



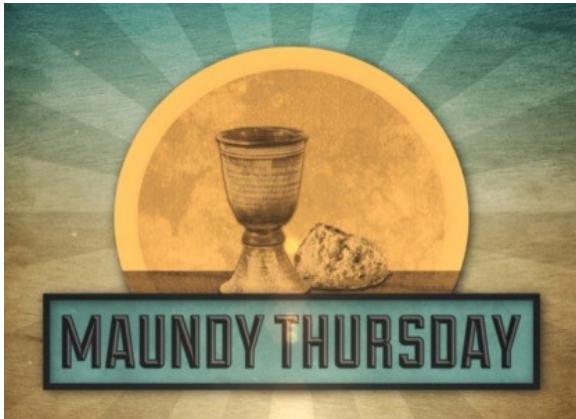
MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Growing Followers Of Christ Since 1902

The Grapevine

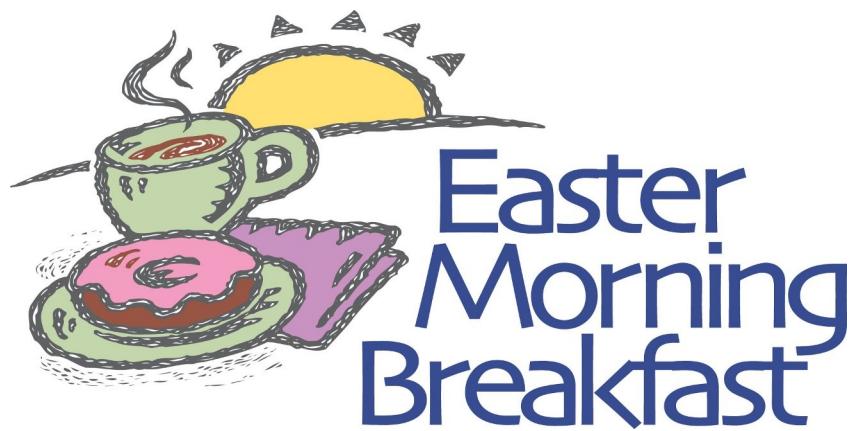
I am the vine; You are the branches.
John 15:5

Year 115, Issue 4
April 2017



MAUNDY THURSDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE
THURSDAY, APRIL 13
7 P.M.

CHILDCARE PROVIDED



*Forget the hassle of fixing
Easter Morning breakfast!*

Come to a relaxing Easter Breakfast
in Good Shepherd Hall Easter Morning
from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Your hospitality ministry will be serving a
festive array of Easter breads, fruit, beverages,
and homemade casseroles.

*Easter
Morning
Worship
10:30 a.m.*



INTRODUCING

Janet Sonnanburg



For months we've been telling you in the Grapevine that there will be an Interim Pastor hired for while Pastor Dan is on sabbatical this Summer. And now, we're excited to be able to introduce you to her!

Janet Sonnanburg came with high recommendation from Presbytery and congregations she's served before. She's just finishing up a term as the Interim Pastor of Saint James Presbyterian Church in Bellingham. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the work of interim ministry and has even previously served this congregation as an interim a number of years ago.

We asked Janet to introduce herself to the congregation so she wrote:

I am a native Washingtonian, born in Spokane. I grew up in Spokane and Boise, Idaho, and lived for four years in Seoul, Korea, where my father worked as an agricultural economist with the State Department. While there, my parents adopted my younger sister, who is Korean. She joined a family of two sets of twins. I have a twin brother, and my older brother and sister are also twins.

I attended Whitworth College (now University), and Princeton Seminary. My first call was as an Associate Pastor at a large church in Michigan. Since returning to Washington (Mukilteo), I've served in a number of interim and temporary positions in Presbyterian churches, and was on staff for three years at a large Methodist church, as Pastor of Congregational Care.

I am married to Keith Sonnanburg, a clinical psychologist. We have two grown sons. One is attending graduate school at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and the other is at Western Washington University.

Janet will be serving MVPC on a half-time basis from Memorial Day through Labor Day. She will be in the office 1-2 days per week in addition to Sundays and available as needed via phone and email. She will be formally introduced to the congregation on Sunday, May 28th as Pastor Dan "passes the torch" to her in worship and we mark the transition to his sabbatical.

A SEASON OF *Discernment*



"Renewed by the Spirit day by day"

—II CORINTHIANS 4:16

It's not always easy to know how God is inviting us to act. And the process only becomes more complicated as we try to work through that as a community of faith. Recently Session began addressing questions of what might the future of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church look like? How is God calling us to "be church" together now so that our ministry can be thriving 10 or 20 years from now? What difference are we called to make in our community and in our world? These are big questions... more than can be answered in a single session meeting or even our annual retreat. As we began to discuss some of the issues we realized that we haven't have a good process to listen for the Spirit's guidance in the big questions, to involve the congregation and make sure voices are heard, and to be intentional about listening for God's invitation as a community of faith.

Luckily for us there's a local resource to help churches discern these kinds of big questions. We've decided to partner with Renewal Ministries Northwest, one of our Presbytery's covenant partner ministries ([RenewalMinNW.org](http://renewalminnw.org)), to enter into a season of discernment. When Pastor Dan returns from sabbatical, it will be an opportune time to consider what God is saying to us as a congregation and then how to faithfully respond.

We've set aside 4 dates (one may still be in flux)

September 30th - To Teach and Equip: all members and friends of the congregation are welcome and encouraged to participate. Based on the prayer life of Jesus, we explore and learn about Abiding Prayer and Listening Prayer. Instruction on a Process of Communal Discernment is provided.

October 14th - Preparation for Discernment: by the leadership of the church. Through a process of appreciative Inquiry – We will identify how MVPC has been uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit and we will frame the question for discernment.

November 11th (Perhaps being moved to the 18th) - Communal Discernment: all members and friends of the congregation are welcome and encouraged to participate. We listen together for **what** God is saying to us collectively in response to the question that is before us. After we have discerned what God is saying, we listen together for **how** God is calling us to act on what we have heard.

December 2nd - Communal Discernment: The leadership of the church will distill the results of the congregation's discernment and engage further in discerning **how** God is calling us to act on what we have heard and develop a plan of action.

If you're interested in reading more about the process or outcomes for other congregations when they've undertaken similar processes, please check out <http://renewalminnw.org/spiritual-discernment>.

We will be nailing down the November date within the month and keep you posted. Please mark the dates on your calendar and plan to participate. It's an exciting time to be part of the church as we look toward the future!

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE MOST RECENT STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION

At the March 21, 2017, Stated meeting of the Session, the following occurred:

- The meeting convened at 5:30pm in the Fireside Room with fellowship and dinner.
- Following dinner members offered prayers of thanksgiving for both personal and church related aspects of their lives.
- Pastor Holland introduced Rev. Janet Sonnanburg; candidate for the position of Interim Pastor during Pastor Holland's sabbatical. After getting acquainted, Rev. Sonnanburg left the room. During that time, her candidacy was discussed and voted upon. Session voted to hire her for the position. After the vote, Rev. Sonnanburg rejoined the group.
- The Session then introduced Reverends Denise Easter and Dianna Kunce from Renewal Ministries Northwest, who then briefed the Session on the upcoming discernment process. It was decided there will be four gatherings; September 30, October 14, November 11, and December 2. The purpose of the discernment process is to listen to God and to discern His direction for this congregation.
- The Session voted to apply for a grant from the Presbytery to defray a portion of the expenses associated with Renewal Ministries, and to fund the remaining expenses from the Operating Reserve account.
- The Session voted to authorize Elder DeHon to spend up to \$2,000.00 to engage the services of a structural engineer or other professional to assess the building; as at least one beam is showing indication of possible rot.
- Deacon Ward Ernst, representing the Deacons, requested some guidance/training for their upcoming duties during Pastor Holland's sabbatical.

Tom Howard
Clerk of Session

HEARING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Are you having troubles hearing during service? Do you know someone who can't make it to services on Sunday? If so, come to the sound desk before service! We have hearing devices available that can work with your T-Coil hearing aids or independently of any other hearing assist devices.



RECORDINGS OF WORSHIP SERVICE

We now have CD recordings available after service for those homebound. See Brian, Josh or Michelle for more information!

These recordings are also available for listening on our website:
www.MountVernonPres.org/sermons



Thermostat Notice

Please don't turn the thermostats "off". They are on a timed schedule and will turn off when they are supposed to. If you need heat, please press the "up" arrow to the desired heat setting. It will automatically reset itself after a period of time.
Do not turn the thermostats off!



Volunteer with MVPC in the Community!!

Participate in crafts time
at Where The Heart Is on Monday mornings
Serve dinner at Friendship House
twice a month (First Thursday, Second Tuesday)
Participate with Family Promise
During our quarterly host weeks

Volunteer at MVPC

- * Participate in Church work parties inside and outside
- * Setup/cleanup for events
- * Be a sound technician during worship
- * Volunteer with Children, Youth & Family
- * Count Offering after church
- * Help with building maintenance (changing light bulbs and batteries, paint touch-up, trouble-shooting, etc.)
- * Volunteer in the church office

Contact the church for more information:
mvpc@MountVernonPres.org

Outdoor Work Party

April 8, 9-11:30 a.m.

April 8 Focus:
Pulling weeds,
spreading bark



One Great Hour of Sharing

God has called us to a *new kind* of fast—



You Shall Be
Called **Repairers**
of the Breach
—Isaiah 58—

-Not to give up our bread, but to share it

In Isaiah 58, God issues a call and a challenge—to love one another more deeply by sharing what we have with those in need.

One Great Hour of Sharing is our direct response to the ways in which God has called us to share.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

This offering will be received during worship on April 30

Check out the **One Great Hour of Sharing** interactive map online at:

{ pcusa.org/oghsmap }



NIGHT AT THE NURSERY

Proceeds to Benefit Family Promise of Skagit Valley

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

SKAGIT VALLEY GARDENS

18923 PETER JOHNSON ROAD, MOUNT VERNON, WA

Join us for a fun, private event featuring:

- * Drinks, desserts and appetizers plus a cash bar
- * 30% off one item the evening of the event
- * 20% of nursery sales will support Family Promise

TICKETS: \$25

Order online: fpnursery.brownpapertickets.com

MAJOR SPONSOR: Thrivent Financial

For more information call 360-854-0743



Knitting/Crochet Fellowship

4th Wednesday of the month at noon
in the Fireside Room

All are welcome to join, regardless of your knitting
or crocheting expertise (or lack thereof)!

**All Yarn and Thread Crafters welcome ... crochet or
knit, even quilting questions have been discussed
so come check it out!**



Women's Fellowship

The good fellowship, coffee, tasty refreshments,
and warm fireplace go along with the spiritual lift
on the 4th Saturday of the month. *Come and see!*

All are welcome @ 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Senior Shepherds

Everyone 50 years and better is invited!

Join us April 18 for a delicious lunch.

Only \$5, as usual!

Questions?

Please talk to Dave & Arlene Andersen
or Bob & Glenda Mitchell.

Men's Breakfast

All men are invited to join us on the 4th Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in Good Shepherd Hall for a delicious home-cooked breakfast and great conversation.
If you have any questions about Men's Breakfast,
please speak to Bob Wygal.

Want to keep up with
what's going on at MVPC?
Check out the calendar that's
posted on our website!

<http://www.mountvernonpres.org/calendar/>

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April

- 2-Sumiko Shinozaki
- 6-Rebekah Weston
 Bev Wilson
- 6-John & Leslie Braun
- 7-Bill DeHon
- 9-Benjamin Holland
- 19-Jan DeHon
- 20-Meredith Kostek
- 22-Ruth Neal
- 23-Leslie Braun



- 23-Wayne & Chris Yerigan
- 24-Sandy Ball
- 27-Mary Poppe
- 30-George Ridgeway
- 30-Virgil & Debbie Parker

Are we missing your special date?

Please contact Michelle in the church office at
MVPC@MountVernonPres.org or
424-7675 so we can celebrate with you!

IT'S BACK!

Birthday Sunday at MVPC has returned!

Everyone enjoys celebrating their Birthday
and the Deacons are making that happen.

On the last Sunday of each month during
Fellowship time there will be a large
Birthday cake in honor of all that had a
Birthday that month.

Come, join in, and enjoy the festivities.

If the church office doesn't have your
birthday, please send an email to
mvpca@MountVernonPres.org so you can
be honored on Birthday Sunday!

MVPC Children, Youth, & Family ~ April 2017



Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15th at 10 am at Trinity Lutheran Church
(Co-Hosted by TLC, TLC Preschool, MVFUMC, and MVPC)

Sunday, April 30th - Bring in your One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks!

SUNDAYS

Nursery 9 to Noon Sundays

A time for the youngest kids to play! Everyone in the nursery is invited to join the Seeds Sunday School.

Creative Kids 9 to 10 am Sundays

A time for grade school kids to express their faith creatively. Drama sessions will wrap up April 2nd, 9th, and 16th with a drama to share with the congregation on Easter Morning (April 16th). We will focus on Creative Mission April 23rd and 30th. Coming in May: Creative Yarn! Everyone welcome!

Sunday School during 10:30 am Worship

	<u>Seeds (Preschool)</u>	<u>Sprouts (K to 2nd)</u>	<u>Saplings (3rd to 5th & Youth)</u>
4/2	Jesus on the Cross	Dark Night in the Garden	The Line in the Sand
4/9	Palm Sunday	Sun Stops Shining	Church during WWII
4/16	Special Sunday School Lessons and Activities for EASTER SUNDAY!		
4/23	Taking Care of Creation	Going Home	Church & Protests During WWII
4/30	The Holy Spirit	God Sends Help	Justice Today

FAMILY NIGHT Wednesdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Everyone is invited Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Saplings /Great Room for food, faith, and fellowship! Dinner is potluck so please bring food to share. Talk to Rebecca to get added to the weekly email list. No Family Night 4/5 or 4/12 due to Spring Break and Holy Week but we will kick off again on 4/19 with a picnic in the sun!

YOUTH GROUP 3rd Sundays Noon to 1:30 pm

No Youth Group this month due to Easter but please let Rebecca know if you would like to:

- Help serve food at Friendship House from 4:45 to 6:45 pm on Thursday, April 6th!
- Help run games/crafts/more at the Easter Egg Hunt on April 15th from 9 am to 11:30 am!
- Come to a Youth Lunch Out after Worship on Sunday, April 23rd!

Save the Dates:

Sunday, May 7th: Noon to 1 pm Children, Youth, and Family Discernment Team Meeting

Sunday, May 28th: Graduation/Bibles, End of Year Parties, and Appreciation Lunch!

“Like Us” on facebook.com/MVPCChildrenYouthandFamilyMinistry

Questions? Email Rebecca@MountVernonPres.org or call 360.424.7675.



Crafts In The Nursery

Family Night Worship



Creative Kids Drama Group

Come see their Easter Drama presentation on Easter Sunday during worship!



Saplings Sunday School

Seeds Sunday School



Sprouts Sunday School

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS @ MVPC:

- Centering Prayer:** Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Pastor's Office
- Prayer Group:** Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Library
- Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room
- Small Groups:** Call the church to get connected to a small group!
- Family Night:** Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at MVPC
- Youth Group:** 3rd Sundays, noon-1:30 in the Great Room
- Chancel Choir:** Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.
- Glorify!:** Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Senior Shepherds:** Third Tuesday of the month at noon.
- Women's Fellowship:** Fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
- Men's Breakfast:** Fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
- Deacons Meeting:** 1st Tuesday at 5 p.m.
- Worship Team Meeting:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at noon
- Finance Committee:** 2nd Tuesday at 5 p.m.
- Mission Team Meeting:** 2nd Wednesday at noon
- Personnel Committee:** 3rd Tuesday at 4:15 p.m.
- Session Meeting:** 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

THE SUNDAY SCHEDULE AT MVPC ...

9:00 ADULT EDUCATION HOUR

ADULT CLASSES:

The Bible Class

Join teacher Bob Rauch for an in-depth exploration of the Bible. This class is a discussion-based study and meets in the Conference Room. No prior Bible experience required.

KIDS PROGRAMS:

Nursery - Birth to preschool age kids enjoy playing together.

Creative Kids - Kids express their faith through art, music, and drama.

10:30 WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nursery / Seeds Sunday School - Birth to preschool age kids are introduced to Bible Stories

Sprouts Sunday School - kindergarten-2nd Grade (begin in worship) journey through the Bible.

Saplings Sunday School for 3rd - 5th Grade (begin in worship) journey through Christianity.

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