



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

SEPTEMBER 2018

"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

September 2
John 20:19-25

September 9
Mark 7:24-37

September 16
James 3:1-10

September 23
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

September 30
Mark 9:38-50

What we have, what we need

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
John 3:17, **New King James Version**

One might think that, even with my late arrival to church (beginning at age 27), by now I would be so accustomed to the wonders of God's love, mercy, grace and presence that it would seem common-place to me. Yet, as Paul used to proclaim, 'by no means' is that the case! I am continually amazed, even overwhelmed by the depth of goodness in the Good News we have received and are encouraged to share. It is, frankly so broad, rich and relentless as to exceed even the bounds of extravagance, splashing well beyond into luxuriant, even scandalous! Have we failed to be the people God wants us to be? Absolutely! Will we continue to fail, even betraying to act on divine nudges as often as we succeed in doing so? Indeed we will. Ah, but when we do so, is God surprised? Of course not! Disappointed? Well, sure! But, and here comes that Good News, does God give up on us, throwing up the divine hands in frustration and disgust while turning away to spend time with others more righteous than us? C'mon, join me here to boldly proclaim it: "By no means!"

Do we have to search and search to find this loving, compassionate God? Nope, because before we ever considered the possibility of such love we were already immersed in it! Now, I know that there are many, many people who will beg to differ with me about that claim, because they experienced little in the way of such a presence in their lives growing up, and may even yet find it to be more like a fantasy – beautiful to imagine but impossible in a world like ours – and dangerous in its allure to a life of 'softness.' After all, if we start thinking we are loved, that there is an all-powerful Being watching over us, travelling through life with us, we might expect that our paths will be not only straight but easy. That view of God is bound for disappointment, frustration and eventually, anger, resentment and rejection of the whole notion of belief in anything like a loving God. It is not surprising to me that so many people reject faith as it has been presented to them, while continuing to believe in a higher power that is vengeful, angry and every ready for some old-fashioned smiting ... but it certainly does break my heart!

Because the Creative-Source-of-All-Being seems to delight in both variety and freedom, we have immense power and unlimited opportunities to do harm to ourselves, others and the beautiful planet on which we live and depend. In our imperfection, we are prone to fears and self-deceptions that lead us to betray our best instincts and lose sight of the humanity of those around us.

(continued next page)



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Margaretkrienen@gmail.com
360-630-8393
1100 Brighton Loop Unit 2301
Ellensburg, WA 98926

(Pastor's Corner continued)

The second we stop thinking of others as people, with hopes, fears, needs, gifts and challenges just like us, justifications rush forward to allow us to continue to see ourselves as good people and explain why any failure on our part to treat others humanely is not our fault but theirs. This is not something only villains do; it is something every one of us does on a routine basis. But here's some more good news: we can awaken to this process, learn how to recognize when we have slipped into it, and **choose** to see those around us as people, rather than objects who might be an obstacle, an enemy, a tool for us to us, or irrelevant.

When we claim to be Christ followers, we are also claiming the immense love, joy, forgiveness, mercy, grace, and presence that comes with that name. John boldly claims that Jesus was sent not to condemn but to save. We have the Good News; what we need is not rules and lists of required statements of belief, but lives that demonstrate it that love, joy, forgiveness, mercy and grace.

Pastor Terry

Financial Report for July 2018

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$35,675.52	\$21,897.46
Special Account	\$13,464.66	\$ 6,570.16
Memorial Account	\$ 0	\$ 0

We were able to pay all of our bills and Conference apportionments for the month of July. As you can see we took in more money than we spent and this was because some money came in from the Endowment account to go towards paying the salary of our Music Ministry Director. If you have any questions regarding church finances, please feel free to contact Lori Flores.

Fall Schedule is just around the corner!

We will return to two services on September 9. Our Sunday mornings will look like this:

- 8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (back of sanctuary)
- 9:00 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal (Rees Room)
- 9:00 a.m. Hispanic Ministry
- 9:30 a.m. Little Church with Gary Thompson (Rees Room)
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Classes (classrooms)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:40 a.m. Coffee Hour

Project Homeless Connect by Kay Martin

Thank you to Mary Downing, Donna Freiman and Ellen Anderson who helped me at the Project Homeless Connect event on Friday, August 24th. Thank you also to all the wonderful people who worked to produce the sleeping mats, those who knitted/crocheted/ purchased hats, gloves, scarves and socks, and those who donated clothing for this event. A total of 31 mats, 103 hats, 23 pairs of gloves, and 73 scarves along with a variety of socks were distributed to those who attended.

United Methodist Women

All women are invited to join us for our monthly meeting of United Methodist Women. Our first meeting for the Fall will be on Wednesday, Sept. 19th at noon in Sprague Hall. We will have a salad potluck for our lunch. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Sue Monty. Hope to see you there!



Hello church family!

Thank you so much for welcoming me to speak during your worship service at the beginning of August. It was such a wonderful privilege to share my heart for reaching college students for Christ with you all. I'm so beyond honored to have all of you as my church family supporting me in so many different ways. I could not do this without your prayers and support.

Because of your prayer, financial, and moral support, I am able to be a campus missionary with Chi Alpha Campus Fellowship on Central Washington University's campus. Chi Alpha as a campus ministry seeks to reconcile students to Christ and equip them through Spirit-filled communities of prayer, worship, fellowship, disci-

pleSHIP and mission to transform the university, the marketplace, and the world. Your partnership with me in this ministry makes a difference in so many lives. My life has been changed because I was involved with Chi Alpha. Growing up in the church, I had the honor and privilege of being invested in by so many of you and I had a strong faith when I went to college. I joined the Chi Alpha community and learned how to live out the faith that I had grown up with. I learned how to follow the Lord anywhere He is going and to let him transform

me into the kind of person that He can use to accomplish His will. I want to see that kind of transformation happen to every single college student in this generation. This generation of college students are the future social, political and economic leaders of our world. I want to see every single student's life transformed by the unconditional love, acceptance, forgiveness and hope that Jesus has to offer them so they can graduate as fully equipped leaders to transform our world in a positive way.

I'd love to share a story of one future world-changer that I have had the privilege of mentoring these past two years. I met my friend Rachel on freshman move-in day. Rachel had a pretty negative experience with the church she grew up in, and she came to college with a lot of fear and anxiety about joining a new Christian community. It has been so incredible to walk alongside my friend and encourage her as the Lord brought her so much healing from her negative experiences and given her a heart to reach out to other students who might be struggling. Rachel went from being a freshman who was afraid to commit to a leader who brings other people into community and encourages them into relationship with Jesus. The Lord has captured her heart to become a person who works with inner-city youth to make a difference in their lives. I am so excited to see how the Lord grows her during her last two years of college.

I would not be the same person I am today without having grown up in a strong church, and also without having a strong Christian community in college. If the Lord had not transformed me through Chi Alpha, I would not have been able to invest in my friend Riley and be a part of the Lord transforming her. It is my absolute passion to continue investing in students like my friend Riley to equip them to be disciple makers and leaders wherever they go after college. I could not do this without you, so thank you!

If you are interested in receiving my monthly newsletter, please send an email to margaretkrienen@gmail.com or call 360-630-8393. If you'd like more information about becoming a monthly financial supporter, just let me know as well. I'd love to have each one of you on my team in prayer, finances, and moral support or some combination of the three. It brings me so much joy to share my ministry with you all in any way.

The first part of the school year is the busiest part of our ministry season. We have a few upcoming prayer needs. **Movers and Shakers** is happening on September 13th. Chi Alpha will be one of the clubs helping the freshman class move into their residence halls. We meet most of our bible study members this way, so I would love it if you can pray for many great friendships to come out of this day.

September 7th-9th is our ministry's **leadership team retreat**. We will take our 35 student leaders to Desert Aire for a weekend of prayer, teaching and planning for the school year. Pray that our leadership team comes ready to hear from the Lord and plan out the year together.

I would also love to be praying for you all. If you have any specific prayer needs, you can send them to margaretkrienen@gmail.com and I will pray! I pray that the Lord blesses each one of you immensely and that you all have a happy September!

Blessings,
Maggie Krienen
Campus Missionary in Training
Chi Alpha Campus Fellowship

(Editor's note... On the back of this page there is information on how to support Maggie in her ministry.)

Congregational Care Team

The Congregational Care Team will start meeting again on Monday, September 10th at 1:00 p.m. in the church conference room. Please either update the dropbox forms or email Kay with any visits or calls you have made recently.

Have Some Spare Time? Here Are Ways to Help at Church

Volunteer cleaning and yard work Thursday, 9/6/18, 9/13/18, 9/20/18 and 9/27/18 from 9:30am to 12Noon.

Sleeping mat workshops Tuesdays 9/11/18 and 9/25/18 from 1pm to 3pm in the conference room.

Blessings upon Blessings:

I'm not sure why I am surprised when God expands and multiplies blessings, just like he did in the "feeding of the 5,000" story in the gospels, but it never ceases to amaze and delight me! I share the following story not to gain praise for myself or Donna Freiman, but to allow God to add even more blessings to an experience we had. Our ladies' group ('Sisters of the Heart) decided to provide a lunch for RVers who are helping build houses for Skagit Habitat for Humanity, so we made sandwiches, added chips, watermelon, cookies and soda, and Donna Freiman and I had the privilege of delivering them to the build site. The volunteers were from Arizona, Texas, and California and were delightful people, giving of their time to help build these homes for folks they will never see again. They invited us to join them for lunch, during which they shared some of their stories.

We also were introduced to Doricela, whose home is currently being sided and will be ready for occupancy sometime in November. She took Donna and me on a tour of her home and shared how much her 9 year old son is looking forward to having a room of his own in their own home. We also learned that Doricela works for Head Start and knows several of the ladies, some of whom I also know, who are involved with FAE (Foundation for Academic Endeavors), one of our ministry partners whose office is here in the church. Her son is also attending FAE's Summer Academy at Skagit Valley College, which is made possible through the cooperation and support of a number of local resources, including MVFUMC, and provides early childhood education for preschool and kindergarten children and STEM classes for 1st through 6th grade low income children.

Through these simple interactions, relationships were being woven, which led to Doricela revealing that her younger (and only) sister died of cancer just two weeks before our brief time together. As you might imagine, our hearts were opened even further by her willingness to share such a personal story, moving us to both offer her our condolences immediately and to wonder if there was anything else we could do. Having already mentioned that Donna enjoys creating stained-glass art, the Holy Spirit seemed to pass between us, and we seemed to both receive a 'holy nudge' simultaneously: Donna would make her a stained glass panel for one of her windows! She asked Doricela whether she'd prefer a scene or an angel, and with tear-filled eyes, she replied, "Oh, an angel please!" I knew what I would do, and told Doricela that I was also going to make something for her new home, but wanted it to be a surprise. I enlisted the Habitat coordinator, Christi, to find out Doricela's favorite colors and will make her a quilt using them. After asking Christi to let us know when the dedication would be for Doricela's home so we can attend, we parted with a promise to keep in touch with Doricela and the progress with her home.

So, a blessing for the 'Sisters of the Heart' to support a group of strangers from across the country - who are giving of themselves to bless families with homes of their own - blossomed to include the chance to hear some of their stories and to meet someone who will live in one of those homes, which, in turn, wove us together into a fledgling friendship. Those few minutes together created a holy space in which a deep personal experience was shared; that revelation, inflamed by the Spirit, set in motion blessings both immediate and yet to come, strengthening those fragile initial bonds and making it more likely everyone involved will be even a bit more open to future 'nudges' by drenching us all in the deep joy of connecting, human-to-human.

What an amazing God we have, Who blesses us in so many different ways, with blessings flowing in all directions!

~ Kay Martin



Choir Potluck

The Chancel and Bell choirs will kick off the season with a potluck on Labor Day, September 3rd hosted by Lynnette and Dan Gerhard. All Chancel and Bell Choir members and their families are invited. If you are considering joining either choir and would like to get acquainted, please come with your family. If you are a past member thinking of returning, join us! We will gather at the Gerhard's home beginning at 12:30. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Come prepared for an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. Please RSVP to Lynnette at 360-422-5739 or by email lynnetteg6244@gmail.com

Fall/Winter Music Opportunities

Chancel Choir— Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 5th at 7:00 p.m. All who enjoy raising their voice in song are welcome to join us! New choir members please contact Jung. 206-437-4762

Children's Choir— We will have a Children's Choir again this year which will meet on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children grades K through 6 are encouraged to participate. The first meeting will be Sunday, September 9th at 9:00 a.m.

Bell Choir – Start date still to be determined. The bell choir usually rings for worship on the fourth Sunday of the month and rehearses weekly. Interested in ringing with us? You don't have to have any experience in ringing handbells but some ability to read music is helpful. Contact Sarah Breckenridge, 971-226-3196, newberg310@yahoo.com, or the church office for more information.

Piano Class – resumes Wednesday, September 5th at 6:00 pm. The class is full and can not take new students. Contact Jung to be placed on a waiting list.

Update from the Trustee Corner

The new mower / storage/ utility building has finally been connected to electrical power. We had an extended delay, through no fault of our own, due to the availability of Puget Sound Energy to make the connection. The connection was completed on August 28th. Big thanks to Phil Smoots for getting the power line ditch backfilled. With seasonal rain (hopefully coming !) we will get grass seed on the area, and by spring the north lawn will be back to normal !

Two tasks remain for the new building....painting and installing a curtain drain. Painting is in planning stage with a Scout parent group, and will be completed in September. Phil Smoots is in process of moving out the old mower storage buildings, and then the route for curtain drain installation will be clear.

Hopefully, everyone now sees and knows the skylight over the chancel area has been replaced. We are very pleased with the quality of the job done by CrystaLite Skylight Mfg located in Everett. CrystaLite did the former skylight that lasted 30 years, and indications are this one should last longer as materials and installation methods have improved.

As some have noticed and experienced, at times there is an as yet unsolved issue with the sewer line serving our restrooms becoming plugged. The incidence is intermittent, and usually the line clears on it's own before a service company arrives. A video search within the line has been done, with no obstruction causing location found.

We regret the inconvenience this causes, and are continuing to search for a solution.

And lastly, a comment about the need for exterior painting. It has been necessary to postpone painting for another year due to the amount of repair work needed before painting is undertaken. The immediate focus is the south side of Sprague Hall, where structural work appears to be necessary, as well as replacement of the double doors leading to the patio. We are in dialog with a contractor for this work.

Finally, our work group invites anyone who would like to help us plan and carry out our facility care mission to join our team. We will welcome your ideas & help caring for our outstanding church facility.

Trustee Work Group: Doug Rindal, Deene Almvig, Jess del Bosque, Bob Hallberg, Chuck Cass

Youth Group News

Our first meeting of the year will be on Sunday, Sept. 16th following worship. We will meet in the Conference Room for lunch, some games and to make some plans for the Fall. This group is open to all youth in 6th through 12th grades. Hope to see you there!

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

9/2
Matthew Repplier

9/4
Jason Bloodgood

9/5
David Matson
Nina Spitler

9/6
Tamara Cass
Noah Walz

9/8
Jack Krienen

9/12
Bruce Coghill

9/13
Valerie Thomas

9/16
Keri Drayer
Nick Torset

9/17
Karen Eckardt

9/18
Irene Williams

9/19
Linda Miller

9/20
Dorcas Toombs

9/24
Dane Hansen

9/25
Carolyn Rees

9/26
Terry Torset

9/27
Philip Belisle

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 am Hispanic Ministry 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour	3 Labor Day! Office Closed and no Classes today	4 9:00 am Clergy Consultation 10:00 am Sisters of the Heart 1:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm NAMI Board Mtg.	5 10:30 am Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	6 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 1:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 7:00 pm Bell Choir	7	8
9 8:30 Worship with Communion 9:00 am Hispanic Ministry 9:00 am Children's Choir 9:30 am Little Church and Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	10 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 1:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion Group 6:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 6:30 pm NAMI Peer to Peer	11 10:00 am Sisters of the Heart 1:00 pm Sleeping Mat Team 1:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	12 10:30 am Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	13 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 1:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 7:00 pm Bell Choir	14	15 1:00 pm Marilyn Houser Me- morial Service
16 8:30 Worship with Communion 9:00 am Hispanic Ministry 9:00 am Children's Choir 9:30 am Little Church and Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour 12:00 pm Youth Group	17 10:00 am UMW Executive Board Meeting 1:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion Group 5:30 pm NAMI Family to Family 6:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 6:30 pm NAMI Peer to Peer	18 9:30 am MOPS 10:00 am Sisters of the Heart 1:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	19 10:30 am Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 12:00 pm UMW Luncheon and Meeting 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	20 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 1:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 2:30 pm Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm NAMI Family to Family	21	22
23 8:30 Worship with Communion 9:00 am Hispanic Ministry 9:00 am Children's Choir 9:30 am Little Church and Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour 2:00 pm FAE Board Meeting	24 9:00 am Newsletter Mailing Day 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 1:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion Group 5:30 pm NAMI Family to Family 6:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 6:30 pm NAMI Peer to Peer	25 10:00 am MOPS Steering Com- mittee 10:00 am Sisters of the Heart 1:00 pm Sleeping Mat Team 1:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	26 10:30 am Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	27 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 1:30 pm Anatomy of Peace Dis- cussion 7:00 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm NAMI Family to Family	28	29 2:00 pm Harriet Lundc Memorial Ser
30 8:30 Worship with Communion 9:00 am Hispanic Ministry 9:00 am Children's Choir 9:30 am Little Church and Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour						



9/2
Chuck & Judy Jerman

9/10
Hollis & Nina Spitler

9/12
Roger & Marjorie
Mandery

9/26
Bob Hallberg & Diane
Southworth