



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Growing Followers Of Christ Since 1902

The Grapevine

I am the vine; You are the branches.
John 15:5

Year 118, Issue 10
October 2020

The need for a field hospital?

November is almost upon us and, at that time, we may well have the need for a kind of field hospital to be established for those who are spiritually wounded by the cumulative effects of political 'warfare'.

This hospital needs to be built in our community and manned by groups of believers who seek each in their individual hearts for restoration and a return to our first love, with all that can mean to our wounded world.

As Christians we have a single source of divine authority, manifest in relationship with Jesus and the inner leading of the Holy Spirit. Even so, we may well see the future of our nation and world through different eyes. When the votes are in and the decision is made, we need to lift those eyes from what is seen to what is unseen and to believe that God will turn all things together for good.

Grahm will be sharing the message on Sunday October 11 during the 10:30 am Worship Service.

This future 'good' will become our immediate challenge and it is here that the wounded need to find healing in the belief that God is not finished yet. Ultimately our hope doesn't rest in the political system or who holds which office, but rather in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our return to this healthy understanding will allow us to get back to another race which matters deeply, the one marked out for us to run, where we fix our eyes upon Jesus and where we relearn, from his example, how to love one another.

It is therefore a time to pray and to act; as well as to ponder the path that leads forward: including how we might be useful in this 'field hospital' where we currently live.

As individuals we can pray for peace and unity, or reach out to someone you love who is on the other "side" and establish now that your relationship will survive whatever divisions may come on the national scale. And we can also act as the church, for example, we might call together a panel of believers who represent both of the main parties and who are, as individuals, concerned about the possible disorder that may be exacerbated by the results. As sincere, well-meaning believers they could work toward a consensus, as to the pathways that might lead to reconciliation and agreement on a way forward for a more united Body of Christ. This effort at dialog and understanding may serve to mitigate the potentially violent reaction from

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Sunday Worship

On Zoom

10:30 am

Meeting #972 436 044

whichever "side" loses. And, at least we might have a reasonable and moderate source of Christ centered wisdom available-for those who long for the church to be a voice for a non-polarized, third way.

May I respectfully suggest that this be a subject for prayer and if it seems appropriate, to invite participants to gather as soon as possible to search for Gods guidance and hopefully find a consensus that may bring not only healing but also restoration and return to our first love.

En route with endurance and joy in Jesus,
Graham

The Caring Congregation

- a walk through the workbook by Rev. Karen Lampe

Please join us for a walk through of this workbook which is designed to help congregations be intentional about care and equip its member to:

Listen
visit
comfort
encourage

This is sponsored by Deacon Ministry and the invitation is open to all because caring is for all. Because this is a highly interactive session and our first time through it we seek to limit our participation to 10. There is still room and workbooks will be provided.

October 8th	Introduction, Theology, Prayer
October 19th	Boundaries, Listening & Spiritual Guidance
November 5th	Visitation, Death & Dying
November 19	Organization, Recruiting, Vision

Sessions are on Zoom from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

Please contact Colleen Higbee or the church office: mvpc@mountvernonpres.org ph 360-424-7675

As you may know, Bloodworks Northwest has cancelled all mobile blood drives through the end of June 2021. We are moving forward with Pop-up's as a way to continue collecting lifesaving blood. The need for blood donors never ends.

Here are the details:

Mount Vernon Pop-up Donor Center
Salem Lutheran Church
2529 N. Laventure Ave, Mount Vernon
October – January 2021



Appointment Link: <https://schedule.bloodworksnw.org/DonorPortal/GroupLanding.aspx?s=509B> or call 1-800-398-7888 and use sponsor code 509B.

It's easy to look at the world right now and feel like there's a lot we can't do; but what's something you can do?



What small action can you take today that will help you live the life you want to live and build the world you want to see? It doesn't matter how big or small it is, the important thing is to take action.

Make a change, make a phone call, write a note; take a step, take a stand.

To All Women of MVPC

The 4th Saturday Women's Fellowship has restarted. A small group of us enjoyed each other's company last month with Zoom and want to share that with more of you. All who attended felt the companionship of each other as we blended our Scripture study into our lives amid Corid 19. It is an open group. Come when you can. Our next gathering is Oct. 24. We start the meeting at 9 AM and welcome women as they are able to arrive.

Roof repair continued

It is western Washington and it is September, so we were blessed with some rain which helped clear the smoke .



Continuing Study

For those interested in continuing (or beginning to engage) the concept of systemic racism, **Our next Study** is a national discussion series hosted by Pittsburgh Seminary with some of the nation's leading thinkers/authors on the topic of racial justice and reconciliation (Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, Brenda Salter McNeil and David Campt). The plenary sessions will be Wednesdays October 7th- 28th. 4:30pm our time (they are happening on the East Coast) and we will have local discussion following (time to be determined).

Click here (<https://www.pts.edu/wmi-conference>) to read speaker biographies, learn more about the series, and to register. **You will need to register individually to have access to the plenary sessions.**

MVPC Church Leadership 2020-2021

Elders			Ministry Area	Deacons		
Lou	Cheney	2021	Worship	Danya	Wolf	2021
Chris	Hoke	2021	Discipleship	Ruth	Neal	2021
Bruce	Lavers	2021	Ministry Support	Connie	Bowser	2021
Anne	Long	2021	Membership/Evangelism	Tracy	Hall	2021
MaryEllen	Byerly	2022	Membership/Evangelism	Tom	Howard	2022
Bill	DeHon	2022	Ministry Support	Sandi	Seabott	2022
Gail	LaFleur	2022	Worship	Sumiko	Shinozaki	2022
Bob	Rauch	2022	Discipleship	Vacant		2022
David	Gale	2023	Membership/Evangelism	Arlene	Andersen	2023
Becky	Goodell	2023	Mission & Service	Rosemary	Gale	2023
Bob	Higbee	2023	Ministry Support	Colleen	Higbee	2023
Joe	Seabott	2023	Mission & Service	Wendy	Bartholomew	2023

Notes from September 15th Session meeting

- The meeting opened with prayer and check-in of sharing where their best/most energy was spent recently .
- Financial reports were received and noted that expenses exceeded receipts for August by (\$5,447.99)
- Ministry areas were assigned as follows:
 - Worship: Gail LaFleur and Lou Cheney
 - Discipleship: Bob Rauch and Chris Hoke
 - Discipleship: Joe Seabott and Becky Goodell
 - Membership and Evangelism: Anne Long, Dave Gale and Mary Ellen Byerly
 - Ministry Support: Bob Higbee, Bruce Lavers and Bill DeHon
 - Hospitality will be revisited when we can meet in person again.



Godly Play Stories in Worship

Oct 4th The Good Shepherd and
World Communion Sunday
Oct 11th Parable of the Great Pearl
Oct 18th Parable of the Sower
Oct 25th Parable of the Leaven

Online Kid's Group

2nd and 4th Wed. 4-4:30ish

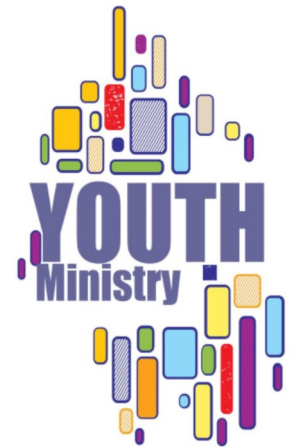
Elementary kids (K through 5th grade) are invited for faith, fellowship, and fun just for kids! Contact Rebecca Holland, Director of Children and Family Ministries for an email reminder and zoom numbers.

**Middle School
and High
School Online
Youth Group**

1st and 3rd

Sundays

7 to 8 pm



Our Youth Group has teamed up with the Youth Groups from First United Methodist Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church for Online Youth Group on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month from 7 to 8 pm. Youth in 6th through 12th grade are invited to join the online faith, fellowship, and fun! Contact Pastor Dan or the church for an email reminder and zoom numbers.

MVPC Family Online Opportunities

All Ages Worship	Sundays 10:30 am
Family Fellowship*	1st & 3rd Sun 4 pm
Youth Group	1st & 3rd Sun 7 pm
Kid's Group	2nd & 4th Wed 4 pm

Family Fellowship

1st & 3rd Sun at 4 pm

Families of all ages are invited for online fellowship, fun, and games at 4 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays on Zoom. Contact Rebecca Holland for an email reminder and zoom numbers.

**FAMILY
MINISTRY**

October Gathering

Everyone is invited to stay after zoom worship on the last Sunday of October (October 25th) to join together in carving pumpkins from the comfort of our own homes.

All ages welcome!



UPDATES FROM MISSION PARTNERS

Love INC of Skagit County

Office hours: M-F 9am to 3pm

Phone: 360-419-7061



What we do:

- ♥ Love INC unifies the Body of Christ by bringing local churches together to coordinate resources of talents, skills, expertise, prayer and donated items.
- ♥ Love INC develops a working knowledge of community resources to help people in need.
- ♥ Love INC offers life-changing opportunities through accountable, incentive-based programs that move people from patterns of need to fully empowered lives.
- ♥ Love INC coordinates gifts from churches, individuals and businesses to meet immediate and long-term needs, whole addressing root causes of chronic need.

Needs include:

Financial mentors for Fall

Cars donated for clients

Car repair ministry

Gasoline & gift cards

CCF Ministry

(Excerpt from newsletter)

So what's a Campus Pastor to do when campus is closed? Pray? While this will likely be our most challenging start to a school year yet, we know the Lord is not daunted by what's ahead. Here are our top prayer requests.

1. **Connecting with new students.** Without our usual means of outreach to start the year, we're praying the Lord will lead new students to us in surprising and miraculous ways.
2. **Creativity!** We need all the help we can get with ideas for these strange times.
3. **Hope for the Lord to do amazing things.** It's easy to slip into the mindset of 'let's just get through this and hope next year is better' We know the Lord wants to encounter students now and work in their lives. Pray we keep our fire fresh.
4. **Our student leaders.** We have a great crew of young disciples, ready to reach out to their fellow students. Please pray for strength, wisdom, and deep closeness to the Lord through all the challenges.
5. **Technical Savvy.** The options seem endless with ways to connect through tech. Please pray we can use all of these tools to the best of our abilities.
6. **Lots of fun and abounding joy.** It's hard to feel the same level of joy and fun we normally would at a CCF gathering over a Zoom call. We're praying the Lord makes our times with students more fun and joyful than we thought possible.



Family Promise

If you're interested in helping homeless families get back on their feet, we would love to have you join us in this effort. Please take a look below for various job and/or volunteer openings. You can also give us a call at our office phone number at **(360) 854-0743**. If your church is interested in becoming a host church or support church, please check out the How it Works section of the website for more information.

If you would like to help volunteer at the daycenter or with meals please sign up on this page: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084badab2aabfa7-family2>

Ready to help? Become a mentor!

Family promise is looking for people willing to be mentors to families who have been getting back on their feet. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email amy@familypromiseskagit.org

Giving Envelopes

Back in February the numbered giving envelopes were ordered for 2021. The boxes have arrived and are awaiting distribution. If anyone is interested in using them for 2021, other than those who have already been contacted, please call Leslie or the church office 360-424-7675. Beginning in 2022, these will be discontinued permanently. When we get back to church, generic envelopes will be available for your use, if desired. **Alternatives to using these envelopes are the online donation portal, electronic checks from your financial institution, or by sending your contribution by check to the church by "snail mail". During our closure, the mail is checked almost on a daily basis so it doesn't sit in the box.**

Thank you to:

- ♥ The team working around the MVPC sign and keeping the grounds maintained.
- ♥ Bill DeHon and Bob Higbee for supervising the construction project.
- ♥ Brad Clure and the rest of the Covid-19 team for the hard work of researching and producing the soon to be released re-opening guidelines and for applying for the grant to better the church communications for during and after the shutdown. The grant was received from Presbytery!
- ♥ Colleen Higbee for leadership in planning the Congregational Caring workshop.
- ♥ Pat Papadopoulos, Paul O'Donnell and Chris Hoke for coordinating the Racial Justice study and Keven Riley for leading in discussion.
- ♥ The finance team for the meticulous work of finance.

If you would like to acknowledge your gratitude for someone's role in the church in next month's newsletter please email Barbara in the church office. mvpcc@mountvernonpres.org

THANK YOU

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

1-Nathan Curtis

2-Patti Allen

3-Sue Berger

4-John Shultz

8-Cameron Hazelwood

Courtney Hazelwood

9-Ben Rogers

10-Rose Cooksey

11- Frances Oyamo

12-Suzanne Gilbert

13-Susan Schlumberger

15-Darren Overby

18-Matilda Maas

20-Doris Hansen

Rose Cooksey

26-Sadie Rutledge

27-Don & Susan Schlumberger

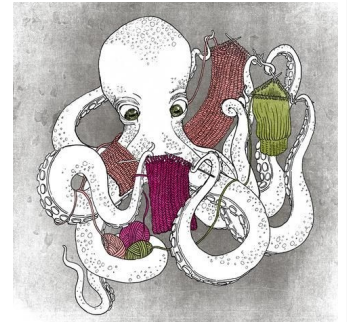
28-Amanda Scoby

Merlin Zimmerly



CRAFTING ON ZOOM

The second and fourth Tuesdays of each month find busy fingers flying as a group of crafters and knitters meet on Zoom from noon to 1 pm. Call Patti Allen for more information.



Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

Growing followers of Christ

Our Vision Statement

Encounter The Hope
of the living God through Jesus

Engage One Another
in authentic friendship

Embrace The World
with the heart and hands of Jesus