



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Growing Followers Of Christ Since 1902*

# The Grapevine

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

Year 117, Issue 11  
November 2019

1511 East Broadway Street . Mt Vernon, WA . 360 424-7675 . [www.MountVernonPres.org](http://www.MountVernonPres.org)  
[mvpc@MountVernonPres.org](mailto:mvpc@MountVernonPres.org)

## Stories

Last week, I attended a continuing education conference that was focused on building community through personal storytelling. It's a fascinating concept. There's nothing that fosters authentic connection between people quite like sharing, vulnerably, some important portion of your own life story and having it received and held with compassion and acceptance. And what I found at the conference is that there's nothing that spurs personal growth quite like intentionally reviewing my story.

Shortly after I came here to MVPC, I read a book called "A Million Miles in a Thousand Years." it's one person's journey to discover his own story. The author, Donald Miller, wrote about his experience of turning his earlier memoir into a screenplay. Along the way he found himself asking questions about the source of meaning and purpose in his life... what kind of story is he living? Is that the kind of story he wanted to live? And he wondered how he could live a better story. His insight called for intentionality, which I remembered at the conference because I felt like that was my invitation too.

He wrote about a phase he went through in high school, "I would suddenly realize I was alive and human. I felt like I was in a movie and had two cameras for eyes, and I'd swivel my head around as though I were moving my cameras atop a tripod. I even wrote a poem about it and said we were 'spirit bound by flesh, held up by bone and trapped in time.' Back then I wondered why nobody else realized what a crazy experience we were all having. Back then I'd be lying in bed or walking down a hallway at college and the realization I was alive would startle me, as though it had come up from behind and slammed two books together."

He continued, reflecting that too often we get robbed of the glory of life, "When you are born, you wake slowly to everything. Your brain doesn't stop growing until you turn twenty-six, so from birth to twenty six, God is slowly turning the lights on, and you're groggy and pointing at things saying, circle and blue and car... and then later attention shifts and words change to job and sex and healthcare... the experience is so slow you could easily come to believe life isn't that big of a deal, that life isn't staggering. And what I'm saying is that I think life is staggering



**In lieu of the annual "Giving Thanks" Luncheon  
everyone is invited to the**

**Bright Future Dinner Celebration**

**on Saturday, November 23rd at 5:30 pm in Good  
Shepherd Hall.**

and we just get used to it. We're all like spoiled children no longer impressed with the gifts we've been given—it's just another sunset, just another rainstorm moving in over the mountain, just another child being born, just another funeral... But when we wrote ourselves as characters into the screenplay, I felt like I hope God feels as God writes the world... placing tiny people into tiny wombs... If I have hope, it's that God sat over the dark nothing and wrote you and me, specifically, into the story and put us in with that sunset and that rainstorm as though to say, 'Enjoy your place in my story. The beauty of it all means you matter... and you can create within it even as I have created you.'"

I love the image of God that's portrayed there, someone who cares deeply and enjoys what's going on. Someone who invites us to lose ourselves in God's greatness and God's goodness, to live the stories we want to live and to be the kind of people who also enjoy what we do.

Last week's conference reminded me of how much I do enjoy the story I'm living, and I'm grateful that we get to journey in it together.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dan

### MVPC Church Leadership 2019-2020

Elders			Class Year	Ministry Area	Deacons		Class Year
Patti	Allen	2020		Hospitality	Brian	Anderson	2020
Becky	Goodell	2020		Hospitality	Sarah	Catton	2020
Bob	Rauch	2020		Discipleship	Colleen	Higbee	2020
Bob	Higbee	2020		Ministry Support	Toni	Hulbert	2020
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		Capital Campaign Chair	Tom	Howard	2022
Bill	DeHon	2022		Mission	Chris	Johnson	2022
Gail	LaFleur	2022		Worship	Sandi	Seabott	2022
		2022			Sumiko	Shinozaki	2022



### Notes from October 15th Session meeting

- Received the financial report showing Year to date difference through September 30, 2019 of \$13,301.80.
- Approved the request from the Worship Ministry to relocate the second-to-the-last pew in front of the north windows in the sanctuary to in front of the windows to the Fireside Room allowing the bell tables to be set up there and remain in place between times of playing in worship. It also provides a safety factor between the windows and people walking in that area.
- Approved entering into an "Alternate Facility Emergency Transfer" agreement with Where the Heart Is.
- Decided to research how to go about fixing the doors and standardizing the keys promoting a safer environment.
- Heard a report from Discipleship Ministry about setting up adult education opportunities of how to deal with homeless folk in light of the City of Mount Vernon passing an Emergency Ordinance allowing homeless people to park overnight on the properties of religious organizations that meet approved guidelines.

# November 2019 Children and Family Ministries



## Church Nursery

Sundays 9 am to Noon

Drop Off & Pick Up

Play - Story - Craft

A huge thank you to everyone who helped and participated in the MVPC

All Ages

Pumpkin

Party and

Potluck!



## Godly Play

Begin in Worship

Kindergarten to 5th Grade

Story - Reflection - Prayer



11/3 - The Exodus\*

11/10 - The Story of Jacob

11/17 - The Story of Joseph

11/24 - Thankfulness

*\*Kids return to worship for communion.*

## MVPC Kid's Afternoon In (Parents Afternoon Out)



Sunday, Dec. 1st  
12 to 3 pm

**Please RSVP by  
11/24**

Kids are invited for an afternoon of Christmas fun as we enjoy a pizza lunch, decorate (and eat) sugar cookies, trim the tree in Good Shepherd Hall, make gifts for family and friends, and watch a few Christmas shows. We are asking a \$5 donation to help cover costs. Please RSVP with Rebecca by 11/24 so that we have enough food, supplies, and volunteers! Save your kid's spot today!

## MVPC Family Small Group

The Family Small Group meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of most months to enjoy dinner together followed by a family-friendly time of sharing and prayer.



New families are always welcome! Talk to Rebecca to find out the next Family Small Group location.

Questions? Contact Rebecca Holland, Director of Children and Family Ministries.



# Youth & Family Ministries

## November 2019



### Regularly Scheduled Programs

#### **Seekers (MS) & Explorers (HS)**



Youth Bible study classes during the worship service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Nov. 10 & 24.

#### **Youth Group**



Fun, Faith and Fellowship for all middle and high school students, held after worship, noon-1:30 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Nov. 10 & 24.

### Youth Movie Night

(4th Fridays)

Nov. 22	Movie tbd
No Movie Night in December Come to Tall Timber Winter Family Camp instead!	



All middle school and high school students and friends are welcome! RSVP to Jodie by November 20.

### **Winter Family Camp at Tall Timber**

Register now for Dec 30- Jan 2.

Tall Timber provides food & lodging. Borrow their skis, sledding tubes, and snowshoes, cozy up to the wood stoves, enjoy the New Year concert, bring your talent show act, and spend quality time in fellowship!

Open to families of all shapes and sizes!

Register at [TallTimber.org/adult-family-events](http://TallTimber.org/adult-family-events)

Cost: \$0 (0-4yrs), \$84 (5-10yrs), \$169 (11+yrs)

*Scholarships Available—Talk to Jodie*



## **Practicing a Life of Service**

### **Volunteer: Craft Kit Prep Party**

(Wednesday, Nov. 6)

Youth gather together to make samples and prepare craft kits for use at the "Kids' Afternoon In" later this year. This casual get together is a fun way to serve the church, strengthen friendships and brighten up the darkening evenings!

Jodie's House

5:30—8:00 pm

Dinner and supplies provided.

Please RSVP by Sunday, November 3.

### **Coming Up**

- Youth & Adults are invited to participate in the bell choir's Christmas Eve performance. Talk to Jodie for more information.
- The annual stewardship drive and capital campaign banquet this year is on Saturday, November 23 at 5:30 pm. All are encouraged to attend!
- Youth are encouraged to be volunteer helpers at the Kids Afternoon In on Sunday, Dec. 1 after worship. Talk to Jodie or Rebecca to sign up.
- The Seekers class plans on participating in the Advent skit on Sunday, Dec. 8.

# MVPC Christmas Baskets Tradition

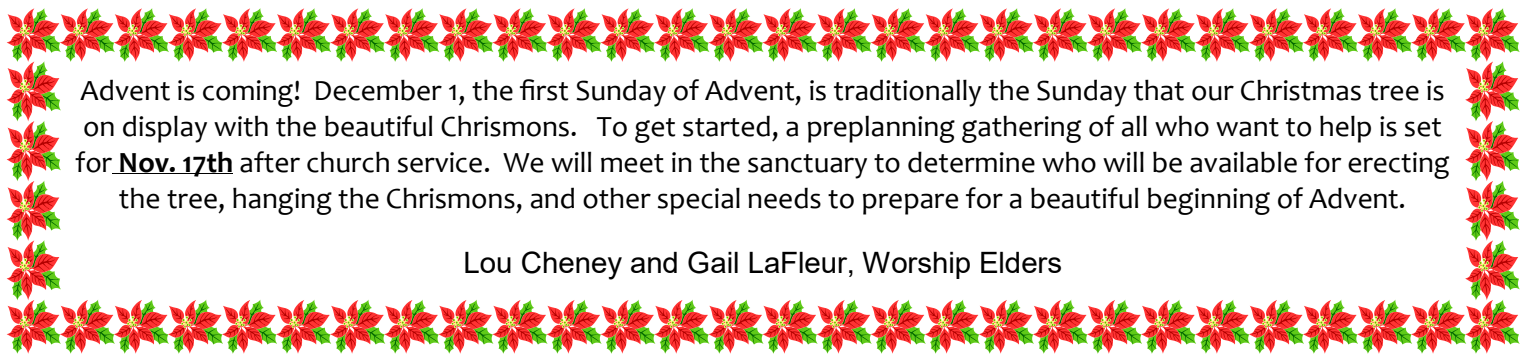
*Sponsoring Families with Food and Gifts  
through the  
Skagit Valley Herald Christmas Fund*

Each year MVPC sponsors families through the SVH Christmas Fund program. We provide a bountiful feast and gifts for children to local families in need. This tradition of lifting up local families and helping them feel the love of Christ as we celebrate His birth has been our tradition for over two decades, and requires the effort of the whole congregation. As you make your plans for the holiday season, please consider how you can be a part of this uplifting and joyful program! Volunteer opportunities include:

- Calling family contact person to ask for gift requests for their children
- Pulling Google Maps directions to each family's home
- Creating tags for the Giving Tree
- Setting up the Giving Tree
- Attending the Giving Tree to ensure people sign out their tags
- Purchasing gifts for children from tags on the Giving Tree
- Sorting and inventorying donated gifts
- Donating 20-40 Christmas cards
- Signing Christmas cards from the church for each food basket
- Placing food and box order with Haggen
- Setting up tables and signs in fellowship hall on Friday, December 20
- Organizing food baskets and gifts for delivery the morning of Saturday, December 21
- Delivering food baskets and gifts to 2 families on Saturday, December 21 (need at least 10 volunteer teams of 2 or more)
- Cleaning up fellowship halls after baskets leave for delivery on Saturday, December 21



Last Christmas the SVH Christmas Fund had sponsors for 126 families. Shockingly, 1,741 families had requested sponsorship; meaning that only 7% of families requesting sponsorship found a sponsor. While the SVH also collects toys and provides a small grocery store gift certificate to families that don't find sponsors; those families do not have the chance to request properly sized clothes for their children, the one toy their child really wants, or have home delivery of a food basket from a loving church. The personal gift of love that MVPC gives to each of our sponsored families delivers with it the love of Christ at Christmas. We will be asking for volunteers early on this year, in hopes that we might be able to add families to our sponsorship list. If you know of another organization that might want to sponsor families, please contact the church office or see Jodie for an information sheet.



Advent is coming! December 1, the first Sunday of Advent, is traditionally the Sunday that our Christmas tree is on display with the beautiful Chrismons. To get started, a preplanning gathering of all who want to help is set for **Nov. 17th** after church service. We will meet in the sanctuary to determine who will be available for erecting the tree, hanging the Chrismons, and other special needs to prepare for a beautiful beginning of Advent.

Lou Cheney and Gail LaFleur, Worship Elders

**An Invitation to Serve: Counseling Centers of North Puget Sound (CCNPS):**

We are a Pastoral Counseling agency, in mission partnership with the Presbytery of The Northwest Coast. Through covenant relationships, we provide an essential complement extending the caring ministry of host congregations. We share opportunities for wholeness and health for mind, body, spirit and community. Counseling Centers of North Puget Sound is about saving lives, saving marriages and families, serving and strengthening our community with professional faith based counseling. We offer opportunities for growth and new or renewed joy in life.

Listening, caring and counseling have always been a part of the process by which the faith community extends the love of God to persons with emotional, spiritual or relational hurt. We believe that people seeking help should be met with respect, acceptance, and care. Often, people of faith may seek out counseling within the context of the church knowing their values and faith concerns will be respected. Others will receive the same caring support, and experience the love of Christ through our service ministry.

Are you feeling a calling to help those in your community? Do you understand the need for quality, spiritually integrated mental health care, or are you willing to learn more about it? You can leverage your valuable time to guide and support our mission. By joining our Board of Directors, you can truly help to make a difference for those in need of mental health support in your community.

The Board provides several essential functions: 1) Oversight and guidance for the agency, 2) Providing the vision for our future, 3) Fundraising, and 4) Serving as a key stakeholder in both the local church and our agency. These functions are accomplished through meeting as a board quarterly, in fellowship and agency leadership. Additional tasks and ad hoc or committee meetings may be agreed to as needed.

If you are interested in learning more about us and to consider applying for a position on our board, please contact Douglas Chandler, Executive Director at 360-708-9595 or [dchandler@counselignnps.com](mailto:dchandler@counselignnps.com).



**Thank you to:**

- \* Margie Riedel and ladies who prepared and served lunch to the New Earth Recovery workshop.
- \* Bob Higbee, Bruce Lavers, Tom Howard, Jim Byron and others who helped transport tables from other churches for the Genesis workshop.
- \* Doug Catton and Bob Higbee for preparing the wall for the drinking fountain.
- \* Bell choir members who faithfully appear on Monday nights, even in pouring rain!
- \* All who are spending time and energy creating a successful Capital Campaign.
- \* Jodie Kercheval who fixed the wifi in the Great Room!
- \* Mike Weeks, Dan and Tim Long for moving the pew to make room for a permanent location for the bell choir tables.



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. [Office.mvpc@gmail.com](mailto:Office.mvpc@gmail.com)



## Community Events

### Children of the Valley

An after school enrichment program

#### Our Mission:

*Children of the Valley provides a positive, caring, and supportive environment for children of low-income families that values and respects their God-given potential, while offering a variety of cultural enrichment activities as well as academic support.*

Children of the Valley is a faith-based independent 501c3 that serves 55 low-income children in the Mount Vernon schools who are most in need. This is not a drop-in program. Instead, we provide structured, daily mentoring and academic support with the help of educated and committed volunteers and trained staff. We continually serve students and their families as they progress through elementary and middle school. COV has been in existence for 14 years and maintains a strong partnership with Mount Vernon School District. We attribute the high success of this program to the strong relationships that develop among staff, students, volunteers, and families, and to the rich experiences offered to our students. Results are measured by student achievement, graduation rates, and college and career success. Currently, our alumni are represented at Skagit Valley College and Western Washington University. Some are scholarship recipients. They serve in leadership roles in high school, and after high school they are successfully employed in our community. One of our current staff members went through the program herself. She returned as a volunteer, and now she is earning her teaching credential at Skagit Valley College before transferring to WWU.

**Get  
Involved!**

#### Volunteers needed in the following areas:

Reading and Homework Tutor  
Enrichment Activity Helper  
Field Trip Van Driver  
Drop Off Van Driver  
Snack Preparation  
Snack Shopper  
Office Helper



**Contact: Sophia Garcia Volunteer Coordinator**  
[volunteercoordinator@covmv.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@covmv.org) (425) 760-5614

### Veterans Day Celebration

**Saturday, November 9th ~ 1pm to 3pm**

**@ Hillcrest Park Lodge located at 1717 South 13th Street, Mount Vernon, WA**

Join us for coffee and refreshments at the Hillcrest Park Lodge in Mount Vernon as we hear from honored guest speakers and celebrate our veterans. All veterans, their families and friends, and all community members are encouraged and welcome to attend this event. Admission is free. For more information call Mount Vernon Parks and Enrichment Services at (360)336-6215.



### Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs

#### Free Faith Based Domestic Violence Education Training

**Sunday November 10 \*\* 3:30-5:00 pm** at Burlington Lutheran Church; 134 E Victoria Ave

Come learn what your church can do to effectively respond to this most common form of violence in our midst.

- Problem identification, definitions & analysis
- The 5 R's of change process
- Religious text
- Complementarian/egalitarian
- Resource or roadblock
- The DO'S & DON'TS
- Community resources



## November Birthdays & Anniversaries

2-Howard Koozer

5-Peter Brown

6-Martin Boer

7-Don Wolf

9-Warren Weeks

11-Mary Ellen Byerly

13-Natalia Weeks

14-Bev Overby

17-Donovan Maas

19-Bob Mitchell

Karen Beckner



21-Stephanie Yerigan

Dale Irvine

23-Shirley Gilbert

Jadelle Moyer

Are we missing your special date?  
Please contact the church office at  
mvpc@mountvernonpres.org  
or call or text  
360-424-7675 so we can celebrate  
with you!

**Men's Breakfast** next  
meets January 25th, 2020  
the fourth Saturday for  
breakfast at 9:00 am in  
Good Shepherd Hall.  
Come experience  
fellowship and a great  
home-cooked breakfast.



## Women's Fellowship

Meets the fourth  
Saturday, October 26th  
at 9:00 am in the  
Fireside Room.



### In memory of Pat Call

**July 6, 1919 - October 17, 2019**

Pat was a musician, pilot for the Women's  
Air Service during WWII, scholar and  
lifelong learner, teacher and one of the first  
two women elders at MVPC in the 1970's.  
She will be missed.

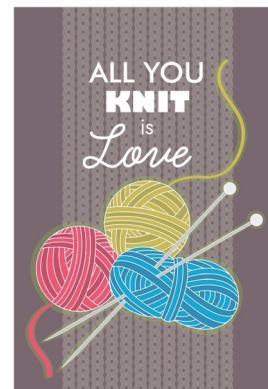


## Family Promise week at MVPC November 3rd - 10th

We will need volunteers to be overnight hosts,  
provide meals and help transport equipment.  
Contact Dale Irvine or the office to sign up.

## MVPC Knitting/Crafts

Bring your craft  
project and  
enjoy fellowship  
with other  
MVPC knitter,  
crocheters, and  
more on the **2nd  
& 4th Tuesdays**  
of every month  
from Noon to  
1pm in the Great



Room. Questions?  
Talk with Patti Allen



# Prayer

Would You like to join a prayer group?

## PEOPLE OF PRAYER

A few years ago, members of MVPC gathered to clarify how prayer is used in our church. Our vision for prayer at MVPC at that time was to pray with love in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, that one day the entire church body will be involved in this ministry without fear, as it belongs to all of us.

The experience of prayer in our church is that our congregation trusts in the power of prayer, we share our burdens and we care for each other. And we celebrate as we see the many ways God answers our prayers.



We have many venues to present prayer requests.

- On Sunday, we have the Prayers of the People, during the service.
- Please feel free to write a prayer request on the Friendship Register form during worship. These requests are given to the deacons and Tuesday prayer gathering.
- Tuesday Intercessory Prayer Gathering - this takes place each Tuesday, at 10:30 in the library. Anyone who wishes to participate in group prayer is encouraged to come. It is a warm and caring experience, with huge rewards as we recognize all of the ways God has blessed us with answered prayer.
- Small Group Gatherings - sharing and praying together in our activities, requesting interaction with the rest of the church, as desired.
- Do you know about the EMAIL PRAYER MINISTRY? This is a place we can receive prayer during the week. There are two ways you can participate. 1) Sign up to be on the email Prayer Contact List (use the following email address) to receive prayer requests 2) Send in a prayer request to this same email address: [prayers.mvpc@gmail.com](mailto:prayers.mvpc@gmail.com). When you send in a request it will be reviewed by an individual for permission and confidentiality, and then sent out to those on the Prayer Contact List for immediate prayer. At this time about 30 people are participating in this ministry. Please sign up if you are interested. And if you have a friend that does not have email, sign up and then call that friend so they can pray along with you.

"Peace to you, and may we all become people of prayer".

**THANK YOU** to all the wonderful cookie providers, set up, preparation experts, servers, and cleanup workers with whom I have worked these past seventeen years facilitating Memorial service receptions. All of us working together has resulted in providing a 'stress-less' reception and a genuine fellowship of remembrance and celebration of a life for families experiencing the loss of a loved one. As I 'retire' from this responsibility, I reflect on how it was indeed a great opportunity to share God's love.

**GOD BLESS YOU ALL.** Mary Ellen Byerly



## Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

*Growing followers of Christ*

### Our Vision Statement

*E*ncounter The Hope  
of the living God through Jesus Christ

*E*ngage One Another  
in authentic friendship

*E*mbrace The World  
with the heart and hands of Jesus

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS @ MVPC:

<b>Centering Prayer:</b>	Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Pastor Dan's office
<b>Intercessory Prayer Group:</b>	Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Library
<b>Small Groups:</b>	Call the church to get connected to a small group!
<b>Friendship House:</b>	First Thursday and second Tuesday @ Friendship House
<b>Family Small Group:</b>	2nd & 4th Sundays at 5 pm. Please RSVP to find out location.
<b>Youth Movie Night:</b>	4th Fridays @ 5:30 pm
<b>Chancel Choir:</b>	Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30 pm
<b>Bell Choir practice:</b>	Mondays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
<b>Tea @ 2:</b>	Last Thurs at 2 p.m. in Fireside Room (March through Sept)
<b>Women's Fellowship:</b>	Fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
<b>Men's Breakfast:</b>	Fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
<b>Deacons Meeting:</b>	1st Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
<b>Personnel Committee:</b>	3rd Tuesday at 4:15 p.m.
<b>Session Meeting:</b>	3rd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
<b>Worship Team Meeting:</b>	1st Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	2nd Tuesday at 5 p.m. in library
<b>Mission Team Meeting:</b>	4th Sunday (Stay tuned for meeting time)
<b>Children &amp; Family Team:</b>	3rd week of Oct, Jan, April & July

## THE SUNDAY SCHEDULE AT MVPC

### 9:00 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

#### The Bible Class

An in-depth exploration of the Bible through discussion-based study for adults in the Conference Room.

### 10:30 WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

**GODLY PLAY** (K through 5th) Begin in Worship and will be returned to parents at 11:45

**SEEKERS & EXPLORERS** Youth (MS & HS) Begin in Worship; dismissed on 2nd & 4th Sundays to classes.

**11:45 FELLOWSHIP TIME:** Please stay to enjoy treats and good conversation!

**Noon - 1:30 YOUTH GROUP** 2nd & 4th Sundays in the Great Room for Fun, Faith and Fellowship.

**\*Nursery Care Available 9 am to Noon.**

