
- 10/18 Duane Fear
Paul O'Donnell
- 10/19 Craig Bloodgood
Kay Martin
- 10/20 Winnie Bradford
Anne Thompson
- 10/27 Sierra Crowell
Leo Waldschmidt
- 10/28 Amanda Scoby
- 10/30 Megan Perez
- 10/31 Dusty Barber

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Worship 9:15 am Little Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour				1 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 2 pm Staff Mtg 7:30 pm Disciple (OT) Class	2 10 am Staff Parish Relations Committee Mtg.	3
4 World Communion Sunday See Sunday Schedule Above 2 pm Hispanic Ministries	5	6 9:30 am MOPS 7:30 pm Disciple (NT) Class	7 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Finance Mtg	8 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff Mtg 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm Disciple (OT) Class	9	10 9:20 am—2 pm Board Mtg.
11 See Sunday Schedule Above 4 pm SVUM Youth Group (Bayview UMC)	12 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band	13 6:30 pm NAMI Education (Rees Room) 7:30 pm Disciple (NT) Class	14 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	15 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 2 pm Staff Mtg 7:30 pm Disciple (OT) Class	16	17 Tentative date for Habitat Helpers Project -watch for more info!
18 See Sunday Schedule Above 2 pm Hispanic Ministries 5 pm All Church Potluck	19 10 am UMW Executive Board Mtg (Conf. Room) 1:30 pm Wesleyan Circle	20 9:30 am MOPS 10 am Worship Work Area Mtg 7:30 pm Disciple (NT) Class	21 10 am Crafters Group 12 pm UMW Lunch & Mtg. 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg. 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	22 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff Mtg 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm Disciple (OT) Class	23	24
25 See Sunday Schedule Above 4 pm SVUM Youth Group (MVFUMC)	26 9 am Newsletter Mailing 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 3 pm Open Door Community Kitchen (SW)	27 7:30 pm Disciple (NT) Class	28 10 am Outreach Mtg. 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	29 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff Mtg 7:30 pm Disciple (OT) Class	30	31 Bayview Community Halloween Party—Youth assisting

ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 10/11 Chuck and Tami Cass
- 10/24 Jon and Carol Turnbull

