



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Growing Followers Of Christ Since 1902

The Grapevine

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

Year 116, Issue 2
February 2018

1511 East Broadway Street . Mt Vernon, WA . 360 424-7675 . www.MountVernonPres.org
mvpc@MountVernonPres.org

Discernment Report

MVPC's 2017 discernment process consisted of 4 Saturday meetings from September through December and one Tuesday evening which was added early in January of 2018 when it became clear that the work was not finished in December. After learning the process, experiencing the kinds of prayer we would be using through the process, and gaining some theological framework for the discernment process at the first meeting, the second meeting was devoted to listening for a particular gifting of the Holy Spirit for Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. We articulated that charism as follows:

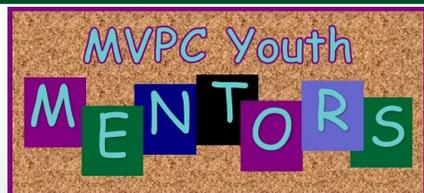
MVPC is and is becoming a caring, welcoming and graciously safe community because we are deeply committed to seeking Jesus, listening for the Holy Spirit and discerning God's will.

Believing that God will call us forward in ways that are consistent with how God has called us in the past, we put our question for discernment before the Lord:

What are you saying to us, Lord, about nurturing our particular giftedness within the church and extending it outside?

Coming out of discernment, the leadership of the church believes that we have heard an invitation from the Lord and we are excited to share with you!

On February 11th in Good Shepherd Hall after worship we'll gather around tables for a meal, the elders and deacons who were part of the final steps of the discernment process will be spread out to be able to discuss what we heard in discernment with regard to MVPC's programs, our leadership and our building. God has some big things in store for us as we look toward the future and continue to grow as followers of Christ.



Call for Youth Mentors

Make a difference in a young person's life—just by being yourself.

If you are interested in having fun, growing in your faith, and engaging someone in authentic friendship; you may make a great youth mentor! Our youth mentor program has been dormant while it is being redefined, and will be ready to relaunch in March! The new program facilitates relationship building through monthly guided letters, hosted events and no-prep volunteering opportunities.

Please take the time to pick up an information sheet about being a youth mentor. You can find the yellow MVPC Youth Mentor Program—2018 sheets on the counter in the Narthex, on the table in the Christian Education hallway, or speak with Jodie Kercheval, Director of Youth & Family Ministries.



MVPC LENT 2018



Ash Wednesday Service

7:00 on February 14th

Come, enter into the season of Lent with a service designed to be both tactile and contemplative. We will have stations for prayer set up around the sanctuary with tangible, ordinary “stuff” of life which will become reminders of God’s unyielding faithfulness.

- ◆ Ash Wednesday Service—February 14th 7:00 pm
- ◆ Lenten potlucks—Wednesday 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21 5:30-7:00 in Good Shepherd Hall
- ◆ Creative Prayer—Sunday mornings 2/18-3/18 9:30-10:15 in Good Shepherd Hall
- ◆ Contemplative Prayer—Thursdays 6:00-8:00 pm 2/22, 3/8, 3/22 in the Great Room
- ◆ Palm Sunday—March 25
- ◆ Maundy Thursday—Thursday 7:00 pm March 29
- ◆ Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt—Saturday 3/31
- ◆ **EASTER SUNDAY**

Lenten Potlucks

5:30-7 each Wednesday 2/21-3/21

During our season of discernment toward the end of last year and the beginning of this year, one of the desires God put on the hearts of the leadership of the church was to provide more opportunities to build relationship across some of the usual dividing lines within congregations. So at these potlucks we’ll have some time for informal conversation around tables as we eat, we’ll gather our hearts together in worship of the living God and we’ll break out into smaller groups so that we can engage each other on a slightly deeper level and grow in authentic friendship as people who journey together in faith.

Please plan to bring food to share. And, if you’re able, come early to help set up or stay a little late to help clean up. Thanks!

Save the Date:

Maundy Thursday Service will be on March 29th at 7:00. We will begin in Good Shepherd Hall with a light supper (details to follow) and then move toward the Garden of Gethsemane and into the Sanctuary to remember the events at the end of Jesus’ life.



Creative Prayer

Lent is the perfect time to dive deeper in your faith with Creative Prayer. During the Sundays of Lent (2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, and 3/18) everyone is invited to Good Shepherd Hall to experience Creative Prayer from 9:30 to 10:15 am. Please talk with Rebecca Holland if you have any questions.

Godly Play

We will be starting a Godly Play Program this year in our Children's Ministry! We will be creating our Godly Play Classroom (building shelves and pulling together supplies) and recruiting and training our Godly Play team this Spring with hopes to start Godly Play in June.

Please talk with Rebecca Holland, Director of Children and Family Ministries, if you are interested in being involved in this amazing ministry, either behind the scenes or as a part of the team. If you would like to find out more about Godly Play, please talk with Rebecca or check out the Godly Play website at www.godlyplayfoundation.org.

Please mark your calendars (we are hosting a National Godly Play Trainer!):

Friday, April 27th from 6 to 8 pm

Godly Play Introduction for Everyone

Saturday, April 28th from 9 am to 5 pm

Godly Play Training



FRIENDSHIP HOUSE DINNERS



We need more volunteers to help cook and serve the MVPC Friendship House meals on the 1st Thursday (Spaghetti) or 2nd Tuesday (Hamburgers) of the month. Volunteers come from 3 to 5 pm or 5 to 6:30 pm or both! Friendship House is a wonderful non-profit organization that serves meals to people in need in Mount Vernon. Plus, it's fun!

If you are interested call Barb Hazelwood or the church office. 360-424-7675.

Meet Elder Patti Allen

In a previous edition of the Grapevine I've described my childhood. Now I'd like to tell you a little more about one of my spiritual practices. As I became a proficient knitter in my teens it was a chance to let my mind clear and focus as I produced my first pullover, a welcome reprieve from studying and the pressures of a teenage life.

Recently, I've begun to read research about knitting and its effect on the brain. The meditative state of knitting and prayer are noted for health and well being benefits on the body, mind and spirit. In her book, The Zen and the Art of Knitting: Exploring the Links Between Knitting, Spirituality and Creativity, Bernadette Murphy looks at knitting as a way to focus and embrace spirituality with mindful, natural movement as way of producing more than a product. Although not all knitting is a meditative space so I usually have 2 projects going so I can have this meditative knitting as a daily practice.

As I knit I process the prayer concerns I have for my family, church members and friends and world by keeping a list within my knitting journal, notes of progress blend with the concerns and answered prayers. A verse of commitment for me is from Ephesians 2:10 (NIV), "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." I realize not everyone is meant to be a knitter but I believe we are drawn to create in God's spirit. This is one of the activities God has given us to soothe and assist in supporting the journey of faith. I hope you will share with me creative activities you find meditative. All are welcome at the monthly knitting and handcrafting fellowship, the fourth Tuesday at noon in The Great Room.



Thank you for caring

FAMILY PROMISE

One of the ministries of MVPC is support of Family Promise of Skagit Valley. The following note from Family Promise tells how your gifts have been used.

“We are so grateful for your generous support and trust of Family Promise of Skagit Valley during the past year. Because of you, here are just some things we accomplished in 2017 and prior:

- We launched our first transitional housing program “Promise House”, allowing us to grow for serving 4 families to 8 families at one time.

Family Promise 2018

ICADE

- A new laundry facility and 24 hour access to showers was added to the Day Center.
- A new (to us) vehicle was obtained to assist in transporting clients to service appointments.
- From our start in May of 2015 through 2017, we have provided 30,000 plus meals and 12,000 warm bed nights for nearly 50 families and well over 100 children.
- From 2016 through 2017, we have prevented over 20 evictions and placed 39 families into housing.

Thank you for your contributions in 2017.”

SAVE THE DATES FOR NEXT FAMILY PROMISE WEEK March 11-18, 2018

FOUND in the library, a brand new, boxed, Rainbow Bible, leather bound. Text is in different colors for kind of content. If it is yours, find it on a bottom shelf.

NEW: A check-out space on a shelf. It includes a place to sign up as a volunteer to write book reviews of our collection. Also, look for a suggestion box for dropping in your ideas for new books.

Notes from the Library

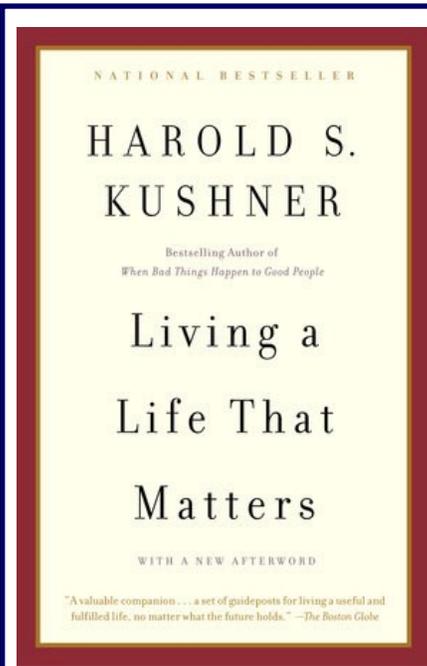


Book Review by Lou Cheney

In this season of resolutions for the new year, read Harold Kushner’s Living A Life That Matters. He also authored When Bad Things Happen to Good People. So expect a clear, informal style. A Jewish Rabbi, he is skilled at finding meaning in Old Testament stories; and in this book he looks at Jacob, found in Genesis. He finds weaknesses, strengths, vulnerability and dishonesty. Kushner focuses on Jacob’s choices to meet his challenges and change, with God’s help. He assures the reader that we can do the same.

Read this book to better understand how honesty, love, and integrity in everyday choices add up to a life that matters. This book, complete with a previous reader’s margin notes, left me wishing I could sit and talk with Kushner, an author with rare approachability.

Find it in the shelves labeled “Spiritual” and filed alphabetically by author.



Feb 2018 Children and Family Ministries



Secret Valentines Party on 2/11

Thank you to everyone who is participating in the Secret Valentine Program! We hope to see all Valentines at the Secret Valentine's Party on Sunday, February 11th at 9:30am. You will meet your Secret Valentine and help frost valentine's cookies and cake (plus enjoy coffee and donut holes)! See you there.



Easter Egg Hunt Preparations

-We are getting ready for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt co-hosted with the Methodist and Lutheran churches on 3/31. Please talk to Rebecca if you want to volunteer!
-Please bring small wrapped candy to the office before March 18th!
-Please help stuff Easter Eggs after worship on March 25th. It's fun!

February Sunday School Lessons

Seeds (Preschool)

Meets in Nursery

Feb 4th How to Pray
Feb 11th Valentine's Craft
Feb 18th Jesus Calms the Storm
Feb 25th Jesus Feeds 5000

*In the Jesus Storybook Bible

Sprouts (K-2nd)

Begin in Worship

How to Pray p. 222*
The Singer p. 228*
Captain of the Storm p. 236*
Filled Full p. 244*

Saplings (3rd-5th)

Begin in Worship

Jesus' Life and Ministry
Gift of Holy Spirit
Peter and John
Stephen, the 1st Martyr

Creative Kids ~ Hand Bells and Creative Prayer

Sundays 9:30 to 10:15 am in Good Shepherd Hall. Kids of all ages express their faith creatively. The Creative Kids will be learning Hand Bells on February 4th to present in worship on February 11th. During Lent (starting February 18th) the Creative Kids will be invited to participate in Creative Prayer for All Ages in Good Shepherd Hall, a great opportunity for families to grow together in faith.

Family Night ~ Carroll Family Baby Shower and MVPC Lenten Potlucks

Wednesdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm for food, faith, and fellowship for families of all ages and stages. Everyone is invited to the Carroll Family Baby Shower on Wed. Feb. 7th. Family Night will not be meeting during Lent as families are invited to participate in the MVPC Lenten Potlucks on Wed. Feb. 21st, 28th, March 7th, 14th, and 21st. Family Night will not meet 2/14 due to Ash Wednesday or 3/28 due to Holy Week or 4/4 due to Spring Break. Family Night will resume 4/11!

**Questions? Contact Rebecca Holland, Director of Children and Family Ministries.
Church Office 360.424.7675 - Rebecca@MountVernonPres.org**



Family Night Epiphany Party Feast! (left)
Sock Sorting for Friendship House. (above)
Creative Kids Hand Bells & Prayer Journals.



Registrations for 2018 summer camps at Tall
Timber in Leavenworth open

February 9!

See www.TallTimber.org for more information and to register.



Camp	Entering Grades	Description	Cost	Dates
Family Camp	All Ages	This family friendly week of camp has something for everyone! Experience the ropes course, canoeing, rock climbing, singing praise songs around the campfire, horseback riding, cooking s'mores by the river, and hiking the trails around camp!	\$0-\$378 pp	June 24-30
Mini Camp	Grades 1-3	This camp is short, structured, less crowded, and geared toward younger campers. It is recommended for first-time campers or those still a bit hesitant to leave home for too long.	\$189	July 11-13
Primary Camp	Grades 2-5	Four fun-filled days offer an experience for young campers that features a morning cycle of nature, crafts, singing, and Bible-based activities.	\$269	July 8-11
Junior Camp	Grades 4-6	Junior camp is the transition camp from Primary up to Junior High! Campers enjoy all the exciting adventures of Primary Camp for a day longer.	\$329	July 22-26
Jr. High Camp	Grades 6-9	The ropes course, rock wall, horse rides, swimming, crafts, and crazy fun await!	\$389	July 15-20
Adventure Camp	Grades 6-9	Experience the fun and tradition of summer camp at Tall Timber with the added adventure bonus, a 2-night expedition off camp property with your adventure team!	\$399	July 1-6
Sr. High Camp	Grades 9-12	Come experience life lived to the fullest, rooted in Christ, at Tall Timber Senior High Camp.	\$399	July 29-Aug 4
YILT	Grades 10-12	The Youth In Leadership Training is a two week program focused on discipleship, leadership, and service learning.	\$499	July 15-26



TALL TIMBER

disconnect to reconnect.

www.TallTimber.org



Youth & Family Ministries

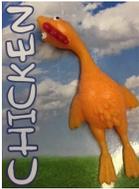
February 2018



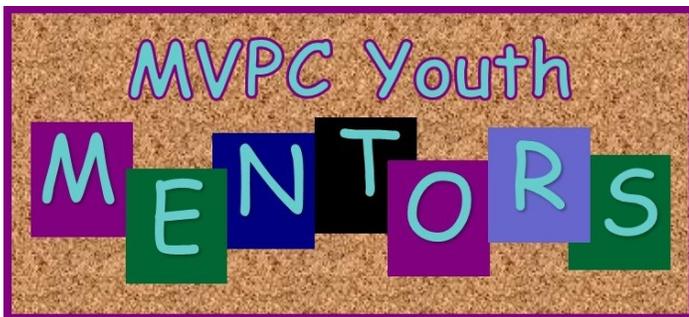
Youth Group, Seekers & Explorers

Youth Group, Seekers & Explorers meet on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

Seekers/Explorers: Seekers (middle school) and Explorers (high school) continue their studies, looking at Prophets and exploring the Gospels. New members welcome! We meet during Sunday worship on Feb. 11 & Feb. 25.



Youth Group: All youth are welcome to come to Youth Group for fun, faith and food! This month we'll decide on our mission projects for Winter and Spring quarters, discuss forgiveness, and have fun in fellowship together. Youth Group meets after worship, 12-1:30, on Feb. 11 & Feb. 25. Lunch included!



Youth Mentor Program

Our Youth Mentor program will be starting up again in March! This year we will be trying some new ideas to help youth and their mentors connect. At Youth Group on March 11, we are inviting the mentors to come for lunch and fun activities. Please plan on coming! More information about the new Youth Mentor program is available on the counter in the Narthex or from Jodie.

The Youth & Family Ministries Discernment Team will meet on Thursday, February 15 from 6-8pm in the Great Room.

Youth Volunteer Opportunities

If you are a middle or high school student and are looking for volunteer experience, we welcome your help!

- The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Methodist Church on Saturday, March 31. See Rebecca!
- VBS is at MVPC in July! See Rebecca.
- To help in the nursery this summer, see Rebecca.
- If you would like to help plan the 2nd Annual Youth Camp-Out, see Jodie!



Questions? Please contact Jodie Kercheval, Director of Youth & Family Ministries.

360-424-7675 or Jodie@MountVernonPres.org

Youth & Family Ministries February 2018 (Cont.)



Coming Up ...

Sun., Jan. 28	Secret Valentines Week 1		Check your bag after worship!
Sun., Feb. 4	Secret Valentines Week 2		Check your bag after worship!
Fri. Feb. 9	Registration Opens for Tall Timber Summer Camps		Ask Jodie or go to www.TallTimber.org
Sun., Feb. 11	Secret Valentine Party!	Good Shepherd Hall	9:30am
	Seekers/Explorers	Library/Great Room	Start in 10:30 Worship
	Youth Group	Great Room	12:00—1:30
Thurs., Feb. 15	Y&FM Discernment Team Quarterly Meeting	Great Room	6:00-8:00pm
Sun., Feb. 25	Seekers/Explorers	Library/Great Room	Start in 10:30 Worship
	Youth Group	Great Room	12:00—1:30
	Deadline for Mentor Sign-ups	See Jodie	
Sun., March 4	Youth Mentor Training (for mentors, parents welcome)	Great Room	9:30-10:15
Sun., March 11	Seekers/Explorers	Library/Great Room	Start in 10:30 Worship
	Youth Group—Youth & Mentor Event!	Great Room	12:00—1:30

Summer Will Come!

Although the weather is showing no signs of it, summer will be here before you know it. Family picnics, summer camps, bar-b-ques, beaches and the Youth Camp-out ... this summer will be full of fun activities, time for building relationships, and exploring God's creation.

Please make note of these dates while planning your summer!



- June 20: Children, Youth & Family Summer Kick-off Campfire
- July 16-20: Tall Timbers camp for 6th-9th graders
- July 30-August 3: Tall Timbers camp for 9th-12th graders
- August 18: Children, Youth & Family volunteer training
- August 25/26: 2nd Annual Youth Camp-out

Questions? Please contact Jodie Kercheval, Director of Youth & Family Ministries.

360-424-7675 or Jodie@MountVernonPres.org



Prayer

Would You like to join our prayer group?

We have a small but dedicated group that meets to pray every Tuesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Library. You are always welcome to come pray with us. There is no right or wrong way to pray, so don't feel intimidated. You don't have to come every week—come when your schedule permits.

Would you like prayers, for you or someone you know?

Email prayers.mvpc@gmail.com and you will be prayed for during this time as well as throughout the week. You can also write your prayer request on the Friendship Register on Sunday mornings and they will be forwarded to the Prayer Team.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER The Contemplative Prayer Group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month from 6 to 8 pm to learn and experience a variety of contemplative prayers as a way to grow deeper in our relationship with God. Everyone is welcome! Please talk with Pat Papadopolus or Rebecca Holland if you have any questions or would like to find out more.

- February 8th: Lectio Divina
- February 22nd: Labrynth
- March 8th: Stations of the Cross
- March 22nd: Taize Prayer



Women's Fellowship

Join us the 4th Saturday of the month, February 24, 2018 for Fellowship in the Fireside Room at 9 a.m.



MVPC Knitting

Bring your craft project and enjoy fellowship with other MVPC knitters, crocheters, and more on the 4th Tuesday of every month from Noon to 1 pm in the Great Room. Questions? Talk with Patti Allen.

HEARING THE WORSHIP SERVICE



Are you having troubles hearing during service? 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.

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.

Our Vision Statement

Encounter The Hope

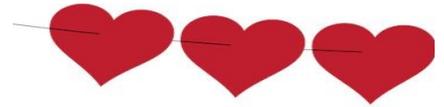
of the living God through Jesus Christ

Engage One Another

in authentic friendship

Embrace The World

with the heart and hands of Jesus



Thank you Secret Valentines

Love, MVPC Children and Youth

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February

1-Margie Ervine

Rita Vander Stoep

4-Bill Waldron

6- Danya Wolf

7-Jamie Daut

Katie Worley

9-Mackenzie Fox

Irene Johnson

Eloise Stendal

11-Bill Stuurmans

13-Ruth Figenshow

John Hazelwood

Don Wortham

15-Natalie Holland



16-Dan Long

16-John & Barb Hazelwood

17-Paul Coalwell

18-Rebecca Holland

20-Brad Clure

Jonathan Holland

21-Kyle Brown

Bill Ream

Clara Swanson

23-Laurel Coalwell

23-Jamie & Sheila Daut

26-Dan & Rebecca Holland

27-Steve Hansen



Save the Date

You are invited to a MVPC Baby Shower for Brian and Mackenzie Anderson on Saturday, March 3rd at 10 am in the Fireside Room!



We will be hosting a baby shower for the **Carroll family** during Family Night on **Wednesday, February 7th** from 5:30 to 6:30 pm to help them welcome their new bundle of joy due in March! Everyone is welcome - please bring something to add to the potluck dinner.

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!

Tea @ 2
Will resume
February 22nd, 2018

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS @ MVPC:

Centering Prayer:	Tuesdays at 9 am in Pastor Dan's office
Intercessory Prayer Group:	Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Library
Contemplative Prayer:	2nd and 4th Thursdays 6-8 pm in the Great Room
Small Groups:	Call the church to get connected to a small group!
Family Night:	Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at MVPC
Friendship House:	First Thursday and second Tuesday @ Friendship House
Creative Kids:	Sundays, 9:30 to 10:15 am in the Great Room
Youth Group:	2nd & 4th 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.
Tea @ 2:	Will resume on last Thurs in Feb at 2 p.m. in Fireside Rm
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 6:30 p.m.
Worship Team Meeting:	1st Wednesday at noon
Finance Committee:	2nd Tuesday at 5 p.m.
Mission Team Meeting:	4th Sunday at 12:30
Personnel Committee:	3rd Tuesday at 4:15 p.m.

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.

Creative Kids 9:30 to 10:15 am

Kids of all ages express their faith creatively in the Sapling Room.

10:30 WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

SEEDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschoolers are introduced to Bible Stories in the Nursery.

SPROUTS SUNDAY SCHOOL

K to 2nd graders journey through the Bible. Begin in Worship.

SAPLINGS SUNDAY SCHOOL

3rd to 5th graders study the New Testament. Begin in Worship.

SEEKERS (2ND & 4TH SUN)

Middle School Youth seek meaning in Paul's letters. Begin in Worship.

EXPLORERS (2ND & 4TH SUN)

High School Youth explore the Gospels. Begin in Worship.

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

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

